



# Housing Upswing over the Holidays

Imagine being a single parent who has lost his job after a serious injury. Imagine telling your daughter that you are now going to be homeless without that income and that she will have to live with family while you prepare to move into a homeless shelter. Imagine living in a shelter, attending physical therapy, dealing with pain, and looking for a job, while being separated from your child. This was the reality of a local family. And thankfully, due to your support and a grant from the Arizona Department of Housing, this family has been reunited and has reached stable housing.

Each night, it is estimated that an average of 180 Tucsonans experience homelessness, the highest per capita rate of homelessness in the state.<sup>1</sup> In Pima County, 1 in 5 residents live in poverty<sup>2</sup> and the Tucson metro area has the fifth highest rate of concentrated family poverty in the nation.<sup>3</sup> These are not numbers to be proud of.

And yet with this grant, with community partners like Primavera, and with your personal donations, we can be proud of some amazing progress. In the past three months, Our Family Services has housed 33 families, including 64 children - families that found a home before



the holidays and have shelter from our cold winter nights.

Imagine what it must have been like for our family above, to have woken up on Christmas morning, together and at home. With a few months of assistance, this parent was able to regain his health, find employment in his field, and achieve his goal of financial self-sufficiency. He and his daughter have exited the program with an income that has allowed them to maintain their apartment, for the daughter to remain in her current school, and even to begin a savings account.

This spring, Our Family will participate in several advocacy

days at the Capitol, meeting with legislators and carrying our message of homelessness advocacy for our community. As we prepare for these meetings, we'd love to hear from you – what message would you like us to bring to our elected officials? Please email me directly at [bmorrison@ourfamilyservices.org](mailto:bmorrison@ourfamilyservices.org), and thanks for getting involved!

<sup>1</sup> Annual Report on Homelessness, AZ Department of Economic Security, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> MAP Dashboard – Poverty Rate, University of Arizona, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> US Concentrated Poverty in the Wake of the Great Recession, Brookings Institute, 2016.

## Beth's Corner



### Happy New Year!

With the recent passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, I have fielded many calls from you, our supporters, about the potential impact it may have on charitable giving.

About one-fifth of Our Family's budget comes from people just like you. Clearly, without the financial support of our donors, we would not be able to provide such comprehensive services.

Just like you, I am always happy when my personal philanthropy has a positive impact on my taxes, but this is not the sole driver in my decision to make contributions. It is likely that we both have a similar process in making our giving determinations – what issues am I most concerned about; what work is being done and by whom; and how much do I have to give? I look for organizations that make an impact and fuel my passion to make a difference.

Our Family Services is looking closely at these new tax rules, and planning for the possible impact. We are grateful for passionate donors like you who believe in our shared mission - to eliminate homelessness and strengthen our community.

I'd love to sit down with you and learn more about why you have selected Our Family to be a priority in your giving and how we can continue to build our relationship. It takes an entire community to make a difference in the lives of those who need us the most.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Morrison  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## Tucson Poverty Project

According to the most recent data released from the Census Bureau, an estimated 16% of Arizonans and a quarter of Arizona's children live in poverty. Poverty affects our community in many ways - from child development and access to higher education, to crime and difficulty accessing basic necessities like food, housing and healthcare.

We're grateful to have Dr. Brian Mayer, Associate Professor at the University of Arizona's School of Sociology, as the keynote speaker at this year's luncheon. Dr. Mayer will share his experience in heading up the Poverty Project, a student-led research project on the lived experience of poverty in Tucson. He will also speak about the intersection of poverty and homelessness, and how groups like Our Family are making a difference. Don't miss Our Family's Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at the Tucson Convention Center. Register at: [ourfamilyservices.org/springluncheon.html](http://ourfamilyservices.org/springluncheon.html)



## Double your Impact

Our Family Services is grateful for the support of **Buzz Petersen and Robbie Willingham**, who will **match dollar-for-dollar** new or increased gifts before April 1<sup>st</sup>. Gifts are eligible for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit. **Donate Today!**



### Our Family's Senior Leadership

**Beth Morrison**, Chief Executive Officer  
**Emily Brott**, Chief Development Officer  
**Joan Hubele**, Chief Financial Officer  
**Laurie Mazerbo**, Chief Program Officer

### Board of Directors

Michael Beals, Rachel Chanes, Joseph Chimienti,  
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# Jedi for Our Family



Photo left: Board member Hazel Heinzer with husband Cristoph, William Cronin and Nick Piccolo. Photo right: Nick Piccolo and Diana Olivas.

This winter, many people and businesses went above and beyond to create a happy holiday season for the teens, families and children we serve. Due to your generosity, we received an abundance of gift cards, food, hygiene items, new bedding and toys for our clients.

Friends of Our Family also hosted fundraising

events on our behalf. Thank you to Nick Piccolo, Diana Olivas and William Cronin for their creative fundraiser—"Jedi for Our Family" which raised over \$1,000. The fundraiser included a screening of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" at Roadhouse Cinemas, a costume contest, raffle and a toy drive. Thank you for your passion for doing good!

***A special thanks to the following foundations, clubs, and businesses who donated or held fundraisers for Our Family last quarter.***



Aetna Volunteer Council  
Align Technology  
Angel Heart Pajama Project  
ARC/JAMS Foundation Initiative  
for Students and Youth  
Arizona Cardinals Charities  
Arizona Restaurant Supply  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Tucson  
Carl and Mabel E Shurtz  
Foundation  
Connie Hillman Family Foundation

CrossFit Factotum  
Danish Club of Tucson  
Desert Diamond Casinos and  
Entertainment  
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Long Realty Cares Foundation  
Mercy Care Plan  
Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care  
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Phoenix Suns Charities

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Foundation  
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Lions Club  
United Way of Tucson  
& Southern Arizona  
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*Our Family Services publishes this newsletter three times a year. If you no longer wish to receive it, please let us know.*



To all of you who included Our Family in your giving last year, we are truly thankful! Together, through personal gifts and community grants we raised over \$1,000,000 to make our community a better place to live, to grow up, and to grow older. Check out our Annual Report at: [ourfamilyservices.org/reports.html](http://ourfamilyservices.org/reports.html).

We are deeply grateful to all of you for your commitment and your support of our community's most vulnerable. Thank you.

# Help



## help your family!



**You can change someone's life with the tax credit dollars you already pay in Arizona.**

The first \$400 dollars of your gift, or \$800 for joint filers, can be deducted from your state tax liability.

**Every dollar makes a difference.** Every person matters. Every life can be extraordinary.

**DONATE TODAY!**  
[ourfamilyservices.org](http://ourfamilyservices.org)