

ICAN receives grant to support its Youth Development Program

By GABRIELLA J. DEL RIO

A \$25,000 grant from State Farm was awarded to ICAN: Positive Programs for Youth in Chandler in May.

Out of 200 nationwide finalists, ICAN became one of 40 organizations to be awarded the grant that will support its Youth Development Program.

"ICAN was thrilled to be one of the 40 winners nationwide," ICAN's Chief Executive Officer, Selby Pedersen said. "It's a testament to the support of our community who believe so strongly in

what we do- they tirelessly voted every day for ICAN."

The grant was a part of the State Farm Neighborhood Assist Program.

ICAN's Youth Development Program has a curriculum that encourages pro-social behavior and prevent substance abuse and delinquency, develops life skills and leadership capacity, and enhances self-image and self-confidence according to Katie Stringham, ICAN's Communications and

Grants Specialist.

"We are also so grateful to Mary Contreras, our local State Farm agent and ICAN supporter who told us about this grant opportunity- \$25,000 will go a long way in providing our free programs to Chandler youth," Pedersen said.

ICAN offers youth programs to those ages 5 to 18. These children live in low-income neighborhoods and face numerous daily risk factors, including chronic poverty, hunger,

health issues, poor performance in school, and exposure to substance abuse and violence. The curriculum at ICAN includes Botvin's Lifeskills, Too Good for Drugs, Second Step, P.A.T.H.S and others that are integrated into year-round programming to increase social skills, problem solving and resistance skills.

"ICAN masterfully helps our children in the community every day. It is a pleasure to advocate and sponsor their programs," Mary Contreras commented.

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