



Arizona Community Action Association

Advocating, Educating and Partnering to Prevent and Alleviate Poverty

May 2012

Arizona Community Action Association Newsletter

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Work. Donate.**

Dear Members and Friends,

My sincere thanks to all of you who were able to participate in the ACAA Annual Conference this month -

- if you joined us at the Wigwam for outstanding workshops and great speakers;
- if you sponsored us thank you as we literally couldn't have done this without you;
- if you were one of the great speakers, our sincere thanks to you for taking your time and sharing your expertise and insight;
- if you helped plan or participated in our silent auction and raffle, thank you for the great prizes and the fantastic support these events provide ACAA;
- if you received an award thank you for the work you've done for your community this year and for many years;
- if you presented or participated in the Poverty Simulation, thank you as this was definitely a highlight and has reignited a discussion about poverty in our communities;
- and if you were on the planning committee and a member of our staff, thank you for all you did to make this the best conference ever.
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We had over 200 registrants this year from every corner of the State, and from a variety of community and business partners. We held 14 workshops and heard from speakers from various parts of the state and country on a variety of issues relevant to the work we do in service to Arizona families. The program and conference evaluations are excellent. Thank you from all of us at ACAA.

Our advocacy efforts, the development of strong public policies and our speaking out on behalf of Arizonans who are experiencing generational or situational poverty is needed now more than ever. Policies and funding have been eroded and continue to be threatened, programs that we have created and that work in this war on poverty are being challenged, and the real victims are those Arizonans who are doing everything they need to or can do to succeed, but are being confronted with barriers to that success. We will be calling on you to participate in our efforts moving forward, and appreciate your commitment to creating an Arizona where all can thrive.

Our mission of preventing and alleviating poverty throughout Arizona is perhaps more relevant now than ever before in our history. We cannot do the work we do without our Board, members, and partners and your financial support. Please consider donating to ACAA at the link below.

[Donate here.](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Thank you in advance for your support and for your efforts.

Cynthia Zwick, Executive Director

THANK YOU to our Platinum Presenting Sponsors for their generous contributions in support of the ACAA 2012 Annual Conference:



ACAA 2012 Annual Conference Highlights

The ACAA 2012 Annual Conference was a great success and we are thankful to

all those who made it the wonderful event it was!

Thank you to our fabulous keynote speakers - Andrea Beaulieu, Lindsey Hodel, and Darick Simpson - who helped bring the theme of Building A Community of Action home!

For the first time ever, the Poverty Simulation was held in the Phoenix area, and it was incredibly well attended and well received. ACAA would like to thank the Yuma CAPs and our Poverty Simulation sponsor, APS, for making this event possible. In the words of a Poverty Simulation participant:

"This year I registered for Poverty Simulation which was a difficult but valuable experience.

As a 10-year-old boy with two siblings, "Mom" working a low-wage job, "Dad" being unemployed, and without adequate resources to get through the month, I had little power to effect any change. The stress was high, the parents were gone all the time, the teachers stayed distracted by the disruptive kids, and unsupervised kids were tempted with opportunities to commit crime. Community resources were available but limited and time-consuming to obtain.

While nothing is 'new' about these scenarios, in my 'real life' role as case manager with the older adult and disabled population, I don't often have the opportunity to work with the family as a whole. I do however often witness the impact of the stress extended family members in crisis have on many of my older adult clients.

The discussion after the simulation was enlightening and the real-world organizational changes that have resulted from this exercise demonstrate the power of the process. This experience renewed my commitment to reach out not only to my clients but through them however possible to try to reach that potentially unseen and unheard person connected to them. There's more I can do to educate, to encourage, to share resources, and to push back against the circumstances of poverty."

ACAA would also like to once again congratulate the 2012 Award recipients and thank you all for the amazing work you do to inspire people in your communities!

- Margie Frost Champion Against Poverty Award - Nathan Jones
- Beating the Odds Award - Amy Rogiers
- Legislative Leadership Award - Representative Anna Tovar
- Media Leadership Award - Mary K. Reinhart, Christina Leonard, Sean Holstege, and Nick Oza

And our Heart in Hand recipients:

- Donna Phipps
- Captains Bob and Karen Schmig
- Linda Leatherman
- Robin Burke
- Robin Romano
- Charlie Peterson
- Claudia DalMolin
- Raena Honan
- Pastor Bob Hake
- Rosie and Charles Coyle

Voter Registration Contest: Enter to Win Amazing Prizes!





