

GRANTS WITH IMPACT



ARIZONA GRANTMAKERS FORUM

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Special thanks to the organizations that provided case studies for this document of Grants With Impact. We hope that the information and ideas shared here inform and inspire more innovative, impactful grants throughout Arizona.



ARIZONA GRANTMAKERS FORUM

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Over 6,000 Domestic Violence Victims Receive Free Legal Aid

Funding Awarded: In what year(s) was the funding awarded? 2003 – 2005
Funding period: Annually since 2000– 7/1 – 6/30
Grant Amount \$1,125,918.00* (average)

Geographic Area Benefiting From the Funding

Statewide – Arizona

Purpose of Funding

The Arizona Domestic Violence Legal Assistance Project (AZDVLAP) represents an unprecedented collaboration of all the critical organizations in the state that provide legal assistance to families who are victims of domestic violence. Legal assistance provides protection both to victims in shelters, and to victims and their families not in shelters. Legal assistance often provides the tools for these families to become self-sufficient, and work towards long-term safety.

AZDVLAP combines the efforts of a powerful partnership which includes, legal services staff attorneys, pro bono volunteer attorneys, and lay advocates located in three legal service programs and fourteen domestic violence programs across the state.

Clients are given legal assistance on a range of civil legal issues so they can become both safe and self-sufficient. Staff attorneys give victims legal advice through individual consultations and group clinics, provide direct representation in complicated cases and refer cases to pro bono private attorneys. Lay advocates provide assistance with safety planning, obtaining orders of protection, self-advocacy, and provide court accompaniment and transportation.

The overall goals are to reduce the rate of domestic violence by promoting the immediate and long-term safety of domestic violence victims and their children and assisting victims in becoming self sufficient.



The Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education

The Arizona Domestic Violence Legal Assistance Project
Type of Funder | Public Charity that re-grants funds
Grant Size Category | Funding awarded over \$100K

Funding Significance

Arizona Department of Public Safety's Victim Assistance Survey found that one of the top two gaps in services to all crime victims was emergency legal advocacy. Last year, the grant served 6,117 men and women who were victims of domestic violence.

The agencies funded under the AZDVLAP receive training by experts in the field. This creates well educated employees, allowing the agencies to succeed in their mission. The trainings also are a meeting place for agencies within their service area. This fosters collaboration between entities better enabling them to serve their clients. Also, the Foundation is working with the State Bar of Arizona to increase the number of free Continuing Legal Education (CLE) classes offered to legal aid attorneys. This is an added retention tool for the legal aid agencies that have difficulty keeping attorneys because of lower pay.

The provision of civil legal assistance to domestic violence victims is one of the most effective ways to ensure both their short and long-term safety and self-sufficiency. Legal assistance provides protection both to victims in shelter and not in shelter. Victims without legal assistance will remain unprotected and further victims of their abusive partners and the complex judicial system. A 2002 study that reviewed data from the National Crime Victimization Surveys found a factor that likely contributed to the decline of domestic violence in the sampled counties was the increased provision of civil legal assistance for victims of domestic violence. The provision of protective orders, custody and child support services give victims long-term alternatives to abusive relationships.

This project has strengthened the Foundation's relationship with the key legal aid players in our state. This stronger rapport helps the Foundation to recognize other legal aid needs in our community and work towards our mission of promoting access to justice for all, collaborating with the 17 other agencies in this grant.



The Greatest Strengths & Most Unique Aspect of the Funding Project

One unique aspect of the project is its statewide impact. Since Arizona is one of the larger states in the country, the ability to reach rural communities can be very difficult. Strengthening these rural organizations with the collaborating network makes it a viable force in legal aid.

The collaborating network of 17 agencies formed with this grant, also allows agencies to better serve their clients. When the advocate hears the variety of issues facing the victim, the advocate now has a strong network referral. This collaboration extends beyond the participants in the grant. For example, a local shelter will have contacts at the social security office that another legal aid agency does not. Each agency helps the other by sharing their own experience and collaborations.

Unforeseen Difficulties

Domestic violence is a widespread epidemic in our country. Any resources aiding victims are easily spent, since the need is so great. For all providers in this grant, employees are paid at a much lower rate than those with similar skills/education are receiving. A legal aid attorney makes, on average, \$32,000 per year. The lower pay often makes it difficult for agencies to retain staff. Ongoing training to make sure new staff is prepared for client issues and retention tools like loan repayment programs are a continual hurdle.

Since Arizona has many very rural locations, finding staff to reside in these locations is often quite difficult. Often, like the Sells office for Southern Arizona Legal Aid, there is no housing available in the city and the staff member must commute a 100 miles. This is another hurdle that is continually faced when trying to make the largest impact.

Future Plans/Possible Replication for this Project

Last year, the Foundation started a CLE program for volunteer attorneys. For every 3 hours donated to a domestic violence victim, the attorney would receive a certificate to attend a 3 hour CLE class. The Foundation would like to strengthen this program as a recruiting tool for the Volunteer Lawyer Programs. The more attorneys who volunteer, the more clients receive direct representation and quality services.

Last year using matching funds, the Foundation held the first full statewide conference where the 3 legal aid organizations required all employees to attend. We had 200 participants from 20 different agencies attend the 2 day training, each day having at least 15 different classes. The event was so successful that the Foundation Board has agreed to hold the conference every two years.



