

Aneth Community Court Newsletter

The Navajo Nation Judicial Branch Aneth Judicial District Court

Autumn 2014

Volume 1, Issue 2

Greeting from Aneth Resource Coordinator! I am excited to present the second issue of the Aneth Community Court Newsletter. An enormous thank you goes out to Aneth Judicial District Court for putting the first issue together and to everyone who contribute. I hope you find it useful and will contribute information in the future.

Aneth Community Court, a diversion program, is critical to Aneth District, since it is the first diversion program within the Indian Country. Not only does it reduce the burden of the court, but more importantly successful program changing the lives of participants, victims, and families. It was a critical turning point of individuals who would like to change their ways.

Each and every day, we live to make a difference in everything that we do. Take a minute to reflect on those successes and pat yourself on the back! I look forward to seeing you take part of Aneth Community Court, a diversion program that brings opportunity to Aneth District Court.

Aneth Resource Coordinator– Clorissa Thomas

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Photo of the Week

The Aneth Community Court Adopts a Highway: The Aneth Community Court, located on the Navajo Nation, was created with the help of the Center for Court Innovation's Tribal Justice Exchange and represents the first community court in Indian Country. The court recently adopted a stretch of highway in Aneth, Utah and is using highway cleanup projects for court-ordered community service and as a form of community engagement. Here, Judge Irene Black (center, yellow hat) stands with court staff and community members during an Earth Day cleanup project. (May 21, 2014)

"This project was supported by Grant No. 2011-IC-BX-0027 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Community Capacity Development Office, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice."

In the month of May 2014, Aneth Community Court Adopt-A-Highway made, "Photo of the Week" under Center for Court Innovation's main website. Our dedication and hard work was acknowledged and to show other Community Court around the world what we can do. Thank you to Aneth Judicial District Court Staff, Aneth Chapter Representatives, Utah Navajo Royalty Fund Staff, and community members.

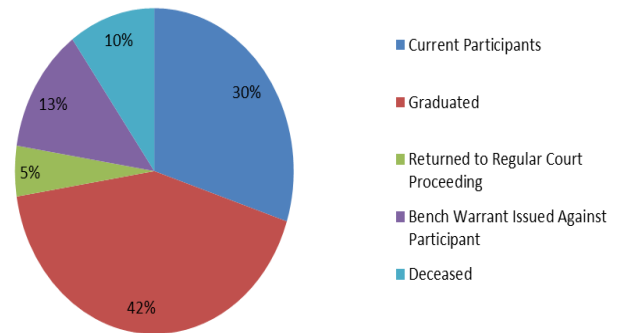
SUCCESS

The Navajo Nation Judicial Branch
Aneth Judicial District
Aneth Community Court



Aneth Community Court graduated three participants with five cases during the 4th quarter of Fiscal Year 2014. Treatment included Peacemaking Session, Family Violence Prevention Education, Parenting Class, Apology letters, Essay Writing, Presentation at Aneth Community Court Resource Meetings and Local Chapter Meetings . Participants performed a total of 78 hours of Community Service Work. Currently, Aneth Community Court has zero recidivism rate of all those who graduated.

Aneth Community Court



Success doesn't come to you, you go to it.

- Marva Collins

Spotlight on "In their own words"

Aneth Community Court Participants comments on their community service and community court experience upon successful program completion:

" I think it was awesome, it gave me a second chance for sure. It helped me through. I had my ups and downs and the employees helped me by encouraging me to keep going, getting it done, and getting things off my shoulder. I had fun doing my community service hours at Homer Dale Farm and the employees weren't too serious since we had put a scarecrow together and we all laughed about it ." -Jerrad Mitchell

"I thought it was fun. The Homer Dale Community Farm taught us how to plant and pull out the right weeds. It also helped me manage my time and to be more responsible. And also, underage drinking is not good. It helped me reach out to community members and the court house staff. The Aneth Community Court also helped me keep my record clean through participation." -Terrell Whitehorse

Aneth Community Court-Garden Project



Beginning of June 2014, Aneth Community Court collaborated with the Asset Base Community Development (ABCD) Project at Homer Dale Community Farm at St. Christopher Mission Church of Bluff, Utah. ABCD-Project is overseen by Utah Disability Council, Elsie Dee. The involvement does not only give an opportunity for the Aneth Community Court's participants to fulfill their court obligation, community services hours, but to have the participants gain knowledge of quality food and nutrition, grow important life skills, increase time for reflection and restoration, and positive change in attitudes. We planted, maintained, and cultivated throughout the months of June, July, August and September 2014. We take pride of the participants, Utah Disability Council members, Aneth District Court, and community members' contribution to the garden project since we witness the result of our labor.



June 24, 2014



July 11, 2014



July 21, 2014



August 5, 2014



Sept. 2, 2014



Sept. 11, 2014

"ABCD (Asset Base Community Development) has currently involved the Aneth Court/Resource Staffs, with the Homer Dale Garden Project this spring (2014). Ms. Clorissa Thomas, has been very instrumental and having other clients being involved in the Homer Dale Garden Project. I am very thankful from the local community involvement and support of this project and continue the partnership and planning of the ABCD Project. We have seen the accomplishment of the Homer Dale garden Project and the hard work we had seen, the planning, plowing, planting, seeing it grow, setting the water pipes, irrigating, hoeing on weekly base. Now we are seeing the growth of our garden. We had planted Indian Corns, Squash & Zucchini's."

