

# Maryvale Revitalization Corporation



First quarter 2012 focuses on social revitalization—our youth

2012 First Quarter Newsletter



## Maryvale Merits Kicks Off

In partnership with the Maryvale Precinct of the Phoenix Police Department, Maryvale Revitalization kicked off **Maryvale Merits** in late February. The program, designed by MRC, the police department and the city prosecutor's office, rewards youth for positive actions. The program is designed to increase self esteem in local youth that are doing positive deeds in addition to building positive relationships between officers and youth. It allows the officers the opportunity to recognize youth doing the right thing. *One example was a young man that walks his grandmother to the grocery*

*store every other day and carries home her groceries. Another example is a younger brother that was actually arguing with his brother not to jaywalk – but rather to cross the street at the marked crosswalk at the street light.* The youth were acknowledged by an officer, received a Maryvale Merits card with the officer's name and important contact phone numbers. In addition, they were given a coupon for something free. Early donors to the program have been Cinema Latino, Milwaukee Brewers, Quick Trip and local restaurants Macayo's Desert Sky, Bill Johnson's Big Apple and Burger King. Maryvale Merits



Officer Tammy Hort issuing one of the first Maryvale Merits.

kicked off with Community Action Officers and School Resource Officers. Reports are that the officers are really enjoying the program and the opportunity to create positive interaction with youth. Maryvale Merits is to go precinct wide with all officers by May of this year.

### First Quarter By the numbers...

20	Think Twice students
45	Improved homes
228	Youth tickets sponsored for events
327	Illegal signs removed
437	Volunteers
1,452	Volunteer hours
2,845	Graffiti sites removed
\$27,951	Volunteer value



## Maryvale Youth in MOTION Hosts 3rd Teen Forum

The third annual Maryvale Youth in MOTION teen forum was held at Maryvale High School on March 22. The event is planned by the youth group, who select topics to discuss, find a location, a food donor, and market the forum.

More than 100 youth attended and held discussions on Substance Abuse, Teen Pregnancy,

Cyber Bullying, College Preparation, and Healthy Relationships.

Once the teens had talked among themselves on the topics, experts formed a question and answer session and guided discussions. The event also featured entertainment and a meal donated by Macayo's Desert Sky.



Questions were fielded by a panel of experts in various subject areas.

Welcome to the M.O.T.I.O.N. Teen Forum

## Youth Come Together to Paint Out Graffiti



One Eagle Scout's project spurs several other groups to paint out graffiti.

Between January and March 2,600 graffiti sites were covered by area youth.

It started with one Eagle Scout's project idea for a graffiti paint out. So, in January 75 people assembled to make it happen. The event grew to include several local organizations, and they covered 1,300 graffiti sites in the Golden Gate Community Center area.

Inspired by this event, Maryvale Youth In MOTION hosted another paint out event in March. 125 people gathered at the Maryvale Community Center and covered over 1,300 more area graffiti sites and performed some general community clean-up.

The Youth in MOTION event drew in several other groups which inspired other community groups to have clean ups and graffiti paint outs in their areas of Maryvale!

These teens taking action to improve their community bodes well for Maryvale's future.

### COMMUNITY GARDENS TO PRODUCE HEALTHY FOODS AND HEALTHY BODIES



Stewart Boys & Girls Club youth prep community garden

As you drive around Maryvale, you may see a little more green. Following a national lead to healthier foods, community gardens prepped and planted by Maryvale youth are sprouting up at Stewart Boys & Girls Club, Pioneer Preparatory School, and Mission Academy High School.

### 228 TEENS EXPERIENCE PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

Through the generosity of a variety of donors, March was a great month for Maryvale youth to experience professional sports—something most have never had the opportunity to do. They attended a major league baseball alumni charity game, Phoenix Suns basketball game, and spring training baseball games. Major donors included Milwaukee Brewers, Jake Long and John F. Long Foundation.



Maryvale Youth in Motion's Paint Out team.

### PIONEER PREPARATORY SCHOOL PROJECTS

MRC partnered with more than 100 youth and parents from Pioneer Preparatory School to complete several projects in one day, including community clean up, graffiti paint out, planting more than 50 sunflowers, and prepping a community garden. They are also planning and designing a community pride mural to be in place next to the school this April.



Pioneer Preparatory School volunteers



### URBAN ARTS PROJECT GETS UNDERWAY

MRC, Maryvale Community and Commercial Alliance and Phoenix Police met to brainstorm ways to reach graffiti taggers in the community and possible avenues to show them a positive outlet for their art. After the first meeting, Stewart Boys & Girls Club joined the team and helped design and kick off the Urban Arts Project. The program is aimed at teaching graffiti artists additional art skills and to show them avenues where their art can be showcased properly, with a goal of a related college scholarship or job—rather than jail time for tagging.

Artists from downtown Phoenix' First Fridays have offered to help further train the young artists in various types of art, with the possibility of having their artwork on display in highly visible areas. The weekly program is gaining momentum, with several youth participating.

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Our mission is to promote and facilitate the revitalization of the Maryvale Community