The Arizona Republic
The Arizona Republic, Creighton Elementary School,
& Communities in Schools of Arizona
Type of Funder | Corporate
Grant Size Category | Funding awarded over \$100K

Arizona Republic helps Creighton Elementary School's Class of 2016 Learn to Read

Funding Awarded: 3 School Years
Funding Period: The 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 school years
Grant Amount: \$50,000, \$35,000, & \$35,000 respectively

Geographic Area Benefiting From the Funding

Creighton Elementary School in the Creighton School District. (Phoenix)

Purpose of Funding

The grants were given to the school to provide literacy-related materials, training, and salaries. The funds were first granted in the 2004-2005 school year, focusing on an entire grade level of first graders. Additional funds were provided when the children moved to 2nd grade and then to 3rd grade.

The grant was part of a multi-faceted partnership among The Arizona Republic, Creighton Elementary School, and Communities In Schools of Arizona. The Republic's goals for the partnership were

1. To assist in improving the reading skills of an entire grade level of students—starting with the first graders and following them through the 3rd grade.
2. To improve a critical education and economic development issue in Arizona.
3. To help the public understand the challenges facing our schools and highlight (via a 3-year series of stories in The Arizona Republic) ways the community can support improvement efforts.
4. To showcase a results-driven program that could be replicated in elementary schools with similar demographics.
5. Were other resources besides cash provided (i.e., in-kind services, technical/management assistance)? (not to exceed 150 words)
6. During the first two years of this three-year partnership. The Arizona Republic has secured numerous field trips for the children, books, school supplies, and on-campus enrichment activities such as plays. The Republic has also donated trucks full of unneeded office furniture and office supplies and provided off-site meeting space for the district's annual Leadership Retreat.

But the most significant resources were The Arizona Republic tutors—as many as 35 per year—who volunteered to tutor in the classrooms for an hour a week throughout the school year. Each year the tutors received training from Creighton's reading specialist and attended a Tutor/Teacher Lunch later in the year where they were able to discuss strategies and techniques for their particular group of children.



The Arizona Republic
The Arizona Republic, Creighton Elementary School,
& Communities in Schools of Arizona
Type of Funder | Corporate
Grant Size Category | Funding awarded over \$100K

Funding Significance

Our funding enables this inner-city school to provide additional staff, training materials, and literacy-related learning materials for the students. The children greatly benefit from these additional resources.

Because the parents of many of these children speak no or limited English, the children have few chances to practice reading aloud at home to an English speaker. So the additional one-on-one assistance from aides or tutors is extremely helpful, especially for the many Spanish-speaking students who enroll mid-year. (Creighton has a 45% mobility rate.)

Many of these children have few or no books at home. Our funds have provided take-home books so the children can experience the joy of owning books and begin to acquire a personal library.

We've provided funds for additional training for teachers so they can keep abreast of the latest research on reading instruction and strategies. In addition we've provided funds to pay teachers for after-school time spent preparing new literacy-related materials for their classrooms.

The Greatest Strengths & Most Unique Aspect of the Funding Project

The most unique aspect of the project, and its greatest strength, is that it's much more than a funding project. It's a multi-year, multi-faceted partnership among three highly-committed entities—Creighton Elementary School, The Arizona Republic, and Communities In Schools of Arizona. We knew that money alone would not solve the many challenges facing these children as they tried to learn to read. For example, the children received clothes and school supplies from CISA's Supplies for Students Drive (which The Republic promoted via newspaper ads), they received enrichment activities such as a field trip to the Desert Botanical Garden's Butterfly exhibit (which The Republic secured as an event sponsorship benefit) during their butterfly unit, and they received the one-on-one attention and encouragement from additional caring adults—The Republic tutors. They will continue to receive these types of benefits during the 3rd year of the partnership.



The Arizona Republic
The Arizona Republic, Creighton Elementary School,
& Communities in Schools of Arizona
Type of Funder | Corporate
Grant Size Category | Funding awarded over \$100K

Unforeseen Difficulties

We continue to work toward our goal of helping these children achieve their proper reading level by the time they leave 3rd grade. Although most of the children who completed 2nd grade in May are further along than the previous year's 2nd graders, most are still not reading at the 2nd grade level as they enter 3rd grade.

Most of the children started first grade with very low language levels and, therefore, had the challenge of needing to advance more than a grade level in reading ability. That has proved to be more difficult than we imagined.

We're in the 3rd year of the project and continue to work with the school and CISA to provide multiple resources to try to reach our goal.

Future Plans/Possible Replication for this Project

This program was fashioned after another corporate partnership in Arizona and could certainly be replicated by other corporations—excluding the series of newspaper stories, of course. Last year one local company partnered with CISA to provide a similar program at another inner-city school after visiting Creighton and learning about our program. We will continue to have a relationship with Creighton School. We realize that the needs will continue at the school.



