



US Army Corps of Engineers ® Albuquerque District

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District Engineer, Lt. Col. Jason Williams

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Corps, Santa Clara Pueblo Sign Historic Agreement

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District and the Pueblo of Santa
Clara, New Mexico signed a historic partnership
agreement Sept. 21 to conduct a watershed
assessment for the Pueblo's lands in the aftermath
of June's devastating Las Conchas forest fire.

The assessment will produce a plan that will identify construction and restoration opportunities for recovering the damaged environment and provide flood protection for the Pueblo's village, as well as ultimately benefitting infrastructure down-river of the Pueblo in the cities of Espanola, Santa Fe and Albuquerque, N.M.

The agreement, termed a Watershed Assessment Cost Share Agreement (WACSA) under Section 203 of the Tribal Partnership Program, is the first signed by the Corps and a Tribal government.

The program authorizes up to \$1 million a year, per tribe, for water-related planning activities to identify and prioritize water resources related projects that will substantially benefit Indian tribes, and are located primarily within Indian country or in proximity to Alaska Native villages, where such studies address flood damage reduction, environmental restoration and protection, and preservation of cultural and natural resources.

The agreement stipulates a 25 percent cost share on the part of the tribe, but the cost share can be met with in-kind work or equipment contribution.

"Santa Clara Pueblo has consistently been a high quality and responsible partner," said District Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams. "Their desire to enter into this agreement will ensure a plan is formulated for work that will benefit the Pueblo and numerous people living in the Middle Rio Grande Basin. It is the continuation of a great working relationship."

Santa Clara Pueblo lands have been impacted by significant forest fires in the past, including the Oso Fire of 1998 and Cerro Grande Fire of 2000, but the recent Las Conchas Fire was particularly devastating and burned more than half of the watershed. Prior to this event, the Pueblo formed an alliance with Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, San Ildefonso Pueblo and the Corps to complete a feasibility study focusing on ecosystem restoration along the Rio Grande. However, since the Las Conchas Fire, Santa Clara leaders have had to focus on fire mitigation measures.

"The hydrology for Santa Clara Pueblo lands completely changed once burned by the Las Conchas Fire," said District Tribal Liaison Ron Kneebone. "Damage that would be expected during a 500-year flood will now happen during a 10-year event, and Santa Clara's village is at significant risk."

Kneebone said watershed assessments typically take about three years, and, with the signing of the agreement, work started right away when the District awarded contracts for aerial photography of the burned area. He said the imagery is an important first step, as the Pueblo's charred canyon has been inaccessible for several weeks because of post-fire flooding.

According to Kneebone, Santa Clara's government thinks the agreement is critical. He said Santa Clara Governor Walter Dasheno, Sr. went to Washington to meet with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy to discuss the Tribal Partnership Program.

"The Pueblo is concerned that any protection that was available for their village prior to the fire and floods has been removed," Kneebone said.

End of Year by the Numbers

Real Estate:

30 — Number of acres purchased for a Border Station in Fabens, Texas.
200 — Number of people who will be accommodated in a new Army Reserve Center in Las Cruces, N.M.
15 — Number of acres purchased for the Las Cruces Army Res. Center.

Contracting:

1,288 — Total number of actions.
44 — Number awarded on Sept. 30.
\$298.8 million — amount awarded.
78 — Increase in the number of actions the Environmental Services Program completed verses FY10.

Engineering and Construction Design Branch:

1 — The District's first Building Information Modeling project, a \$14M MC-130 simulator at Cannon.

Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering Branch:

3 — Number of large drilling projects for civil and military missions.

ACE-IT:

12% — Increase in satisfaction. 4,500 — Number of help tickets our local ACE-IT team completed. 200 — Number of reconfigurations during the move to the new annex.

Logistics:

Approximately 150 — Number of personnel in District who moved.

Public Affairs:

12 — Number of consecutive months of Rip Rap published.
52 — Employee vignettes created.

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Readiness Office Holds National Preparedness Fair for Employees

During the District's
National Preparedness
Month Emergency
Preparedness Event held
Sept 14, internal and
external stakeholders
provided employees
with information on
many emergency
preparedness initiatives.

