

# changemaker central@ASU



## Woodside Community Action Grants 2016-2017 Funded Projects

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### ***A New Leaf Mural and Future Board***

**Student Lead:** Jose Carlos Pardo Urrea

**Project Overview:** The focus of this project is to empower immigrant children who have traveled from Central and South America through the creation a mural and an empowering vision board. This is a pressing need in our community is because many of these children may grow up to be mentally unstable and lack uplifting and positive environments. This project is working in partnership with A New Leaf, a nonprofit organization that provides temporary living quarters for 24 refugee children ranging from 9-17 years of age. The concept for this project is to create an empowering mural for the children who arrive at the New Leaf Shelter and provide them with a future board, more commonly known as the "Before I die" board, so they can express themselves and their vision for the future. Through this mural and empowerment vision board project, the kids will be able to maintain a sense of identity that often gets lost on their traumatic journey to the United States. This project will be used to emphasize the children capabilities and abilities to be successful and to illustrate how far they have come.

**Funding:** \$1,100

### ***Book Buddy***

**Student Lead:** Tamara Stojilkovic

**Project Overview:** The focus of this project is to help children who are English language learners in the third and fourth grade at Kyrene De las Manita Elementary in Tempe, Arizona by giving them a reading resource that will help them improve their English language skills. This team will be purchasing audiobooks and audio recording device to create a "Book Buddy" in order to help children with their reading comprehension skills. Having an easily accessible reading tool in the classroom will help ELL students build their reading comprehension by allowing them to follow along with the book. It helps the student make the connection of the visual words in a book and the audio of listening to the word being pronounced. This idea is made to supplement teachers in the classroom as this is such a critical age in which children need strong reading skills in order to further progress their education.

**Funding:** \$750

### ***Designing Micro Air Vehicles***

**Student Lead:** Michael Thompson

**Project Overview:** The ASU Micro Air Vehicle Club based in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering runs the Mechanical Flapping Bird STEM Outreach Program. This program serves underrepresented minorities in our community that lack the resources and confidence for higher education. Through our mechanical flapping bird outreach program utilize a hands-on approach and engage students in an engineering project by building a mechanical flapping bird and to expose students to engineering. The high school students will learn how to build, design, program, and develop code to implement in real world situations. The team will be led by a previous engineer who has four years of experience at Ford Motor Co. to bring this experience to the students.

**Funding:** \$1,100

### ***Diversity Pipeline to Law***

**Project Leader:** Casey Clowes

**Project Overview:** This team of law students, as part of the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, seeks to promote civic engagement and create a pipeline to law school for diverse high school students by teaching constitutional law and juvenile justice to public high schools. This team will be educating the students at South Mountain High School and ASU Preparatory Academy on legal issues, hosting a Regional Moot Court Competition where the students present their oral arguments, and preparing the students for a National Moot Court Competition in Boston in Spring 2017. Additionally, the scope of the project includes promoting legal interests and careers to the students, encouraging their public speaking and research abilities, and developing their critical thinking skills. The effect of these skills includes increased motivation to engage in legal issues and education as well as improved self-confidence. Finally, panels with practicing attorneys enable can be helpful for the students to understand the options for various legal careers.

**Funding:** \$750

### ***Documenting Piipaash Language***

**Student Lead:** John Powell

**Project Overview:** We will be helping document and build a dictionary for the Piipaash (Maricopa) language. Piipaash is considered a severely endangered language and has around 15 elder speakers left. Once the last speakers pass, the survival of the language will be directly affected by how well the language was documented. Under the guidance of our advisors and while working with members of the community, we will sit down with the elder fluent speakers and record their speech, drawing out missing vocabulary. We will then transcribe that speech, put into the computer, plan out the next session, and continue this process until we meet our goals and those of the community. The work that we and the Native American community do will be used in their language revitalization immersion courses. If the project is successful, our goal would be to set up a center at ASU so that this work can continue in the future after we have left. Our hope is that we can have a positive influence on the success and survival of the Piipaash language for generations to come in that community.

**Funding:** \$1,000

### ***Enlightened House of Refuge***

**Student Lead:** Maria Navarrete

**Project Overview:** Global Resolve club is dedicated to improving communities by implementing engineering projects in underprivileged communities locally or abroad. The scope of this project will be to implement solar lamps in House of Refuge community, a twenty-acre campus in Mesa with 82 two bedroom transitional homes. This will serve to provide the house of refuge residents with a sustainable light source for their playgrounds and streets to make it a more welcoming, safe place, especially for children to use after dark. We will on install solar powered lamps to provide lights within the playground and dark roads by renewable solar energy.

**Funding: \$1,150**

### ***HBW: Prison Yoga Podcast Project***

**Student Lead:** Roopa Singh

**Project Overview:** The Prison Yoga Podcast Project will collaborate with ASU's Humanities Behind Walls (HBW) to provide a public storytelling and yoga rehabilitative component to HBW's ongoing, innovative work with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women in Phoenix. HBW, a program of ASU's Institute for Humanities Research, is a healing, reading, and research project which facilitates ASU students and faculty teaching and learning weekly with women at Perryville Women's Prison. The Prison Yoga Podcast Project aims to collect stories from women with a focus on public health; to encourage healing, rehabilitation and positive re-entry into society among a growing audience of women and families affected by the prison industrial complex across the country. Guided yoga and meditation will be present at two main stages of this project: first, storytelling events will be supported by a somatic, embodied yoga and meditation component, which will support the healing potential of the telling itself; second, the podcast itself will include guided movement and breath work, so as to extend that rehabilitative potential to listeners far and wide.