Boeing/MPS Math Academy Significantly Increases Math Achievement

Funding Awarded: In what year(s) was the funding awarded? 2003 – 2005

Funding period: Annually

Grant Amount \$75,000 (Each Year)

Geographic Area Benefiting From the Funding

Phoenix Metropolitan Area

Purpose of Funding

- To improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement in math on district, state, and national tests for an underserved, at-risk population.
- To create an excitement, confidence, and enthusiasm for the study of math.
- To develop an understanding of critical math fundamentals that will unlock higher levels of math.
- To accelerate math understanding to above grade-level competencies.
- To teach the parents of these students to become better learning facilitators at home.
- To provide an opportunity for older students from these underserved communities to assist the younger children to become better math students.
- To provide teacher assistance and successful role models from the high tech community who will show all these students how to break the poverty cycle.
- To add to the teacher tools by use of the Internet sites and the latest curriculum software for math enrichment and remediation as needed.
- To provide positive minority role models for both the elementary students and secondary tutors.



Funding Significance

The Boeing/Mesa Schools Math Academy has completed its 5th year of operation. Each year, 80 percent or more of the students have achieved one or more year's growth. This is a higher rate than the students would have typically achieved without the program.

The results of this year's program continue to show growth for the students involved. Mean increase in scale scores from 2005 to 2006 ranged from 28 to 47 points on the AIMS test. In addition to student achievement above their non-Math Academy peers, the teachers of the Math Academy students were in-serviced and trained to deliver the data driven math curriculum. The Math Academy teachers in turn were able to pass on relevant curriculum to colleagues who did not participate in the Math Academy. As a result, total math scores increased at schools that participated in the program.

Parents of the Math Academy schools benefited from the program by gaining access to each school's computer labs where they were able to learn or improve upon technology skills that made them more marketable in the workplace and be better learning facilitators at home.

The peer tutoring aspect of the program remains one of its strongest components. Student peers apply for the position of a tutor where they are able to assist their fellow students with math and technology. As a result of the tutors' 54-hour commitment they are rewarded with refurbished computers and printers. The tutor and his/her family are trained in the operation of the technology and software provided by the StRUT (Students Refurbishing Used Technology) program. The students then take the computers home. In many cases, this is the first computer in the home. This particular part of the Math Academy has leveled the technology playing field for many underserved students in these schools.

Volunteers were provided by Boeing to help the teachers in the classroom. Computers were also donated to the program.



The Greatest Strengths & Most Unique Aspect of the Funding Project

Teachers spend 1.5 hours, two days per week strengthening math skills that have been identified as weaknesses on the re-designed Arizona AIMS tests. The fact that the curriculum is a special teaching tool and specifically designed for the chosen Math Academy students is unique.

Curriculum is developed based on the identified student needs and teachers are trained and given materials to fill student deficiencies. Students also apply learned math skills in the computer lab using the latest in math curriculum software.

Math Academy students not only achieve at a higher level but also develop a higher confidence in themselves. Teachers are able to learn additional math teaching techniques and apply and test these in a small classroom setting.

Over the past five years, each year of the math academy, 80 percent of the participating students have gained one to three years growth in math achievement. This is a proven success in teacher development with the outcome resulting in students improving significantly in math.

Unforeseen Difficulties

The difficulties in this case were known – helping underachieving students to increase their math achievement. Keeping student attention and enthusiasm is difficult enough in a regular classroom, but even more challenging in an after-school program devoted to math, a subject that the student is having difficulty in and doesn't necessarily enjoy. The program has managed to make learning math fun. The teachers learn new concepts in how to reach these at-risk students and are succeeding in making a significant impact with excellent increases in student achievement each year.

Future Plans/Possible Replication for this Project

A new staff development component is being added during the 2005-2006 Math Academy. This staff development piece will enable participating schools to share the Math Academy curriculum and techniques school wide.

This program has replication potential.



Theatre Technique Breaks Communication Barrier for Those Silenced by Cerebral Palsy

Funding Awarded: In what year(s) was the funding awarded? 2005

Funding period: 9 Months

Grant Amount \$2,907

Geographic Area Benefiting From the Funding

Phoenix Metropolitan Area

Purpose of Funding

This grant supported artistic fees for Essential Theatre for a series of three interactive Playback Theatre performances for 30 disabled adults with communication impairments. The project is a model for using theatre with severely disabled individuals as a means to facilitate the telling of stories and honoring them as works of art. The project included a four-week writing workshop conducted by the VSHC speech therapist to write, edit and finalize the stories that were used in the performances. Playback Theater is an improvisational performance format that weaves movement, music, metaphor and spoken improvisation that illuminate the essence of the participant's stories

Funding Significance

The importance and impact of this project to the Valley of the Sun Habilitation Center is reflected in the fact that the program is now in its sixth year. Each year, new clients, staff and family members come together to witness and honor the life story of a participant who has been silenced by cerebral palsy. The process helps the client work with communication equipment and incorporates skills necessary for them to function at a higher level. The project has strengthened the participants' self-esteem and exposed them to a community outside of the Habilitation Center.

The public audience that attends the "final performance" of the life story have, often for the first time, the opportunity to understand the feelings and humanity of the severely developmentally disabled clients who tell their stories. The project also exposes the concerns of the developmentally disabled to the community at large.

Essential Theatre Company is specially trained and skilled at working with the clientele. The Playback performance technique involves improvising the telling of the life story using music, movement and theatre, creating a life-changing event for audience members.



