

# CBI Celebrates



## Magellan Journey to Wellness Expo

CBI participated in Magellan Health Services of Arizona's Journey to Wellness Expo on September 12<sup>th</sup> at GateWay Community College. CBI and other local providers had an opportunity to highlight achievements in integrated health care for individuals we serve with mental illness and programs that are improving their whole health and wellness.



## Art of Recovery Expo draws over 4,000 attendees

It was a great weekend to celebrate recovery September 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. CBI was the top sponsor of the successful Bill Brown Memorial Golf Tournament and 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Art of Recovery Expo.



## Upcoming Events & Conferences

Stephanie Siete, CBI's Director of Community Education, will be a featured speaker on Synthetic Drug Awareness at the annual **Arizona Employee Assistance Programs Association (EAPA)** on October 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.



CBI's LGBTQ committee will exhibit at the **Phoenix PRIDE Rainbows Festival** on October 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at Heritage Park in Phoenix.

CBI is a sponsor and participant of the upcoming annual conference for the **Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness** that will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Michel Sucher, CBI's Medical Director, will be a featured speaker on "Substance Abuse Following Brain Injury" for the **Arizona Brain Injury Alliance** conference on November 22<sup>nd</sup> in Scottsdale.

## CBI Media Highlights



### Former homeless drug addict Dr. Brenda Combs shares story to inspire others

By: Elizabeth Erwin | Posted: 09/20/2013

PHOENIX - Dr. Brenda Combs isn't shy about sharing her story. "I was a homeless drug addict," she said. It's been a long road for Combs. Fifteen years ago she was living on the streets, fighting to survive. "By the time I made it to (living under) the 7th Avenue bridge I'd already been shot in a drive-by shooting, I'd been stabbed, burned with cigarettes, hit by a car, overdosed," she said. Combs said her problems all started with drugs. "I started by smoking marijuana. That eventually led to cocaine and eventually to crack and heroin," she said. She isn't bragging, she's sharing her story as a warning. "It was all brought on because I was a drug addict," Combs said. "It's a community problem. Drugs are absolutely everywhere," Stephanie Siete with Community Bridges Inc. said. Siete works to bring drug awareness to the Valley, because for most, crack cocaine isn't the problem. "It's alcohol, its medicine, its cough syrup and cold medicine. It's absolutely everywhere," Siete said. Siete and Combs will both be at the Art of Recovery Expo Saturday.



### Mesa Prevention Alliance highlights progress, hands out awards to community leaders

By Terry Horne, Tribune | Posted: 09/28/2013

Businesses and individuals were honored Wednesday for their work to eliminate underage drinking and substance abuse by Mesa youth. The Mesa Prevention Alliance shared its progress with about 45 people attending its annual awards luncheon at The Landmark restaurant in Mesa. While progress continues from the work of the organization that was formed in 2008, there is still so much that needs to be done to make Mesa and its kids safer, said Karen Frias-Long, community development manager for The Mesa Prevention Alliance. She said more people, more businesses and more organizations need to get involved in the education and enforcement activities supported by the Alliance. She welcomed individuals and organizations to attend its monthly meeting on the fourth Wednesday each month from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Family Resource Center at 817 N. Country Club in Mesa.

Mesa Police Sgt. Robert Scantlebury is the chairman of the Alliance board of directors. He told those attending many adults still don't understand the seriousness of providing alcohol to underage youth. This is apparent from the "shoulder tapping" program run by the police department with help from youth volunteers from the Mesa Explorers program and East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) Law Enforcement program. These young volunteers work with Mesa police to approach adults in the community at local stores and ask them to buy alcohol for them. In the past year 339 adults were approached and 55 agreed to purchase alcohol for youth. This has been treated as an education program as officers then approach the offending adults and they are educated that they are breaking the law. But this past weekend Sgt. Scantlebury said six citations were issued for providing alcohol to juveniles. He said there was one recent incident in which a youth volunteer asked a man to buy him beer. The man refused because he didn't want to have to carry out a case of beer from the store but offered to give the youth marijuana.

He said there are continued problems in Mesa with organized parties that charge admission and make alcohol available to minors. He said 79 citations were issued in the past year for this and similar activities. The alliance does community education presentations at local schools to give information youth need about the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse.

Vianey Lopez Mendoza and Viridiana Lopez Mendoza spoke to the group about being student volunteers to help with the education efforts. They are sisters and are students at Mesa High School and Westwood High School, respectively. "There is a big problem with misinformation among youth," Vianey Mendoza said. She and her sister said this program helps provide the right information for Mesa youth.

**Chuck Gray from Congressman Matt Salmon's** office told the audience that the work the Alliance does is very important. He said it is important for young people to be surrounded by mentors and that they need love, care and adult examples to guide them away from alcohol and substance abuse.

#### The individuals and organizations honored at the luncheon were:

- The **Mesa Police Department's Central, Red Mountain and Superstition Street Crime Squad** for its participation in Shoulder Tapping and Party Patrol
- **Longfellow School** was cited for its support of a successful Adult Peer Leader program called Promotoras. The program has educated parents on substance abuse issues and increased awareness in the community.
- **Skyline High School** was honored for inviting the Alliance to present an education program to more than 600 incoming freshmen about the risks and harms of underage drinking and other illegal substances.
- Local business, **Amazing Jakes**, was recognized for its generous donation of more than \$9,000 in passes for the Above the Influence event to promote youth living above the influence.
- **Kathy Allen** was honored as Outstanding Mesa Prevention Alliance member for her continuous support for the Alliance and distributing 2,000 party patrol door hangers.
- The **Maricopa County Attorney's office** for its continued support of Alliance activities and its partnership in Friday Night Patrol.