**Funding: \$1,150**

### ***HEAL International Empowerment: Of My Own***

**Student Lead:** Anastasia Cossette

**Project Overview:** HEAL International's Of My Own program is designed to empower trafficked children to see a new future for themselves, free from their past. Thousands of at-risk children in Guadalupe, Arizona, and between 100-200 girls who have experienced trafficking have received empowerment, education, and support over the last ten years. Of My Own seeks to do more than just end sex trafficking; we will transform the futures of the girls who have been trafficked, and allow them to see the incredible value they contribute to the world. This project will increase the impact of Of My Own's empowerment education by providing training for three more health facilitators to serve as a sustainable resource for girls at Street Light USA. It would also provide funding for "I AM" days, on which the girls are taken out for a day each month for various activities. These days are meant to transform the perception of the girls so they can see what beautiful futures are possible for their lives outside of the empowerment education.

**Funding: \$1,150**

### ***HIV/STI Traveling Youth Outreach***

**Student Lead:** Katelyn Dinkel

**Project Overview:** In Arizona, a person has a 1 in 138 chance of being diagnosed with HIV within their lifetime. Arizona is also number one in the country for rates of syphilis infection. Something needs to change to bring these rates down. Students with the Peace Corps Club will be working to facilitate that change by reaching out and educating Arizona's youth. This project will use funds to create a traveling HIV/STI education booth that goes to health fairs and schools in the Phoenix area. Our booth will be dynamic and interactive, something currently lacking from pre-existing attempts at educating Arizona's youth. A creative method of education will help attract active listening and allow the information to really stick. We will achieve this with a spinning wheel of questions, a "popping rumors" activity with balloons, condom demonstrations, and a friendly face around their own age to have healthy conversations with.

**Funding:** \$550

### ***Homework & Handball***

**Student Lead:** Derek Doyle

**Project Overview:** The focus of this project is to educate high school students that going to college is not impossible. Homework & Handball is a program that uses the sport of handball as a way to mentor and encourage high school students. ASU student handball players volunteer to help teach handball to Phoenix area high school students. This provides positive role models for the high school students and helps to show them that an ASU education is within their reach. These lessons transfer to help them be successful in the classroom, while also developing a sense of belonging with their classmates leading to lower drop-out rates and fewer disciplinary problems than the general student population. The students will be exposed to ASU courses of study, financial aid options and enrollment requirements.

**Funding:** \$750

### ***Iron City Magazine***

**Student Lead:** Jessica Fletcher

**Project Overview:** Iron City Magazine is an online and print journal devoted entirely to creative expressions by and for the incarcerated. It is our hope that through this creative platform, inmates find value in their stories, fuel their personal growth, and feel pride in their accomplishments. We are creating a second annual issue of Iron City Magazine, a literary journal devoted entirely to writing and art from the prison world. We serve to remind the general public that inmates can make meaningful contributions to their communities. Too often, this potential is forgotten or overshadowed by their crimes. By validating inmates' humanity through writing and art, we can reverse the stigma surrounding the incarcerated. We can form and uphold a culture of acceptance and compassion for this overlooked and often unfairly maligned segment of humanity.

**Funding:** \$1,500

### ***Operation Toothbrush***

**Student Lead:** Nathaniel Tsiperfal

**Project Overview:** Every year kids throughout the country are not given proper instruction or support when it comes to oral hygiene to help them throughout life. This project aims to visit public schools, charter schools, private schools, daycares, and boys & girls clubs to educate children. Operation Toothbrush will engage children ages 4 to 9 in interactive activities including a dental "Hygiene Olympics" where kids practice various dental skills (brushing large teeth with shaving cream), flossing teeth, and learning about healthy food habits) to win golden tooth stickers which would excite children and make oral health a memorable experience for them. In addition, this project will help children by donating toothbrushes, toothpaste, sand timers, floss, and laminated information cards to send home to the parents to impact the practice of oral hygiene at home. Operation Toothbrush allows children, pre-dental students, dentists, and the community work towards a healthy cause.

**Funding: \$1,500**

### ***Paz de Cristo***

**Student Lead:** Cassandra Roose

**Project Overview:** Paz de Cristo is dedicated to alleviating hunger and homelessness in the East Valley and Phoenix area. Between the evening meal service and food box distribution, Paz de Cristo provides over 50,000 meals each and every month to the homeless, the unemployed, the working poor and senior citizens. Many of these and others living in or near poverty will always need the help of Paz de Cristo. The goal of this project is to meet the current needs of the Paz de Cristo Community Center by proposing a renovation project for the dining room. Paz is able to tackle issues of hunger through the evening meal service, however, there is a lack of fresh produce and dining room supplies to support and provide comfort for the guests. The Paz dining room is in dire need of new tablecloths to provide the guests with a resource that makes them feel welcomed and at home. In addition to the tablecloths, Paz is also in need of an upgraded garden to produce healthy, fresh food to be used in the evening meal service. By establishing a larger, beautified garden, the children that are guests at Paz will also have a place to play, engage in gardening activities, and learn the importance of nutrition.