The Greatest Strengths & Most Unique Aspect of the Funding Project

The most unique aspect is the clientele that are being targeted and the full integration of the project with staff and family members involved with their care.

The greatest strength is the training and skill of Essential Theatre Company, which was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the Council of Exceptional Children for the work on this project.

Unforeseen Difficulties

The participants in the project are men and women born with seizure disorders, cerebral palsy and/or Down's Syndrome, and experience social and emotional difficulties. All have great difficulty speaking. Some use an augmentative communication device, a computer that speaks for them when manipulated by touching buttons or through other specialized methods based on their physical limitations.

Future Plans/Possible Replication for this Project

The project has replication potential for nonprofit organizations serving similar clientele. Essential Theater is the only local organization with the specialized skill and training to do this work, but nationally there are many arts organizations trained in the Playback Theatre technique.



Expanded Programs for Blind Children Offered at Foundation for Blind Children South Campus

Funding Awarded: In what year(s) was the funding awarded? 2005
Funding period: Twelve Month Contract Period
Grant Amount \$200,000

Geographic Area Benefiting From the Funding

Phoenix, Arizona

Purpose of Funding

The City of Phoenix awarded \$200,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) to rehabilitate several buildings and construct a new play area on the grounds of a large property the agency purchased. The project involved rehabilitating space for the new technology training center, a Braille library, low vision clinic, construct a special play area suitable for blind and multiply impaired children and brought restrooms up to Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards. The FBC assists blind and visually impaired children, adults and their families become independent, literate through Braille and technology to become masters of their environment. Founded in 1952, the FBC is the only agency of its kind in Arizona and the largest nationwide serving blind children.

The agency had a cash match of \$1,187,500 bringing the total project cost to \$1,387,500. The sources of agency funds to support the project included agency funds, corporate and private donors and foundations.



Funding Significance

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has been the premiere development tool for neighborhood revitalization and other critical community needs since 1975. Its hallmark is that it allow municipalities the local flexibility to structure and fund projects in the most effective way possible, based on very active citizen involvement. CDBG represents our Nation's commitment to maintain and support communities and residents. It has been a model for government assistance grants. The CDBG strategy is a three-prong approach consisting of addressing the physical, economic and social needs of a community.

Phoenix has made effective use of CDBG funding by leveraging funds five fold or more. CDBG serves as the stimulus and means for extensive partnerships to make success possible and used tangible results to maintain momentum and enthusiasm. For example, Foundation for Blind Children has a long standing commitment in helping blind and visually impaired children, adults, and their families increase their self sufficiency and enjoyment of life. In prior years, the agency was awarded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for land acquisition and other building remodeling.

CDBG has also provided support for an innovative education and recreation program involving literacy through Braille and technology, adaptive sports, music and the arts. The number of blind babies born in Arizona and those referred for services has increased over 300% in the last ten years, partly as the result of ever-increasing survival rates for premature babies. Foundation for Blind Children has responded to this need through technology and by increasing the number of persons serviced to a current level of 2,000 a year. FBC is the only one of its kind in Arizona and the largest nonprofit nationally serving blind children.

The Greatest Strengths & Most Unique Aspect of the Funding Project

Since the beginning of CDBG, 190 plus non profit agencies serving seniors, young people, the non-sighted or the deaf have received CDBG funds to rehabilitate or construct their public facilities. This has benefited over a million families. This project significantly enhanced services to blind children and helped FBC further maintain stability by developing a solid financial asset base.



Unforeseen Difficulties

The project was pretty straightforward but we did have to work closely with the agency to resolve a zoning issue. The property purchased by the agency was so large that a portion of the property was zoned R-5 residential and the other portion was zoned C-2 commercial. The planned improvements had to comply with existing stipulations identified by the Planning Department. Project staff had to work closely to be sure the zoning review went smoothly and was approved for the new property use.

Future Plans/Possible Replication for this Project

This project was funded through an annual Request for Proposal sponsored by the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department. Nonprofit agencies serving low and moderate income populations needing funds for capital improvements are encouraged to apply. Each year we have 5 – 15 proposals submitted resulting in about 5 receiving awards. We have provided FBC several grants over the years to acquire and renovate the number building that make up their campus. At some point I'm certain the agency will seek another grant through this annual RFP process.

FBC has also received CDBG funding for operational support for an Adaptive Sports Summer Youth program. Operational support provides funding for staff salaries, fringe benefits, facilities utilities, insurance coverage, program supplies and such to run the program.



C.W. & Modene Neely Charitable Foundation
North Country Community Health Clinic
Type of Funder | Private Family Foundation
Grant Size Category | Funding awarded over \$100,000

North Country Community Health Clinic Over the Top in Funding & Enthusiasm

Funding Awarded: In what year(s) was the funding awarded? 2005
Funding period: Five Years
Grant Amount \$500,000

Geographic Area Benefiting From the Funding

Northern Arizona

Purpose of Funding

While the C.W. & Modene Neely Charitable Foundation does not usually contribute to Capital Campaigns, North Country Community Health Clinic, with six locations in Northern Arizona, made a compelling case for its need to move its main location out of a converted bowling alley in Flagstaff, Arizona. Funding from the Foundation provided proof to the financial community of the viability of the campaign and enabled the clinic to secure a loan for part of the funds needed to build the facility on land that had been donated prior.

