



# Mentoring Partnership of Arizona Newsletter

## Inside this issue:

Introduction	1
Mentor of the Month: Virginia Gee (Arizona Quest for Kids, Phoenix)	2
Spotlight on Mentoring: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona	3
Training Calendar	4
Events	5-6
Local News	7
National News	8-9
Resources	10-11

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2010

## Welcome to the March MPA Newsletter!

We are back to our usual newsletter format after a whirlwind National Mentoring Month. While we started the year off with NMM, we are moving towards the future now with upcoming planning retreats for both the Greater Phoenix Mentoring Partnership and the Southern Arizona Mentoring Coalition. These planning retreats will direct our efforts throughout the next year, selecting the areas that we can make a real impact and working collaboratively to strengthen our mentoring community! For more information on the planning summits, turn to page six of this newsletter. If you would like to attend, RSVP to Dorian Townsend as soon as possible, (520) 881-3300, Ext. 110, or [mentoring@volunteersoaz.org](mailto:mentoring@volunteersoaz.org).



We are proud to announce this month's Mentor of the Month, Virginia Gee, who is a mentor through Arizona Quest For Kids. Virginia has been a mentor for five years with the same mentee and has provided immeasurable support during that time. Her story truly attests to the very real impact that mentoring can make on a youth's life.

Our Spotlight on Mentoring for March highlights the work of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona, an organization that has been making a sustainable impact in the Phoenix community for decades.

In connection with Big Brothers Big Sisters, we also highlight the national Big Brothers Big Sisters of America efforts for February, Black History Month and their ongoing African American Mentoring Summit.

If you would like to nominate one of your exceptional mentors for the Mentor of the Month column, please email [mentoring@volunteersoaz.org](mailto:mentoring@volunteersoaz.org). All winning mentors receive a certificate and a mentoring gift book. Each Mentor of the Month is also placed in the running for the statewide Mentoring Partnership of Arizona Mentor of the Year Award, given out at the MPA Thank Your Mentor Day Celebration in January 2011.

You can also highlight your program through the Spotlight on Mentoring column. Email [mentoring@volunteersoaz.org](mailto:mentoring@volunteersoaz.org) to find out more information.

We look forward to working with you throughout the year and making Arizona's mentoring community even more vibrant!

## Mentor of the Month: Virginia Gee, Arizona Quest for Kids (Phoenix)

Virginia Gee has been a mentor for the past five years through Arizona Quest for Kids, providing continuing support to her mentee Genesis. The two were matched when Genesis was in sixth grade and now she is a junior in high school. Virginia remarked that once she became involved, time went by very quickly. She had originally heard about the program from a friend, who was a mentor at the time, and thought that it sounded like such a nice way of contributing to a person's life. Virginia describes her feelings on being a mentor, "You can influence people through brief moments, but to really make a difference for someone you need that time, that really appealed to me, especially when working with someone with so much promise, who did not have the support or tools to take advantage of that. Over time you get to see them blossom."



During her time with Genesis, Virginia has learned to be patient. Not having kids of her own, she has learned so much from her time with Genesis. She saw that encouraging someone consistently and being there for them really makes a difference as they go through the many stages of their life. Virginia said that initially, it took a while to build communication and trust with Genesis. Genesis was very shy at first, but over time trust was built up and their relationship had many dimensions added to it. Virginia has seen Genesis grow, both academically and personally. She added that she didn't realize how big of an impact her presence would have beyond just scholastic improvement for Genesis. Virginia has been able to help her formulate her personality and build confidence. Virginia noted, "I think that's what a lot of people don't think about. If you stick with it, why I've been so committed—I don't want her to learn to be noncommittal. She's helping me learn too by her commitment. We're teaching each other a lot."

