



Arizona Women's Partnership, Inc.

Grant Recipient Profiles Part II

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**If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please follow up directly
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“Enriching life through art” is the motto of the Arizona Art Alliance, a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization founded in 2000. We believe that art generously enriches the lives of people all over the world, no matter what their creed, status, title or life experience.

The philosophy of Arizona Art Alliance is straightforward—without art, the world would truly present as dull and dreary. Exuberance, love and joy all stem from art. Aside from the visual appeal expressed through creative works of art, art inspires hope, passion and intellectual conversation for both the artist and the viewer. It is this outcome that motivates our organization to act.

The mission of Arizona Art Alliance is to provide member art organizations with artistic resources, show venues and product marketing opportunities. We provide volunteer time, talent, supplies and financial resources to community-based art outreach programs that benefit children, youth and/or adults with physical, mental and/or environmental challenges. The art outreach program beneficiaries range from seniors afflicted with Alzheimer's to handicapped and disadvantaged children to incarcerated youth and women/families of domestic violence in community shelters.

As of April 1, 2009, the Arizona Art Alliance has a membership base of 24 visual arts organizations representing over 4000 Arizona artists. Our all-volunteer run organization has clocked over 60,000 hours of volunteer time in support of artistic and community service programs over the past 9 years. Eight community outreach programs currently receive resources, such as volunteer time, supplies and financial assistance, from the Arizona Art Alliance.

Hope for Women, an Arizona Art Alliance project, is aimed at developing skills and esteem in women in domestic violence shelters via artistic pathways. Hope for Women began in September 2008 at the Jewel McFarland Fresh Start for Women. The program activities are directed and organized by Joyce White, an Arizona Art Alliance juried artist.

In 2009, the Arizona Women's Partnership delivered grant funds directed toward the Hope for Women project, providing supplies for two programs sites. As a result, a second Hope for Women program began in January 2009 at Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) targeting women who are homeless and in need of skills and esteem development. Through this program, the participants are taught fine art skills, such as jewelry making or painting that could lead to self-employment and other types of job opportunities. The volunteers are all highly qualified artists and/or art teachers and many can relate to the survivors and their situations.

Girls on the Run

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In today's rapidly-shifting world, young girls face incredible hurdles: Adolescent pregnancies, eating disorders, depression and suicide attempts, substance/alcohol abuse, confrontations with the juvenile justice system, obesity rates and related health ailments. The Girls on the Run (GOTR) compassionately addresses these serious issues through intensive yet enjoyable training for the participation in competitive running events.

GOTR's mission statement is "To Educate and Prepare Girls for a Lifetime of Self-Respect and Healthy Living." GOTR is a life-changing, "hands-on" educational program for girls aged eight to eleven years old. The program combines training for a 5K (3.1 mile) running event with self-esteem enhancing, uplifting lessons and workouts that reinforce the lesson concepts. Our curriculum addresses all aspect of girls' developments: Physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual well-being. We train highly motivated and competent volunteers to teach and coach the girls after school 2 days per week for the 10-week season. During practices the girls learn lessons that teach them to value themselves and make wise choices. These lesson concepts are then incorporated into running activities, which are geared to prepare girls for the end of season 5K. Lesson topics include: *Effective Leadership, Teamwork, Establishing Healthy Eating Habits, Body Appreciation, Respecting Self, Making Wise Choices, The Media's Influence, Speaking up for Yourself & The Importance of Community Service.*

Molly Baker, four-time Ironman Triathlete, founded GOTR in 1996. Baker holds a Masters Degree in Social Work and is a former high school teacher, counselor and track coach. Starting from its humble roots, GOTR has grown to an astounding 100 chapters across the nation with over 50,000 participants! GOTR of Maricopa County (GOTRMC) is 1of 100 chapters. We were established in March of 2004 by Sharon Baltmanis, Ashley Crossman and Cathy Kent-Murtaugh with just two teams of 28 girls. Now, Maricopa County has over 200 girls participating in the Wondergirl 5K this past Saturday in Kiwanis Park in Tempe.

It costs approximately \$125 per girl to administer GOTR. Program costs include: curriculum (purchased from GOTR National), insurance, teaching materials and visual aids, coaches training, T-shirts, coolers, snacks, ice, water bottles, banquet dinner, awards and finishing medals. GOTRMC is committed to helping girls from all socioeconomic backgrounds. We offer a scholarship program to allow underprivileged girls with limited family income to participate. At present, over 70% of participants in Maricopa County receive at least a partial scholarship to participate in the program, a cost currently absorbed by GOTRMC.

