

2717 N. Steves Blvd. Suite 11  
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004

We are located in the Pueblo Plaza, behind Golden Dragon and adjacent to Circle K.

# NACA Pathways Youth Program



## Special points of interest:

- Summer Youth Program is here please sign up now at NACA Pathways.
- Lookout for healthy snacks and recipes sent home with your child this summer.
- AAPHERD National Conference held on April 2006 in Salt Lake City, Utah. (see Loretta's story on pg.2 for details)

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## Volume I, Issue I

## Newsletter Date

### A Great Year at Puente De Hozho By Vanessa Jackson

The school year started off at a great pace and things were looking good. We did however run into some draw backs that were unexpected and very stressful all of us. Mr. Carlos Morales gave us quite a scare around Christmas break and we had to do some re-adjustments to the program in order to continue the program. Although we were worried about Mr. Carlos we managed to pull together as the Pathways team usually does and we continued the program regrettably having to shut the program down at Kinsey Elementary.

We once again prevailed and our prayers were answered and Mr. Carlos is back in the saddle again and we are extremely happy to have him back. The return of Mr. Carlos has had us going on more field trips and the kids are loving it!! Mr. Carlos has had lots of support from the rest of his loyal posse: Ms.

Sarah Bitsinnie, Ms. Loretta Johnson, Ms. Vanessa Jackson, Mr. Cody McMurry, and Ms. Tina Grey.

Our thanks and gratitude go out to all the families as you all were very patient and understanding of the circumstances and were able to readjust to our new schedule which came up all of a sudden. It is so wonderful when we can join our community in team work to make it work for the sake of the kids. Once again my greatest of thanks to all of you!! I also extend that thanks out to all of the volunteers, interns and staff that aided the program in Mr. Carlos absence.

Taking on the program was a real challenge, but it will really ready me for the teaching world I will be joining in the Fall 2006.

Special thanks to my right arm from the beginning— Chrystal Pohl and my left arm soon after— Loretta Johnson.



Here is our friend from the Sleeping Lion Martial Arts School— Master Robbie McKinstry

### Thank You to the students and Families

We really had a rough year this year but the children and their families were great. The children did a great job at remembering the Pathways rules and were wonderful at completing their homework. We had a few rough spots here and there but we worked through them as a team and I feel that we did a superb job of sticking together

to make the program work for all of us. Thanks to all of you parents who helped in the classroom as well as at other events during this year. We are a community who does extremely well at pulling together to aid those less fortunate than others. I loved the carpooling of the children in order to help each other. You all are great role

models for your children. You should all get a pat on the back for an outstanding job in parenting. Students, thanks to you I had a great school year and am happy that I had the opportunity to work with all of you. I feel that you have come a long way since the beginning of the year.. You have all done great work Give yourselves a big Hug!



Cody McMurry helps the students with science projects, while Loretta Johnson sits in the back watching the activities. These are two of our loyal and dedicated staff for 2005/2006.

## A few words from our NAU Intern Loretta Johnson

Hi my name is Loretta Johnson, This is my last semester at NAU. I've graduated in December 2005, with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science, emphasis on Community Health Education. I'm very glad I made the choice to do my internship with NACA Pathways Program.

The NACA staff, volunteers and interns were very helpful in making my learning experience enjoyable. This spring semester has been

interesting as we have gotten to know each other and dive into new learning experiences. We have been focused on educational enrichment, which included tutoring in math, science and reading. Pathways will continue to create experiences in both math and science. I am really interested in challenging all our students to push themselves and stretch their skills.

I would also like to share with you on a recent conference I've attended in Salt Lake City, Utah which was held

on April 22-26, 2006, American Alliance Health Physical Education, Recreation & Dance National Convention (AAPHERD). It is an organization that tries to infuse more physical education & health promotion into the school system and after-school programs.

Finally, I want to thank you parents for your support in making The Pathways Program a success and encourage you to daily remind your child to read a book.

## NAU Social Work Interning with Pathways; By Cody McMurry

Initially the Pathways program was nothing more than a block of required volunteer hours for an introductory, snore through but still pass course. It's amazingly hard to believe what a lasting, meaningful experience my time in the Pathways program has been and will continue to be. The "busy" energy that the children give the program make the all-too-short time spent with them so rewarding. It often helps carry me through the dryer and less fun parts of the weekly school routine. Therefore my favorite part of the week became those Tuesday afternoons that I spent with them.

It has been a blessing to be able to spend time and form relationships with the children enrolled in the program. Their individual uniqueness and acute perspective on life teach valuable lessons that are applicable to every life stage. The courage and love that these children show in the face of less-than-perfect circumstances serve as a much needed attitude-adjuster when my favorite words start to become "can't" and "won't". I know that I will forever be a fuller human being thanks to what I've learned from the children and staff at Pathways.

In a world where financial leverage and media attention are draped upon movie

stars, "Wild West"-reminiscent world leaders, and senseless yet violent conflicts, it's disturbing to see such little respect and consideration shown to our greatest resource-Children! Yet, I'm also thankful for the tough lessons Pathways has taught me about the social shortcomings and inequalities that are cracking the very foundation of this nation. Although Pathways has been able to provide some support for the enrolled children and their families, there's a lot of work yet to be done....