Subject matter experts discussed emergency supply kits, family communication plans, control of infectious diseases, civil disaster support and much more.

"When unexpected emergencies occur, our greatest individual defense is preparedness,"



Readiness Specialist Theresa Rogers said. "Getting an emergency supply kit and making an emergency plan are two important things we can do to prepare."

At top: Readiness Specialist Theresa Rogers (left) gives a door prize to Environmental Planner Monika Sanchez. At Right: Employees were tested by a readiness quiz.

District Selects New Deputy District Engineer / Chief, Planning, Programs & Project Management

District Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams announced Oct. 4 the selection of John D'Antonio as Deputy District Engineer / Chief Planning, Programs and Project Management Division.

The position is being vacated by Jorge Colberg who will retire at the end of the calendar year with more than 29 years of service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

D'Antonio's start date with the District is Nov. 7, after he departs his position as the New Mexico State Engineer. He has been State Engineer for nine years, during multiple State administrations.

A former employee of the District, D'Antonio worked previously for the Corps as a hydraulic design engineer, project engineer, project manager, and chief of the hydraulics, hydrology, sedimentation and floodplain management section.

As a registered professional engineer in New Mexico and Colorado, D'Antonio brings a wealth of experience in hydraulic design, acequia rehabilitation, water resource management and water policy development. He has been a member of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Water Issues from 1998 to the present.

In his post as State Engineer, he was secretary of the Interstate Stream Commission, chairman of the Water Trust Infrastructure Investment Team and on the Drought Task Force. He was also New Mexico's



John D' Antonio

Commissioner to the Rio Grande, Costilla and Upper Colorado River Compact Commissions.

D'Antonio is a native New Mexican and has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of New Mexico.



District park rangers, natural resource specialists and Bobber represented the Corps.

Corps Employees Man Booth at N.M. State Fair in Sept.



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This activity supports our Operations Plan: Action 5 (Develop collaborative approaches to address watershed-based, multi-stakeholder and multi-benefit water resource projects).

District Happenings

District Projects Benefit From National Public Lands Day

By Kristen Skopeck, Public Affairs

Nearly 200 volunteers arrived at four District project locations Sept. 24 to help with hands-on restoration activities as part of National Public Lands Day.

People came to the Corps' Abiquiu, Santa Rosa and Conchas Lakes in New Mexico and John Martin Reservoir in Colorado to work side-byside with District personnel.

At Abiquiu, work consisted of trash collection, trail maintenance and plant landscaping. More than 90 volunteers gave 270 hours that added up to \$4,820 in volunteer savings.

At Santa Rosa, work focused on trash pickup on the shoreline and hiking trails. There were 37 volunteers who gave 148 volunteer hours valued at \$2,640 in labor savings.

At Conchas, 38 volunteers helped pick up trash for a total of 152 volunteer hours at a labor savings of \$2,710. More than 1.5 tons of shoreline trash, including scrap metal, was collected there.

At John Martin Reservioir, eight students from Las Animas Junior High Pure Gold team and five adults helped to clear endangered and threatened species nesting areas.

Biologist Duane Nelson gave a talk about how the work is vitally important for next year's breeding season.



Volunteers at Santa Rosa Lake collected trash on the lakeshore (above) and received certificates of appreciation (below) after giving 148 hours of their time to help cleanup the project site.





A few small-sized volunteers joined Corps employees at Abiquiu Lake. They may have been inspired to help when U.S. Cable Company ran free banners on their network promoting National Public Lands Day saying help was needed at Abiquiu.

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Two From District Graduate From Regional Program



A select group of South Pacific Division employees graduated Sept.15 from the year-long, Regional Leadership Development Program III which is aimed at developing leaders and continuously improving teams within the Corps. Biologist Michael Porter and Regulatory Project Manager Josh Carpenter (inset photos) from the District graduated with the group.

Unexploded Ordnance Awareness is Goal of Districts' Partnership

Personnel from the Los Angeles and Albuquerque Districts have been working together for three months on a public outreach and awareness program for unexploded ordnance, to include discarded or abandoned World War II military munitions used for ground and air training.