Funding Significance

Community Health Clinics provide services to all who enter on a scaled-fee basis computed on a patient's ability to pay. They have records of success throughout the nation and Northern Arizona is a wonderful example of how a good idea twenty years ago (staffed by one nurse, one doctor, and the interest on one church in the community) grew into an entity that now provides services across the entire region. It is mandated that some of the clients who receive services at the clinic (including dental) serve as board members, thus, the clinic remains responsive to community needs and is never very far away from its constituents.

The Greatest Strengths & Most Unique Aspect of the Funding Project

Flagstaff represents much that is rural in Arizona and securing funding dollars is difficult. The \$500,000 from the C.W. & Modene Neely Charitable Foundation is unusual in size for the area.

Unforeseen Difficulties

Without the grant, it is highly unlikely any lending institution would have come forward to underwrite the additional loan needed to complete the building. The grant indicated credibility and legitimacy, and it signaled a high degree of interest on the part of the community as well as the clinic's high value to the community's quality of life.



The Social Justice Education Project Provides Latino Youth With Skills, Support & Opportunities For Their Voices To Be Heard!

Funding Awarded: In what year(s) was the funding awarded? 2003 - 2006

Funding period: 2003 - Present

Grant Amount \$157,039 (to date)

Geographic Area Benefiting From the Funding

Tucson, Arizona

Purpose of Funding

The disproportionately high dropout rate for low-income Latina/o youth is often linked to these students not believing that traditional classroom instruction is relevant to issues that affect them and their community. The Social Justice Education Project (SJEP), a partnership of the University of Arizona and the Tucson Unified School District, targets these youth through a unique substitute for the traditional social studies requirement. SJEP is currently offered at Cholla, Tucson and Rincon High Schools in Tucson.

Participating students start by identifying issues of concern and importance to them (e.g., racial inequality in education, stereotyping, immigration, etc.). Students then investigate these topics through creative personal exploration and advanced research techniques, and develop ideas for addressing these issues. Students capture their research findings and proposed solutions in reports and a video that are then shared with decision-makers and at conferences. The SJEP places students in the center of the learning process, asks questions of them that cause them to think deeply, takes them seriously by really listening to their responses, and supports them in having a voice at the community level.

Every Voice in Action's funding supports the program's general operating expenses, video projects and a youth grantmaking project for SJEP graduates.

Every Voice in Action's staff has provided SJEP with ongoing technical assistance in the areas of strategic planning and fund development. Every Voice in Action's staff also helped SJEP to design their youth grantmaking project.

Funding Significance

With three full years completed at Cholla High, there is now sufficient data to clearly document the SJEP's multi-faceted impact (the program just expanded to Tucson High last year and will start at Rincon High in 2006/2007).

Many SJEP students were on the verge of dropping out of school when they entered the program. The SJEP has been a vehicle for these students to develop their "academic identity" by learning to value education, engage in a process of gathering knowledge (instead of merely being taught) and presenting new and original ideas. As a result, all of the students who have participated in the SJEP during the past three years have graduated from high school, and nearly all of them have gone on to pursue higher education. Nationally, the Latino dropout rate is estimated at 25–50%, and only 13% of Latinos go on to college. SJEP students also had higher GPAs, better school attendance, fewer disciplinary referrals and higher scores on all sections of the AIMS test than the student body average. The program's extensive evaluation efforts show that the students directly attribute this turnaround to their participation in the SJEP.

SJEP students have also tackled and begun to address important social and educational problems. For example, the report and video prepared by the first cohort at Cholla examined inequities between students in the lower and higher socio-economic areas of Tucson. This report prompted the Tucson Unified School District to fix broken toilets, ceilings and water fountains at Cholla. SJEP students have also waged a campaign to expand the District's multi-cultural awareness and education for both students and teachers.

Although difficult to measure, perhaps the most important impact of the SJEP is the transformation it brings the students' outlook on life. SJEP students now have a systematic method for identifying, analyzing and addressing social inequalities in their school and communities, instead of disengaging, dropping out and resorting to more destructive methods to express themselves. They report that the program has allowed them to stop seeing themselves as "victims" of oppression and start seeing themselves as advocates for social justice.

The Greatest Strengths & Most Unique Aspect of the Funding Project

The most unique aspect of the SJEP is its masterful infusion of social justice activism into the high school educational process, and conversely, advanced educational pedagogy into social justice activism. The effectiveness and importance of the program comes from its marriage of community development (through youth-driven social change efforts) and youth development (specifically, skills development and academic improvement based on increased self-confidence and self-appreciation).



Every Voice in Action Foundation

Social Justice Education Project
Type of Funder | Private Independent Foundation
Grant Size Category | Funding awarded over \$100,000

Unforeseen Difficulties

One unexpected challenge for the SJEP has come from their status as a joint program of two departments at the University of Arizona and the Tucson Unified School District's Mexican American/Raza Studies Department. Many foundations and individual donors are turned off by the idea of contributing to programs that are housed at large institutions. In reality, the University and School District provide a great deal of important administrative and in-kind support to the SJEP, and do not dictate or direct the program's development and implementation – in many ways the SJEP functions as an autonomous program. However, the SJEP's relationship to these institutions has hampered fundraising efforts on more than one occasion. The result is that they have been limited in their ability to expand to additional school sites.

