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Green Revival Initiative Means Dollars, Sense

By **Floyd Alvin Galloway**

In the "green" environmental revolution those left standing in the dust are low income families and households. The Green Revival Initiative (GRI) has been launched to help those families bottom line and their environment as well.

In a pilot program, the GRI is working to lower the energy cost for 1000 homes with fixed and low incomes in the 85040 zip code of South Phoenix. The program received a major boost when Southwest Gas was introduced as a partner in this endeavor during a press conference held March 12. "We are proud to be a partner in this initiative", said Amy Washburn, of Southwest Gas Corporation. "SWG is the first utility to jump on board of this grass-roots effort. We look for ways to increase the service we offer to the community and also improve its safety."

The utility company has donated \$5,000 to the program for green survival

packages for the homes. The packages include two low-flow showerheads, 21 compact fluorescent light bulbs, a tire gauge and kitchen thermometer. According to Dr. George Brooks Jr., founder of GSI, the equipment can help lower household utility and gasoline bills up to \$500 a year.

"This is green we need. Sensible and sustainable solutions for today's problems that will create a brighter future for our children," said Dr. Brooks. Training will also be given on how to access additional help with utility bills and weatherization through the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and other governmental and business assistance programs.

Putting green back in the pockets of Arizona's families is the motto of the initiative. "There are literally hundreds of thousands of people that could be helped. Most importantly, every dollar that is saved goes back into the local economy. This could mean



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Tracy Williams of Altrade Supplies and Chris Wendt of Evolve discuss low-flow water saving shower heads.

millions of dollars back in circulation to help reverse the current economic downturn," noted Dr. Brooks.

SWG will also be working with GRI in identifying 100 low income households to receive gas powered appliances to help the Valley become greener. Formerly called

the Green Survival Initiative, the survival was changed to revival because the initiative is to do more than help families survive hardship, but to breath new energy into their environment and economic situation. Gary Walters a SWG official was instrumental in building the partnership noted Dr.

Brooks.

Other partners in the program are Southwest Green Magazine, the City of Phoenix Neighborhood and Human Services departments, Arizona Minority Business Enterprise Center, Childhelp Keys Community Center, Arizona State University

Online and Southminster Social Service the fiscal agent and manager of the project. If successful they hope to expand the program to other areas of the valley For more information regarding the program visit sw-green.com/Home.html, gri@southminpc.org or call 602-276-2582.