Sarah Bitsinnie our dedicated and hard working intern from NAU.

## Sarah Bitsinnie's take on the Program and her volunteering.

Hi, everyone my name is Sarah Bitsinnie. I did my internship with Pathways this school year and will continue through summer. My major is Health Science at NAU's College of Health and Science.

I would like to thank you parents for sharing your children with me, I enjoy working and interacting with them. I also would like to thank Carlos, all the interns,

and volunteers, I really enjoyed working with all of you. I have learned so much from all of you and from the students in the program.

I would also like to mention to all the parents that your children are blessed to have Carlos and his volunteers and interns in their children's lives. The students in the Pathways program have so much potential, desire to learn and ability to become out-

standing citizens, I am looking forward to working and playing with them this summer.

One of my goals is to instill in the students the importance of having a goal to work towards, having respect for others and the importance of daily physical activity in their lives.

### The Cinco De Mayo Parade

Cinco De Mayo has been a success. We would like to thank parents, students, and NACA staff for participating, decorating, and donating items used in the parade. Our float was one of the top three out there in the parade and the children from the Pathways looked wonderful on the float in their traditional outfits. I would like to give special thanks to Catherine Williams for allowing Sponge bob Square pants debut in the parade, he certainly was a hit! We even got a snap shot with the

Mayor!! Another Special thanks to our Co-workers for the use of their truck and trailer....Thanks Marilyn Garcia and family, and thanks Jamecita Peshlakai and family for all of your support and help putting the whole thing together!



Top right- the finished float in the parade.

Left- Mr. Squarepants with the Mayor.

Right- The Pathways kids, the Mayor and Mr. Squarepants.



### A List of our wonderful Pathways students

Puente De Hozho

- Lawrence Aronilth
- Dvon Duron
- Katelyn Kenneth
- Arianna Brown
- Ariel Brown
- Joseph Dayzie
- Deja Dayzie
- Jasmine Dabbs

- Jimi Dabbs
- Nezbahe Williams
- Valencia Goldtooth



### Welcoming back our Fearless Leader and Friend

I would like to extend our welcome out to Mr. Carlos Morales. We sincerely missed you while you were out, there was not a day that went by when the kids were not asking when you would return to us. I believe we all had our thoughts out there with you and our prayers as well.

Upon his return he was showed with cards, pictures, a banner or two, and gifts from the kids, their families, and staff

at NACA. I'm sure the love of our leader was felt throughout the school, the office and every place else where he has touched the lives of so many and made them feel so good about themselves and others. Thanks a million for all you do for all of us Mr. Carlos.....You truly are a special person!! Keep up the wonderful job, NACA Pathways is privileged to have you as our leader and

friend. We all welcome you back with open arms.

*Below-Carlos Morales, our Fearless Leader.*





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We are located in the Pueblo  
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at: [nacainc.org](http://nacainc.org)



**Pathways Youth Program: Showing our youth the right path in life is Drug,  
Alcohol and Tobacco Free!**

## About the Pathways Youth Program

The Pathways Youth Program provides a safe and fun environment in which youth have access to one on one aid with homework, school projects, and also gain the experience of being part of a team. The program also provides aid to their families and introduces the children to Drug, alcohol, and smoking abuse education in order to teach them the benefits of just saying no to those things that can harm their health.

### YES!! We are going to have a summer program!!!

As you all know, the school year will be coming to an end soon and the Pathways staff will take a break to gather our thoughts and brainstorm on what exciting activities to plan for the summer program which will run from July 10th to August 3rd, 2006.

The program will run from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm. Bus services are available, please contact us if you need assistance or information on bus services. Flyers will be handed out at the Parent meeting on June 29th, 2006 at 6:15pm (at the Flag. H.S. swimming pool) No swimming as there will be no life-guard on duty and the pool will be off limits for use that evening. We ask that only Parents attend this meeting so that we can concentrate on getting questions answered and concerns ironed out.

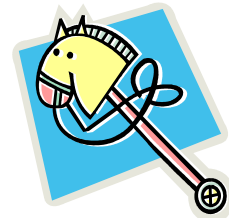
We will be in the office during the week in the summer prior to the summer programs beginning if any of the families should need any assistance with anything.



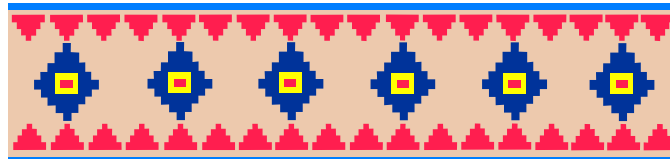
Swimming



Puppet Shows



**Our 2nd Annual  
Stick Horse Rodeo  
and much more!!  
Come and join all  
the fun!! Dates and  
times to be an-  
nounced soon!!**



*Pathways of life are plenty...take time  
to choose the one that is right for you.*