Register to participate and win!

- ✓ Cash Prizes
- ✓ Gift Cards
- ✓ Office Party
- ✓ iPad
- ✓ Digital Camera
- ✓ Kindle & Amazon Book Credit
- ✓ & More

For additional information please contact Kelly McGowan at 602-604-0640 or kmcgowan@azcaa.org. To be eligible, participants must register for contest and follow all applicable rules. Winners will be notified the week of October 15th.

[Click here](#) to see this flyer on our website.
Questions? [Contact us.](#)

Arizona Public Service (APS) Crisis Bill Assistance Program Request for Proposal (RFP)

Next month, the Arizona Community Action Association (ACAA) will be issuing a state-wide RFP to recruit additional community partners who have the capacity to provide utility bill assistance in their communities to APS customers. Any non-profit corporation or public entity, including faith-based entities may apply for available funds. Providers will be contracted to provide utility bill assistance to individuals and/or families who are APS customers, and whose gross monthly income does not exceed 200% of the current Federal Poverty Guidelines. For further information about this upcoming RFP, you may contact Norma Gallegos (ngallegos@azcaa.org) or 602-604-0640.

ACAA Now Accepting SNAP Partner Applications

ACAA is now accepting applications for non profit and faith or community based organizations who wish to become SNAP Partners for the FFY13 Partnership year (10/1/12 - 9/30/13).

Partners are eligible for a draw-down reimbursement of 40 cents for every dollar spent on allowable activities related to SNAP outreach, application assistance, and improving access to SNAP for households in need.

More information about the Partnership and all the documents required for a complete application can be found [on our website at this link](#).

The application deadline is June 29, 2012.

Wickenburg Receives Wellik Foundation Grant

The Wellik Foundation recently awarded Wickenburg Community Services Corporation (WCSC) with a grant of \$92,500 to be distributed among its member organizations, benefiting many in the local communities.

WCSC is the umbrella organization for a number of smaller, non-profit service groups including Wickenburg Ducks in a Row, Cops Who Care, the local St. Vincent de Paul, R&R Respite Center, the CAP office, and Saguaro Jane's in Wittmann. Each of these organizations, as well as WCSC itself, received a sizable portion of the grant.

"This is the second year the Foundation has given us a grant," said board member Charlie Petersen. "We have a very high appreciation for them, and I think they appreciate us too, for pulling all these smaller groups together under one umbrella and being able to help them all." Petersen was the author of the winning grant application.

The WCSC was founded by Mary Ackley in 1968. In addition to assisting other local charities, the organization supports two main annual events that benefit the community - the Back-to-School clothing event each summer, and food, health and hygiene item distribution in conjunction with Cops Who Care at Christmas.

Events

8th Annual Resource Roundup

"You Don't Have to Wear a Cape to be a Super Hero!"

Friday, June 1, 2012
8am - 4:30pm
Holiday Inn
777 N. Pinal Avenue
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

The Resource Roundup is an "agency to agency" educational forum, intended to update attendees about the variety of resources available to help low-income individuals and families in Pinal County.

The day will start with keynote speaker Daniel Hernandez, intern turned hero in the tragic shooting incident in Tucson last year.

The workshops will feature information on resources available in Pinal County.

Several new workshops will be introduced including services offered by the Pinal County Attorney's Office, Immigration and Autism.

If you have any questions please direct them to Loretha Rushing at (520)466-1112 or by email lrushing@cahrapinal.org.

**WACOG Foreclosure Prevention Workshop
June 9th, 2012**

The Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) will host a free foreclosure prevention workshop for the Yuma County community in collaboration with the Office of Congressman Raul Grijalva, the Arizona Foreclosure Prevention Task Force and the Southwest Fair Housing Council. The event is on June 9, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Yuma Main Library. While homeowners wait to speak to a counselor and/or lender, they will be given information on how to avoid loan modification scams and details of the Fair Housing Act. WACOG has invited housing counselors from Housing America, Comité de Bienestar, Campesinos Sin Fronteras and Catholic Community Services of Western Arizona to help. Additionally, some of the primary lenders in the area have confirmed their attendance, including Wells Fargo, Bank of America, GMAC and Chase. "Our strong partnerships and new collaborations are paving the way to make this event a success. We share one goal; to help people save their homes," Ryan concluded.

Other Events:

[Backpage Outrage Protest](#)