The Districts sponsored a booth Sept. 24 and 25 at an event in Whitten, Ariz., and offered the public plastic ordnance replicas, safety information and coloring books.

"Typically, the public is unaware of old bombing and gunnery ranges throughout the Southwest and the appropriate actions to take if finding ordnance," said Project Manager and Safety Specialist Sonny Franks. "The booth's message to people is to remember the 3 Rs: Recognize, Retreat and Report."



Examples of unexploded ordnance made safe.

This activity supports our Operations Plan: Action 7 (Execute the regional Military program and capitalize on Interagency and International Services opportunities, or IIS).

District Happenings

Corps Team Provides Expertise for Replacement Project

—Per interagency agreement with National Nuclear Security Administration

By Kristen Skopeck, Public Affairs

Based on an Interagency Agreement with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the District is executing a broad mission of engineering and construction related activities related to the Chemistry Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Project in Los Alamos, N.M.

The District's mission is to strive to ensure the best practices of design engineering, cost control, construction quality and safety are represented in the CMRR design and undertaken by construction contractors.

"The Corps employees are proud to support the CMRR project and the long-term viability of our nation's nuclear weapons posture," said District Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams. "As the Corps' role in this complex undertaking changes and matures, we will endeavor to respond with the depth, breadth and adaptability that now makes us an indispensible part of this project."

Working in support of the CMRR Federal Project Director, the District brings to the project extensive knowledge and expertise of building design engineering, radiological laboratory systems engineering, construction engineering, cost engineering, engineering and construction project management, construction safety, construction contracting, environmental assessments and other related expertise.

The core team of on-site experts hail from the Albuquerque District and includes Milo Gerber, Jason Woodruff, Bill Wadsworth, Glenn McMaken, Richard Kridler and Ragan Glandon. However, other districts like Huntsville, Portland, Walla-Walla and Mobile are providing support and expertise for the CMRR project.

"This multi-district support ensures the Corps provides excellent service to customers Rip Rap — October 2011 — Page 6



Pictured in Los Alamos are members of the District's on-site team: (left to right) William Wadsworth, Richard Kridler, Glenn McMaken, Jason Woodruff and Milo Gerber. Not shown is Ragan Glandon.

and is referred to as the "One Door" policy," said Milo Gerber, IIS program manager. "In addition, specialty resources can be acquired when necessary because of the Corps' extensive list of contractors."

The Lab's mission and need for a CMRR

The Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) mission is to develop and apply science and technology to ensure the safety, security and reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent, to reduce global threats and to solve other emerging national security challenges.

The lab was originally established in 1943 as "Project Y" of the Manhattan Project in northern New Mexico, within what is now the incorporated county of Los Alamos. Project Y had a single national defense mission, to build the world's first nuclear weapon. After World War II ended, Project Y was designated a permanent research and development laboratory, the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. It was renamed LANL in the 1980s, when its

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mission was expanded from defense and related research and development to incorporate a wide variety of new assignments in support of federal and private sector programs.

LANL is now a multidisciplinary, multipurpose institution primarily focused on theoretical or experimental research and development.

Since the early 1950s, the NNSA and its predecessor sub-agencies (as part of the Department of Energy) have conducted analytical chemistry and materials characterization work in the Chemical and Metallurgy Research Building (CMR) at LANL. CMR supports various national security missions, to include: nuclear nonproliferation programs; the manufacturing, development and surveillance of pits (the fissile core of a nuclear warhead); life extension programs; dismantlement efforts; waste management; material recycle and recovery; and research.