-Elsie Dee, Utah Disability Council-

"When we first started the HD Community Farm we were excited to have many community members interested in being part of the farm. I knew running a farm was going to be a lot of work besides the help from our community gardeners. Work on the farm has been getting more and more demanding, so by the grace of god who answered my prayers, we were introduced to Clorissa Thomas (Aneth Resource Coordinator/Aneth Community Court Pilot Project) who came to our meeting and proposed a plan to collaborate with them to help alleviate the demand of running a farm. More has come out of collaborating with a an organization to fulfill community service hours. A connection with people was formed and even crops were cared for just like the relationship that is now present."

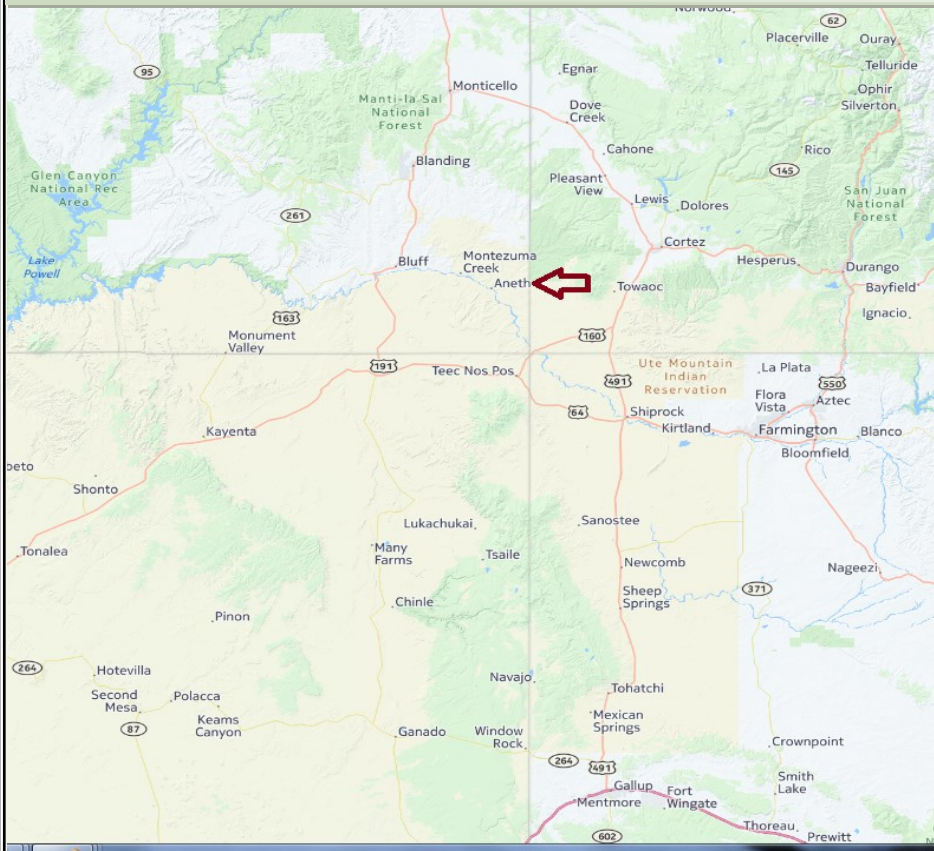
-Leon Sampson, Manager of Homer Dale Community Farm-



What is the Purpose of a Resource Meeting?



The purpose of a resource meeting is to help Aneth Community Court participants to become productive members of their community and to lead a crime free, drug-free lives and to keep from re-offending. Also, to help victims and families. By bringing together a cross-section of viewpoints, a resource meeting is a place where variety of resources and community members can exchange ideas, information, opinions, goals, and action plans are established. The overall goal is to reduce crime, reduce recidivism and improve the quality of live in our communities.



Our location is very remote that we have to travel distance to get appropriate service. We would like to see more community members participate in resource meeting since many of the resources travel to bring us valuable information. Take benefit of this time to get your questions answered or express your concerns. Please inform your elders, families, co-workers, and friends. Resource Meeting are held every other month. Below is a tentative schedule

Place: Aneth Judicial District Court

Time: 9-12 p.m.

Dates:

November 21, 2014

January 30, 2015

March 27, 2015

May 29, 2015

July 31, 2015

For more information contact Aneth Resource Coordinator.

Thank you for attending:

Addition Recover of Montezuma Creek LDS Church
 Aneth Chapter Representative
 Aneth Community Court Participants & community members
 Department of Family Services
 Child Protective Service & Community Involvement Specialist
 Family Roots and Wings
 Four Corner's Regional Health-
 Social Worker, Traditional Healer, Health Education Technician,
 Department of Behavioral Health Services,
 Gentle Ironhawk Shelter
 Home for Women and Children

Navajo Nation Prosecutor's Office
 Navajo Nation Office of Special Educational & Rehabilitation Service
 Navajo Nation Probation Service
 San Juan County Adult Education
 San Juan School District-Utah Disability Council
 St. Christopher Mission
 Transitions
 Victim Impact Panel of Farmington, New Mexico
 Utah Navajo Health System, Inc.-Behavioral Health
 Whitehorse High School-Assistance Principle & Counselor

The Navajo Nation Judicial Branch/ Aneth Judicial District/ Aneth Community Court

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