

# Tucson LINKS Letter

Volume 1, Issue 1

September, 2003

## NEWS FLASH

*Don't forget to mark your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 25, 2003.*

*That's the date for the fifth annual Tucson Resiliency Conference, which is being presented by the Tucson Resiliency Initiative.*

*It is scheduled to take place at the Pima Community College Downtown Campus.*

*Times and speakers are yet to be announced.*

*For more information, call 670-0055, or visit [www.tucsonresiliency.org](http://www.tucsonresiliency.org).*

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## **School Outreach Coordinators take you: Step by Step Through the Tucson LINKS Planning Process**

To returning Tucson LINKS partner schools, welcome to another school year! And a hearty welcome to new schools just joining the Tucson LINKS family!

We thought that it would be helpful to have the LINKS planning process written out so that all of our schools could have an idea about where they are in the process and what to expect for this new year.

**Pre-step:** Full-faculty meeting and vote on whether to join LINKS (80% approval is necessary).

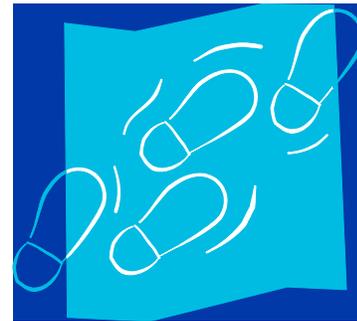
**Step 1:** School staff takes the Protective Schools Assessment (PSA)

**Step 2:** Coordinator (Sue or Lynda) meets with Core Team to go over PSA results

**Step 3:** Brainstorming with entire faculty

**Step 4:** Coordinator and Trainer meet with Core Team to sort through brainstorming ideas and begin action plan

**Step 5:** Coordinator and Trainer meet with Core Team to finalize the initial action plan and make plans for its



presentation to the full faculty  
**Step 6:** Core Team presents initial action plan to faculty  
**Post-step A:** Core Team members

meet with Coordinator to work on Mini-Grant application

**Post-step B:** Trainer meets with Core Team to coordinate training needs

**Post-step C:** Coordinator schedules monthly meetings with Core Team for on-going evaluation.

Remember: we are happy to help as needed anytime in between steps. We're here for you!

— Sue Habkirk and Lynda Robinson  
School Outreach Coordinators  
Tucson LINKS

## **Did you know ... Tucson LINKS is a community-wide partnership**

In addition to its five districts — Amphitheater, Flowing Wells, Marana, Sunnyside and Tucson Unified — Tucson LINKS involves partners from all over the Tucson community. Some of them include:

- The Community Partnership of Southern Arizona
- Family Advocacy & Wellness Centers
- International Media Broadcasting
- Marana Clinic
- Metropolitan Education Commission
- Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation
- Pima County Attorney's Office
- Tucson Resiliency Initiative
- University of Arizona
- and ... You!

# Community Justice Boards: Shifting Paradigms



*“The Community Justice Boards are becoming the hub of neighborhoods working on resiliency.” – Mike Burns, supervisor of the Crime Prevention Unit for the Pima County Attorney’s office*

In some Native American cultures, it’s called the “sentencing circle,” and it’s a practice that ensures the health of a community while dealing with transgressors. The Community Justice Boards (CJB), a similar program of the Pima County Attorney’s office, aims to transform the way we deal with youthful offenders.

In partnership with Tucson LINKS, the County Attorney’s office is in the process of creating two new CJBs in neighborhoods connected to LINKS schools. CJBs are expected to be up and running in October at Wright and Coyote Trail elementary schools. More are in the works.

Already, six CJBs operate in neighborhoods through the Tucson valley.

An alternative to referral to the traditional Juvenile Court process, the Community Justice Board program allows juveniles who have committed minor crimes to be held accountable in a family counseling format. Offenders must admit their crimes and voluntarily agree to the CJB process to be eligible.

The types of offenses for which a youth may be referred to the CJBs include: graffiti, theft, property damage, shoplifting, truancy, disturbing the peace, simple assault and minor drug, alcohol and tobacco violations.

Offenders appear before a volunteer board composed of members of immediate community. After discussing the offense with the youth, the board selects a consequence.

CJB members have received special training in communications, resiliency and strength-based approaches to implementing consequences.

“The justice boards are becoming the hub of neighborhoods working on resiliency, which makes this program a good match with LINKS,” says Mike Burns, supervisor of the County Attorney’s office crime prevention unit.

The concept of “restorative justice” drives the Community Justice Boards, says CJB director Bob Holliday.

Restorative justice doesn’t simply punish an offender. Aiming toward capacity building, it is designed to achieve three main objectives:

- Empower community members to feel like partners in keeping their communities safe
- Hold juvenile offenders accountable to the community and victims
- Repair the damage

For more information, or to volunteer for a CJB, call Bob Holliday at 740-5611.

*“The world breaks everyone, and afterward many are strong at the broken places.” – Ernest Hemingway*

## What do you mean when you say “Resiliency”?

One of the guiding concepts of Tucson LINKS is that of resiliency, which some people think means simply “bouncing back,” like the tree that bends but never breaks.

From a comprehensive health point of view, resiliency is much more than that.

