



Making our community a better place to live, to grow up, and to grow older

www.ourfamilyservices.org

(520) 323-1708

Fall 2016

Arizona Charitable Tax Credit

No one likes paying taxes. Luckily, in Arizona you can direct the taxes you pay toward charities that meet certain qualifications, such as a primary mission of serving the working poor.

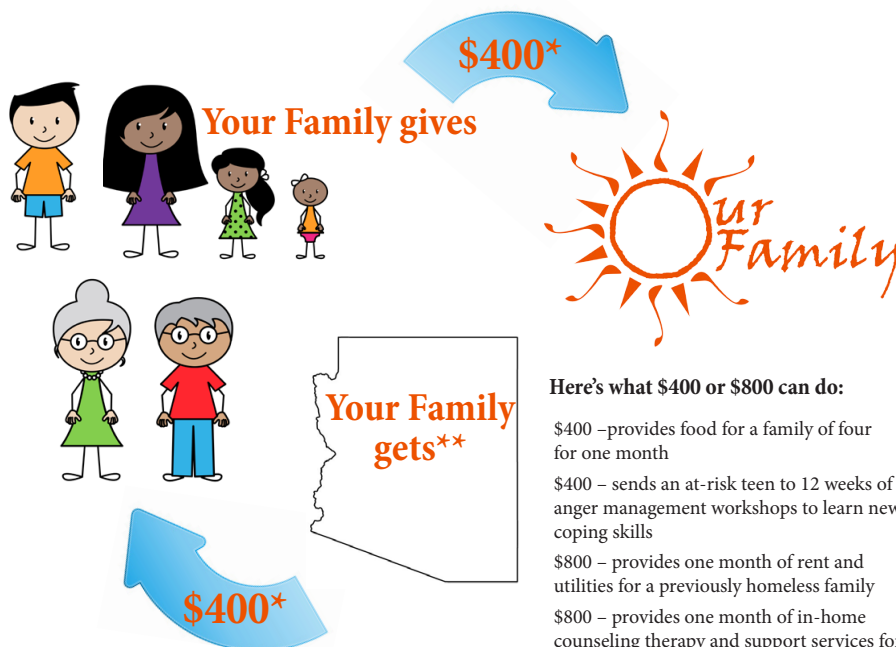
Our Family Services qualifies as a Working Poor charity. In 2016, for every dollar you donate up to \$400 (or \$800 for couples filing jointly), you will pay a dollar less of the taxes you owe the State of Arizona.

That is a dollar for dollar credit, which means that you are directing your tax dollars to the charity of your choice! This is different than a deduction, which reduces your taxable income.

And there is even more good news in 2016:

- 1.) The eligible amount doubled, up to \$400 for individuals and \$800 for couples filing jointly.
- 2.) The Working Poor credit can be used in addition to the Foster Care credit. You can take advantage of both!
- 3.) Donations made between January 2016 and April 2017 are eligible for the 2016 tax credit.

Redirect Your Tax Dollars



Here's what \$400 or \$800 can do:

- \$400 – provides food for a family of four for one month
- \$400 – sends an at-risk teen to 12 weeks of anger management workshops to learn new coping skills
- \$800 – provides one month of rent and utilities for a previously homeless family
- \$800 – provides one month of in-home counseling therapy and support services for an isolated elder

There is no reason **NOT** to give to families in crisis this season!

Thank you for your generosity and do not hesitate to contact Emily at 520-323-1708 ext. 425 or ebrott@ourfamilyservices.org with questions.

Please consult your tax advisor for additional information specific to your situation.

*** Contributions of any amount are helpful and appreciated. \$400 and \$800 are maximums per the State of Arizona.**

**** The amount you donate, up to these limits will be deducted from the tax liability you owe the state, or added to your state refund if you don't owe taxes this year.**

Beth's Corner



It is hard to believe that December is the fourth month that I have been at Our Family! The time is flying by and each day I feel a bit more versed in our programs and services. The team at Our Family has been wonderful to work with and extremely helpful. It has been energizing to get out and meet with our community partners and donors, each having wonderful stories to tell and positive comments to make about our work. If this is a honeymoon, I never want it to end!

We are pleased to announce that Joan Hubele, who had been serving as the Interim Finance and Assets Director for the past several months, officially joined our team in October. Joan quickly became a great asset to Our Family as she brings with her a wealth of experience in the world of nonprofit finance.

