

ICAN will use national grant to support out-of-school program

BY SANTAN SUN NEWS STAFF

A local organization is going to be able to support its out-of-school program for disadvantaged youths, thanks to a national grant.

ICAN CEO Shelby Pedersen said the organization has been chosen by the New York Life Foundation to get one of 18 "Aim High" grant awards. ICAN will

students get the assistance they need to succeed in high school and beyond. We take that work very seriously, and we're privileged to see that mission recognized by this award."

The Chandler-based nonprofit organization is "doing vital work in the community," said Marlyn Torres, Senior

"We're delighted to help them provide badly needed support to help our next generation succeed in school and in life."

— Marlyn Torres, Senior Program Officer, New York Life Foundation

receive a \$15,000, one-year award.

ICAN is a free youth center that helps teach youth in need life skills.

The Aim High grant awards are part of a national collaboration between the Afterschool Alliance and the New York Life Foundation that will offer \$1.95 million to middle school out-of-school time programs around the United States over the next three years. This year's awardees were chosen based on their attempts to help underserved eighth-graders make it to ninth grade on time, a key sign of students' future success.

"ICAN is so honored to have been chosen for this competitive, national grant," Pedersen said. "Middle school can be a challenging time, and we are fortunate to be able to help many

Program Officer, New York Life Foundation.

"We're delighted to help them provide badly needed support to help our next generation succeed in school and in life," Torres said. "Out-of-school time programs can make a world of difference for students facing the challenging transition to ninth grade, and it's our privilege to help them do what they do best."

ICAN will use the grant to support its Youth Development Program, which supports middle school youth with life skills and socio-emotional assistance, along with specific components easing the transition to high school that involve parents' help. Today, ICAN provides programming for more than 150 middle school youths during the year. ICAN's Youth Development Programming offers



(From left): Kristian C., Cristian C., Caden B. and Lloyd S. are among the children who benefit from ICAN's programs. ICAN received one of 18 "Aim High" grant awards.

a holistic method of helping youth ages 5 to 18 from disadvantaged backgrounds to prevent and overcome life challenges and prepare for healthy journeys to adulthood.

ICAN is a free youth center that provides programming for youth, teens, families and the community. Its nationally recognized prevention programming teaches youth who are at-risk real-life skills including goal setting, positive

decision making and how to avoid the risky behaviors that are common in the community ICAN serves. ICAN's evidence-based programming helps young people to achieve personal and academic success. The organization also offers parenting classes and substance abuse education. ICAN is accredited by the National Council on Accreditation. To learn more about it, visit icanaz.org.

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***Seating is limited**

June 21st at 5:30 p.m.

Call Brett 602-363-6551 or email