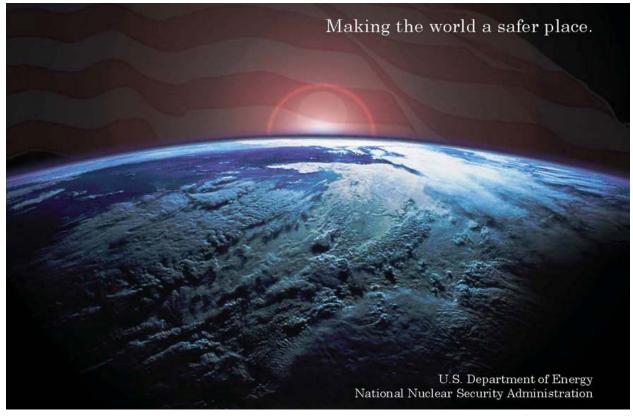
The existing CMR facility is almost 60 years old and near the end of its useful life. Many of its utility systems and structural components are aged, outmoded and deteriorated. Recent

geological studies identified a seismic fault trace located beneath two of the wings of the CMR, which raised concerns about the structural integrity of the facility.

Over the long term, NNSA cannot continue to operate the mission-critical CMR support capabilities in its existing CMR building while maintaining an acceptable level of risk to worker safety and health. NNSA has already taken steps to minimize the risks associated with continued operations at CMR.

To ensure that NNSA can fulfill its national security mission for the next 50 years in a safe, secure and environmentally sound manner, NNSA proposed in 2002 to construct a CMR replacement facility, known as the CMRR.

The Nuclear Facility (NF), the major facility within the CMRR complex, is currently in an interim design phase and will subsequently be constructed throughout an eight-year period. The NF structure will be significantly complete by 2020. The laboratory facilities, contained within, are expected to be operational by 2022.



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Small Business Goals are Big Priority for Corps

By Elizabeth Lockyear, Public Affairs

Albuquerque District continues to demonstrate its commitment to small business by exceeding its small business goals for fiscal year 2011, many by large margins.

Designed to allow small businesses the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in providing goods and services to the government, the Small Business Act requires all federal government agencies to meet governmentwide goals for government contracting.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) negotiates annual goals with each federal agency, reviews each agency's results and is responsible for ensuring that the statutory government-wide goals are met in the aggregate.

In the first quarter of every fiscal year, the SBA negotiates with the Army in setting annual Corps' nationwide goals. Previous success rates, growth of industry base, mission changes and new Small Business set asides are all considered when developing each year's goals. While the goals are the same for all Divisions, a District's goals may vary based on several factors, including mission, nature of projects, funding and the District's size and geographic location.

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Albuquerque District's fiscal year 2011 Small Business goals and outcome:

SB (Small business) – **35%** (60.56 % for \$180.9 million)

SDB (Small disadvantaged business) – **20%** (48.59 % for \$145.2 million)

WB (Women-owned business) – **5%** (23.41% for \$69.9 million)

SDVOB (Service-disabled veteran owned business) – **3%** (3.25 % for \$ 9.7 million)

HUBZone (refers to historically underutilized businesses) – **12%** (16.32 % for \$48.8 million)

HBCU/MI (historically Black Colleges and Universities / Minority Institutions) – **5%** (20% for \$86,000)

Albuquerque's fiscal year 2012 Small Business goals:

SB - 41%

SDB - 20%

WB - 10%

SDVOB - 3%

HUBZone – 10.75 %

HBCU/MI – 6.5%



Because meeting the goals is required under the Small Business Act, Daniel Curado, District small business deputy, said accomplishments in meeting the goals are highly visible by the Army's Chief of Small Business Programs, the Department of Defense Office of Small Business Programs, the SBA and "ultimately, the White House."

According to Curado, the District expects to meet all goals again for fiscal year 2012.



Daniel Curado

Scouting of Minnow Sites Helps Researchers Prepare

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs, and Michael Porter, Fisheries Biologist

When you tell a biologist that you want to get into the weeds of a project, be careful what you ask for! In late September, Michael Porter, District fisheries biologist, guided Bruce Moring, senior biologist, Ph.D., and Daniel K. Pearson, geographer, from the U.S. Geological Survey Texas Water Resources Center, on a visit to 15 sites on the Rio Grande.

They toured from Pena Blanca, N.M., to the Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in preparation for the USGS' mapping of silvery minnow mesohabitat.

Mesohabitat refers to middle-sized features such as riffles (steep, shallow water features), runs (deep flowing water) and pools that fish depend on for various activities. The habitats will be mapped to understand how these sites function for the silvery minnow while resting, feeding and spawning.