Our annual Pictures of Hope project kicked off in October with 13 children and teens participating this year. Each youth was paired with a mentor and went out into the community to photograph moments and scenes that express their hopes and dreams. Each child had one of their photos made into a greeting card and due to the generosity of sponsor *skinnytees*, 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the cards benefit Our Family Services (\$20 per pack). The Pictures of Hope cards are fantastic for the holidays, but can also be used year round. Purchase yours today at: www.ourfamilyservices.org/events.html!

As 2016 draws to a close, I would like to thank each of you for your contributions to Our Family. We are grateful for your involvement, your interest, your input and your investment. We absolutely could not do the important work we do without you. With your help, we are changing and saving lives in Tucson and Southern Arizona. **Happy Holidays from Our Family to yours.**

With thanks,

Beth L. Morrison
Chief Executive Officer

AMCF El Tour riders raise \$15k



On November 19th, sixteen people participated in El Tour de Tucson on behalf of Our Family. While each person had different levels of experience and rode varying distances, they were all pedaling for one reason – to raise funds for youth, families and elders at Our Family. The group came together through Arizona Multihousing Charitable Foundation's (AMCF) Big Hearts Committee, who have raised more than \$234,000 for Our Family since 2006 and have changed countless lives along the way. This is the third year the group has put together an El Tour team to fundraise for our programs. The riders, along with 15 generous corporate sponsors brought in \$15,000 this year!

That's nearly \$20 PER MILE!



"As co-chair of the team, I encouraged not only experienced cyclists, but also those new to riding to join in on the fun. People were very happy that the money raised by riders and business sponsors would stay right here in Southern Arizona. It was a beautiful day for a ride, and we enjoyed seeing all our team members at the finish line with their medals," said Laurie Niemiec of the AMCF Big Hearts Committee.

A special thank you to the donors, sponsors and each of the riders for making this success possible. If you would like to ride with Our Family Services in the 2017 El Tour de Tucson, contact Sam at 520 323-1708 ext. 416.

Our Family's Senior Leadership

Beth Morrison, Chief Executive Officer
Lisa Reams, Senior Director
Emily Brott, Development Director
Joan Hubele, Finance & Assets Director
Laurie Mazerbo, Dir. of Housing & Homeless Services

Board of Directors

Michael Beals, Rachel Chanes, Joseph Chimienti,
Larry Cochran, Abigail Cota, Peter DeLuca,
Geneva Escobedo, Jessica Hayes, Hazel Heinzer,
Scott Koenig, Kay Nelson, Stella Rivera-Varela,
JC Rivers, Ann Ventola

It's Poinsettia Season



Order your poinsettias today!

Decorate your home, office, and place of worship with beautiful, locally grown poinsettias! This holiday season, when you purchase your poinsettias through Green Things, a portion of your sale* will go to Our Family Services.

Support youth,
elders, and families while
supporting local business

6" - \$9.99
8" - \$29.99
10" - \$39.99

Available in red, white, pink and more!

Please contact Green
Things for delivery rates for
orders of less than 30

Now accepting pre-orders at (520) 299-9471 and www.greenthingsaz.com
Or purchase your poinsettias in person at 3235 E. Allen Road, 85718



Green Things

*Not valid on wholesale orders

For more information, visit www.ourfamilyservices.org

Thank you for supporting Our Family Services!

A Season of Sharing...



