How is this Lego creation possible?

These types of illusions can be created in real life - it's all about the angle.

“Waste not want not,” or “A penny saved is a penny earned.”

These old sayings are not only relevant to our current issue they all but indict us for not paying attention. To what? You might ask!

“Curb Pushing”

The Problem.... a homeless youth is “Loitering”

Consider the following: Police officers are all to often thrown into the world of social services with little or no support. Consider what we want the officer to do.

1. Make it (them) go away
2. Where do we send them?
3. What if they don’t want to or have no where to go?
4. Arrest them criminalize them just make them go away.

This is often the frustrated cry of business individuals trying to run their businesses. They are within their rights and their business taxes are vital to our communities.

Now consider the question: Go where? In front of who’s business/home. All to often officers are forced to employ Curb Pushing® tactics to accomplish this goal.

Curb Pushing® is the tactic of moving homeless youth along the curb to the neighboring city, town and there the cycle begins again. The cost to our communities in officer time and resources is staggering. Most importantly, it accomplishes nothing towards solving the problem. How we treat young people today will have lasting effects on their lives and ours. As these individuals fall further from our conscious thought these become statistics that affect us all in the future.

How do you get your arms around so big an issues when our focus tends to be more parochial. We worry about OUR city, OUR agency, OUR company, always looking within for the solution. Then, we embark on a tried and tested approach “Is there a grant or funding source.” or my favorite “Who owns this.” In truth we all own it.

The Solution...

In an ideal world the would be a low cost high impact solution. Imagine a homeless or runaway youth makes contact with you, you call someone who comes and picks them up, gets them to a shelter and starts the process of help. This program could be called Safe Place. Well, the reality is there is such a program! It works and has helped thousands of runaways nationally. The cost is minimal. Imagine you host a Safe Place site at a pledged amount of say, .70 cents per day!

Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development will host the FIRST EVER valley wide Curb Pushing® conference. On September 14th, 2009 at the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix, we will meet with city managers, fire and police chiefs, hospital social services administrators from all communities across the valley. We will present our attendees with this new and dynamic program Safe Place which is based on:

1. The needs of youth.
2. Getting help fast.
3. Reducing cost to our cities and the tax payers.

Safe Place - Where Kids get help FAST!
June 5, 2009 was Tumbleweed’s FIRST Award Ceremony! Tumbleweed Regional High School’s Youth Advisory Board sponsored and organized the event at the Viad. Each program selected 5 outstanding youth that reflected their programs goals. **In total 45 youth were selected for achieving excellence.** These awards ranged from overall achievement, most money saved, best attendance, and emerging leader. Aramark provided a beautiful setting, and an amazing buffet of Italian dishes. Power 98.3 and DJ MJ kept the night full of fun and dancing. All of the youth had a wonderful evening, and celebrated their success with staff and students of Tumbleweed Regional High School. Tumbleweed’s Youth Advisory Board is now beginning to plan prom for their next years event. **If you are interested in assisting the youth in planning this event, please contact Tumbleweed’s Learning Center.**

One professor at **Arizona State University** has truly taken this to heart. Sue Ringer teaches Community Nursing at ASU’s West campus and is involving her students in the Tempe community in a unique way. **Starting in June undergraduate nursing students will be spending four hours each week at Tumbleweed’s Tempe Youth Resource Center, along with other local homeless services.** The students will be administering minor health screenings such as blood pressure, temperature readings, oxygen levels, and cleaning/bandaging small wounds. **They will also be interacting with a unique population that is often times misunderstood.** TYRC will provide an opportunity for the nurses to begin putting their new medical knowledge to practice and the art of patience, communication, and empathy. **The center is looking forward to our new guests’ arrival!**
Lisa Tidwell was looking for a way to give back to her community. She investigated volunteering opportunities and found Free Arts of Arizona, a nonprofit organization that sparks the creative spirit of abused, homeless and at-risk children. Free Arts trained Lisa and referred her to Tumbleweed where she received additional training and a place to share her love for art. She arrived at Casa de Sueños (CDS), a shelter for unaccompanied immigrant children to begin the 18 week mentoring program last January. She wondered how she would be received and if she would be able to make a difference.