During the past five years, Virginia has seen Genesis grow and achieve many great things. Most recently, Genesis took her love of dancing to a new level and was accepted into the Palm Line. One of Genesis's biggest accomplishments during their time together was greatly improving her dedication to education. When Genesis transitioned to high school, she had difficulties with school and began to lose ground with her grades. Both Virginia and Genesis's mother had a serious conversation with Genesis and encouraged her to not let her gifts go to waste, to take advantage of them and think about the long term. Almost overnight Genesis improved: she's now in honors, receives almost entirely As. Now she does everything on her own without prodding: she's involved in many activities at school and has a steady boyfriend that she challenges academically. She's become a strong, independent person, who can take care of herself.

Virginia has been thankful that Genesis has a good mother as well. She never realized how much your family influences your day. If there are financial hardships, if there are problems in the family, they affect a child's life at school and everywhere. Virginia continued, "Some kids really do have it hard. They have so many outside influences that make it difficult to accomplish a simple goal: graduating high school or college. It really enhanced my life seeing another perspective, and seeing what they have had to go through."

For people considering mentoring, Virginia gives the following advice: "I highly encourage it! It is such a positive influence on my life. Not only are you helping them, but you learn a lot about yourself. It helps to grow your heart too. You find that you have more love to give out than you thought you had. If you stay committed, you see the long term effects as well and it is such a nice feeling!"

Congratulations Virginia on becoming the Mentoring Partnership of Arizona Mentor of the Month for March!

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*To nominate one of your program's outstanding mentors for the Mentoring Partnership of Arizona's Mentor of the Month Award, please email [mentoring@volunteersoaz.org](mailto:mentoring@volunteersoaz.org).*

## Spotlight on Mentoring: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Central Arizona

Since 1955 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona has provided support, guidance, friendship, and fun by matching youth with volunteer mentors. The organization began with a Phoenix chapter of Big Sisters International in 1955. In 1965, the Phoenix chapter of Big Brothers of America began, and in 1985 the two were combined as Valley Big Brothers Big Sisters. Over the years the program expanded to include Pinal and Gila counties, leading to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona.

BBBS of Central Arizona has both a community based program and a site-based program. Within these programs, there are individual matches that are supported as well as couples and family matches, where a couple or family are matched with one youth. Mentors can also become involved in the STARS Mentoring Program, where you would mentor a child of incarcerated parents.

According to John Hamilton, Vice President of Programs at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona, the value of mentoring is that it gives, “the opportunity for an experienced person to provide guidance and support to a child. The mentor is a role model, who by their stories, by their example, by their kindness, shows the child how to live life through another set of eyes.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters has shown a remarkable, measurable impact on the lives of youth, with participating youth:

- 52% less likely to skip school
- 46% less likely to use illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to start drinking alcohol
- More confident of their academic performance
- Able to get along better with their families.

The long term impact can really be seen in the story of former Little Brother Steve Kogan, who was matched with Marv Wasserman in 1966:



*I'll never forget my first visit at Big Brothers office in Phoenix over 32 years ago. I can still picture the offices and Mr. Star who introduced my mother and I to my new big brother Marv Wasserman. I was 7 or barely 8 at the time, and as Marv describes, scared to death. That's the way I remember the meeting as well.*

*It didn't take long before we were best friends. Marv spent almost every Saturday with me. We sailed, fished, and worked in Marv's wood shop making different projects. Marv loved to quiz me with times tables and division flash cards. I'm pretty handy today and I can even tie and bait a fishhook. My sailing skills are fair at best and my math is well, nevermind. Marv taught me how to mow a lawn when I was really little. These things may seem incidental and unimportant on the surface but I'm here today 41 years old with responsibilities, a business, a successful marriage, my own tools, and I still mow the lawn.*

*Marv's zest for life has spilled into my own and we are still best friends. Although a match officially ends by the 18th birthday of the Little, Marv and I still consider ourselves a current match. As the oldest Little Brother, I am also a long-term case study. My hope is that people can see the long-term success of taking a little time to make a difference.*

If you'd like to find out more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona, visit [www.bbbsaz.org](http://www.bbbsaz.org).

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To nominate your program for the MPA Spotlight, please email [mentoring@volunteersoaz.org](mailto:mentoring@volunteersoaz.org).

## Training and Conference Highlights



- **Indian Gaming Grants in Arizona Lunch Workshop.** American Association of Grant Professionals. Wednesday, **March 10, 11:30-1:30.** **Cost:** \$10 for members, \$14 for non-members. Phoenix Main Library—Burton Barr, 1221 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. RSVP: Jerry.Dillehay@mesaaz.gov.
- **Budget and Logic Models.** Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona. Friday, **March 12, 9:00-12:00.** **Cost:** \$35. 924 N Alvernon Way, Tucson. To register: <http://www.volunteersoaz.org>
- **Winning Federal Funding.** Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits. Tuesday, **March 23, 9:00-4:00.** **Cost:** \$75 for Alliance members, \$100 for nonmembers, 400 E. Monroe, Phoenix. To register: <http://www.arizonanonprofits.org/events/eventcalendar.aspx>
- **IRS Filing Requirements for Charitable Nonprofits National Webinar.** National Council of Nonprofits. Tuesday, **March 23, 3:30-4:30 EST.** To register: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/index.php?q=civicrm/event/info&id=23&reset=1>
- **Using Out-of-School Time Programs for Older Youth to Improve College Access and Workforce Development.** Webinar, National League of Cities, Thursday, **March 25, 2:30 P.M.** To register: [http://www.nlc.org/iyef/events\\_\\_\\_audioconferences/register.aspx](http://www.nlc.org/iyef/events___audioconferences/register.aspx)
- **Advocacy for Nonprofits.** Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits. Wednesday, **March 31, 9:00-12:00.** **Cost:** \$14 for Alliance members, \$25 for nonmembers. Native American Community Health Center, 4520 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. To register: <http://www.arizonanonprofits.org/events/eventcalendar.aspx>

## March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 MENTOR EEP Webinar (p. 5); AmeriCorps Outreach: Casa Grande (p. 8)	9 AmeriCorps Outreach: Show Low	10 Indian Gaming Grants in Arizona Workshop; MENTOR EEP Webinar; AmeriCorps Outreach: Phoenix East	11 Greater Phoenix Mentoring Partnership Planning Retreat (p. 6); Alliance Town Hall (p. 5); AmeriCorps Outreach: Phoenix West, Yuma	12 SAMC Planning Retreat (p. 6); Budget and Logic Models Training; AmeriCorps Outreach: Lake Havasu City	13
14	15 AmeriCorps Outreach: Tuba City	16 AmeriCorps Outreach: Sierra Vista	17 Nonprofit Leader Day (p. 5)	18 AmeriCorps Outreach: Tucson, Nogales	19	20
21	22	23 Winning Federal Funding Workshop; IRS Funding Webinar	24	25 OST for Older Youth; Alliance Tucson Grants Forum (p. 5)	26	27
28	29 AmeriCorps Outreach: Flagstaff	30	31 Advocacy for Nonprofits			

## MENTOR Elements of Effective Practice Webinar

MENTOR will be hosting its first webinar based on the newly revised *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring* this month. The webinar is geared towards mentoring programs and will provide an overview of the third edition of the *Elements*. Featured speakers include Dr. Jean Rhodes (Chair, MENTOR's Research & Policy Council and Professor of Psychology, University of Massachusetts Boston) and Dr. Janis Kupersmidt (President and Senior Research Associate of Innovation Research & Training. Dr. Kupersmidt managed the revision of MENTOR's *Elements*).

MENTOR will offer the webinar twice. Participants can choose which works better for their schedule:

- Monday, **March 8** from 1:00-2:30 EST. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/528816232>
- Wednesday, **March 10** from 1:00-2:30 EST. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/865631169>

Throughout 2010, MENTOR will offer an entire series based on the *Elements* as well, addressing: recruitment, screening, training, matching, monitoring/support, closure, program design, management, and evaluation. For more information, visit [www.mentoring.org/elementswebinars](http://www.mentoring.org/elementswebinars).



## Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits Events

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Town Hall—Phoenix:** Get answers to your questions about stimulus funding and find ways to pursue funding through cooperation and partnership.

**Date:** March 11, 9:00-12:00

**Location:** Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, 400 E. Monroe, Phoenix

**Register:** <http://www.arizonanonprofits.org/Events/EventReservation.aspx?id=313>

**Alliance Tucson Grants Forum:** This forum connects grant seekers from nonprofits with funders to learn about opportunities for partnership.

**Date:** March 25, 9:00-11:30

**Location:** YWCA-Tucson, 525 N. Bonita Ave., Tucson

**Price:** \$25 for nonmembers; \$15 for Alliance members

**Register:** <http://www.arizonanonprofits.org/events/eventcalendar.aspx>

## Nonprofit Leader Day: Organization of Nonprofit Executives

Nonprofit Leader Day recognizes nonprofit executives who are dedicated to excellence in management and leadership of their organizations. The keynote speaker will be Lattie F. Coor, PhD of the Center for the Future of Arizona.

**Date:** March 17, 11:30-1:30

**Location:** National Bank of Arizona Conference Center, 6001 N. 24th St. Phoenix

**Price:** ONE Members \$30, Nonmembers \$40

**Register:** [www.oneaz.org](http://www.oneaz.org)



## Mentoring Partnership Planning Retreats



The Greater Phoenix Mentoring Partnership and the Southern Arizona Mentoring Coalition will both be having strategic planning retreats next week. These retreats will help solidify the direction of the partnerships, develop a clear mission/vision leading into the future, and will create the primary goals for each group for the next year. Please come and have your voice heard and move these groups (and your mentoring programs!) towards a vibrant future.

If you are interested in attending either retreat, please RSVP to Dorian Townsend at mentoring@volunteersoaz.org, or (520) 881-3300, Ext. 110.

### Greater Phoenix Mentoring Partnership Planning Retreat

- **When:** Thursday, March 11, 9:00-1:00.
- **Where:** Free Arts of Arizona, 103 W. Highland Ave, Suite 200, Phoenix.

### Southern Arizona Mentoring Coalition Planning Retreat

- **When:** Friday, March 12, 12:30-3:00.
- **Where:** Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona, 924 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson.

## Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits Statewide Survey

The Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits just released the results of a statewide survey on the impact of the recession on nonprofits. The study showed that organizations suffered significant losses of revenues in 2009, while also seeing a rise in demand for their services. Six out of ten nonprofits reported a loss in revenue for 2009, with an average decrease in their income of 22.3%

Other findings of the survey:

- 64% of organizations reduced their 2010 budgets to respond to cuts
- One half of nonprofits had to tap reserves in 2009 to maintain operations
- Only 13% of nonprofits took on debt in 2009
- 25% of nonprofits experienced late payments on contracts, such as contracts with government agencies
- 22% of organizations are exploring or considering mergers or joint ventures with other nonprofits.

To read the full study, please visit: <http://www.arizonanonprofits.org/common/files/Community%20Cornerstones%201.10.pdf>



## Youth Volunteer Corps Projects

Youth Volunteer Corps is continuing the Spring Block with some exciting new projects:

- **Loving Your Mother (Earth):** Mondays, Learn how to start up and take care of an organic garden, harvest citrus fruit for refugee families, and find ways to talk to the community about taking care of Mother Earth.
- **Freedom Singers:** Tuesdays, Come and train in the Philosophy of Nonviolence of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and stop violence through the power of song!
- **Good in Da Hood:** Wednesdays, Help make a local Tucson neighborhood beautiful again through removal of invasive species and painting of a mural in the Montezuma Wash.
- **Reading Buddies:** Thursdays, Come read and provide homework help to elementary children at the House of Neighborly Service's Escuelita program.