# Charitable Tax Credit Season is here!

You can help those we serve reach their greatest potential and reduce your Arizona taxes!

By giving up to \$400 (married couples filing jointly) or \$200 (Individuals) by December 31, 2013 to Community Bridges, Inc. (CBI) you can claim the Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit on your 2013 taxes. This means you can reduce the amount you owe or increase your refund by the amount you give to CBI.



## Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit F.A.Q.:

### What is the Working Poor Tax Credit?

The Working Poor Tax Credit is a dollar-for-dollar charitable contribution you can give to 501(c)(3) corporations (nonprofits). With Arizona's Working Poor Tax Credit you can receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit, up to \$200 filing single or \$400 if filing a joint return, on your state income taxes while helping the homeless – at no additional cost to you.

### How do I qualify for Charitable Tax Credits?

You must itemize and deduct your charitable contributions to a qualifying charitable organization. Community Bridges, Inc. qualifies as a charitable organization.

### What is the difference between a tax credit and a tax deduction?

A tax credit is significantly more beneficial than a tax deduction. A tax credit reduces your taxes, dollar-for-dollar. A tax deduction reduces the taxable income upon which your tax liability is calculated.

### How do I know CBI qualifies for the credit under this program?

Qualifying organizations are required to send the Department of Revenue a self-certification letter stating that they meet all qualifying criteria. The Department in turn publishes a list of self-certified organizations. You can request a list from Department of Revenue in Phoenix at 602.255.338.

### Can I take the Working Poor Tax Credit if I take the School Tax Credit?

Yes, they are separate credits and you are allowed to take advantage of both.

### Does the tax credit also apply to my federal income tax returns?

No. The Charitable Tax Credit applies only on your Arizona State income tax. However, you may be able to claim a federal tax deduction for the amount donated.

**Where can I get more information about the tax credit?** You can get more information by visiting the Arizona Department of Revenue website at <http://www.azdor.gov/TaxCredits/QualifyingCharitableOrganizations.aspx> or by calling 800.352.4090.



## Community Education & Training Programs

September 2013

CBI provides community education and training for emergency responders, community partners, law enforcement, schools and the criminal justice system. The focus of our workshops presented an overview of agency services, signs and symptoms of drug use and emerging drug trends.

### The following Education & Training workshops were provided during the month of September:

- **CBI's East Valley Synthetic Drugs Task Force (EVSDTF)** met on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Our guest speaker, Jon Eliason, Mesa City Prosecutor spoke about new ordinances restricting sales of synthetics.
- **50 Maricopa County probation officers** learned about synthetic drugs such as bath salts and spice and the harmful effects, and resources at a training on September 6<sup>th</sup>
- **230 families attended Family Day event in Anthem** and learned about drug trends, behaviors and the harmful effects at a workshop on September 19<sup>th</sup>
- **40 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA volunteers)** learned about CBI services, drug trends, Center for Hope (CFH) and Dana's story (an alumni of CFH and now CBI employee) about recovery on September 20<sup>th</sup>
- **30 Legal Advisors** for police departments throughout the State of Arizona attended a special meeting to learn about strengthening synthetic drug laws on September 20<sup>th</sup>
- **80 families attended Family Day for Tempe Union High School District** and learned about drug trends, behaviors and the harmful effects, and resources at a training on September 24<sup>th</sup>
- **30 staff from Travis Williams Family Service Center** learned about synthetic drugs such as bath salts and spice and the harmful effects, and resources on September 26<sup>th</sup>



## Join us!

The next Mesa Prevention Alliance meeting will be held on 10/23/2013

### Location:

The Family Resource Center  
817 N. Country Club, Mesa, 85201

The Mesa Prevention Alliance is funded by Magellan Health Services of Arizona & SAMHSA's Drug-Free Community Support Program

## SEPTEMBER UPDATES

- **Mesa Channel 11** ran the overview of the Alliance and reached out to 270,000 viewers.
- MPA's **Youth Peer Leader Group** worked at the Community Garden two times this month. The food harvested from the garden will go to the local food bank.
- Twenty-one adults attended a community education presentation on "**Underage Drinking and Synthetic Drugs**".
- The Alliance attended three community outreach events. Resource cards, information on the Alliance and party patrol flyers were handed out. At **Mesa Community College**, the Alliance demonstrated impairment by the use of goggles, simulate BAC levels of .008, and simple tasks of walking and climbing stairs.
- Thirty-one **Safe Home Pledges** were collected.
- **Promotora's** held their first meeting of the school year with 6 parents in attendance.
- **Skyline and Westwood High School** in Mesa, have agreed to partner in a student and parent pledge collection at two upcoming football games.
- **Shoulder Tapping** was conducted and resulted in six adults being cited for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.
- **Party Patrol** resulted in eight underage drinking violations including one adult cited for contributing to the delinquency of minors.
- A multi-coalition meeting (**Mesa, Tempe and Chandler**) was held to combine resources and create a unified message that would cross city boundaries.