



**YOUTH MEDIA PROJECT**  
*Building Bridges in the Community*

Dear Friends:

Over the many years in this neighborhood, we have come to know and love so many people. Many are the youth and families we serve through our ministry. Many are quiet observers of what we do here. And because one of NM's key values is engaging the community, all have the opportunity to give input to the work we carry out each day.

This past Fall, several of our high-school leadership youth deepened their relationship in this neighborhood, their neighborhood, by interviewing several members of the community for a community development project designed by High-school Coordinator, Ian Danley. These youth spent a whole semester learning about the residents, men and women, young and old, immigrants and natives. They listened to their life stories, their struggles, their joys, their fears, discovering the unique makeup that is urban Phoenix.

**An Arizona War Story**

One of the most amazing stories our youth heard was from Henry Sosa. Henry has lived on 20th Avenue (one of the border streets of The Neighborhood Center) for over 50 years. He has the most beautifully landscaped home in the neighborhood, hands down. His care for his home carries out into the community, where he works everyday cleaning the streets for free. Henry served in the Vietnam War where he earned 3 Silver stars and 1 Bronze star! His conversation with Griselda and Lamberto, two of our high-school youth, was intense and emotional as he recalled his war story and thought about the soldiers currently in Iraq. He spoke about how much the neighborhood has changed over the years and how people, although very different from each other, are basically the same. Henry loves his community and gives of his time and energy to try to engage and unite his neighbors.



**Above: Henry Sosa's home**

**Below: High-school youth, Fonzy, conducts an interview.**



**CONTINUED...**

**REGISTER TODAY FOR NM'S GOLF CLASSIC 2009**



**Golf foursome at Par 3.**

**Hit a Hole-In-One and win a free car.**

There is still time to register for NM's Annual Golf Classic which raises funds to send our youth to summer camps. There are also sponsorship packages and volunteer opportunities available.

**MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2009 AT THE EXCLUSIVE  
FIRE ROCK COUNTRY CLUB IN FOUNTAIN HILLS**

Cost per golfer is only \$230 (\$100 is tax deductible). Go online to register today at [www.nmgolfclassic.net](http://www.nmgolfclassic.net). For more information, contact Christina Fankhauser at (602) 689-1706 or [christina@nmaz.net](mailto:christina@nmaz.net).

Henry is a great example of how one man can effect a community. His story was just one of many that impacted the youth. Griselda comments,

*“The neighborhood was more welcoming and kind than I thought it would be. We have really great people as neighbors and I didn’t even know them. I have lived here for 13 years.”*

### Understanding Our Community

Coming out of this project, it is clear there are deeper lessons than anticipated. Connections, or the lack of them, are felt at a much deeper level than before. You cannot know how isolated you are until you actually try to engage those with whom you have no connection or relationship. Only then can you see what differences do exist, what commonalities you share, and the true cost of relationship. Youth connecting with their community, seniors connecting with students, neighbors connecting with neighbors, Neighborhood Ministries connecting to youth, neighbors connecting with Neighborhood Ministries - it is clear we all know so little about each other and actively trying to connect is a long, arduous journey.

*“This project was an intentional baby step at trying to make connections in the community. ...Knowing that a war hero lives in our neighborhood might change the way we think about our community. I know it did for me,” Ian Danley.*

Each person that was interviewed has a story that is woven into our community. The youth figured out how to reach out and give those stories meaning, which is the first step down the path of being an agent of change. Jesus after all, was all about knowing people’s stories as a part of living in relationship with them.

Thank you, friends, for living in relationship with us and this community.

Sincerely,



Kit Danley  
President



**Above: Youth Media Project on display at ASU Downtown.**

**Below: High-School Youth Leadership Team at the unveiling of their project in December.**



\*For video footage and more pictures of the Youth Media Project, go to [www.bearingamark.com](http://www.bearingamark.com). And plan on visiting the Urban Gallery Exhibit at ASU Downtown on April 3 which highlights the project as well as other NM programs. More info to come next month.

### NEWS & EVENTS

<b>6th Annual Golf Classic</b>	Monday, March 9
<b>Urban Gallery Exhibit at ASU Downtown</b>	April 3
<b>Summer Interns Begin</b>	May 26
<b>Kids’ Club</b>	June 28 — July 11