

ARIZONA ELDERBUILDERS

NEW

OUTBACK HEROES - SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS PROJECT

EMERGENCY & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The 9-11 and Katrina disasters should have given all Americans a wake-up call to homeland security and emergency preparedness. Instead, according to a poll conducted by the Council for Excellence in Government, nearly 75% of Americans are unaware of, or unfamiliar with, their State or Local government emergency plans. Additionally, after the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA launched a multimillion dollar campaign to encourage people to prepare, the percentage doing so has dropped from six in ten down to four in ten persons. In rural communities this problem is exacerbated by high aged, migrating populations, living in isolated areas. Don't let it happen here!!

OUR GOAL is EDUCATION and INFORMATION

AZ ElderBuilders OUTBACK HEROES staff and volunteers work in cooperation with local emergency professionals, FEMA, Medical Reserve Corps, Nonprofit agencies, law enforcement officials, Citizen Corps Councils, CERT Teams and other community-based organizations to:

- Develop a comprehensive community education plan that will familiarize 100% of the citizens with their local and state emergency plans.
- Promote disaster response strategies targeting "special needs" rural populations.

OUR PLAN OF ACTION

- Organize Public Forums & Training Classes to share information with the general public, community leaders, and organizations about the local disaster plan and preparedness strategies. (UPCOMING DATES TBA)
- Recruit 100 Volunteers willing to commit 2-16 hours per month to help raise community awareness about disaster preparedness, including installing the Guardian Angels Emergency Response Units (in partnership with WACOG Family Caregivers Project).
- Distribute disaster preparedness information to the whole community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Pima County:

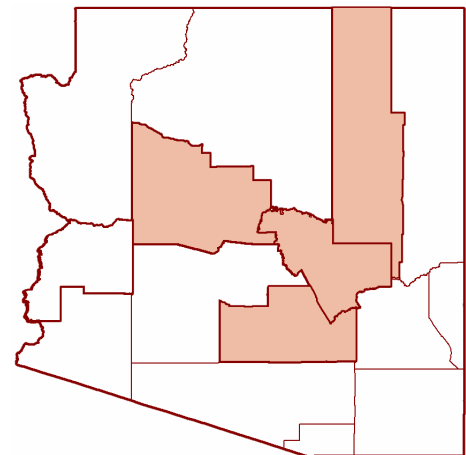
John Ricketts
Project Coordinator Homeland Security

525 Sullivan, Miami, Arizona 85539

[Email: elderbuilder@cableone.net](mailto:elderbuilder@cableone.net)

(928)473-2100 Toll Free: 1-800-322-2545

<http://www.elderbuilders.org>



AZ ElderBuilders
SVP Counties



Major funding provided by
The Corporation for National and
Community Service. All donations
are 100% tax deductible.

What is Arizona ElderBuilders?

Arizona has seen overwhelming growth in our aged population. Many people retire to our area because the "living is easy" and the "price is right". In just a few years they find their expenses rising, their health deteriorating and their family support system thousands of miles away. This is when they turn to community support systems for help. When rural elder service program directors began meeting in 1997, a seed was planted that together they could maintain and increase critical services most cost effectively by sharing problem-solving methods, program development strategies, and staff. In 1998, the seed sprouted through the formal development of the ElderBuilders Partnership (EB). Since that time, EB has established 3 interfaith coalitions, 4 adult day centers, home health services, and an RSVP Program across five AZ counties. In 2003, ElderBuilders was featured in the *International Journal of Humanities & Peace* as an innovative program that is about people helping people.

Our Mission:

ElderBuilders staff and volunteers work to create collaborative community partnerships dedicated to providing supportive services *to, by, and for* rural elders, disabled adults, and their families, in order to maintain independence, enhance dignity, and improve quality of life.

Other ElderBuilders Projects:

Faith In Action—Americorps VISTA Project (five counties)

Purpose: To establish sustainable services that increase access to health and human services for low-income, rural and chronically-ill elders. Since 2001, several innovative programs have been developed, including a **Transportation Network** to get elders to the doctor and the grocery store, a **Home Safety Program** that places emergency response units in the home, & a **Prescription Assistance Program** that helps low-income seniors get their medications at no cost. Full-time VISTA volunteers are paid a monthly stipend and receive health benefits during their year of service. They will be assisting the new Homeland Security Project in 2005 by distributing health and emergency service information.

Ageless Enterprise—Americorps VISTA Economic Development Project (six counties)

Purpose: To reduce poverty among seniors living in six rural Arizona Counties. Since 2003, Using a strengths-based approach, A*VISTA Volunteers and Community Action teams work with local elder service providers, churches, public agencies, businesses and local community members to assess and engage the skills and interests of older residents resulting in increased senior workforce opportunities, marketing of products made by seniors, disabled, and expanded training venues. The new Ageless Enterprise 'Online Catalog of unique gifts and fine arts' will begin operating in May 2005. **Sign up now for shopping notification!**

VISIT WWW.AGELESSENERPRISE.NET

FOR SPECIAL SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES

Get Involved in your community. One person can make the difference!

Pima County:

John Ricketts Project Coordinator Homeland Security

525 Sullivan, Miami, Arizona 85539

Email: elderbuilder@cableone.net

(928)473-2100 Toll Free: 1-800-322-2545

<http://www.elderbuilders.org>

ElderBuilders Program Director: K. Bump (928) 899-1382
ElderBuilders Administrator: S. Harris (800) 322-2545



*AZ ElderBuilders
Counties Served, Jan. 2005*

*All ElderBuilders Programs are under the Administration of Gila Aging Services/
Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona.