

Mt. Graham Safe House

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Serving Graham & Greenlee Counties

A Newsletter to Increase Awareness of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



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H a r v e s t F e s t i v a l R e a l i t y

Mt. Graham Safe House had a booth at the Harvest Festival selling T-Shirts. Not a shirt was sold and maybe a few people picked up a brochure or donated some money. It seemed like nobody really noticed the booth, but what people did notice was the lady walking around with a black eye and bloody nose. Since the EAC Drama department was at the Harvest Festival charging a small fee to put makeup on as a black eye, bloody nose or other
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COWBOY POETS CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF THE "OLD WEST" AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY

Local customs, culture and heritage were prevalent during the 17th Annual Gila Valley Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering which was held in conjunction with the Salsa Fest, September 24th through September 27th.

Capturing the essence of the "Old West" with the music, song, poetry and storytelling, young and "not-so- young", seasoned performers and those just beginning to share, cultural demonstrations, and local history; all were representative of the "peoples of the Gila Valley".

Coming Up

Last Yard Sale of the Year November 21st

STUDENT POETS & ARTISTS:

The School Kids Student Poetry Program began eight years ago and was started by Bunny Dryden who wanted to preserve the novelty of "Cowboy Poetry" as linked to the local heritage of the Gila Valley. This year was exceptional as 179 poems by 5th and 6th graders were submitted. Following are the participating Graham County schools and educational facilities: Thatcher, Ft. Thomas, Bonita, Discovery Plus Academy, and Triumphant Learning Center. Winning poems were selected, through a judging criterion, and performed by the Eastern Arizona College English Department under the direction of Dr. Marilyn Wilton; this is the third year for this partnership. Dr. Wilton has expressed the positive elements of this relationship as it allows her students in higher level educational classes to extract the lessons learned while pro-

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Wish list:

Christmas/ Thanksgiving Din-
ners
Washer/Dryer
New Computers
Printers
Printer paper
Typewriter
Christmas Wrapping paper/
bags
Tape, tape and more tape....
Christmas tree/ornaments/
skirts etc.
Gift cards
New toys for children 0-16
MP3 players
Digital cameras
Hair accessories
Colognes
Robes
Slippers
Bath Sets
Cookware sets
Dishes
New towels
Prepaid visa cards
Wal-Mart Gift Cards
Grocery Gift Cards
Toys
Womens' Gift Items

And the usual items

Diapers size 3 and up
Cleaning supplies
Light bulbs
Fluorescent 4' light bulbs
Outdoor Floodlights

Your support around the holidays is vital as families trying to make a change in their lives are going into the holiday season a traditional time to be with family. For some, this can be the loneliest time of the year. For children spending a holiday in a shelter making the time as enjoyable as possible is the goal of every staff member. MGSB would like to thank the community for your support throughout the year.

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viding a community service and the joy of reading such interesting and varied poetry. This years categories were; Top Hand, Winner, Top Honorable Mention and Honorable Mention. Due to the wonderful writing examples these young poets displayed, the judges had a very difficult time selecting. Top Hand poets are Amber Judd, Thatcher, McKenna Featherman, Thatcher, Logan McMaster, Thatcher, and Brooke Fink, Thatcher. Winner poets are Parker Hatch, Thatcher, Rocki Daley, Thatcher, Jaiden Barney, Thatcher, Jonathan Trujillo, Thatcher, Jacob Morris, Thatcher, Alyssa Smith, Ft. Thomas, Ashley Bruns, Bonita, Stephan Carrasco, Bonita, Ashlin Colvin, Discovery Plus Academy, and Alex Deleon, Triumphant Learning Center. Top Honorable Mention is Brayden Shields, Triumphant Learning Center. Twenty seven poems were selected as Honorable Mention. We congratulate our fine students for the “Cowboy Spirit” that they shared in their poems and commend our educators and parents/guardians for their willingness to participate. The Art Guild of Eastern Arizona provides a “Western Art Show” and “Student Program” which is under the direction of Edith Austin. Each year our organizations partner to offer the opportunity for the 5th and 6th graders of Graham County to participate and submit their “Cowboy Art” during the Gathering. Winners of the student art contest were announced at the Family Night at Discovery Park and their art work was displayed during the Gathering at Discovery Park, at Kempton Chevrolet and at Eastern Arizona College during the Saturday Night Concert. Congratulations to our student artists.