For more information on YVC projects, Call (520) 881-3300 and ask to speak with a YVC team leader.



## AmeriCorps\*State Community Outreach Meetings

With increased Congressional appropriations for AmeriCorps, the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism will fund between three and eight new AmeriCorps\*State programs (approximately \$1M in available funds) for the 2010-2011 program year (renewable for up to two years). To provide organizations with more information regarding what it takes to apply for and operate an AmeriCorps\*State program or to receive an AmeriCorps\*State Planning Grant, to create greater public awareness and to promote resources available through the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Commission will conduct a series of Community Outreach meetings in March 2010.

- Monday, March 8. **Casa Grande**, 1:00-4:00
  - Sun Life Family Health Center, Inc., Board Room, 865 N. Arizola Rd., Casa Grande
- Tuesday, March 9. **Show Low**, 1:00-4:00
  - Show Low Public Library, Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, 180 N. 9th St., Show Low
- Wednesday, March 10. **Phoenix East**, 2:00-5:00
  - Arizona State Capitol, Executive Tower, Pharmacy Board, 3rd Floor, 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix
- Thursday, March 11, **Phoenix West**, 2:00-4:00
  - Avondale City Hall, Sonoran Room, 11465 W. Civic Center Dr., Avondale
- Thursday, March 11, **Yuma**, 1:00-4:30
  - Yuma County Library, Meeting Room A, 2951 S. 21st Dr., Yuma
- Friday, March 12, **Lake Havasu City**, 1:00-4:00
  - Mohave Community College, Administration Building, Room 201, 1977 W. Acoma Blvd., Lake Havasu City
- Monday, March 15, **Tuba City**, 1:00-4:00
  - Tuba City Health Care Corporation, Inc., Conference Room, 167 N. Main St., Tuba City
- Tuesday, March 16, **Sierra Vista**, 1:00-4:00
  - Cochise Community College, Room 900, Library, 901 N. Columbo Ave., Sierra Vista
- Thursday, March 18, **Tucson**, 9:30-12:00
  - Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona, 924 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson
- Thursday, March 18, **Nogales**, 2:00-5:00
  - Santa Cruz County Building, Room 120, 2150 N. Congress Dr., Nogales
- Monday, March 29, **Flagstaff**, 2:00-5:00
  - East Flagstaff Community Library, 3000 N. 4th St., Suite 5, Flagstaff



## Quality Counts! Pilot

The Youth Development Coalition has selected twelve pilot sites and ten external assessors for Quality Counts! The following programs will be going through a 9-month quality assessment and improvement process beginning with the first training in self-assessment on March 16th: Chicanos Por La Causa, Marana Unified School District LEAP program, Vail Unified School District Cottonwood Enrichment Center, Mulcahy YMCA, Tanque Verde Community Programs, Tucson Urban League, Sunnyside Unified School District Project Team, Compass Health Care C.A.S.T. program, La Frontera-Robles Junction Elementary Program, and Flowing Wells Extension Programs.

The entire community is invited to attend a stakeholder presentation on **March 15** from 9:00-4:00. Cost is \$35 and includes lunch. To register, please email:

[akucich@unitedwaytucson.org](mailto:akucich@unitedwaytucson.org).



## National Mentoring Month Review



According to MENTOR, the preliminary evaluations for National Mentoring Month celebrations show that nationally calls from people interested in becoming mentors increased as much as forty-five percent during January. MENTOR will release a full report from their 49 local partners in 35 states soon, but early numbers suggest that National Mentoring Month activities, including media outreach and events, inspired more people than past years to inquire into becoming mentors.

The increase in interest reached 45% in one state, as compared to averages in months other than January. Evaluations also showed an increase in website hits and the use of social media, with most local partners employing Facebook pages, Twitter, YouTube, and blogs, spreading the word about mentoring more than ever.

