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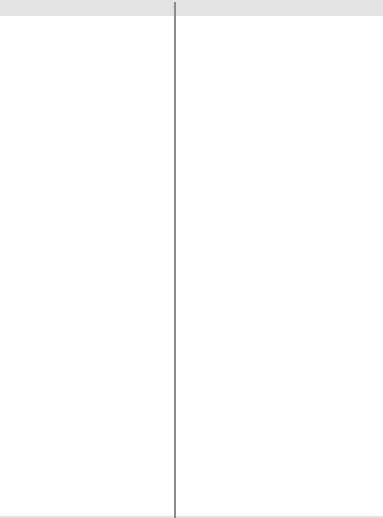
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**...type of Home Tour Gila County Community
...building lives**

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*Arizona Silver Belt
Perez show off their new home
major rehabilitation thanks to
Community Housing Services.*

The Gila County Community Action and Housing Services (CAHS) department is putting work here at home. A year ago, CAHS began working together with other organizations to help homeowners. The objective of the program is to make the homes safer, healthier and more energy efficient so homeowners can afford to reside comfortably in their homes. Although the project is still in progress, CAHS manager Malissa Buzan is proud of the success the program has already had. To date, four homes have been “rehabilitated and weatherized.” Four more are currently under way.

The program involves a number of things including replacing old building materials with energy efficient ones. This is everything from light bulbs to windows, air conditioning units to roofing. Homeowners will receive solar power panels as well. Average annual savings are between 30 and 50 percent. A weatherized house is “rehabilitated” to save energy as well as to make it safe for the occupants. Buzan pointed out that a number of old homes were painted using materials with a high lead content. Environmental factors are also addressed to make the home safer. Buzan said regretfully, “Sometimes, the damage is so bad, we have to walk away.”










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is to help people in need, especially seniors, stay in their homes and improve their
rehabilitation of a house also has positive side effects for the entire neighborhood. “If
xt door falling apart, the value of your house decreases and as does the quality of the
d. By helping people keep up their homes, it helps the entire neighborhood,” Buzan
nt the homes to be more than just up to code. Complying with code is a grade D. We aim

started 15 years with an Owner Occupied Rehabilitation grant of \$7,000. Today, a home
ect can be funded with up to \$40,000 if needed. CAHS uses certified contractors from the
eir projects. Art Rodriguez Construction has done two of the houses so far. This is a
he project. Not only do individuals receive needed help with their homes, local
payment with stimulus money, securing jobs down the line.







article see the 07-14-2010 issue.

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