Most of these sites had been previously mapped by Fish and Wildlife Service, the Corps or the Bureau of Reclamation, but this recent visit was a planning trip to evaluate how difficult and reachable all the sites are. Many of the sites are lush with vegetation, and, though many were reachable, some required much work to get to the river. In fact, one was so "in the weeds" and unreachable the team decided to forego it in favor of another.

"We're here to do initial observations of these access points in order to reach habitat sites," Moring said. "This planning trip is essential in order for our team to get right to work when we return."

Equipment the team will bring with them may include machetes and all terrain vehicles.

Moring and Pearson will return with a sixmember team in November and December to map the habitat features during winter-flow conditions. Each of the selected sites is within



After viewing the silvery minnow sites, Daniel Pearson (top left), Michael Porter (in blue), and Bruce Moring (bottom left) had a better understanding of the equipment needed for an upcoming survey during winter-flow conditions.



the historic range of the silvery minnow.

The maps will provide valuable information for understanding different aspects of the life cycle of the silvery minnow. The previous study sites will provide comparisons about how the river has changed during the last 5 to 10 years and how these changes may have affected silvery minnow populations.

The USGS is currently conducting a similar study for the silvery minnow in Texas, since the fish was recently reintroduced into Big Bend National Park.

District Senior Counsel's Retirement from Military Bittersweet

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

On 27 Sept., the District's Senior Counsel Lt. Col. LeeAnn Summer retired from the Air Force after 20 years of active and reserve duty.

Summer began her service to the nation on active duty as an Air Battle Manager aboard the E-3 AWACS Aircraft. She then became a Judge Advocate and served in the positions of Chief of Claims, Chief of Military Justice and Chief of General Law. She left active service in 2000.

Summer began her reservist service as a Medical Law Consultant at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. She then moved to Bolling Air Force Base, Washington D.C., where she served as an Appellate Counsel in the Government Trial and Appellate Counsel Division. Her reserve career continued as she took assignments to Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., and Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. She retired as Assistant Staff Judge Advocate for the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

During her retirement ceremony, Summer said, "When I was commissioned out of Officer Training School, I couldn't imagine doing anything for 20 years, but it has been an amazing adventure *Rip Rap — October 2011 — Page 10*



Col. William Gampel, Staff Judge Advocate for the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, presided over the retirement ceremony for Lt. Col. LeeAnn Summer, Chief Legal Counsel for the Corps' Albuquerque District.

and very rewarding. I was able to meet incredible people along the way, and I'm glad to get a chance to thank them publicly at this ceremony."

Her family, including her husband, Major (Ret.) Jim Summer, her two sons, Sean and Dylan, and her parents attended the ceremony.

"I am so happy that my parents were able to attend, because my mom has always been my biggest cheerleader," she said. "She thinks that the things I have accomplished are amazing, but she is so tough that it isn't hard to see who I get it from."

During her retirement ceremony, Summer stated that she was glad to have gotten the opportunities that she did throughout her many years of serving the nation.

"Ending my military career is bittersweet, because I believe military service to be a higher calling and something that is extremely honorable," she said. "Whether it is directing fighter jets to escort Russian bombers through Alaskan airspace, or prosecuting courts-martial cases, I have been very lucky to do it with incredible people."

Focus on People



Employee Improves Health, Wellness With Program

By Joseph "Paul" Rebarchik, Design Branch Engineering Technician

I recently completed the seventh session evaluation of the President's Fitness Challenge (PFC) and continue to show improvement from the first session, which began July 15, 2009.

I have gone from a 17:54 minute walk during the first session to a 14:28 1 ½ mile run in the last session. Not competitive results, but for someone who really did not like running I have become more and more comfortable running and doing other activities.

On Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011, I achieved a goal that I have been striving to meet since I came down with diabetes. Unlike goals met during prior sessions of the PFC, this one was the biggest challenge I have made in my life, completing the Enchanted Circle Century (100 miles) Bike Tour. I don't believe I could have accomplished this activity without watching my diet and applying the self discipline necessary to accomplish such a long distance.

