



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

YPIC

Issue 5
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SUMMER YOUTH — Almost Over

"Almost Over!" that is what the Yuma Private Industry Council is saying about the ARRA Summer Youth Component. YPIC screened 1249 youth applicants for eligibility, from April 2009 to June 2009; of these screenings 802 were eligible for services. YPIC and its contracted providers enrolled 676 youth into summer activities. Programs began in June 2009 and are anticipated to end in September 2009.

YPIC provided Work Experiences and Work Based Projects to approximately 466 youth throughout Yuma County. The ending activities for the Work Based Projects included the following.

The Recreational Leadership project had presentations in Yuma and Somerton, in the housing authorities where the programs were held. In the Recreational Leadership project Summer Youth participants received hands-on training in the area of applied academics, arts & crafts and recreational leadership. Students who had interests in teaching, childcare and academics were taught the mechanics of mentoring and tutoring in relation to youth, ages 5-12. Once the students gained the skills, they applied them to youth attending a summer camp. On the last day of the camp the students led a celebration with the children and their families

The Career Exploration project taught 14 & 15 year olds work readiness skills. Students explored careers and visited numerous employers. This project also included a daily 30 minutes lesson in tae kwon do. According to the instructor, a 3rd degree black belt, "Each student uses the training to break a board at the end of the summer. This demonstrates the determination needed to accomplish goals."

Fifteen youth also worked this summer building a green kinder playhouse for a local elementary school. The playhouse was built from hay bales, paper-crete blocks and recycled metal. The Green Demonstration project youth held an open house and invited their parents and the community to tour the playhouse. Dinner was served by the Culinary Arts project.

The Culinary Arts project involved 17 youth cooking lunch for the Golden Baseball League players daily, for four weeks. The youth learned nutrition, menu planning, catering and food service skills. They also received professional training from various noted food establishments relating to catering, hosting and serving. The training was provided from credentialed chefs, restaurant day/evening managers, and lead servers/trainers. The youth cooked their final meal, a four course dinner, for their parents and invited community leaders. They also catered several of the celebrations for the other projects.

Youth who were interested in dance, theater and/or film were taught concepts of dance and how to relate these to school and employment opportunities during the Dance project. The youth learned six dances, everything from ballet to hip-hop to jazz, which they performed at a local theater. Families and the public were invited. A reception followed the performance and appetizers were served by the Culinary Arts project.

Fifty 14 & 15 year olds participated in the Green Education project. The youth learned how green projects relate to school, employment opportunities and the importance to the environment. Stu-



A few of the building crew of the Kinder Playhouse at Carver Elementary School.

dents developed projects in small groups and presented them at a green science fair. The youth invited their parents and the community to attend. The Culinary Arts project also catered this event.

YPIC was able to get the local newspaper excited about the projects and the Yuma Sun published a series of articles, covering all six projects. To read more, please look at the following web addresses.

- <http://www.yumasun.com/articles/project-52048-children-ypic.html>,
- <http://www.yumasun.com/articles/project-52026-summer-green.html>,
- <http://www.yumasun.com/articles/project-52146-projects-green.html>,
- <http://www.yumasun.com/articles/project-52110-projects-program.html>,
- <http://www.yumasun.com/news/project-52087-yuma-people.html>
- <http://www.yumasun.com/news/project-52064-dance-program.html>

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Numbers

ARRA funds spent to date:

- Youth: \$1,548,907
- Adult: \$192,427
- Dislocated Workers: \$68,275
- Rapid Response \$12,363

ARRA Family



(L to R): Olga, Olgita and Arnie; an ARRA family.

“We would like to thank the government and YPIC for the chance to study and improve our lives.”

Three family members Arnie, Olga and Olgita are all ARRA participants. The family has fallen on hard times and turned to the Yuma Private Industry Council for help. Arnie, the father was laid off from a window manufacturer in November and immediately got a job working in the agricultural field, picking lettuce. When that job finished in April, he then came to YPIC for assistance with finding a job.

Through ARRA Arnie was enrolled in Photovoltaic Solar Panel Installation training at Pima Community College in Tucson, AZ. The training was four weeks long and Arnie received hands-on training and three college credit hours. Arnie is awaiting his certification exam results. Once Arnie passes the exam, he will be eligible for an on-the-job training with companies in the area

who are installing solar panels. Until that time, Arnie is finishing up his GED testing.

