

# Probation Department, Tri-City Fire Department Help Train Youth

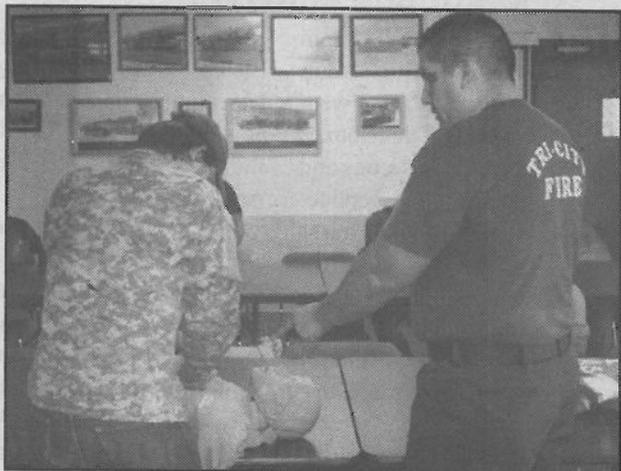


Photo by Marc Marin

**Tri-City firefighter John Contreras instructs a cadet on proper CPR techniques.**

The Gila County Juvenile Probation Department is affiliating with the Tri-City Fire Department in a joint effort to expose youth to a fast-paced, potential career option.

The community-enriched atmosphere sets the stage for an elevated level of mentorship.

The program teaches the youth about the skills and

experience needed to become a firefighter — but this particular community service effort consists of more than cleaning the fire house and equipment. A segmented amount of time is allotted for youth development that includes: CPR instruction, lifesaving techniques, equipment education, health tips, and the value of physical fitness.

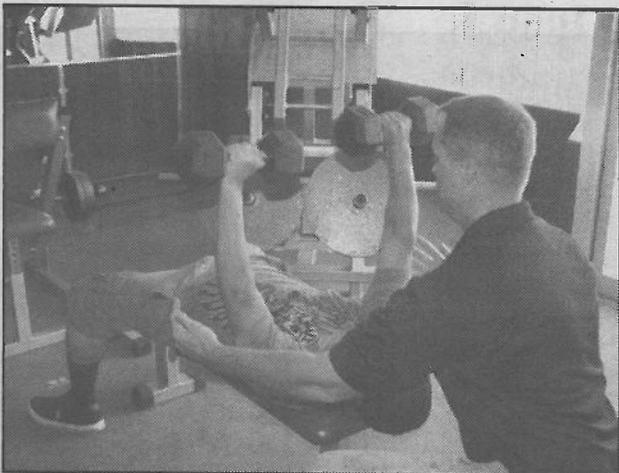


Photo by Marc Marin

**David Palmer (right) assist a cadet on the weight bench.**

One of many values that is included in this community service project is that it allows the youth to be introduced to the Tri-City Fire Department's Cadet Program. The program allows for the cadets to begin the training and fundamentals that are required not only to becoming a certified firefighter, but also to attract references and to create a

great foundation for any career choice.

The program coordinators are two decorated military veterans — David Palmer, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Coordinator; and Surveillance Officer Kevin Kittle of the Gila County Probation Department.

"I am very excited to see the potential in the next gen-



Photo by Marc Marin

**Tri-City firefighter John Contreras (right) helps a cadet put on a full firefighter uniform, while Kevin Kittle looks on.**

eration, and the mentors and role models that are participating in our common goal," Palmer said. "I strongly feel the best investment of energy is in the next generation of our nation's youth, more now than ever.

Palmer appreciates the Tri-City Fire Department for being proactive with the initiation of a Cadet Program, along with the support of

Gila County officials.

"I'm very thankful for Tri-City's Battalion Chief A.J. Howell, and Cadet Coordinator/Fireman John Contreras," Palmer said. "Most importantly, I'm thankful for the Honorable Judge Peter Cahill, and Chief of Probation/Court Administrator Kendall Rhyne, for allowing us to be part of their timely vision."