For Tucson LINKS, and in most of the academic literature on the subject, resiliency is a multi-faceted concept.

Resiliency means many things, such as:

- The ability to succeed even in the face of adverse life conditions
- The capacity to cultivate strengths to positively meet life’s challenges
- More than simply coping, it is the development of the ability to learn from adversity and adapt to changes in the environment
- An ongoing process of building competence and learning to avoid negative stressors in any environment, not simply in schools.

## Watch news stories about Tucson LINKS on Channel 9

Did you know that Tucson LINKS is on TV? Tune in and you'll see.

Each Tuesday and Thursday, local station KGUN-TV (Channel 9) runs stories during its 4:30 p.m. news broadcast about LINKS programs, strategies, concepts and other related subjects of interest to educators and parents.

International Media Broadcasting, a Tucson LINKS partner, has been producing the news spots, which often feature on-screen appearances of teachers and administrators from LINKS schools, as well as LINKS trainers, since the beginning of August. The stories feature award-winning reporter Nancy Montoya, a veteran of Tucson TV news gathering.

Each story, ranging from 90 seconds to two minutes, is repeated the next morning (Wednesdays and Fridays) during Channel 9's 5-7 a.m. broadcast.

Also, each week Tucson LINKS provides an educational expert for a live interview during the 4:30 p.m. broadcast.

Recent LINKS stories have included: a LINKS introduction, getting your child ready for school, prevention of bullying and cliques and communication with teachers.

If you'd like to suggest story ideas for the broadcasts, contact Gene Armstrong, LINKS communications specialist, at 225-4776.



## Tucson LINKS partners open school-based clinics

Tucson LINKS has joined forces with the Family Advocacy, Resource and Wellness Centers Inc. (FARWC) and the Marana Health Center to open two new family-oriented, school-based health clinics in the Tucson area.

The clinics operate at Keeling Elementary School, 435 E. Glenn St., and at Catalina Magnet High School, 3645 E. Pima St. The Keeling location is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; the hours at the Catalina branch are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. More are in the works.

Clinic staff includes a family nurse practitioner, a medical assistant and a receptionist. They offer a broad range of primary-care services — including immunizations, physicals and referrals to specialists — for children, teens and adults. The clinics also soon will employ five outreach parent educators and three eligibility workers to serve students in Tucson LINKS districts.

The clinics accept most health-care plans, including the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCS). Fees for uninsured patients are set on a sliding scale.

*CONTACT THE CLINICS*

**Appointments:**

**Keeling, 696-6969**

**Catalina, 232-8438**

**For information, or to get involved, call Brenda Even at 749-5799.**

## LINKING you with valuable educational resources on the Web

For further information about issues related to prevention, intervention, resiliency and other concerns of Tucson LINKS, schools, we recommend you visit the following Websites.

- Tucson Links: [www.tucsonlinks.org](http://www.tucsonlinks.org)
- Safe Schools/Healthy Students: [www.sshsac.org](http://www.sshsac.org)
- Drug Prevention & Youth Safety

Resources:

[www.drugstats.org](http://www.drugstats.org)

- Tucson Resiliency Initiative: [www.tucsonresiliency.org](http://www.tucsonresiliency.org)
- Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration: [www.mentalhealth.org](http://www.mentalhealth.org)
- Department of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention: [www.ncdjdp.org](http://www.ncdjdp.org)
- National Institute of Mental Health: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>



Do you know of any sites that may be of interest to other LINKS schools? Please send them to [gene.armstrong@tUSD.k12.az.us](mailto:gene.armstrong@tUSD.k12.az.us), and we will consider including them in the next issue of Tucson LINKS Letter.

**Linking Intervention  
Networks for Kids in Schools**

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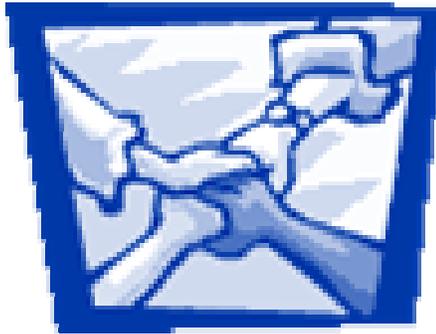
E-mail the editor of Tucson LINKS  
Letter with story ideas and comments:  
gene.armstrong@tusd.k12.az.us

Check out Tucson LINKS on  
the Internet:  
[www.tucsonlinks.org](http://www.tucsonlinks.org)

*Tucson LINKS is a Safe Schools/  
Healthy Students Initiative funded  
by the U.S. Departments of  
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Services, and Justice*



*Tucson LINKS is a comprehensive, community-wide partnership designed to increase student achievement by removing barriers to learning, such as substance abuse and violence. It is a resiliency-based collaboration, focused on enhancing environments and providing services that facilitate the ability of families, children and school personnel to overcome the obstacles they face. Tucson LINKS serves 55 Tucson elementary schools in five districts over three years, as well as children ages 0-5 and family members in those districts. The Tucson LINKS partner districts are Amphitheater, Flowing Wells, Marana, Sunnyside and Tucson Unified.*



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**Tucson  
LINKS**

Linking Intervention Networks for Kids in Schools