



## College of Public Programs

# Center for Nonprofit Leadership and Management

## **Launch of ASU Incubator Project Benefits Valley Nonprofits**

Arizona State University's Center for Nonprofit Leadership and Management (CNLM) kicked off a unique Nonprofit Self-Assessment Incubator Pilot Program this week by announcing the five Maricopa County agencies selected to participate in the first phase of a pioneering multi-year initiative.

Family Service Agency, Florence Crittenton Services of Arizona, Inc., HomeBase Youth Services, PREHAB of Arizona, Inc., and West Valley Child Crisis Center, Inc. were invited to partner with the University, The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Inc. and the Stardust Foundation to test new ideas around organizational self-assessment.

Each agency has committed to utilize a Self-Assessment Tool developed by the Peter F. Drucker Foundation through an initial six-month series of coached sessions, retreats and reports that involve executive directors, board members, staff and volunteers. This professionally designed and relevant approach to capacity building focuses on mission and outcomes to support the nonprofit sector. Agencies will work directly with ASU faculty and students on environmental scans, data collection and customer research.

Professional facilitators who completed formal training from the Drucker Foundation's National Training Team and have professional experience in the nonprofit sector have volunteered to guide each agency Self-Assessment Team. They include: Helen Gater, Dean Emeritus, ASU West; Sheila Keitel, Intra Resources; Jaimie Leopold, J. Leopold Consulting; Jesse Sostrin, The Institute of Cultural Affairs; Nancy Van Pelt, Current Training and Consulting; Linda Vogelsong, TAPESTRIES; James Wiegel, The Institute of Cultural Affairs; Anne Wilshin, The Institute of Cultural Affairs, Tamara Woodbury, Girls Scouts; and Maria Ort, Duckmint Partnership.

Robin Hanna, retired senior vice president for Bank of America and active community leader, serves on the Center's Executive Committee and chairs the Incubator Program's Technical Assistance Committee. From her perspective, "This unique partnership embodies President Coor's vision of the University working with the community to make a difference. Our future efforts will focus on building this pilot program into a sustainable effort to improve the quality of life in our communities."

Linda Volhein, executive director of Florence Crittenton Services of Arizona, Inc., one of the agencies selected for the pilot, adds, "We hope to build organizational capacity and to develop a better understanding of our customers' needs. Our self-assessment team looks forward to being an active and contributing partner in this innovative project."

West Valley Child Crisis Center executive director, Christine Clouse, went on to say, "Our organization is in the midst of an exciting capital campaign. We see this as an opportunity for self-assessment, a way to strengthen our sense of a common purpose, and a tool to integrate new leadership."

This project is the first of its kind nationally. It is directed by Dr. Robert F. Ashcraft, Director of the Center for Nonprofit Leadership and Management and Associate Professor, Department of Recreation Management and Tourism within the College of Public Programs at ASU.

According to Ashcraft, "Our College of Public Programs is dedicated to instruction, research and service to improve society's capacity to address social problems. This Nonprofit Self-Assessment Incubator does precisely that by combining the most sophisticated educational tools and resources for the benefit of nonprofits in the Valley."

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