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## President Obama Signs SafetyNET Extension

On March 2nd, President Obama signed into law the bill to extend the Child Safety Pilot, SafetyNET, allowing mentoring organizations to conduct cost-effective fingerprint-based checks on potential mentors through the FBI criminal record database. The extension runs through March 2011. MENTOR will now resume full program operations, processing fingerprint cards submitted since January 31.



The Child Protection Improvements Act (S. 1598/H.R. 1469) currently before Congress would take what has been learned during the SafetyNET pilot and create a permanent, nationally-accessible background check solution for youth-serving organizations.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.mentoring.org/news/176/>.

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## CNCS Appoints New CEO

Patrick Corvington has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Corvington has more than twenty years of expertise on many key issues facing the nonprofit sector, including social innovation, evaluation, and nonprofit capacity building. This experience is also combined with sufficient management experience.

On a personal level, Corvington, who is of Haitian descent, was personally affected by the devastation suffered in Haiti and has worked with his community to quickly mobilize relief efforts to address the medical needs of the earthquake victims.

Corvington has been appointed at a pivotal moment in the agency's history, with a record budget increase totaling \$1.14 billion to support its mission and Congress enacting a sweeping bipartisan expansion of service through the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. According to CNCS, "Volunteering rates went up in 2008 by the largest amount since 2003, increasing by 1.5 million volunteers; the Corporation's AmeriCorps applications are three times as high in the past; and the agency leveraged more than five million Americans in tackling the nation's most pervasive problems.

For more information, please visit [www.cns.gov](http://www.cns.gov). To find out more about AmeriCorps and national service, please attend one of the information sessions described on page seven.



## Big Brothers Big Sisters Celebrates Black History Month

**Big Brothers Big Sisters celebrated February, Black History Month by highlighting one of their amazing Big Brother/ Little Brother matches and by releasing the results of the Big Brothers Big Sisters African American Mentoring Summit.**

Jamell C. Harris, who is about to play for Eastern Michigan University in the 2010 First Energy MAC Men's College Basketball Tournament, wrote this testament to his experience in BBBS:

*These last ten years have been a journey. My Big Brother Ormandouis Totty has seen me grow from a young boy to a young man. Totty is an inspirational person and kindhearted. Totty was always here for me no matter what the situation, from rides home from basketball practice to preparing me for college.*

*Whenever I was around Totty I would learn something new. I will surely miss all of the time we spent together, going to many places and seeing new things, especially Cavs games.*

*I will always and forever remember Mr. Ormandouis Totty for all of the things he has done for me. He is more than a Big Brother. He is someone who I can depend on, someone I can talk to or just someone to hang out with. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart and you will always be a part of my life. Thank you.*

Sincerely,

Jamell C. Harris (Little Brother)

At the Big Brothers Big Sisters African American Mentoring Summit, a collaborative partnership of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, and Omega Psi Phi fraternities, met to develop an action plan for recruiting more black men as long-term mentors. During the summit, Big Brothers Big Sisters' national president, Karen Mathis, hosted agency leaders, heads of the Alphas, Kappas, and Omegas, mentoring advocates/supporters, 100 Black Men and Susan Taylor's National Cares Mentoring Movement. At the event, Georgia Congressman John Lewis (renowned civil rights leader and member of Phi Beta Sigma) and Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr. (father of the Amachi Mentoring Children of Prisoners program) spoke about how to build national movements.

Those present developed the following action plans:

- Fraternity Chapter Action Plan
- Individual Fraternity Member Action Plan
- Fraternities' Region, Providence, and District Action Plan
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Agency Action Plan
- Big Brothers Big Sisters National Office Action Plan

For more information on the BBBS African American Mentoring Summit and the action plans that were developed at it, please visit [www.bbbs.org](http://www.bbbs.org).



