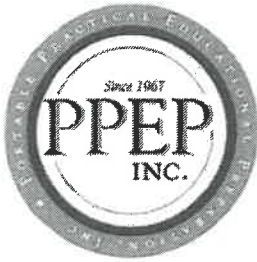


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By *John David Arnold*

John David Arnold, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer & Founder

"Si Se Puede"

Gertha Brown-Hurd
President

February 12, 2020

Dear Mayor, Council & City Administrator:

I would first like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you again for your continued support of the PPEP YouthBuild Program. We are now headed into our 19th year of operation and could not have accomplished what we have done without the commitment of our community and the partnership with the City of San Luis on behalf of YouthBuild.

Over the years, we have made a difference in the lives of over 300 youth in the South County area and specifically San Luis. In the previous year (2019), we served 20 youth (an increase from 15), but because of continued funding and the increase in funding from the City to Match AmeriCorps and DOL NFJP funding we continue to increase our numbers and are looking to serve 25 youth in 2020. Additionally, we will be seeking US DOL YouthBuild grant funds this year for our program in San Luis to further our reach to our at risk students in the area.

This past year, the city was very generous and increased the match amount to 30,000; **therefore, we would like to request the same amount of funding (30,000) for the coming year to match the AmeriCorps program, which allows each youth participant to leave the program with a 1600.00 college scholarship.** This funding by the city, in conjunction with other fundraising efforts, we will be able to meet our Match requirement of 50% match required for AmeriCorps funding. These funds provide the program a way to pay for additional youth training and program the grant does not allow for, and is important for certifications and skill development. The San Luis grant has also allowed youth to go on several trips to visit the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, the Young Leaders Conference in Washington DC with YouthBuild USA and other community and leadership seminars geared to youth development.

Over the past 19 years, PPEP has graduated approximate 236 youth with an 80% completion rate and an attendance rate consistent at 94%. The GED completion rate is consistently between 78% and 80% and an 82% placement rate for students working or going to full time college. **Although in 2019 there were a total of 13 students that started College at AWC in January 2020 of the 20 graduating in this class.** With all things considered, PPEP has stayed within the common measures, put in place by its funding sources and continues to meet critical outcomes. We continue to strive to increase these percentages and provide leadership development for youth in the San Luis area. Over the past 19 years we have completed over 160 housing rehab projects, and constructed 57 new homes for low income residents of the San Luis community.

"Dedicated to Improving the Quality of Rural Economic Life in Arizona" – SINCE 1967

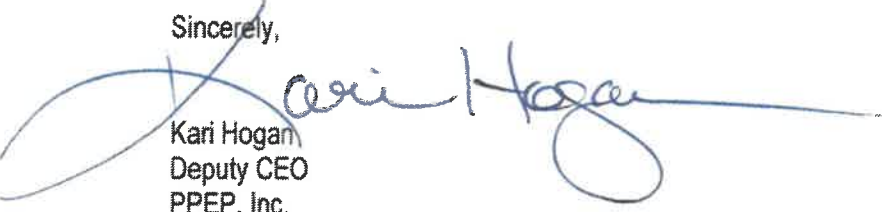
We continue to partner with many community organizations to provide community services activities that are worthwhile and give a wide variety of positive experiences for youth and continue to build low income affordable housing and rehabilitation projects for those in need.

Program benefits: The YouthBuild program is designed to alleviate and minimize the common obstacles to a participant's success through bilingual services, flexible and convenient times of services, transportation to both direct and linked services, and supportive services for a student and their family members. Through a multi-service approach, we are able to provide additional employment opportunities, job-training and even housing opportunities that can augment students' chances of successfully completing the training program and continue to improve their situations after leaving the program. Individuals enrolling in PPEP's YouthBuild program also co-enroll in programs like the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP), YPIC WIOA Youth Program, and CSBG, so wrap around services are available in the support to youth and their families, and maintains a network of partnerships within the communities that can provide other services.

We believe that together through the YouthBuild program, we can help to instill value, promote partners, promote community efforts, increase the Return on Investment (ROI) in the housing and home rehab and bring forth community and civic engagement. It takes a village to make positive change, and we cannot do it alone. Together we make a difference in the lives of young people and their families and our partnership with the City of San Luis is doing just that.

If you have any questions or need further documentation, please feel free to contact me at any time. We believe in this program and guarantee a Return on Investment to everyone who collaborates with this worthwhile program. My information is below.

Sincerely,



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