Future Plans/Possible Replication for this Project

This year there are plans for SJEP graduates (who have been hired as SJEP staff) to co-facilitate the courses along side of the schools' social studies teachers. The program is also expanding to a third site this year, and with additional funding, hopes to meet the growing demand for the program's replication both locally and nationally.

Every Voice in Action has made a long-term commitment to the SJEP and will be funding the program again in 2006/2007.



Hard Work and a Little Funding Help Turn Around Local Nonprofit

Funding Awarded: In what year(s) was the funding awarded? 2005
Funding period: One Year
Grant Amount \$20,000

Geographic Area Benefiting From the Funding

Metropolitan Phoenix primarily.
(The Wellness Community of Central Arizona is the only one of its kind in all of Arizona.)

Purpose of Funding

The Wellness Community (TWC) of Central Arizona has a mission of offering hope, support and education to people with cancer and their loved ones free of charge. Currently TWC offers a full array of psychosocial support programs and services from one lovely homelike location at 360 Palm Lane in central Phoenix. Since 1998, TWC of central Arizona has provided this support to a growing number of individual participants, now over 6000 annually. And each year, TWC fund-raises its entire budget, now at about \$722,000. Anyone may attend the support groups, programs and classes. TWC is not affiliated with any single healthcare organization and serves people referred from all. No clinical therapies are provided at this location, only psychosocial support.

The President of the F2 Family Foundation has served on the Board of Directors of The Wellness Community since May 2005 and as chairwoman of the Programs and Services Committee since September 2005. She offers clinical, development and managerial assistance. The grant was matched by an investment of time, energy and expertise. It is a good match of resources and needs.



F2 Family Foundation

Social Justice Education Project

Type of Funder | Private Family Foundation

Grant Size Category | Funding awarded from \$10,001-\$25,000

Funding Significance

In 2005, 5 years after it opened its doors at 360 Palm Lane, TWC was in trouble. Its initial financial capital was spent and although the programs had grown and attendance was good, start up investors were leaving and there was no sustainability plan being executed. Original staff and board members left and new staff signed on to do the hard task of turning around, almost re-inventing, an organization while it grew its core service line of offering psychosocial support and education to people with cancer at no charge.

Nothing is free. Well, maybe getting cancer is free; maybe love and hope are free. But buildings, utilities, facility maintenance, staff, taxes, events, counseling, fund-raising are not free.

The new Executive Director Paula Hardison went about leveraging the little grant for multiple matches. She developed a board with the right set of talents for the work of TWC. These people all share their many, valuable talents at no charge. Other individual and private foundations offered larger grants and helped TWC secure the house and land. It is now a much more fiscally solid organization. At the same time, the new Program Director Lynn Bryszac, expanded the program and TWC is now serving over 7000 clients annually.

The Greatest Strengths & Most Unique Aspect of the Funding Project

A teen program was funded and started up this year and this is one of the stories: At 17 years a beautiful girl was diagnosed with melanoma, surgically and chemically treated into remission. Now at 23 with metastasis to brain, she walks into The Wellness Community with her mother. After the visit she tells her mother, "I found hope in there.....when I thought it was gone." **Hope is Priceless.**

This is happening every day at The Wellness Community, not only because of the little F2 Family Foundation grant, but because of lots of large and small grants and lots of hard work by many people giving valuable time to provide a free service.

The F2 Family Foundation grant was given as a gift to very committed people. It was a bit of a gamble, but investing in good people is actually a fairly fiscally conservative activity.

Unforeseen Difficulties

It is always more work when you get into a project or an organization or a task than it looks like at the onset or in retrospect. Good people and persistence prevail.

Future Plans/Possible Replication for this Project We repeated the gift this year.



Amblyopia Foundation of America and Prevent Blindness America Develop Approach to Provide Vision Screening to Every Elementary School in Maricopa County

Funding Awarded: In what year(s) was the funding awarded? 2004 - 2005

Funding period: Two Years

Grant Amount \$200,000

Geographic Area Benefiting From the Funding

Maricopa County

Purpose of Funding

The Trust provided support for the collaborative project in 2004 with a \$200,000 two-year grant to the Amblyopia Foundation of America, Inc (AFA). Grant funds allowed AFA and Prevent Blindness America to screen 8,000 children in the Wilson, Creighton and Alhambra school districts, as well as the Thomas J. Pappas School for homeless children. The computerized test reduces the average cost to screen a child's vision from \$10 to less than \$2.50.

Funding Significance

The Amblyopia Foundation of America (AFA) and Prevent Blindness America-Arizona Division (PBA) collaborate to reduce the cost and expand the effectiveness of vision screening for elementary school children in Arizona. Established in 2003, AFA developed computer-technology tools to assess children's vision as they "play" a two-minute video game. Test results assess amblyopia (commonly known as lazy eye), visual acuity, depth perception and color vision. One out of 20 children has amblyopia, which is irreversible if not treated by age 9. Amblyopia causes more blindness and vision loss in Americans under the age of 45 than all other causes combined.

