



Spring 2017

# VISION

The Newsletter for Dysart Community Center

Issue No. 1



*Welcome to the first issue of the Dysart Community Center's Newsletter; Vision. It is our hope to share all the exciting events and opportunities of the oldest non-profit in the West Valley! From our founding, more than fifty years ago, Dysart Community Center has been committed to providing educational, developmental and recreational programs for West Valley families.*

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For those of you who have not met Annie yet, she is the 'new' Executive Director at Dysart, replacing Mike Cassidy who had served the community for over four years.

Annie was previously the Executive Director at Arizonans for Children in Phoenix where she worked to improve the lives of abandoned, abused and neglected children in Arizona's foster care system. Annie helped to develop a curriculum for youths and teens to teach invaluable life skills, confidence and improve their educational outcomes. She managed three busy children's visitation centers, a team of staff and over 500 volunteers.

Annie is so happy to join Dysart, in the wonderful community of El Mirage - just a few minutes from her home. She feels it is her privilege to serve with the amazing staff and volunteers at Dysart Community Center and she looks forward to meeting all of you.

## VOLUNTEER FOCUS – CAROL MOREN

Volunteers are the heart of our organization. This is our opportunity to introduce you to one of our longest serving volunteers; Carol Moren.

Carol was originally from Iowa, she had one brother and lost a sister before she was born. Carol has three children; two daughters, one a nurse in Sierra Vista, AZ, the other daughter retired from public service in Chino Valley. Her son works on computers and lives in Ft. Huachuca, Arizona. She has nine grand-children.

Carol was part of the group involved with founding Dysart Community Center over fifty years ago, she remembers that it was called Dysart Center, but it became confused with the Dysart School District so the name was changed to Dysart Community Center for clarity.



Carol lived across the street from the center, and recalls bringing donuts over to the bricklayers when they were constructing the center.

Carol recalls Dysart being an active 4-H site. She served as a leathercraft instructor and craft teacher, she completed state reports for the English as a Second Language instruction. Carol dispensed used clothing and was always willing to put her hand to anything that would help the center run. She currently serves as Secretary to the Board.

Carol says, "I think everything we offer is very important. From making anyone who comes in feel that they are special, as well as all the classes and support we give the community, we make them all feel so welcome."

## CITIZENSHIP CLASSES

We are pleased to offer classes in Citizenship to many members of our community. This past month we were so surprised to have over fifty students register for our classes. Miss Joyce has been teaching the course for several years and this year Larry Woods, our Dysart Board Treasurer, volunteered to teach as well. We now have a waiting list of nineteen students for the next class!



## SUMMERCAMP PROGRAM

Registration begins April 3<sup>rd</sup> for our 8-week summer camp program. We encourage early registration, as last year we had a long waiting list. Youth ages K-12 from El Mirage and the surrounding communities are invited to attend educational activities (STEM projects), sports, recreation, games, arts & crafts and a summer of fun with friends!

Breakfast and lunch will be provided by St. Mary's Food Bank's Kids Café program. For those youths signing up for extended care, they will also receive dinner from Kid's Café.

## READING PROGRAM



Priscilla Dueñez, our Youth Program Director is excited to announce the new Reading Program for the after-school children. With the help of dedicated volunteers from the ESL program, classes are happening on-site Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Miss Debbie is providing exciting reading sessions, complete with a crafting activity. She really brings the narration to life in her class. Her first book was Packy the Penguin, and we had a visit from Fast-Med's Fred the Penguin in honor of the first classes.

Miss LaVonne, Miss Carole and Miss Carrie are working one to one with children to help with their reading skills and retention. We are all very enthused about this wonderful addition to our programs.



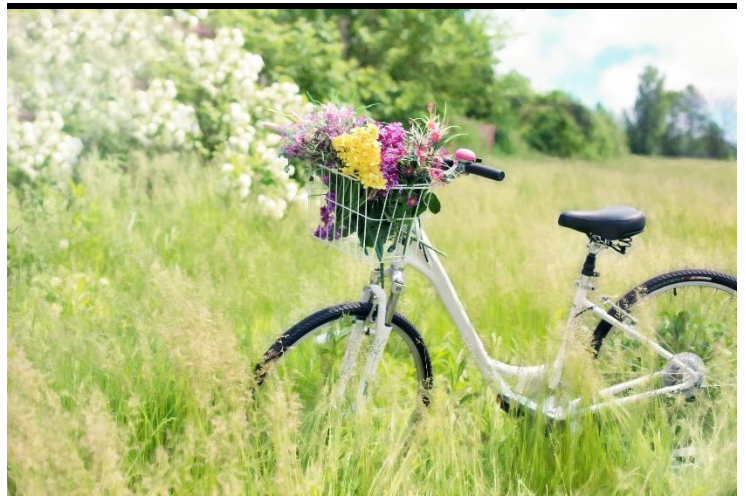
## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Students at Dysart Community Center will be hosting, cooking and preparing a celebration for our Volunteers on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to show their appreciation for the countless hours of dedication shown to them.

We hope that you will join us in celebrating with our students and volunteers (plus 1) for an evening of fun and excitement. The event will be held in our gymnasium.

Students please let Susie know which dish you would like to prepare by signing up in her office, or by email to [dcc.susie@gmail.com](mailto:dcc.susie@gmail.com).

## CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS!



## JOIN US FOR THE PARTY!

Wednesday, April 26th, 5:00 to 7:30PM  
14414 North El Mirage Road  
El Mirage, AZ 85335  
RSVP – 623-249-3812



For more information:

Please call 623-583-0016

GED Program: [dcc.lgarcillano@gmail.com](mailto:dcc.lgarcillano@gmail.com)

Youth Program: [dcc.priscillad@gmail.com](mailto:dcc.priscillad@gmail.com)

ESL/Citizenship: [dcc.susie@gmail.com](mailto:dcc.susie@gmail.com)

Annie: [execdir@dysartcommunitycenter.org](mailto:execdir@dysartcommunitycenter.org)

## GED PROGRAM

Lord Garcillano, our GED Program Director, is very pleased to announce we have 45 students currently registered for GED classes either in the morning or evening. We have had thirteen graduates from the program and new students are expressing interest every day. Volunteers are eagerly helping students to achieve this life changing certificate.



A recent student stated that it was her determination to achieve her GED by the time her own son started school!

## ESL PROGRAM

Susie Ratley, our Adult Education Director has sixty-three students registered for our English as a Second Language program, being taught by over 46 volunteer instructors.



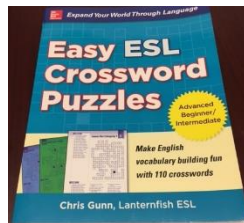
There is such a buzz of activity in all the classroom areas, that we had to open the kitchen for classes as well.

## FRIENDS OF SURPRISE LIBRARY



Dysart Community Center was very fortunate in receiving a grant from the Friends of Surprise Library for new class materials for all our programs. Text Books for the ESL, GED, Citizenship and Youth Programs were all delivered by Friends of Surprise along with a few bookcases and teaching supplies. Wonderful resource materials

were provided to add some fun to learning to speak English, and 2017 English/Spanish GED textbooks were also donated.



## EI MIRAGE – “LET’S PICK IT UP”



From left to right: Dysart Community Center’s After-School students Lidia Pintado, Marilyn Zumora, Jonah Garcillano, Eric Pintado, Bella Sanchez and Jonathan Marquez won First Prize in the City of El Mirage “Let’s Pick It Up” contest for picking up litter in February!



## DYSART TEEN PROGRAM



It is so heart-warming to see the community sharing books in the mobile libraries that the teen program built and maintains.