

Good Folks of South Mountain Village

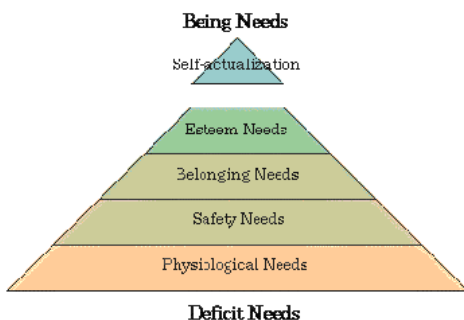
By George Young - gayoung@cox.net

This is a series of articles profiling some of the residents who live and work in the South Mountain/Laveen Village. In keeping with the original format of the Villager to only print the positive, we will attempt to acknowledge some of the great folks that have contributed so much to our lives and are hopefully role models for all of us .. Our profile this month is my friend Dr. Shirley Branham.



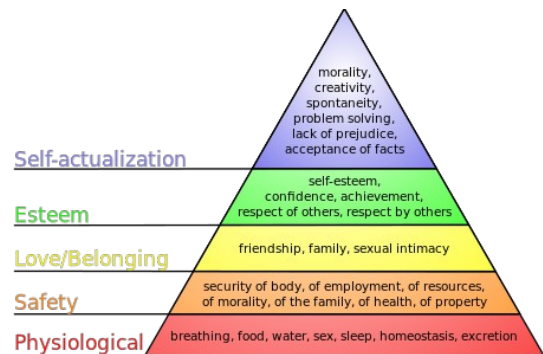
Dr. Branham opened Victory High School in to provide educational services for students who were unsuccessful in traditional educational settings. Dr. Branham wanted to provide nontraditional educational services that would allow students to receive VICTORY over: Ignorance, Illiteracy, Degradation, Social Ills, Drugs, Gangs, and Violence. She believed, that in the South Mountain Village, these were the main barriers to a successful education During her studies, Dr. Branham was introduced to a theorist named Abraham Maslow.

Maslow believed that individuals grow from satisfying a set of needs, beginning with basic needs such as air, water and food. He believed that when an individual satisfied one set of needs they automatically progressed to satisfy the next set of needs eventually becoming self actualized with the desire to help others.



This theory is called **Maslow's Hierarchy of needs**

After several years of hard work Dr. Branham received her Doctor of Education degree from Arizona State University. Using Maslow's theory, Dr. Branham inverted this theory to develop her own. She agreed that individuals needed basic needs like air, food and water to grow, she also conceded that a sense of safety, belonging and esteem were necessary, however she believes the first step to educational success is Self Actualization. Self-actualization includes, morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem solving, lack of prejudice, and acceptance of facts. Victory High School's mission is: "Prepare Students to Succeed in a Changing World." These are the skills needed to have VICTORY.



Victory High School was one of the first Charter schools in the South Mountain Village. Dr. Branham used her own land and money to build the school. Victory High School is in its 13th year of operation. She is the Principal of Victory High School, she maintains that an undisciplined student has an undisciplined mind and is unable to learn. Victory has a strict discipline policy, for this reason, many students find this rigorous zero tolerance environment challenging. While others find it exciting and complete their course of studies. The students, who accept the challenge and stay, ALWAYS become successful in their endeavors. You can reach Victory High School at (602) 243-7583.

God Bless Dr. Brenham and Victory High School and God Bless The South Mountain/Laveen Village and God Bless America.