Olga, the mother was laid off from the Marine Corp Air Station where she had been a cook for five years. When she was laid off, she also started working in the agricultural industry but was once again laid off in June. Olga would like to take part in the culinary training offered by the Regional Center for Border Health. Olga said, “My passion is cooking. I’m good at it and I enjoy it. I need a steady job.” Olga is just finishing the required eligibility paperwork to be in a training program.

Olgita, the 16 year old daughter participated in the ARRA Summer Youth Dance Project. Through the YPIC dance pro-

ject youth were able to identify Career Pathways in the Performing Arts and build upon positive self-esteem and freedom of expression through dance. Olgita came into the program with little dance experience and in the end, was one of the lead dancers of the project. She was offered a one year scholarship by the Yuma Ballet Theater. In exchange for the scholarship she will assist in teaching a ballet class for 3-5 year olds. Olgita said this will give her great experience working with children because one day she hopes to be a teacher, maybe a dance teacher.

The entire family said, “We would like to thank the government and YPIC for the chance to study and improve their lives.”

Helping Hands



Summer Youth participants assisting the elderly with yard work.

80 youth participating in Summer Youth through Arizona Western College were of great help to the Yuma community this summer. The youth, ages 14 to 15, participated in work readiness training and community service.

Work readiness skills are necessary to prepare youth for employment. Work readiness skills include labor market knowledge, occupational information, career planning and decision making and job search techniques. The youth also learned to complete applications and interviewing skills.

During community service the youth worked with School District One, Yuma County Food Bank and Helping Hands. At Yuma School District One the youth assisted with school clean-up at several of the elementary schools. Zulu a Summer Youth participant reported, “The school really needed our help. They only had two custodians and there was a lot of work to do.”

At the Food Bank the youth packed food boxes. Ariana stated, “The people were already lined-up for the boxes. It made me feel good to be helping.”

The youth assisted the elderly with yard work at Helping Hands. According to Leslie, “This was hard work; working in the heat and stirring up the dirt. I learned a lot about teamwork and helping the elderly.”

To read more about this program, please go to the following web address: <http://www.yumasun.com/articles/students-51605-work-helping.html>

ARRA Adults

Four adults graduated on July 7 from the Regional Center for Border Health's food service management training program. This 9-week, 365 hour course is designed to prepare students for entry level positions in the food service industry. Upon completion of this course students demonstrate an understanding of employment and career opportunities in the food service industry and acquire the skills necessary to obtain ServSafe certification and entry-level employment.

In weeks 1-3, students focused on lifestyle management, job responsibilities, kitchen management, menu planning, customer service, teamwork, health education and career development. During weeks 4-8 they participated in an unpaid internship and during week 9, they completed their ServSafe certification.

Two of the graduates took some time to talk about the program. Antonia Rubio from Yuma worked for 22 years as a citrus picker, which is seasonal work for six months each year. Antonia's husband also has worked in the citrus industry for 30 years and both were laid off at the end of the season and are receiving unemployment

benefits. Antonia said she heard about YPIC during a commercial on the Spanish TV channel and decided to see if she could get some job training so she could work year-round.

Antonia was surprised to hear there was food service training because she did not know it was required to be able to get a job in the industry. She said she thought, "What are they going to teach me? I've been cooking all of my life." Antonia said she was excited to learn so many new things, such as proper food temperatures and about germs; things she had never been taught. Antonia said her family now teases her because she is so much more cautious in her home when cooking. Antonia would like to work at the Senior Center or the Marine Corp Air Station.

Manuela Rubio (not related to Antonia) also graduated on July 7 and is very excited about job possibilities. She worked in a laundry mat and as an events decorator for 8 years.

Manuela said a friend told her about YPIC and about the food service training because she knew Manuela liked to cook. Manuela said she also learned

things she never knew about, such as food born illnesses and proper storage of foods. She said she is also more cautious now when cooking and purchasing food for her family.



