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ARIZONA-SONORA  
**DESERT  
MUSEUM**

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For Immediate Release

DESERT MUSEUM & COMMUNITY FOOD BANK AWARDED  
POLLINATOR CONSERVATION GRANT  
Funding to Create Community & Urban Pollinator Gardens

Tucson, AZ (March 28, 2016) —Mariposas de la Milpa (Butterflies of the Farm), a partnership between the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, was awarded a grant to develop pollinator education programs and gardens. The partners will work together on community education: creating pollinator gardens in local schools and urban farms, and developing a youth biodiversity monitoring program at the Community Food Bank's Las Milpitas Community Farm, where many of the project's activities will take place.

The \$69,000 grant was awarded by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) under its North American Partnership for Environmental Community program (NAPECA). The CEC is a tri-national organization comprised of the heads of governmental environmental agencies in Canada, the United States and Mexico. Their NAPECA program supports healthy communities and ecosystems by encouraging activities that address climate change and the greening of these country's economies.

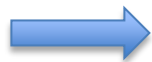
"The Desert Museum is honored to receive this CEC grant that supports the Museum's pollinator conservation research and education. This grant complements a new regional partnership to create Monarch butterfly habitats. We're looking forward to working with the Community Food Bank on this project," says Debra Colodner, Director of Conservation Education and Science at the Desert Museum.

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“These are vital grass roots projects that reflect the commitment of Canada, Mexico and the United States to support proposals from small, nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations across North America that are working closely with communities to improve their local environment,” said César Rafael Chávez, Executive Director of the CEC.

Robert Ojeda, Chief Programs Officer for the Community Food Bank adds: “We are deeply invested in feeding the hungry and providing opportunities for them to create better futures. With the support of this CEC grant, we will improve and expand programs that help build our client’s self-sufficiency and promote environmental stewardship.”

The Mariposas of the Milpa project was one of 500 projects submitted to the CEC for the NAPECA program. Twenty-one projects were awarded grants totaling \$1.3 million. More information on pollinator conservation projects at the Desert Museum can be [found here](#).



## ATTENTION LOCAL MEDIA

***For a tour of Las Milpitas Community Farm for photos and interviews with representatives from the Community Food Bank & the Desert Museum, please contact Lou Medran at 520-449-8340***

### ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

Recognized internationally for its conservation leadership and as a model for zoos and botanical gardens around the world, the Desert Museum is focused on fostering public appreciation, understanding and stewardship of the fragile ecosystems that comprise the Sonoran Desert. Each year 380,000 visitors are immersed into the Sonoran Desert experiencing animals, botanical gardens, an art gallery, educational activities, an aquarium, native cultures, and one of the world’s most comprehensive regional mineral collections along an easy two mile walking trail. Open every day. [Plan your next adventure now](#).

### COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Founded in 1976, the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona provides nutrition education, advocacy, and food for people in need throughout Southern Arizona including Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties. Las Milpitas Farm is our 7-acre urban farm, which serves a space for community members to grow food and to learn about the relationships between the environment, green spaces, food production, and food security. Our vision is a healthy, hunger-free community. The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona is a member of Feeding America.

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## COUNCIL OF THE COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

the CEC is an intergovernmental organization that supports the cooperative environmental agenda of Canada, Mexico and the United States to green North America's economy, address climate change by promoting a low-carbon economy, and protect its environment and the health of its citizens. The CEC is composed of three bodies: A Council, representing the governments of the three member countries, a Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) that advises the Council and serves as a liaison with the public, and a Secretariat that supports the Council and JPAC and prepares independent reports. The CEC brings together governments, civil society, and businesses to develop innovative North American solutions to global environmental challenges. Find out more at: [www.cec.org](http://www.cec.org).

The North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action NAPECA was created by the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) to support North American-wide environmental efforts through partnerships with a broad base of hands-on groups and organizations in communities throughout Canada, Mexico and the United States. The projects will play an important role in achieving the CEC's priorities by supporting healthy communities and ecosystems, encouraging activities that address climate change through the transition to a low-carbon economy, and advancing innovative projects that could assist in greening the economies of the three countries. For a complete list of projects see: <http://cec.org/news-and-outreach/press-releases/commission-environmental-cooperation-announces-community-grant-recipients>

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