The Greatest Strengths & Most Unique Aspect of the Funding Project

Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust support of AFA over the past two years allowed AFA to conduct a logistics study and gain scientific validation for the VisionQuest 20/20 software. The software program allows children to "play" a video game while their responses are interpreted according to diagnostic vision screening criteria. The result is a fun, easily administered and scientifically valid method for conducting wide-scale vision screening at a fraction of the cost of traditional methods. The software also allows instant data collection for easy retrieval and epidemiological study.

Future Plans/Possible Replication for this Project

In 2007, AFA and PBA plan to screen the vision of 88,400 children in all 289 Maricopa County elementary schools with an ultimate goal to utilize this test nationally.



Piper Grant to Help Teach Doctors Palliative Care

Funding Awarded: In what year(s) was the funding awarded? 2006

Funding period: Two Years

Grant Amount \$276,000

Geographic Area Benefiting From the Funding

Maricopa County

Purpose of Funding

The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust awarded funds to Hospice of the Valley to develop a coordinated program to teach palliative care medicine to all primary care physicians in residency training programs throughout Maricopa County. The grant will support the development of a curriculum and hands-on training for palliative care. In addition, there will be an evaluation of the effectiveness of the training on the participating physicians.

Funding Significance

Physicians spend their time diagnosing and treating patients – trying to find solutions to medical problems and “cure” those who come to them. In their professional education, physicians are not trained to think about those patients for whom there is no further curative treatment and for whom death may occur in the foreseeable future. The grant from The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust to Hospice of the Valley (HOV) provides the opportunity for residents to experience a curriculum specific to palliative care along with hands-on training and contact with terminally ill patients in a hospice setting. The residents will learn about pain management and how to provide comfort and dignity at the end of life. This required educational experience will be carried into their practice. For patients who are facing end-of-life issues, the physician education will help the medical professionals with understanding of the options for care at that stage of illness. They will also learn how to communicate with the patient and family while understanding and respecting the needs of the patients. Comments from residents who have completed the training program document the impact it has already had on their understanding and perceptions – one resident commented: “Seeing it in actual life instead of just hearing about it... is very different,” or “Walking into a patient’s home who is on hospice and seeing how easily some of them are accepting of the fact that they only have a few weeks to live.” Both HOV and the Trust are very interested in providing those experiences to an increased number of medical professionals in order to provide better quality of care and better quality of life for people as they approach death.



The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

Hospice of the Valley

Type of Funder | Private Family Foundation

Grant Size Category | Funding awarded from \$10,001-\$25,000

The Greatest Strengths & Most Unique Aspect of the Funding Project

The grant originated from a conversation, not a formal letter of inquiry, and builds on the success of previous Trust grants to hospitals to educate pediatric residents about early child development. During an open house for the new Sherman House, an in-patient hospice facility, HOV staff commented about the need to educate medical professionals about palliative care. HOV staff is dedicated to making end-of-life care as humane and caring as possible. It is a unique agency in that it combines excellent customer service to people in its hospice programs while, at the same time, the staff constantly strives to improve professional education related to palliative and end-of-life care. The grant builds on HOV's acknowledged experience and relationships with existing hospitals and medical education programs. It provides the resources to allow HOV to share its expertise on pain management and end-of-life issues with medical professionals in the Valley.

Unforeseen Difficulties

During discussion of the grant, HOV anticipated that some residency programs might need to be "persuaded" about the value of participating in a residency training program on end-of-life and palliative care. After the grant was publicized widely in the [Arizona Republic](#), HOV received an exponential increase in the number of calls from hospitals requesting information about participating in the residency program. An unexpected call from the surgical residency program at a major hospital is paving the way to include surgical residents in this type of training as well. And the medical school is beginning discussion about incorporating this type of education into the curriculum.

Future Plans/Possible Replication for this Project

The Trust and HOV will continue discussion about expanding the educational experience to other medical professions such as nursing and medical school curriculum.



Rodel Charitable Foundation - Arizona

A Stepping Stone Foundation
Type of Funder | Public Charity that Re-Grants Funds
Grant Size Category | Funding awarded from \$25,001-\$100,000

Rodel Charitable Foundation of Arizona saves Stepping Stone Preschool classroom for 4th Consecutive Year!

Funding Awarded: In what year(s) was the funding awarded? 2003 - Present

Funding period: Four Consecutive Years

Grant Amount \$25,000 in 2005, \$25,000 in 2004 & \$50,000 in 2003

Geographic Area Benefiting From the Funding

Phoenix Metropolitan Area

Purpose of Funding

Funding for all years was given to support A Stepping Stone Foundation's best practices program, which serves four-year old children at risk of school failure due to literacy needs. This award winning program provides free, high-quality preschool to children four days a week for a minimum of four hours, while parents are required to attend GED or English classes and parenting classes. Parents are additionally required to work with their children in the classroom on literacy activities as well as open their homes once a month, so the lead teacher can work with them on at-home literacy activities and developmentally appropriate practices. In partnership with local public schools, children receive breakfast and lunch all school days and are taught on public school campuses. This funding, in particular, helped the Foundation provide highly qualified preschool teachers and teaching assistants.