Arizona Women's Partnership has helped us provide scholarships to these underprivileged girls through generous grants in both 2008 and 2009. Without this financial assistance, these girls would probably not have been able to participate in our program. We would like to thank AZWP in helping Girls on the Run to help us educate and prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living.

Arizona South Asians for Safe Families

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Victims of domestic violence know they have a place of safety and comfort within the organization Arizona South Asians for Safe Families (ASAFSF). In October 2004, ASAFSF was established by members of the Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani communities in Arizona to provide support services to victims of domestic violence in the Arizona South Asian community.

We are an all volunteer-run, non-profit organization whose mission is to emphasize the importance of developing and maintaining a safe family environment, to increase awareness of domestic violence and to provide support services to victims of domestic violence in the South Asian community. Most Asians and South Asians view domestic violence as taboo and therefore are less inclined to seek help. Sustaining these views has a negative impact on the families.

Our goals are to have community outreach programs support our mission and provide support services for South Asian victims of domestic violence. Calls and e-mails to our organization include referrals from other out-of-state domestic violence organizations, in-state prosecutor's offices, and local domestic violence shelters. We provide both direct and indirect services, including financial assistance for childcare, rent money, lawyers' fees, transportation, and emergent personal needs. Our family advocates accompany and support victims and their dependent children to courts, medical appointments and much more. ASAFSF is an official member of Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AzCADV), the National Network for Training and Advocacy (NATN) and of Community Information and Referral (CIR). We are listed in the national list serve of Asian and South Asian Domestic Violence support services organizations.

Chai Chat (Tea with ASAFSF) is one of our most successful general and culture-specific grassroots outreach training/workshop activities. Chai Chat is a community-driven initiative focusing on smaller groups hosted by community members. Ongoing trainings and workshops for ASAFSF members are an integral aspect of our organization's growth and development. ASAFSF members are required to attend 40 hours of training in Domestic Violence 101 in order to be able to provide direct services. ASAFSF also encourages participation in other trainings, such as Immigration services and legal advocacy. Members are also encouraged to attend related conferences out-of-state. We hosted our first one-day conference "Shakti—The Power in Empowerment" on April 18, 2009 as part of our continuing outreach effort.

Assistance from organizations like the Arizona Women's Partnership has greatly helped us in our outreach efforts to increase awareness of this issue. We hope through our efforts we will be able to bring about a change in our society where all individuals can be treated with respect and compassion.

Defenders of Children

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~ Free and reduced-fee services and legal assistance for child abuse victims ~

“Child advocates rescue children. We do it not with weapons, ropes or ladders, but with paper and pen, telephones and microphones, court rooms, case files and conversations.” – Donnalee Sarda, MC, LPC, Executive Director and Licensed Professional Counselor

Abused children, the most vulnerable members of society, receive protection and service from the Defenders of Children, a 501 (c) (3) Arizona corporation. Defenders provides assistance to child victims of abuse (when evidence of ongoing abuse remains) and the families seeking to protect those children post Child Protective Services (CPS)* involvement. In these days of reduced services by traditional avenues of protection, Defenders aids in picking up the slack in child protection. Headed by Staff Attorney David Lujan, Defenders provides free and reduced-fee assistance and free legal services through our in-house legal department. Our small army of volunteer attorneys plus mental health professionals works tirelessly on behalf of these children for cases that meet our criteria. Defenders provides information to families in rural Arizona and along parts of the AZ/Utah border strip who have once lived in FLDS or polygamous communities.

Child Advocacy 101: Essays on Child Protection in America (Bridgewood Press) is our newly-released book that Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard as well as nationally-respected psychologist Barbara A. Kerr have called “a must read.” This authoritative source covers how to fix inadequacies in our family courts and CPS. Executive Director Donnalee Sarda and David Lujan speak at statewide conferences, at trainings for judges, attorneys and social service caseworkers. Defenders networks with other child advocacy groups around the nation to ensure ideas and the most current information are shared. Defenders manages this without being an “anti-agency agency.”

In 2008, Defenders facilitated the rescue of 305 children in Arizona plus 250 family members. Eighty percent of our client families are in Maricopa County; sixty-five percent are at poverty level or below. By working with the Attorney General's office, CPS and law enforcement, we provide a voice for the children when the first line of defense, their parents and guardians, fails to do so.

