

## Community Enhancement Fund

In the last eight years, the “Community Enhancement Fund” (CEF) has awarded \$400,000 in Grant County to bring expert speakers and training programs into a region that might otherwise be unable to afford their cost. Hundreds of people have benefited from the 63 trainings and events funded by the CEF. The average CEF awarded was \$7,200. The Volunteer Center of Grant County was the largest recipient of the CEF, receiving \$43,348 to sponsor trainings as diverse as the framework of poverty to beekeeping. Most importantly, the CEF has increased the skill-level and knowledge-base of our community, as a whole, and then transfer this shared understanding into activities to better the quality-of-life in Grant County, thanks to the generosity of the Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation.

In 2013, the Community Enhancement Fund has supported the following projects:

- **Evergreen Perinatal Education Training** sponsored by Gila Regional Medical Center’s Parent Education/Lactation Department in January for \$16,648. Over 100 nurses attended two workshops on specialized health care for pregnant women and babies as part of the effort to create a ‘baby-friendly’ environment at our local hospital. Also, community members learned about the benefits of baby’s first natural food: breast milk. Contact Mary Gruszka, (575) 538-4676.
- **Bicycle Safety Training** sponsored by Grant County & the Bicycle Advocacy Group (BAG), for \$9,975, held throughout 2013. Bicycle expert, Sergeant Trinity presented traffic laws to 40 police officers and community members to increase bicycle/traffic safety. At *Pedalista!*, over 400 people attended a day of bicycle fun, games and safety education at Gough Park. A year-long media campaign with notable bicyclists has increased the community’s awareness of bicycle safety and traffic laws. Contact Jon Saari, (575) 574-0000.
- **National Trails Day & Prescription Trails Program** sponsored by the Grant County Trails Group in June for \$6,822.84. Over 100 people hiked the Dragonfly Trail in the Mining District to celebrate trails. Creator of the renowned “Step Into Cuba” walking program, Dr. Richard Kozoll presented on the healthy benefits of Prescription Trails, a program that encourages physicians to prescribe people local trails to walk thus increasing their overall health. Over 2,000 copies of “Trails of Grant County Walking/Hiking” guide that highlights over 36 trails in our county, were distributed to the community to jump start the Grant County Prescription Trails Program. Contact Michelle Giese, (575) 538-8573 ext 121.
- **Anti-bullying Training** with PFLAG Silver City in May for \$5,988. Acclaimed educator and author, Ester Williams, M.Ed., trained two faculty members from every school in Grant County on bullying prevention. Williams also offered free community workshop which was well attended and initiated efforts to establish ‘safe spots’ in the County where bullied individuals can seek support. Contact Damie Nelson, (575) 590-8797.
- **Southwest Festival of the Written Word** sponsored by the Mimbres Region Arts Council in September for \$9,686. Several specially-tailored events for young readers and families to promote literacy were part of the Southwest Festival of the Written Word. The events included: Word Play for elementary-aged children on the Silver City Museum lawn;

Family Reading and Leading which focused on literacy concepts for young children; Success as a Writer taught aspects of writing professionally to all ages; and a New Generation of Writers had five sessions focused on writing as a professional. Contact the Mimbres Region Arts Council, (575) 538-2505.

**Still to come in 2014:**

- **Train the Trainers** sponsored by ARC of New Mexico, Silver City Chapter for \$5,814. Sensory integration treatment for children with autism and other sensory processing challenges will provide three days of evaluations, presentations, and trainings for parents, families, and caregivers on how to provide support, and optimal environments so children with autism and related sensory processing challenges can adapt and function independently in everyday situations at home and in the community. Contact Arc of New Mexico, (505) 883-4630.
- **Hospice Training** sponsored by Gila Regional Medical Center Hospice for \$5,814. Presentations of the documentary of “Solace: wisdom of the Dying” by the filmmaker throughout Grant County and the surrounding region to discuss with a panel of experts conscious aging, end of life care, healthcare reform and to dispel the many myths and negative connotations about hospice care. Contact Siri Khalsa, (575) 574-4934.
- **National Children’s Advocacy Center Training** sponsored by Silver Regional Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) for \$16,004. The training is for child forensic interviewers who can ensure that all serious criminal cases of alleged child abuse are handled promptly and with exceptional care and sensitivity for the well-being of the children involved. Currently, children and their families must travel to Las Cruces (240 miles round trip) to be interviewed as part of the investigative process of serious crimes. Contact SASS, (575) 313-6203.
- **Community Trails Training Day** with the Wellness Coalition for \$3,253. A two-day event with community volunteer trail maintenance, promote outdoor recreation, good stewardship trails for community use. The training will be led by Michael Webster of the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. Contact Sam Castello, (575) 534-0665
- **Symposium on Preparedness** sponsored by the Silver City Neighborhood Alliance for \$7,201. A two-day symposium on community response to disasters including technical resources, community planning and defensible space around homes. Contact Kathy Anderson, (575) 388-1434.
- **FrameWorks Institute Training** sponsored by the National Center for Frontier Communities for \$13,014. The training will help organizations on how to best explain and communicate social issues to the public in a “framework” which pays attention to the public's deeply held worldviews and widely held assumptions. Contact Susan Wilger, (575) 313-4720.

For more information on previous CEF recipients please visit the Health Council’s web site at [www.gcchc.org](http://www.gcchc.org) or call the Health Council office at (575) 388-1198 ext. 22 or email: [healthcouncil@grmc.org](mailto:healthcouncil@grmc.org) .