The categories of Top Hand, Winner and Top Honorable Mention performed their poems live on the Voice of the Valley KATO radio program, at the Family Night at Discovery Park and during the Saturday daytime event which was held at Kempton’s Chevrolet showroom. The four Top Hand Poets were also invited to perform their winning poems on stage during the live Saturday Night Concert at Lee Little Theater. Two of the Top Hands performed, they were, McKenna Featherman poem “A Little Cowboy in My Right Knee” and Logan McMaster poem “Mystery Cowboy”.

All of these poems are on display until November 15th at the Graham County Historical Society Museum courtesy of the Graham County Historical Society. We encourage all to go in and read these delightful writings.

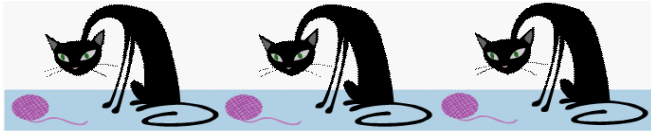
TALENT SEARCH, FAMILY NIGHT AT DISCOVERY PARK & FOOD DRIVE:

New to our gathering festivities was the Family Night at Discovery Park which is the venue for our Talent Search Program Participants and our Student Poets to be recognized and share their wonderful talent while providing an evening for all ages to enjoy the atmosphere of the “Old West Cowboy” and was held Thursday, September 24th. The EAC Discovery Park Campus at the Circle “D” Barn was a perfect fit to bring the feel of the wide-open-spaces, clear sky, stars shining and the campfire flickering while cups of complementary hot cocoa and coffee were served up. Talent Search Participants, Jay McClelland, Terry Johnson, Tad Dryden, Tumbleweed Band, and the Mike Crockett Family all shared their talent and material which was well received by those in attendance. Jay McClelland received the “People’s Choice Award” which was from the summer Friday Night Talent Program and the Mike Crockett Family were the Talent Committee’s selection to perform on stage at the Saturday Night Concert. Approximately two-hundred local residents came out to support this family orientated presentation. Now there are a lot of talented local “regular” people in our valley, so get ready ‘cause we’re planning for a great time next year. All of this more-than-should-be-legal fun was free to the public with only the request of a non-perishable food item per attendee. This endeavor served our local Safe House and our community needs. Debbie Dorman, Safe House Facilities Manager, commented on the much needed amount of food that was collected, 27 boxes, which will fill their pantry and serve not only those enrolled at the Safe House, but community members, church groups, adult protective services and others who are in need. She also mentioned their great need for diapers and other items; to learn more about how you can help, contact Jeanette Aston, Executive Director, 928-348-9548. The Thatcher Middle School Student

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Body also was very instrumental in providing food from their annual food drive. This was a tremendous success and we thank all who came and participated.



Some delays have occurred to slow progress on our animal shelter area, but construction will begin soon. We will shelter pets who arrive with their families in temporary kennels until the permanent facility is finished.

One Abuser, Two Victims

When 9-year-old Beth* was sexually abused by her stepfather, she told the prosecuting attorney that someone else knew about it -- but that he couldn't talk. She was referring to her beloved cat, Oreo.

Beth explained that Oreo would bravely lie outside her door at night and hiss whenever her attacker appeared. In trying to protect her, the loyal black and white cat also became another victim of violence; Beth's stepfather would always brutally kick Oreo away from the door.

Beth's revelation gave the prosecutor an idea. She decided to have Oreo examined by a veterinarian. The results were chilling. Sure enough, poor Oreo had sustained injuries consistent with being physically abused.

When the prosecutor submitted the veterinarian's report to the jury as evidence showing a pattern of violence in the home, Beth's allegations gained credibility. In a way, Oreo was able to testify, convincing the jury that the traumatized little girl had been telling the truth.

Beth's stepfather was convicted and received a long prison sentence. Meanwhile, Beth and Oreo were finally able to experience what every child and animal deserves: a safe home.

Help Empower Victims Like Beth and Oreo

The prosecutor in Beth's case was Allie Phillips, who now works for American Humane as vice president of our Public Policy Office. She and our staff regularly conduct trainings for attorneys, judges, veterinarians, social workers, domestic-violence counselors and other social services providers on what American Humane calls The Link®

It's a vital message -- one that Allie and our Link team are uniquely qualified to spread on behalf of abuse victims everywhere. But she can't do it alone.

Please help Allie and our team continue to educate others about The Link and stop the cycle of violence affecting innocent people and animals alike.

*This is a true story. However, the child's name has been changed to protect her privacy.

