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ADEQ Awards \$63,450 Brownfields Grant to Flagstaff School to Address Environmental Issues at Former Catholic Church

PHOENIX (Dec. 18, 2014) – A \$63,450 Brownfields grant has been awarded to the Pine Forest Education Association, Inc. for abatement of lead-based paint and asbestos issues at the former St. Pius X Catholic Church site in east Flagstaff, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today.

The association bought the vacant building, located at 2257 E. Cedar Ave., in October as part of the planned expansion of Pine Forest School (PFS) charter school. PFS plans to redevelop the old church and expand the K-8 curriculum for its more than 350 students. The additional space will allow expanded music and athletic programs along with collaborations with other schools and community events.

A Phase I environmental site assessment last year at the property indicated the need to abate both lead-based paint and asbestos before any renovations could be done at the former church.

“This is an excellent example of how our Brownfields program makes Arizona’s communities better,” said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. “In this case, a large benefit comes from a limited investment of money and will allow a well-respected, growing charter school to use the additional space it has acquired in a key area of east Flagstaff.”

A Brownfield is an abandoned or under-used property with an active redevelopment potential that suffers from known or perceived environmental contamination. ADEQ receives its Brownfields funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in order to assist local governments and nonprofits in addressing suspected contamination issues.

More information on Brownfields is available at:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/cleanup/brownfields.html>

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