I contribute much of my recent physical challenges to the PFC program and trainer, Nancy Halpin, who has provided an excellent balance of exercise routines to work all areas of the body. I'm sure this helped keep me from experiencing many of the aches and pains that a 100 mile ride can present. Nancy also taught everyone in the first session the import-

ance of "habit," which I've taken to heart and incorporated in my daily routines, along with continued will power and the determination to be in the best physical shape of my life.

Looking back, I didn't really pay that close of attention to diet and exercise, until I was diagnosed with sugar diabetes in 2006. At that point, I knew I needed to completely change my lifestyle.

As recommended by physicians, I have since made efforts to maintain a daily log of the foods I eat and the exercise I perform. I also monitor the medications I'm taking, which I hope to eliminate someday.

It is the PFC program and other related physical activities which have helped me achieve a much more active lifestyle, and I challenge every employee to do the same.

I wish to thank Safety Specialist Jim Jaffe for his continued efforts in helping to administer the PFC and the other programs presented by Federal Occupational Health like "Lighten Up!" and "Steps to a Healthier You." It's these programs that bring to light the importance of exercising regularly and eating right. I also think it is great that District leadership recognizes and supports these functions.

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News Briefs—News Briefs—News Briefs—News Briefs

LDP II Class Selected for 2012

Congratulations to the Leadership Development Program II class members for 2012: Richard Buttz, Hildreth Cooper, Paul Cravens, Danielle Galloway, Robert Grimes, Amy Louise, Christopher Parrish, Grace Proctor, Denice Quinn, Amanda Tapia-Pittman and Karen Sill. Good luck!

Mentor Program

On Oct. 20, from 9 to 11 a.m., a kickoff meeting for the 2012 Mentor/Protégé program will take place in the District's main conference room.

—From page 2 — By the Numbers

Planning, Programs and Project Mgmt:

1 — The first regional volunteer for RIT assistance.

Readiness & Contingency Operations:

19 — Employees deployed for natural disasters.

75 — Number of local, state and federal agencies that attended a FEMA/FEB cofacilitated table top exercise.

7 — Number of international vendors who attended the Middle Rio Grande Flood Fight Workshop.

250 — Number of local/state emergency responders who attended the workshop.

9 — Number of employees deployed in support of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO).

4 — Number of brown bag lunches hosted by the Family Readiness Network (FRN) in support of our deployed team members.

Operations:

6 — Number of San Francisco Debris Removal team members who helped clear Cochiti Lake of debris.

100 tons — amount of debris removed at Cochiti.

156,593 acres burned in the Las Conchas Fire.

Combined Federal Campaign

The CFC campaign runs Sept. 20 to Dec. 15, and the District goal is \$30,000.

Employees wishing to contribute can fill out the form and return it to their area key worker. Employees keep the pink copy.

There are many organizations locally, nationally and worldwide that run on donations. Some of these agencies provide much needed services in the communities around the District. For instance, SAFE House works to shelter and empower survivors of domestic violence; Casa Esperanza works to provide a caring community to support and serve families facing cancer; Cuidado Los Ninos is building partnerships to end child homelessness in New Mexico; Operation Second Chance works with wounded, injured and ill combat veterans and their families;

Christina Kent early childhood center provides children of low-income families with quality childcare since 1919; and Special Orchestra helps children and adults with developmental challenges to share the joy of making music.

Whatever your conviction and passion may be, there is an organization that can use your financial support.

Find more information at: http://cnnmcfc.org/ or contact Grace Procter, District Coordinator, Jeannette Alderete, Asst. District Coordinator, or your division key worker for details.

Kev workers:

RM - Reva Teamer

RCO/A&A - Valerie Silva

CT - Madeline Livermore

EC - Lindsey Martinez

RD - Chris Parrish

PPMD - Doug Bailey

OPS - Amy Louise

RE - Francina Martinez

Someone submitted a comment to the intranet Comment Box suggesting we do more to enable people to learn about each other and what different people do. They said it would be neat to make a game out of it. So.....