(L to R): Jose Sanchez, Artemisa Gonzalez, Manuela Rubio and Antonia Rubio

Manuela would like to work at the Marine base also. Manuela said, "I felt very excited when I graduated, I had the highest grade in the class. My father would never let me be educated because I was a girl, but I have taken full advantage of education since I married. Every time I had a few extra dollars, I would enroll in ESL classes at the community college to improve my English skills. I love learning." Manuela also stated she hopes she is not too old to start a new career and have an opportunity to do something she loves. "This was a great opportunity."

"I felt very excited when I graduated. My father never let me be educated because I was a girl, but I've taken full advantage of education since I married."

The Career Resource Center, Yuma Private Industry Council's One Stop had 2,375 customers in July 2009, up for 1,870 in June 2009.

Security Jobs — 100 jobs available

Three security companies have contacted Yuma Private Industry Council seeking assistance with recruiting for security jobs available in Yuma County. Quality Investigations out of Nevada asked YPIC to assist with recruiting, screening and scheduling interviews for 20 applicants. Three full-time security guards were hired by Quality Investigations.

Chenega Security and Protection Services asked YPIC to assist in hiring 20-30 full and part-time armed security guards for Yuma Proving Grounds. YPIC advertised, will screen applicants and host a job fair on August 31 and September 1. Due to the requirements of a clean driving record, criminal history and credit report, it is expected that 300-400 applicants will

need to be screened and interviewed.

LW&W needs to hire up to 100 security guards over the next several months. They would like assistance with recruiting and screening applicants. The details are still being worked out for this request.

- 315 indicated they were dislocated workers
- 100 indicated they were Veterans
- 85 indicated they were Migrant workers

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Yuma Private Industry Council
opening doors between job seekers and employers

**We're on the
web @
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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The Recovery Act is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery and assist those most impacted by the recession. Yuma County was awarded \$4.5 million for activities authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which will be administered by the Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC). The Yuma Private Industry Council is a private non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide job seeker and employer services in the Yuma County labor market. Incorporated in 1988, YPIC serves as the Private Sector partner in the Public/Private Workforce Development Partnership with the Yuma County Board of Supervisors. With the advent of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the Yuma County Board of Supervisors designated YPIC as the official operator or the "One-Stop" delivery system for workforce development services in Yuma County. The Yuma County Board of Supervisors also appoints the Workforce Investment Board which is housed in the organizational framework of YPIC. The Board draws membership from the community and is made up of representatives from all areas of the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Question to Summer Youth participants: What is the best part of the Summer Youth program?

- Learning – this is all new stuff including the first 2 weeks of learning to interview, completing applications. Also interacting with others (peers).
- Working – never had to get along with a group – it was good.
- That I've actually worked and learned some skills and made money. I sacrificed my family vacation for this and I'm glad I did.
- Helping others so they weren't home alone. (From the Recreational Leadership project) The money I earned; yeah, that was good!

Summary of Activities and Upcoming Events

- YPIC hired 10 new employees in the last month, all under ARRA. These positions were created due to the influx of job seekers requesting assistance from YPIC. The positions include receptionists for the new Reemployment Center, the adult programs and the One-Stop; an accounting technician, eligibility interviewer, workshop presenter/instructor, and records retention technicians for both the adult and youth programs.
- Strategic planning continues. On April 29, YPIC conducted its first strategic planning session with its management team emphasizing the unique challenges and opportunities associated with ARRA. The management team has continued to meet on a monthly basis to update progress, identify obstacles/challenges/resource needs and clarify the next steps to be taken.
- YPIC staff received Procurement Training provided by Strader Taylor of North Coast Administrative Consultants. Mr. Taylor reviewed YPIC's RFP, vendor quote and documentation processes.
- YPIC began monitoring ARRA Summer Youth Program. 10% of the program will be monitored by the end of August.
- The Yuma Express, a local white sheet published a story on the services YPIC provides to job seekers and employers.
- August 14 – YPIC hosted an ARRA Celebration for staff. YPIC recognized the work staff had completed to ensure a successful Summer Youth program, the opening of the Reemployment Center and welcomed new staff.
- August 17 - The Yuma County Board of Supervisors approved YPIC's Two Year Modification Plan to include ARRA funding.
- September 17 - Career Expo – attendees will learn how to write resumes, complete job applications, use the internet to search and apply for jobs and how to dress for success. The local Society of Human Resource Managers will have HR managers available to review resumes and cover letters and perform mock interviews.