Dr. Carol G. Peck, President and CEO of the Rodel Charitable Foundation of Arizona, in particular, has provided invaluable networking that has greatly expanded our donor giving base as well as helped provide key contacts to maintain our cutting edge program.



Rodel Charitable Foundation - Arizona

A Stepping Stone Foundation
Type of Funder | Public Charity that Re-Grants Funds
Grant Size Category | Funding awarded from \$25,001-\$100,000

Funding Significance

Imagine being able to provide free preschool for all children at risk of school failure due to a variety of environmental factors beyond their control. This is exactly the mission of A Stepping Stone Foundation, to provide high-quality family literacy style preschool to those who demonstrate a need, one classroom at a time. Our program leverages partnerships with local elementary school districts (currently Alhambra and Isaac school districts in Phoenix, AZ) to deliver this proven model which is based on the Even Start and Perry Preschool Programs. The follow-up study on the Perry Preschool Program 40 years after its inception calculates the total benefit-cost ratio up to \$17 for every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood education. These savings are reflected in higher earnings as adults, lower teen pregnancy rates, lower law enforcement intervention and lower rates of welfare consumption. The Rodel Charitable Foundation of Arizona has consistently supported these efforts, helping to keep open classrooms that were scheduled to close.

The Greatest Strengths & Most Unique Aspect of the Funding Project

A Stepping Stone Foundation has operated in the Phoenix area since 1990 with the help of several community partners. This program simply could not exist without the vision and foresight of public school superintendents that see and welcome quality support from the private community. In the case of the Stepping Stone Preschool Program, this means providing classrooms, basic equipment such as tables and chairs, expendable supplies such as paper, paint and glue, direct management oversight, free meals for the preschoolers, and janitorial services. Other community partners include faith communities, who help provide volunteers and material support such as gently-used items for families in need, and private and corporate sponsors who provide direct funding and in-kind support, such as in-home computers for families. The Foundation was awarded Westmark's Best of the West in Community Partnerships in 2004. Other unique and important aspects of this project include: REQUIRED family participation, privately-funded project delivered in public setting, high-quality teaching staff, and research-driven curriculum and program components.

Unforeseen Difficulties

There were no unforeseen difficulties. Rodel visited and observed the program in action and found the quality to be superb and all of the necessary components to be fully implemented for a successful program.

Future Plans/Possible Replication for this Project

Rodel plans to continue to fund this program at the \$25,000 level. Additional grants will be necessary for A Stepping Stone Foundation to expand to meet the substantial needs of pre-school children and their parents living in high-poverty communities.



Hunger in America – Arizona Highlights 2006

Funding Awarded: In what year(s) was the funding awarded? 2003 - Present
Funding period: Four Consecutive Years
Grant Amount \$25,000 in 2005, \$25,000 in 2004 & \$50,000 in 2003

Geographic Area Benefiting From the Funding

Phoenix Metropolitan Area

Purpose of Funding

The grant enabled AAFB (Association of Arizona Food Banks) to advocate with more professional support; seize additional opportunities to participate in regional/national exchanges that enhance their knowledge, role and effectiveness; commit to high level of participation in a critical national hunger survey; and to train new advocates to sustain the necessary voice on behalf of those in need.

Funding Significance

Hunger in America – Arizona Highlights 2006
AAFB worked with members of the Joint Legislative Committee on Hunger to develop their report on the topic and maintain \$1.8 million in the state budget for partial support to food banks. They worked with the Basic Needs Coalition in the Legislature to fully fund the General Assistance budget. Advocacy at the federal level included support of the Child Nutrition Program, summer lunch programs, Dept. of Defense money to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for Indian communities, and support of the "No Junk Food in Schools Bill," which was signed by the Governor. They addressed the needs of eight member food banks, three others who benefit from the Statewide Gleaning Project, and ultimately the 839,000 Arizonans in poverty and at risk for hunger.

The Greatest Strengths & Most Unique Aspect of the Funding Project

A Stepping Stone Foundation has operated in the Phoenix area since 1990 with the help of several community partners. This program simply could not exist without the vision and foresight of public school superintendents that see and welcome quality support from the private community. In the case of the Stepping Stone Preschool Program, this means providing classrooms, basic equipment such as tables and chairs, expendable supplies such as paper, paint and glue, direct management oversight, free meals for the preschoolers, and janitorial services. Other community partners include faith communities, who help provide volunteers and material support such as gently-used items for families in need, and private and corporate sponsors who provide direct funding and in-kind support, such as in-home computers for families. The Foundation was awarded Westmark's Best of the West in Community Partnerships in 2004. Other unique and important aspects of this project include: REQUIRED family participation, privately-funded project delivered in public setting, high-quality teaching staff, and research-driven curriculum and program components.



Unforeseen Difficulties

The grantee overcame several issues with the Legislature and their lack of interest in social welfare or justice programs. They quietly did their homework, sticking to the issues and encouraging relationships and long term possibilities. The Second Harvest food survey caused many challenges in training and accuracy, all of which AAFB was able to assert its influence and overcome confusion and inconsistencies to get the best possible snapshot of the hunger picture.

Future Plans/Possible Replication for this Project

Future plans include sharing the results of the hunger survey with Arizona decisionmakers, food providers, communities and the media to address the problems of food insecurity for Arizona's hungry people.