Written by By William Maderas For the Sun
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Gallup to present Certificate of Appreciation

Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services has partnered with Dist. 1 Councilor Linda Garcia to remove "addiction debris" and overgrown vegetation at a former homeless camp near St. Joseph's Shelter and Soup Kitchen at 400 N Fifth St. in Gallup.

The hospital's Community Work Service organization cleared gated alleys adjacent to the shelter in June.

The clean-up was performed by a four-person crew from RMCHCS' community organization, which is comprised of former addicts residing at the hospital's Behavioral Health Treatment Center. The clean-up took three days with close to a ton of debris removed from two long alleys.

"The clean-up was badly needed. The debris and litter were beginning to impact local businesses in addition to residents. You can actually see the alleys now," Garcia said. "The crew did a thorough job and completed the work in record time."

Garcia plans to present a Certificate of Appreciation to William Camorata, behavioral special projects director, RMCHCS, and service members at the June 25 Gallup City council meeting.

The idea to use RMCHCS Community Work Service stemmed from the work they performed in the city's Mossman area last year, clearing overgrown greenery from an arroyo and alleys behind homes where break-ins had occurred.

"We believe it is important to maintain a safe community and our programs of cleaning up Gallup's public areas is important," said David Conejo, CEO, RMCHCS. "When public entities find neglected areas of Gallup, we ask that they contact us. Healthcare begins with a healthy place to live."

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB SPRUCED UP

In addition to the area around the shelter, RMCHCS is now providing maintenance of the Gallup Boy's and Girl's Club.

"We scrubbed the floors and re-waxed them," said Camorata, who oversees the Community Work Service organization. "It is a great feeling to be able to help Gallup and particularly the children here who deserve a bright future."

Previously the organization has cleaned pedestrian areas around the club.

Marisa Hutchinson, CEO, Boy's and Girl's Club of Gallup, has been appreciative of the organization's efforts.

"RMCHCS and their workers have made a huge difference for the kids," said Hutchinson. "They helped us stretch tight budgets that do not make it easy [to do] the type of infrastructure support they provide. This allows us to spend funds on the kids and their activities."

In the past, Camorata and his crew have removed trees, shrubs and brush as they have done in other areas of Gallup including schools, churches municipal buildings and other public facilities.

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