Our mission includes striving to end the intergenerational cycle of abuse and to provide educational outreach on family violence prevention, to effect positive change in public policy to ensure children's rights to safety and to educate families on the rights to which they are entitled.

*Child Protective Services, the state investigative body charged to ensure child safety in their living environment.

Make Way for Books

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MAKE WAY FOR BOOKS (MWFB) promotes early literacy in limited-resource areas of Tucson, Arizona by providing young children an opportunity to fall in love with books and reading. Our vision is that all children enter school with the necessary early literacy skills. This will help promote each child to reach a certain level of success both in an academic environment and later on in life. Each child, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or gender will have daily exposure to books and reading.

MWFB has four core programs designed to encourage families and childcare providers to incorporate reading in their daily lives:

Our Preschool Program is designed to meet the early literacy needs of children in child care and to enhance the skills of their caregivers. MWFB provides each childcare center with teacher training, a circulation library, and a storytime volunteer who shares their love of books with children by reading aloud to them weekly. Storytime is an integral part of each child's learning process where learning to love all the aspects of reading involves using the imagination to visualize characters and/or hear words of a story's characters spoken aloud in a vividly dramatic, engaging style.

The Babies Program provides literacy kits that contain a board book, a "Read to Me" bib, and a calendar giving simple tips on fostering early language and literacy.

In our Summer Reading Buddies Program, school-age children are paired with preschoolers for book sharing sessions twice a week during the summer. Preschoolers receive theme-related hardcover books, game boards for "buddies" to chart their progress, and incentives.

Our Family Literacy Events provide parents and children an opportunity to celebrate books and reading together. These events include bilingual storytimes, puppet shows and early literacy materials for the families. In spending time with family members who are involved in the Family Literacy Events, children are given reinforcement in the home environment to learn to embrace books.

The generous support of the Arizona Women's Partnership has enabled us to provide 130 early literacy kits for at-risk new mothers and their babies in Pinal County. These kits have assisted us in giving children the tools necessary to fall in love with reading and with books. We are grateful for the support from the Arizona Women's Partnership, as they have helped us to further our mission of promoting early literacy.

National Advocacy & Training Network (NATN)

Support, Education, Empowerment & DirectionS Project

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The mission of the National Advocacy & Training Network (NATN) is to address the health, safety, economic and social justice issues related to domestic violence, sexual assault and substance abuse through education, public awareness and direct services.

Support, Education, Empowerment, DirectionS (SEEDs), a project of NATN, was established in January 2003 to address the unmet needs of homeless, battered and/or sexually abused women in recovery. This community-based project provides transitional housing and comprehensive supportive services committed to the physical, mental, and emotional healing of women whose lives have been affected by abuse and addiction. NATN operates three SEEDs homes: one in Mesa and two in Phoenix. Between the three homes, 24 women are served each night.

SEEDs provides transitional housing, case management, support groups, life skills, domestic violence and substance abuse education, legal advocacy and information and referrals. NATN partners with inpatient and outpatient treatment programs, domestic violence shelters and the prisons to identify women who would benefit from the agency's array of services.

With generous support from the Arizona Women's Partnership, SEEDs provided 5,840 transitional housing bed nights to 72 homeless, abused women in recovery in 2008. Seventy-five percent of the SEEDs residents who stayed six months or longer transitioned out of the program and into their community as self-sufficient members of the community. Ninety percent of SEEDs residents who participated in the residential program for six months or longer volunteer for NATN or in their community.

"SEEDs is the only project in Arizona offering transitional housing and comprehensive supportive services to battered and/or sexually assaulted women in recovery. We are very thankful for the financial support from Arizona Women's Partnership", stated MonaLou Callery, Founder/Executive Director of NATN.

Recovery Centers of Arizona, Inc.

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Recovery Centers of Arizona (RCA) is a women's grassroots non-profit organization located in Tucson. RCA provides a safe place to live and an invaluable education to women with drug and alcohol dependency in order for them to start the healing process after suffering from domestic violence, imprisonment and/or the degradation of drug use. Working together with Tucson's social services, other non profits, rehabilitation facilities and law enforcement, RCA's mission is to educate and empower women to overcome the stigma of addiction and enable them to recognize their full potential. It is RCA's goal to give underserved women tools for life skills and the opportunities to become productive, active members of society.

