

COMMUNITY NEWS

EVENT

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other adult including 70 year old Josephine Sawyer, who was to win the 32" TV screen raffle later in the afternoon, marched along the dusty trail under the bright sun and wind gusts. Sawyer said that she had to watch her blood pressure during the long walk but she was determined to finish the walk to honor the children for the day. Sawyer grew up in Bylas on the San Carlos Apache Reservation and moved to California in later years where she raised a family and finally, came back to the Yavapai-Apache Nation where she now resides. Her family name on the Yavapai-Apache Nation is Engle.

Throughout the day, drawings were held for various prizes offered by the social service department including the grand prize of a 32" inch TV screen that was won by Sawyer.

Teen Life Line was one of the presenters at the event and they passed out critical information about telephone contact lines for youths. In addition, the YAN police department, the Nation's EPA, the Food Bank, Johnson O'Malley program for schools, First Things First, Camp Verde Head Start and Patty Zeid of Abide Maternity Homes Ministries.

The U.N.I.T.Y. (United Native Tribal Youths) chapter in Middle Verde conducted a bake sale which helped their cause to raise funds for their activities in the community.

The Day Care Center and Montessori Schools,

both located on the Nation, held a recruiting drive for their schools.

The Social Service department had all of their personnel on board for the day as they handed out information to the public.

During the course of the day, over 80 people came to visit the booths on display.

Being aware of child abuse

Ortega is very adamant about the importance of the social services' role in preventing child abuse on the Nation. "Child abuse are prevalent on YAN as in many stateside communities. Much of what we respond to is substance abuse related. We get calls frequently for abuse and neglect," she said. The role of the Nation's social service program is to also represent the best interest of the child while at the same time encouraging parents to find solutions to problems facing them. "We are dedicated to empowering families to heal and overcome their obstacles and make every attempt to work with families to prevent separation of children from their parents," added Ortega.

Because the social workers are trained to intercede on behalf of their clients, they can identify problem areas for solutions for families. "(By)...creating a holistic plan with the parents while ensuring the safety of the children," said Ortega.



Several organizations in Verde Valley including the Nation's governmental office set up special displays for the community members.



There were plenty of handouts for the workshop participants.



Josephine Sawyer, Apache elder won the 32" TV screen that was raffled off



Young family take some time out from the event during lunch time.



Community youth ask important questions to the presenters during the day



Miss Y-A Princess, Jyane Medina, granddaughter of Suzette Dawdy, takes advantage of a donated umbrella that is as big as her!

Nation has new trauma counselor

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

Sharmeen Qudrot M.S., Ed.S. is the new domestic violence counselor for the Nation.

Qudrot is a licensed professional counselor (LPC) in private practice with several university credentials. From the University of Florida, she received a B.S. in Psychology and 2 Masters of Science degrees in counseling from Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Qudrot grew up in

Florida and headed west to continue her professional endeavors as a counselor.

Her parents are originally from Bangladesh and immigrated to the United States.

"For the past 9 years, I've been working mostly with women and children and some men, all in the areas of domestic violence, trauma and sexual assault," she said.

More recently, Qudrot was employed with Spectrum-Verde Valley Guidance Clinic for the past 2 years. "Before

that, I worked in Florida and lived there my whole life," she added.

"So, this is my dream contract and I've always wanted to work with the Yavapai-Apache Nation," said Qudrot with a smile.

Qudrot's connections to the Native American world goes far back.

"When I was young, I became very interested in the Chirachua Apache Tribe (and), their history, what they went through with the U.S. Government and that got me learning

about the indigenous people, their battles, the systematic breakdown...," said Qudrot. "The work is so sacred to me"

Qudrot feels comfortable in her new role for the Nation and said that her model for counseling takes into consideration the important elements of Native culture.

"Spirituality and traditions—that is a big part of healing. That is your heart and soul. So, you are healing your mind and soul and that got me learning

try to bring about self-love, self-respect and empowerment in the counseling (process). "You're not just learning those skills, but learning to love yourself and (to) love others"

Qudrot conducts individual counseling, group counseling and program development to refine the delivery strategies for her counseling program. Confidentiality and trust are of utmost importance to her when she works with a client.

Presently, Qudrot has



a caseload of about 30 people. "That's pretty good for right now," she said.

Qudrot's office is located at the Nation's Social Service building in Middle Verde.

Qudrot can be contacted at 928-821-4790 for appointments.