A year and a half later, Lisa’s Free Arts classes are still one of the most popular programs that CDS offers. “I like the class because I get to cut and color and make different things each time,” said one youth in the program in Spanish. “It helps me to take my mind off of my problems.” Staff member Jennifer Cabrera adds, “When Lisa does her class, it helps us out a lot because the kids always get in such a good mood.” “Many kids have entered and exited our programs, but Lisa makes sure that every person gets introduced every week and that we all learn something new about them such as a favorite color or food. She is real patient and kind and caring. She is real amable (Spanish for good hearted)”!

Lisa leads International Global Tech Operations Teams for AT&T communications. “My job is extremely busy and this is one time a week where I can just relax and do art, something that I love,” she says. “I am so happy volunteering and in fact believe I get so much more back than I am actually giving.”

When asked what advice she would give to others who are considering volunteering she says “You have to take all the reasons that you can’t volunteer (such as) ‘you are too busy’ or ‘you’re not sure if you have anything to offer’ and just volunteer.” Lisa says she enjoys her work with children who come from another culture and speak a different language. She says she learns Spanish and that she is able to teach them some English. The differences between them has not gotten in the way of sharing art.

CURRENTLY: Casa de Sueños’ is looking for volunteers to help with planting a garden & Irrigate water.

For information about volunteering at Casa de Sueños or any other Tumbleweed Program, contact Kristen Boffo, Marketing & Development Coordinator at (602) 271-9904. Information about Free Arts can be found on www.freearts.org.
Carrie's Story...

The following story was written by “Carrie”, a current client of Tumbleweed’s Tempe Youth Resource Center. We are publishing this story *Unedited - the way Carrie intended it to be told.

I lived in CPS (Child Protective Services) since I was 3 yrs old, gone form shelter to group home to treatment center to foster home only to have to start over. I had been put in CPS because my dad was sexually abusing me and my sisters and my mom was using drugs as well as my dad so I got removed as well as my two sisters Shannon and Alice. They tried to keep us together and keep us within the family so we were sent to my Grandma’s and that didn’t work out me and my younger sister Shannon were considered “out of control” and now that I look back on it we were. So me and Shannon were placed with Aunt Mary and Uncle Matt and my older sister Alice who was born mentally handicapped with a disorder called Cri Du Chat syndrome aka Cat’s cry syndrome was left in the care of my Grandma and is still there. Then we were eventually taken out of there as well and separated, because of this my sister was put up for adoption and I have not seen her since I was 8 yrs old. So I continued acting out and being angry pushing any one who got too close away from me it just gets you hurt getting close to people (it’s a problem I still have today) all the while getting moved from group home to group home foster family to foster family. Then Jennifer and Mike Smith were the foster home I went to when I was 16 they came out to Albuquerque, New Mexico to the treatment center I was living at for 3 yrs (the stories I have from that place...) and visited me and after a while I finally got to go back to Arizona and lived with them in Mesa they were the family I needed they were strict as all hell the only family that got me to eat Veggie’s *barfs* but they loved me like I was their kid it was more than I could say for the other foster families! But I made the mistake of pushing them away and asked to be taken out of their house. *clears throat* so moving on ...

Now I am 19 yrs homeless and on the street. The way I see it I will not be on the street forever I am working on my GED with John at Tempe’s Tumbleweed and doing good so far! It’s hard to live as an adult but its something that we have to do sooner than later.

Thank you for reading my story... Carrie

*Please note: names and places have been changed to protect identities
REALITY.... huge challenges for TCYD!

YOUTH like “Carrie” need YOUR help!