While living in this modified therapeutic community, women are offered services aimed to enhance their quality of life. Services include housing, clothes, food, case management; referral and facilitation of individual and group therapy; domestic violence, chemical dependency education, anger management, relapse prevention, parenting training groups; GED referral; money management training; HIV testing and counseling; vocational assistance and job placement; computer classes; linkages to Narcotics Anonymous, Big Book, and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and connection to medical services, including application for government health insurance. RCA works with multiple nonprofits and organizations in Pima County so the women may receive all the support that is available to them.

Holistic Whole Women Program, a successful RCA program, emphasizes, in the women it serves, self-esteem, self-image and a feeling of competence about one's physical, intellectual and spiritual self. Sample program activities include nutrition students and coaches working with the women on nutrition, disease prevention, healthy weight, and mood/mind functioning; outside women speakers who present on topics such as fitness, finance, health, alternative medicine, self image, education, and more.

The Arizona's Women's Partnership and other organizations have helped RCA to implement the Holistic Whole Women Program and other similar programs. RCA continues to offer learning tools to women to provide the opportunity to become productive members of society. RCA promises to stay on the front lines in order to better serve the women of Tucson who are in need of healing from the degradation of drug addiction and domestic violence.

The Sudanese American Center in Arizona

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The Sudanese American Center in Arizona is a cultural, social, and charitable organization whose purpose is to serve Sudanese Americans, promoting and celebrating the Sudanese heritage as well as cultural identity. The Center was organized and incorporated in 2005 and granted 501(a) (3) status in 2006. We are a non-political, non-profit organization.

The major goal for the Sudanese American Center in Arizona is to help members transition into a productive life in the local American society. The process of refugee integration begins with resettlement and assisting them in achieving economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible after arrival in the United States. Many refugees and asylum members from Sudan have arrived and continue to arrive in Arizona. The Center helps in the integration process by providing the following programs and activities:

- Organize Sudanese Women's Society social days and field trips for women and their children to visit science museums, children's museums, libraries and art museums
- Offer workshops and seminars about health insurance in America, tax laws & income-tax preparation, applying to colleges and universities in Arizona, real estate market, challenges in raising children in America, immigration laws and forms preparation
- Provide educational, training, business and job opportunities at the local and national levels
- Provide orientation and guidelines for the advantages and disadvantages of the American culture and lifestyle
- Offer Social Solidarity Fund to help members during unexpected and harsh events
- Provide translation services for members to help them when filing legal papers
- Provide Sunday Program for the youth and new generations
- Organize sporting events and youth activities (the Center has a soccer team for the youth and volleyball, table tennis and snooker tournaments)
- Maintain an electronic mailing list to help us broadcast announcements, programs, activities, and improve the communication level in our Center and community
- Provide translation services for members to help them when filing legal papers
- Deliver a newsletter every quarter to reflect activities, community news and special topics

The grant from Arizona Women's Partnership has helped the social office and the Sudanese Women's Society organize social days and field trips for women and children; all grant money is used for activities. The generous grant from AZWP empowers us to help build very strong American citizens with proud Sudanese heritages.

The Welcome to America Project

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The Welcome to America Project (WTAP), furnishes apartments to refugees newly resettled by the United Nations to Phoenix, Arizona from war-torn and oppressed countries worldwide. This mostly-volunteer organization collects high quality furniture and household items from donors throughout the Phoenix area and delivers them free of charge, once a week all year long, to refugee families arriving from Somalia, Sudan, Iraq, Burma, Bhutan, Cuba, Afghanistan, and many other countries in conflict.

The organization has won many awards for its grassroots, volunteer-driven work and currently has over 150 active volunteers. WTAP has the following two primary, ongoing goals:

- Furnish the bare apartments of newly-arrived refugees with quality home furnishings
- Build bridges of neighborly understanding between the local community and new refugees

Since November 2001, WTAP has delivered over \$600,000 of in-kind furniture and home essentials to over 550 refugee families.

The families that WTAP serves arrive in the US with just the clothes on their backs after spending an average of 6-8 harrowing years in refugee camps outside their homeland. Although we frequently see refugee stories on the nightly news, we rarely see what happens to them once they find a safe haven in a new, foreign land; refugees in America are a forgotten, invisible population. However, the kindness of neighbors and a comfortable home help heal their painful scars and give them confidence to tackle the issues of assimilating and becoming citizens.

WTAP is unique in that we fill a gap in services to refugee families in Phoenix. No other organization, state or federal department, to our knowledge, provides the furniture and home essentials that WTAP provides to refugees. Refugee families whom we have helped tell us again and again that they gain comfort, pride and increased rest from their better-equipped homes. In turn, this gives them more confidence to tackle the larger issues of assimilation into a new culture. We believe that a dignified home and neighborly welcome give refugees a better chance for success as they build new lives here in the US.

Women 4 Change

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Women 4 Change is a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing the recidivism rate by teaching incarcerated women to recognize and change the patterns that lead to their arrest and conviction. Our 80-hour proprietary program entitled LifeScripting is specifically designed for women who are about to be released from prison. LifeScripting provides each participant with the knowledge of how to conduct her life in the outside world in such a manner that she can control her own destiny, return to her children and family, make a contribution to society, and not return to prison.

LifeScripting takes a unique approach to helping women heal from traumatic experiences including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse incurred as children or adults. Once introduced to the positive systematic processes of LifeScripting, participants can utilize the information and techniques to create their desired behavioral changes. This empowerment enables each woman to experience her uniqueness and ultimate purpose. The result is a new sense of self-love and acceptance at the deepest possible level.

The LifeScripting program provides the tools for the women to change the interpretation and response of any negative experience. Positive results occur by developing new and insightful perceptions; and, as a result, the negative events can become the catalyst for a new and exciting approach to the future. Working with these past experiences allows women to put into perspective the effect that the events have had on their lives. They are then able to reframe the same experiences into learning opportunities. With this information and the tools provided by the LifeScripting program the women can make true internal and lasting change. LifeScripting also addresses drug addiction and recovery.

The unprecedented success of the LifeScripting program has been validated in a ten-year study of released women who have graduated from the program. This study indicates that only 3.2% of our LifeScripting graduates have ever returned to prison (our 3.2% return rate is in sharp contrast to the national statistics, which state that 67.7% of those released from prison will return within three years.) Over 1,000 women have graduated from the LifeScripting program. These women have 3,000 children who will be directly affected in a positive way.

The Arizona Women's Partnership grant has helped and continues to help the women of Perryville prison obtain the LifeScripting materials that are necessary to incorporate life-changing skills into their lives. One-hundred percent of the AZWP grant is applied directly to the LifeScripting materials. Our organization is dedicated to turning around the lives of the women disadvantaged by a history of prison, and the Arizona Women's Partnership grant has helped us greatly in accomplishing our mission.

Y.E.S. for Dine Bikeyah

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Dine' Bikeyah—the Navajo Nation—is a land of rugged beauty and amazing landscapes. It is also a place where many children and families face unique challenges, often while lacking some of the resources that others in our society take for granted.

As a result of these two realities, we have created an outdoor adventure and enrichment program for youth, schools and families across the Navajo Nation. In 1994, Y.E.S. for Dine' Bikeyah was established as a nonprofit organization to address some of the unique situations that Navajo youth face. Over the past 15-plus years, we have offered over 190 outings for youth. Thousands of students have taken part in backpacking, mountain biking and winter sport outings at Grand Canyon, Rainbow Bridge, Navajo Mountain, Chuska Mountains and across the "rez".

Throughout all four seasons and across the vast, West Virginia-sized reservation, Y.E.S. offers great trips for students. Additionally, we also provide school and community-based presentations, service projects and enrichment activities that foster a message of healthy, drug-free living and promote lifelong wellness among the youth. We also publish a student newsletter and a calendar "A Celebration of Dine' Bikeyah" that offers youth an awareness and sense of pride in their homeland.

Tour de Rez is a summerlong, 1000-mile-plus mountain biking/hiking journey that combines adventure, education and service for the hundreds of participants that take part throughout the summer. The experiences of the Tour helps to reaffirm the students' Navajo identity, while providing amazing adventures and offering opportunities to feel the empowerment that comes from making a difference in the community around us.

While our budget and size are modest, we believe that the impact of our programs and the youth who take part in them is very significant and lasting in the lives and communities that comprise the great Navajo Nation.

"We strive to provide opportunities for parents and their children to have positive experiences together in nature. Whether it is spending time together on Tour de Rez, taking part in one of our Grand Canyon family outings or backpacking to Rainbow Bridge, we firmly believe that positive time together as a family can provide lasting healing that leads to a more healthy family life," says Tom Riggerbach, Y.E.S. Director