**Funding: \$1,200**

### ***Phoenix Cultural Trips***

**Student Lead:** Ainsley Pfeiffer

**Project Overview:** Our project is to create a series of field trips for Phoenix Syrian Refugee families. The focus of our project is to provide Phoenix Syrian refugees with a variety of educational and cultural experiences in order to expand their understanding of the English language and American culture. As the families still have much to see of Phoenix, we plan to take them to cultural and or educational sites that will increase their understanding of American culture and also provide an interactive English lesson. We plan to take them to places like the Phoenix Science Museum, the Botanical Gardens, the Phoenix Children's Museum, the Zoo, the Musical Instrument Museum, and a hiking trip.

**Funding: \$1,200**

### ***Power in Youth***

**Student Lead:** Sanya Virani

**Project Overview:** Power In Youth, a student organization at ASU, focuses on improving health & nutrition education by teaching about the body and mind by performing fun activities to get kids and young adults moving! Health and nutrition classes are not implemented within public schooling curriculum, therefore it is crucial that it is taught now so kids can grow into happy and confident individuals. We travel to local high schools and community centers to educate adolescents to have healthier lifestyles. We have developed a curriculum that we teach at Power in Youth and it consists of three parts: Body and Mind, Family and Community, and Organize/Lead. This curriculum is aimed to tackle imperative topics that will be useful to the youth such as the importance of self-esteem, goal setting, and ways to de-stress (meditation). Additionally, we run through various of subjects such as, serving size and portioning, snacking, mental and physical exercises, and nutrition basics.

**Funding:** \$500

### ***Project STEM Inspire***

**Student Lead:** Farizah Ali

**Project Overview:** Project STEM Inspire is an educational outreach initiative to help connect underprivileged children with information about different STEM fields and careers through learning activities and presentations by ASU faculty and members of the student organization Women in STEM. Project STEM would be a series of lessons to give young students (middle school and early high school levels) from diverse backgrounds an overview of the many different exciting fields within STEM by connecting them with college students at ASU, ASU faculty members, and ASU resources. The program will involve learning activities designed to teach the critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary for success in future STEM-related classes and career fields. Program learning activities are also designed to be fun and inspire students to further explore these fields in their future educational careers, leading to an impact that extends far beyond the time spent in the program itself. By reaching out specifically to students in underrepresented groups, we hope the program will increase diversity of backgrounds and ideas in the next generation of STEM professionals.

**Funding:** \$1,200

### ***Refugee Garden Support Space***

**Student Lead:** Josh Greene

**Project Overview:** This project enables a team of ASU architecture and landscape architecture students apply their skills in design and construction to impact the lives of the Phoenix refugee community through a modest and sustainable design solution. Located on 16th Avenue and Camelback Road, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) hosts a community aquaponics greenhouse. Here, the Phoenix refugee community grows in tandem with the beauty of nature within the urban interface. The site is in need of supportive infrastructure that will make the space more usable and engage the entire community. Acquired funds from the Woodside Grant will be applied toward the construction of an educational, community space - an outdoor amphitheater -

where community members can learn about and participate in the art of community through growing fresh and honest food.

**Funding: \$1,500**

### ***RISE Community Expansion***

**Student Lead:** Amir Khawaja

**Project Overview:** Refugee Integration, Stability, and Education (R.I.S.E.) is an organization at Arizona State University that empowers young refugees through academic tutoring and community engagement activities that foster their professional, academic, and social development. We believe these features are key to enabling sustainable upward mobility. Over the past three years, R.I.S.E. has developed a strong relationship with refugees residing in Chandler, Arizona by maintaining a weekly interactive program with a group of 20 refugee students mentored by 25 ASU students. The focus of our project will be the education and integration of refugee youth in the Phoenix community through our tutoring and mentoring program. We believe this to be a pressing issue due to the specific population we are working with. For adolescents, the trauma of displacement during such a transformative period breeds a number of complex challenges that are exacerbated by the vast cultural and societal differences between their new environment and past realities.

**Funding: \$1,150**

### ***Steps House, Center for Healing***

**Student Lead:** Roger Thompson

**Project Overview:** This project is aimed at providing desperately needed funds to Steps House clients needed in the early stages of their recovery and healing. Steps House is actively committed to helping heal men and women suffering from alcoholism and drug addiction, get them gainfully employed to become a positive contribution to society. These clients are in desperate need for a State Identification and bus fare to successfully find employment to pay their rent and enter treatment and rehabilitation for alcohol and drug addiction. This project will provide the needed boost to help Steps House clients overcome the initial obstacles faced on the road to recovery: the tools needed to find employment. Upon acquiring employment, Steps House clients receiving Woodside funds will be encouraged to pass on an equal, or greater amount to future clients with similar needs.

**Funding: \$900**