

Who: Marcy Rogers, 55 is founder and director of Payson Community Kids, Inc., a non-profit organization that helps at-risk children and families. It operates with the assistance of volunteers. The facility serves 50 young people, ages 2 to 18, many of whom are referred.

Education: Rogers had a 25-year career as a land planner and has taken business courses at Pima Community College and at the University of Arizona.

Starting point: Shortly after moving to Payson in 1996, Rogers found a 3-year old girl wandering at night. Rogers opened her home to the child and soon discovered other children were at risk. She enlisted volunteers and established the non-profit in 2002, offering free after-school and summer programs.

She says: “The experiences I’ve had in my life gave me the compassion and desire to help others. ...When I see the kids who have grown up in our program and see the life skills they’ve gained, I know that I’m doing the right thing.”

Climbing techniques: “I think it’s important to work with the other non-profits. Many of us are serving the same families. When we recently partnered with Payson Senior Center for a fundraiser, we split proceeds.

“When you work together, you get to know other non-profits better. They also bring their volunteers and expertise to the table, so you can really benefit.”

Aspiring advice: “We all have to be kinder to each other. I’m hoping these kids will grow up remembering that, and that they can help others; their neighbors, their town, their country. When you can make helping others part of your lifestyle, in your social and work life, the result is a better neighborhood for everyone.”

Details: Payson Community Kids Inc., 300 W. Wade Lane, Payson, AZ 85541.
1(928)472-7163.