## Awards

### • Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship Program



- Kohl's Kids Who Care will award scholarships to youth whose dedication to service has made a positive impact on others and their communities. Youth ages 6-18 are eligible to apply.
- **Amount:** Successful applications will receive scholarships up to \$9,000 toward postsecondary education.
- **Deadline: March 15.**
- **Website:** <http://www.kohlscorporation.com/CommunityRelations/scholarship/index.asp>

### • Annual Student Leadership Awards

- The Annual Student Leadership Awards will be given to both students and groups in recognition of their humanitarian endeavors. The award is funded through the Jenzabar Foundation.
- **Amount:** Award winners will receive \$5,000.
- **Deadline:** Submissions are due **March 31.**
- **Website:** For an application, please visit: <http://www.thejenzabarfoundation.org/ics>.



### • 100 Best Communities for Young People Award

- America's Promise Alliance and ING have teamed up to identify the 100 Best Communities for Young People. This award recognizes and celebrates extraordinary community-wide efforts to improve the well-being of youth and to end the nation's dropout crisis.
- **Deadline:** Applications are due Tuesday, **June 1.**
- **Website:** <http://www.americaspromise.org/100best>

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## First Book

First Book is a nonprofit organization that provides new books to children in need. They aim to address one of the most important factors affecting literacy—access to books. Since 1992, they have distributed more than 65 million new books to children across the country.

Programs can receive books from First Book if they serve at least 50% or more children from low-income families. All materials are either free or drastically reduced in price and include various Caldecott and Newberry winners. Bilingual titles are also available.

There are three ways to get books from First Book:

- (1) The First Book Marketplace, selling books discounted up to 90% off
- (2) The First Book National Book Bank, a free books initiative that distributes to programs serving 80% low income youth
- (3) First Book Advisory Boards, a community-level grant entity.

For more information, visit [www.firstbook.org](http://www.firstbook.org).

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## Grants

- **Phoenix Suns Charities Program Grants**
  - **Funder:** Phoenix Suns
  - **Eligibility:** Arizona non-profit organization whose programs and activities focus on helping children and families maximize their potential
  - **Deadline:** April 1
  - **Amount:** \$1,000 to \$10,000
  - **Website:** <http://www.nba.com/suns/charities/grants.html>
  
- **Second Chance Act: Strategic Enhancement to Mentoring Programs**
  - **Funder:** OJJDP
  - **Eligibility:** Public agencies, local government, public school systems, universities and colleges, Indian tribal governments, private organizations, institutions of higher education.
  - **Deadline:** April 14
  - **Amount:** \$200,000-500,000 for a project period of 18-36 months
  - **Website:** <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2010/SEMP.pdf>
  
- **Challenge America**
  - **Funder:** National Endowment for the Arts
  - **Eligibility:** Public and private nonprofits
  - **Deadline:** May 27
  - **Amount:** Up to \$10,000
  - **Website:** <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-1083.htm>
  
- **Learning in the Arts**
  - **Funder:** National Endowment for the Arts
  - **Eligibility:** Public and private nonprofits
  - **Deadline:** June 10
  - **Amount:** Up to \$150,000
  - **Website:** <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-702.htm>




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## Global Youth Service Day Planning Summits

Youth ages 11-18 are invited to attend the YouthNow! Global Youth Service Day Project Planning Summits. These summits will help youth plan their own project for Global Youth Service Day and become actively involved in the community.

Participating youth will gain the skills needed to plan a community project and will be invited to attend trainings on:

- Community Based Initiatives
- Asset Based Community Development
- Project Planning
- Fundraising.
- ...and many more!

The final planning summit will take place on March 13 from 10:00-5:15 at the Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona. Chosen projects will receive up to \$250 in project grant funds.

To RSVP, please contact Keli Perino at (520) 881-3300, Ext. 122, or email [kperino@volunteersoaz.org](mailto:kperino@volunteersoaz.org).



# Mentoring Partnership of Arizona



Newsletter  
March 2010



To subscribe, please contact:

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