

Homemaker Clubs Help Communities

By Dr. Norma Redeker
State Director, Extension
Home Economics Program

Many Extension Homemaker clubs tackle community betterment projects in addition to their monthly educational programs.

The Punkin Center Homemakers' Club of Tonto Basin successfully organized a project to build a 12,500-square-foot school and community center. The Pleasant Valley Homemakers started the isolated community of Young on its way to having professional medical care available in a new, four-room health building.

Homemaker clubs are one way the Cooperative Extension Service helps people stay involved in group activities that help them manage their own lives and homes. Through regular lesson programs, Extension home economists offer club members a means of learning useful household skills, economical management practices and ideas for strengthening family relationships. Club members also find many ways to make living better for their families by helping their communities.

The Punkin Center and Pleasant Valley stories told in accompanying articles illustrate how Homemakers can get a major project rolling, then hand over controls to other groups when the time is right.

Homemaker clubs elsewhere in Arizona have succeeded at many other types of community projects.

In Tucson, several clubs organized a preschool children's fair last winter. About 400 youngsters, mostly from low-income neighborhoods, played games, heard stories, sang songs, saw animals and ate a nutritious snack. Nearly 100 adults, not counting Homemaker members, saw exhibits from 19 organizations and agencies offering child-related services in Tucson.

The Desert Daisies Homemaker Club of Bullhead City last year raised \$670 to support the local school for trainable retarded children. The club purchased playground and instructional equipment for the school and individual Christmas gifts for the students.

The Cactus Wrens Homemakers of Sunsites sponsor a free cancer-screening clinic in cooperation with the Sunsites Family Health Center each year. Fifty-one women came for examinations at the 1980 clinic.

Almost every town and neighborhood in Arizona has a Homemaker Club of people discovering ways to help themselves and their community. If you are interested, the home economist at your county's Cooperative Extension Service can help you find or start a club. Call 337-2267 in St. Johns, 384-3594 in Willcox, 774-5011 in Flagstaff, 425-7179 in Globe, 428-2611 in Safford, 359-2261 in Duncan, 255-3355 in Phoenix, 753-3788 in Kingman, 524-6271 in Holbrook, 628-5161 in Tucson, 836-5221 in Casa Grande, 287-4689 in Nogales, 445-6597 in Prescott, or 783-8338 in Yuma.