Services that represent an annualized value of more than $690,000 that had been provided by Tumbleweed and funded by State or County dollars will no longer be available to the community next year. These cuts were phased in since January of '09 and represent $174,000 in cuts this fiscal year! We REALLY need your help so that our local YOUTH will receive the help they need & the care they deserve!

Your donation will go a LONG WAY...

$20  **3 haircuts** for young men  OR  **35 pairs of socks** for homeless youth.

$50  **Bottled Water** for 1 week  OR  **All Day Bus Pass** for 1 youth for one month

$100  **4 hours of job development training** for 1 student at our Learning Center  
      OR  **5 hours of tutoring** for 10 students at our Learning Center for 1 week.

$500  **Job / interview related clothing** for 5 homeless youth  OR  **Basic “New Apartment” Essentials** (dishes, bedding, cleaning supplies etc) for 2 youth.

$1,000  WILL FEED 93 homeless youth for 1 month  OR  **FUEL** our outreach vans  
        (our vans drive the streets EVERY NIGHT delivering food/essentials to homeless youth) for 6 months.

It’s as EASY as 1, 2, 3 to give...

1. Decide what you would like to donate.
2. Use the enclosed envelope to mail in your donation.
3. Donate during the months of June & July and automatically be entered into our drawing for fabulous prizes including our GRAND PRIZE, a 3 month FAMILY membership to “DC Village Health Club & Spa” valued at over $3,000.

DONATE during the month of June & July for a chance to WIN fabulous prizes!
Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development was recently awarded a GENEROUS grant of $4,000 from the Soroptimist International of Phoenix, AZ! This grant was awarded to Tumbleweed to help with the funding necessary for the support of pregnant or parenting teens in our Young Adult Program (YAP).

This support assures 40% of the beds reserved for pregnant and parenting teen moms at YAP would be 100% funded!

Tumbleweed’s Young Adult Program (Y.A.P.) provides a safe place to live for homeless or runaway youth who have no other financial support or place to live. These young people have no viable family to support them and rarely are wards of the court. Youth receive independent living training, counseling, job development and skill building. Skill building is designed to help the youth learn to live independently and includes employment and parenting skills as well as a focus on increasing their education level. Youth can be pregnant or parenting and can stay up to two years.

Tumbleweed’s Young Adult Program (YAP) is the ONLY facility in Maricopa County providing these comprehensive Independent Living Services for youth under 18 that do not require the youth to be State wards.
UPCOMING EVENTS

“Walk a mile in my shoes”
SEPTEMBER 14th, 2009!
Black Canyon Conference Center

“LINKS TO YOUTH”
CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
Friday, October 2nd, 2009
Tumbleweed Center For Youth Development
stonecreek The Golf Club
4435 E. Paradise Village Pkwy. South
Paradise Valley, Arizona 85032

A Family CALEDONIAN Concert
Brought to you in part by:
Pipe Major Len Wood & Graeme Niven - Arizona Kilts
An event for the WHOLE family - DECEMBER 5th, 2009!
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN...

a homeless youth gets dehydrated?

1) FIRE & POLICE DEPARTMENTS ARE DISPATCHED
   This Keeps officers AWAY from other calls (fire, robbery, abuse, car accidents, domestic disputes, etc.) until issues are resolved $1,000 of dollars in cost... who pays?

2) AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS YOUTH TO HOSPITAL
   $100’s of dollars just billed... who pays?

3) HOSPITAL RE-HYDRATES YOUTH
   $1,000’s of dollars just billed... who pays?

4) YOUTH DISCHARGED BACK ONTO THE STREET
   Where do they go? Who is there to help? Who is there to care?

What’s the cost? Who Pays?

WE HAVE AN EASY SOLUTION TO THESE QUESTIONS & MORE

DID YOU KNOW

Maricopa County AZ, has...
- Over 1,800 Homeless youth
- 100’s of kennels for animals
- ONLY 8 non-government beds available for homeless youth!

With YOUR HELP, we can change these unacceptable statistics!