

Cody  
McWilliams

## The Importance of Being Involved

Being involved in our communities is a very important thing. It allows for the people to shape and influence the cultural and traditional aspects of each community. In some cases, a community can raise the children who are growing up in it. The people around these children are exemplifying service to others as they help out in their community and provide a better place to learn and grow in. After all, they will be the ones to provide a good example and to create a good environment for the people to come after all of us. Community involvement is important because everyone should have a voice in making decisions that will affect their lives.

Also, when you get involved in your community you could help make important decisions that can be vital to your future. Despite others' endeavors to bring down the neighborhood, your opinions and involvement could make a major impact on the future development of your neighborhood. A community can consist of many things, for instance, schools, houses, stores, community facilities, and parks. However, it takes those who reside in the neighborhood to keep it strong and together.

This service and involvement in our community is definitely seen here in Mesa, Arizona. At least two-thousand years ago, the Hohokam people arrived here and began to construct canal systems. These canals were the largest in the prehistoric New World. Some were up to 90 feet wide and ten feet deep. These people began the development of our city. Some of their canals are still used today and have made a difference for us.

When you think of those Hohokam people and all the work they did, we should be very grateful. If no one took the initiative to try and make their environment better, there probably wouldn't be so many developed countries. Everyone needs to do their part to make the world we live in a better place. Some ways you can do this is are to research the causes and issues that interest you and are important to you, consider the skills you have to offer, and try something new. Getting involved as a family is always a good way to give service.

My family and I are going to do service for a Native American reservation near our home here in Mesa through the "Give a Day, Get a Day" organization. This will give our family an opportunity to grow closer and be able to learn the importance of giving back to our community and helping those in need. I am grateful for the time we will have to be able to help others. Hopefully people will continue to be willing to help others and keep our communities running smoothly.