

In this issue >>>

- Fall Hike to I'toi Cave
- Annual Recognition Ceremony
- Native American Heritage Night
- Conclusion of Summer Workshops



October
Issue

Empower. Engage. Encourage.

ilead Monthly



Program Updates >>>

Current ILEAD Enrollment

Number of Matches:

11

of Mentors ready to be matched:

4

of Youth ready to be matched:

1

Fall Hike to I'toi Ki: *Enjoying nature and its beauty...*

The mentoring program began consistent monthly gatherings in June. When we get together, we will normally have a meal and bring new members into the circle. Our meals revolve around donations and pot luck style. Last month on September 26th, we took a hike up to I'toi Ki: on Baboquivari Mountain. It was a beautiful day, we had five youth and four mentors take the hike along with about a dozen

additional family members and friends. Going up went good and fortunately no one had to turn back. The kids were strong and fast and no one complained. There were bees at the entrance, but they didn't bother us and we didn't bother them. We took turns going in to say a prayer, leave a gift or stand in silence. The trip down also went well, and when we got

As they were descending, their cries of "Start the fire (for the food)!" echoed against the mountain. It was fun and funny!



to the picnic area we had a cookout. Thank you to Sheldon for his grilling! The youth wandered around and enjoyed the change of scenery. We ended the day with a round of I'toi Ne'i and bringing two new matches into the program. It was a wonderful experience for the kids and the adults both.



Save the Date >>>

Annual Recognition Ceremony Thank You Mentors!

Special Thanks to:

Joseph Mease

Candacelee Juan

Adrienne Tiller

Garrett

Melendez

Melissa T. Pablo



Perseverance.

It's not easy to open your heart to a stranger, and yet on October of 2014, 10 individuals devoted themselves to take part on a one-year journey. We would like to recognize the mentors and youth for participating, as our first 5 pairs will reach their one-year relationship this month.

Please join us as we extend an open invitation to honor these volunteers on **October 23, from 6-8 pm at the Sells Recreation Multipurpose Room**. If you are curious about the program, this is an opportunity to come out and meet the staff and participants and to get more information.

Youth Engagement >>>

Completion of Summer Workshops

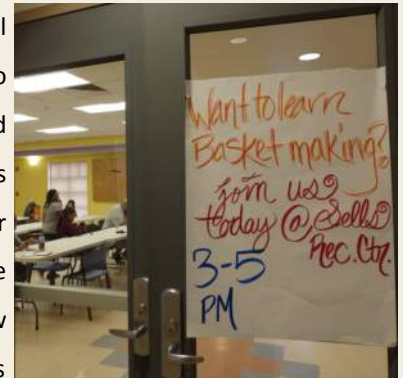
Beginning in June and ending in September we were pleased to gain cooperation from the Sells Recreation Center to use their facilities in hosting a series of activities. The workshops were not exclusive to those enrolled in the mentoring program, and welcomed both youth and adults. We began with Monday-Thursdays 3-5 pm for 6 weeks in June and July. The four initial workshops were Martial Arts, Basic Guitar, Career Exploration, and Basket Weaving. In August-September the second six week sessions were on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

and offered Digital Storytelling and O'odham Arts and Crafts. The workshops were specifically intended for offering cultural awareness, academic success, and socialization opportunities for the participants. On a community level, any type of activity that keeps people engaged and includes a new skill or opportunity can function as a deterrent and aide in prevention improving physical, spiritual, and therefore mental

wellness! We are pleased to have cumulatively welcomed approximately 100 individuals during the course of these four months and six sessions. Some came sporadically and a few participated throughout. It was a great learning and sharing experience for all. We would



like to thank Raphael Mendoza from Behavioral Health, Kristin Eberhardt and Orville "Coach" Aldrich from TOCC, Shawnell Damon from I.H.S, and Frances Benavidez from Education for graciously donating their time and talents to help us provide these workshops as well as the Departments they represent for allowing them to donate their time. We were also fortunate to employ the help of local artist Margaret Acosta to teach basket weaving.



Native American Heritage Night @ Phoenix Suns Game

Saturday evening, November 14th, the Phoenix Suns will play host to the Denver Nuggets at the Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix, Arizona. In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, the Tohono O'odham Nation has been invited to share during the half-time show. The ILEAD Program received an invitation to collaborate on this event. We are excited to see it all come together!

For more info you may contact Faith Liston at faith.liston@tonation-nsn.gov

Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is one of the most anticipated nights of the year for kids, and to help make this year's festivity a trick-free treat, follow these safety tips:

SAFETY FIRST
and the **Fun Will Follow!**

girl scouts

Be seen!
Carry flashlights, wear brightly colored costumes, or add your own reflective tape so motorists can spot you.

Stop at well-lit homes.
Stay clear of dark houses!

Stay with your crew!
Never accept rides from strangers.

Know what you're eating.
Have all candy and treats examined by a trusted adult.

There's safety in numbers.
Travel in groups and plan the route ahead of time to keep everyone on track!

Avoid trips and falls.
Wear well-fitting costumes, masks, and shoes.

Avoid the street.
Walk on sidewalks or the far edge of the road to stay safe.



Can you spot the group making their way to the top?

It was great seeing the youth put their energy and stamina to good use. The hike to I'itoi Cave will be a memorable moment for all those who came. .

UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

- 10/17:** Keeping It Healthy Youth Event (Youth Ages 13-22), Sells Recreation Center, 6am-3pm. For more info, contact Shannon Jose at 520.349.5996
- 10/23:** Ilead Program Annual Recognition Ceremony, Sells Recreation Center Multipurpose Room, 6-8 pm
- 11/14:** Native American Heritage Night at Phoenix Suns, Game Time: 7:00 pm. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Faith Liston at 520.383.2028.

OJJDP News @ a Glance

President Obama Proclaims October as National Youth Justice Awareness Month

On September 30, 2015, President Obama issued a proclamation recognizing October as National Youth Justice Awareness Month. Each year, there are more than 1 million arrests of youth younger than 18, and the vast majority are for nonviolent crimes. Nearly 55,000 individuals younger than 21 are being held in juvenile justice facilities nationwide—a disproportionate number of whom are young people of color, including tribal youth. The proportion of detained and incarcerated girls and young women, who are often victims of abuse, has also increased. This month-long observance is dedicated to preventing youth from entering the juvenile and criminal justice systems and encourages communities to participate in activities and programs that help youth fulfill their greatest potential. The proclamation supports OJJDP's Smart on Juvenile Justice initiative to promote juvenile justice reform and address racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

Source: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/>



iLEAD Program

TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION POLICE DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 189
SELLS, ARIZONA 85634

Contact: 520-383-4354
rianna.ross@tonation-nsn.gov
lacrissha.tacheene@tonation-nsn.gov