Bank of America Charitable Foundation



Tucson Electric Power



Sundt Foundation

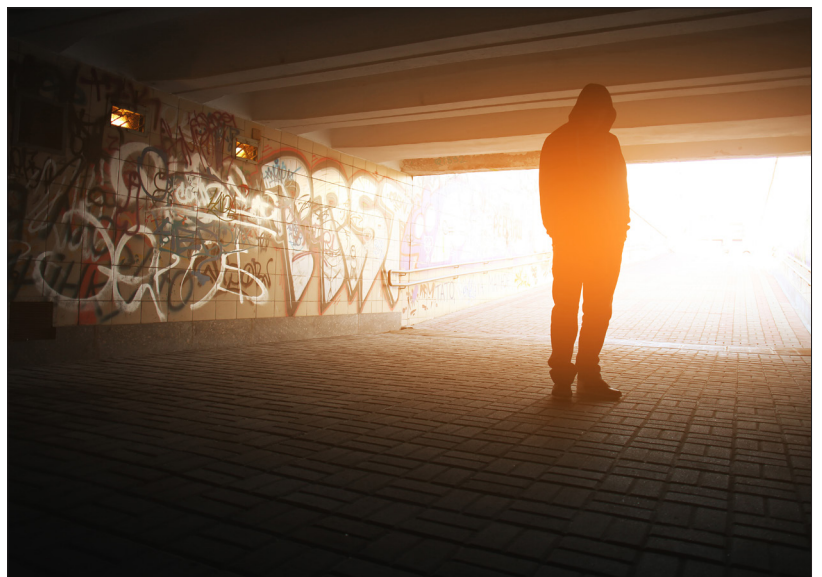
Thanks to our corporate partners who have generously provided grants to Our Family this holiday season: Desert Diamond Casino, Home Depot Foundation, Long Realty Cares Foundation, MOD Pizza, PICOR Charitable Foundation, QuikTrip, and Walmart!

Increased Funding = More Youth Connected to Vital Services

Pima County has long had the highest rate of homelessness in the state of Arizona. Over 500 kids and young adults are likely homeless on any given night in Pima County, while more than 3,000 teenagers run away in Tucson each year. Many of these youth have experienced abuse, neglect, or unbearable home lives. Tragically, over a third of the runaway and homeless youth we serve at Our Family have been trafficked or sexually exploited while homeless. Many entered the sex trade as young as 15.

This year, Our Family Services is proud and honored to have been awarded federal funding to significantly expand our youth Street Outreach and Human Trafficking programs. Our Family provides a critical niche in Tucson by proactively seeking out kids on the street and allowing them to build trust with our outreach staff at their own pace. Many homeless youth are actively hiding from institutionalized care. For this reason, Our Family's approach focuses on providing emergency support and relationships with safe and trusted adults. That can be lifesaving for a child facing a deadly situation in the middle of the night.

This year, Our Family's Street Outreach program will make 1,800 street contacts and serve 300 runaway and homeless youth in Pima County. We will also be able to dedicate a full-time case manager to provide extra services to youth who are survivors of sex and labor trafficking.



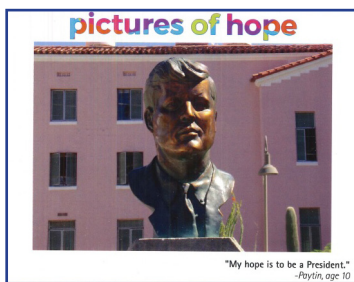
Sources: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Point in Time Count, 2015; Tucson Police Department website, – accessed June 13, 2016; and Youth Experiences Survey, ASU, Tumbleweed, one-n-ten, Our Family Services, 2015.



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**Pictures of Hope cards
now available for sale at:
www.ourfamilyservices.org**

Our Family publishes this newsletter three times a year. If you no longer wish to receive it, please let us know.

7th Annual Gather the Elders Conference

Save the Date!



7th Annual

Gather the Elders Conference

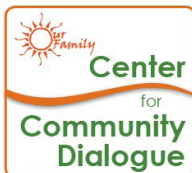
.... Continuing the Wisdom Journey

Mark your calendar now!

Friday, January 27, 2017

8:30a.m. to noon

YWCA: 525 N. Bonita Avenue



For more information contact:

Chris at 520.323.1708 x122 or

cmcdvescek@ourfamilyservices.org

Gather the Elders is sponsored by the Elder Circles Project at the Center for Community Dialogue, a program of Our Family Services.

Mark your calendars for the 7th Annual Gather the Elders Conference! Discerning our strengths and opportunities will be the focus of this year's conference. Keynote speaker Dr. Marilyn Heins, three distinguished panelists, and participants working in small circles will individually and collectively consider how the themes of "attention, affection, and acceptance," and "connection, compassion, and curiosity," can provide support and guidance on the Wisdom Journey. Music, movement, nature photography, and exploration activities round out the program.

A long-time Tucsonan and author, Dr. Heins was Vice Dean and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. She will speak about what it means for us to be "Immigrants in the Land of Geriatria."

For more information or to register, please visit: <http://www.ourfamilyservices.org/programs/center/gathertheelders.html>