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StrengthBuilding Partners Receives Grant from Pascua Yaqui Tribe Funds help to place mentors with children in local schools.

Tucson, July 14, 2009— StrengthBuilding Partners has been awarded an \$ 80,000 grant from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to maintain and enhance its mentoring program at Johnson Primary and Lawrence Intermediate Schools.

“This grant enables us to continue to build on our successful mentoring program currently involving many Yaqui mentors and mentees,” stated Pam Clark-Raines, President of StrengthBuilding Partners and Program Director for the grant.

In evaluations of the program conducted over the past seven years by UA Research Professor Sally Stevens, Ph.D., it has been found that the school attendance of mentees has improved significantly. Another key outcome is the fact that mentees express an increase in positive feelings about school. For additional outcome information, please refer to SBP’s website at www.strengthbuilding.org.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe (PYT), a federally recognized tribe with almost 18,000 enrolled members, has worked in Partnership with StrengthBuilding Partners for seven years. PYT has a policy that allows tribal employees to volunteer in the schools during their workday for up to five hours per month. This policy enables StrengthBuilding Partners to match children in these schools with mentors from the community including Yaqui children with Yaqui mentors. Peter Yucupicio, Chairman of the Tribe, stated: “The Mentoring Program is a great design that provides the Yaqui youth with encouragement and guidance through the structure of the program such as: group activities to teach our culture, art and language, as well

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as after school sessions and summer school sessions. Through the continued dedication of our employees, we hope to continue guiding our youth to a more positive and productive future which will also be carried into our community.”

The Pascua Yaqui Reservation, located in southwest metropolitan Tucson, owns and operates Casino of the Sun, Casino del Sol and non-gaming enterprises such as the Anselmo Valencia Tori Amphitheater and Del Sol Marketplace. PYT is major Tucson employer.

Founded in 1999, StrengthBuilding Partners is a non-profit training, coaching and mentoring organization that works in partnership with schools, organizations and businesses to improve the lives of children, families and individuals. StrengthBuilding Partners currently has partnerships with five schools in TUSD and the STAR Academic Center in Sunnyside Unified School District.

StrengthBuilding Partners is grateful to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe for making it possible to continue the StrengthBuilding Mentoring Programs at Johnson Primary and Lawrence Intermediate Schools, and in encouraging the Pascua Yaqui community to take an active and positive role in making a difference in the lives of children.

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