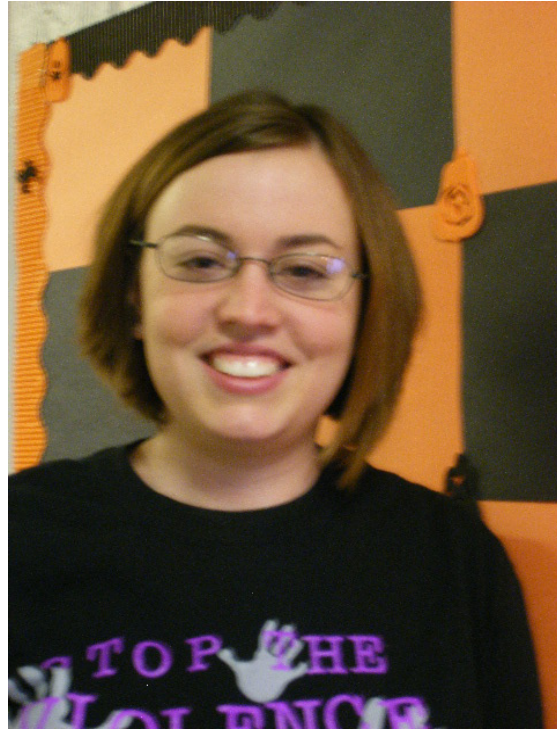
<http://www.americanhumane.org/donate/>

Excerpt from the American Human Association Email

Welcome Rochelle

My name is Rochelle Allen and I'm the new part-time intake advocate at Mt. Graham Safe House. I just graduated from the University of Arizona and received my Bachelors in Sociology. I love helping people and finding ways to accomplish tasks and goals, so my job as an advocate is very rewarding. As an advocate I help clients set goals, and help in anyway I can to accomplish those goals.

My goal as an advocate is to help clients see their potential and to make it possible for them to take the steps necessary to reach that potential. I feel that it is important to help the families in our community, because when individuals are independent enough to take care of themselves then they in turn will be able to help others and this will make our community a good one.



Battered Immigrant Women Task Force

The Battered Immigrant Women Project developed out of the concern of passionate Arizonans for the safety and future of battered immigrant women. In a border state with a growing immigrant population, now is the time to identify and develop resources, and provide outreach and training to organizations that interact with battered immigrant women.

The Project is gathering information regarding battered immigrant women's rights and resources, and strategizing effective methods to share this information with Arizona through public awareness and education.

To learn more about this project contact Felicia or Sonya at 928-348-9548

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options, a safe house employee decided to have her face done and walk around to attract attention to the booth.

The attention was immediately over whelming. Just walking back to the booth every person she passed stared without trying to hide their stares. Some whispered to each other. Some people looked shocked and others looked disgusted. The staffer, by instinct wanted to hide her face or put her head down to dodge the stares, but that was the purpose of the makeup; to get attention.

Nobody asked if it was makeup, or smiled, or anything, just stared. This made the staffer think of what the women with the real blacks and bruises have to go through when they have to go to the store or anywhere else. It was only makeup for the staffer, but the stares and almost shameful feeling she had was real.

Mt. Graham Safe House has lost a lot of funding and gets few cash donations. It, at times, seems like people don't notice the shelter and the help it provides to anyone in domestic violence, but they notice the woman walking around with the black eye.

Please donate to Mt. Graham Safe House or pick up information to pass along to someone you know even if you don't think they need the information. It could make a difference in someone's life.

Mt. Graham Safe House needs your help...

How your contribution helps:

Your contribution helps the Mt. Graham Safe House Regional Facility and Outreach Program achieve: operation of a 24-hour safe facility, Transitional Housing, 24-hour Advocacy Programs with offices in Graham and Greenlee Counties and the San Carlos Reservation for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault as well as a Prevention Education program for groups and schools.

MGSH is a 501 (c) (3) Non-profit Charitable Organization

This project was funded by the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Community Services Administration, Domestic Violence Program. Points of view are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Department. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, Mt. Graham Safe House must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service, or activity. For example, this means that if necessary, MGSH must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that MGSH will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity. If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. Please contact Jeanette Aston.

Please make your tax-deductible contribution to:

Mt. Graham Safe House
P.O. Box 1202
Safford, AZ 85548
Support for the year 2009

Name: _____

Address: _____

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\$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 Oth-

Thank You For Your Support

This program is funded in part through AZ Dept of Health Services, Rural Safe Home Network & Rape Prevention Education Programs; AZ Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families; U S Dept of Justice, (VAWA); AZ DES, ACYF USDHHS, Title IV-B, subpart 2 & Community Services Admin; AZ Dept of Public Safety (VOCA Grant No. 20__VA-GX-00__); AZ Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC). Opinions contained herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of these agencies.



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