



Agency Highlights December 2009

Don't forget! Contributions to ACYR for the [Arizona School Tax Credit and the Arizona Tax Credit for the Working Poor](#) must be made by December 31. Click [here](#) for the donation form. Those wishing to contribute to ACYR through Birdies for Charity can access the pledge form [here](#).

Seven young people from the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs completed Kidney Dialysis Technician training on November 24. Participants in the new training effort, a partnership between ACYR and Phoenix College, split time between classroom work and on-site internships. **Anna Garcia** from the City WIA program is now employed as a Care Giver at Right at Home-In Home Care. **Justin Finch** (Maricopa County) graduated at the top of his class and will be hired by Fresenius as a Dialysis Tech. **Chris Pieper**, Lead Career Advisor for the City WIA program and coordinator of the Phoenix Community Development Investment Corporation Youth Career Exploration and Internship Program contract, was the driving force behind organizing and implementing the training.

ACYR celebrated Character Counts! Week with a student essay contest. The theme was "How has someone close to you exhibited one or more pillars of character (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship) using words or actions?" There were thirty essays submitted from students from the Center of Excellence High School and the GED classes. The first place winner was **Mirzo Espinoza**, a student at the GED class located at the Glendale Community Center. He has since successfully completed the GED test and is planning to attend community college next semester.

Forty-three participants from ACYR's Adult Education Program have earned their GED Diploma since May 2009. A graduation celebration was held on December 4th at the Maricopa County Board of Supervisor's Auditorium. Graduates **Quazson Jackson** and **Ben Sare** shared their experiences in brief remarks during the ceremony. **Paul Franckowiak** from the Arizona State Department of Education, Adult Education Services, was the keynote speaker.

The spirit of service continues to be embraced by ACYR staff and students. The Thanksgiving food drive resulted in distributing 55 food boxes to families of young people in ACYR programs. We received cash donations in the amount of \$743.45 and perishable and non perishable food donations valued at approximately \$120.00. A special thanks to **Courtnee Kinser**, City of Phoenix WIA Career Advisor, who coordinated the effort, as well as the many *Friends of ACYR* who contributed. Another drive is underway for the Christmas holidays.

Andrea Ready's Youth Excel Project Art class has collaborated with Vista Colina Emergency Family Shelter for their 2009 Holiday Shelter Helpers Program. The students have set up Angel Trees in the 648 and 649 buildings' front lobbies from December 1st thru December 18th. Each tree has gift tags on them with needed items for families of the shelter. If you would like to participate, come pull a tag and bring your unwrapped gift by December 18.

A special thanks to the **Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club of Arizona** for their gift of four Thanksgiving food boxes for Center of Excellence students. CoE Principal **Mike Webb's** association with the club was instrumental in the donation.

Congratulations to staff from ACYR's City of Phoenix WIA programs (general population and youth offender grants)! Both programs were recognized at the November 12, 2009 Phoenix Workforce Connection full board meeting for meeting or exceeding all performance measures for the 2008-2009 program year.

ACYR honored over 125 local businesses and agencies that provided work/training experiences for ACYR summer program participants at two Employer Recognition events in November. The events on November 6 at ACYR and November 13 at the West Valley Career Center for employers who offered training opportunities to City of Phoenix and Maricopa County participants, respectively, recognized employers' efforts in growing the emerging workforce. Thanks to **Anthony Rivera** for coordinating the events and **The Bryman School** for their sponsorship.

We received a letter from an individual who lives in the neighborhood and who took advantage of some of the general services we offer as part of the "One-Stop" system. Please take a moment to read it [here](#).