



ourfamilyservices

Newsletter

ourfamilyservices.org | (520) 323-1708 | **Summer 2018**

National Safe Place Partnership Makes a Stronger Community

Imagine being told by your family that you have to leave home – that they can't afford to take care of you anymore. Or running away because the streets seem safer than the abuse. Or being kicked out for being LGBTQ. Maybe your parents went to jail and there's no one to take care of you. You are completely alone in the world.

These are some of the real-life experiences of the hundreds of teens who take advantage of the National Safe Place Program every year. "Safe Places" are venues where young people can show up to access emergency housing if they can't go home for whatever reason. Businesses like gas stations, banks, libraries, retail venues, restaurants, and non-profits can all register as Safe Places. We are so grateful for our community partners who have stepped up to this service and we are actively recruiting new partners.

What does it look like?

When a teen stops at your business or non-profit, as a community Safe Place, your staff will have been trained to make the teen feel welcome, and then call Our Family Services' Reunion House, the only shelter for runaway and homeless teenagers in Southern Arizona.



Our team will show up within 30 minutes. Last year, Reunion House provided a temporary home to over 250 teens in crisis.

QuikTrip gas stations, comprise about two thirds of the Safe Place locations scattered across Tucson - and these are particularly helpful as they are open 24-hours. But 9-5 non-profit and business partners are just as important – as places with which youth may already be acquainted and familiar in their daily lives. We are grateful to our newest Safe Place partner, Aviva Children's Services, who signed up earlier this year.

Could your business be a good fit?

Please consider joining the ranks of this important service – call (520) 320-5122 for more information about how to get involved.



Celebrating our newest Safe Place partner Aviva Children's Services.

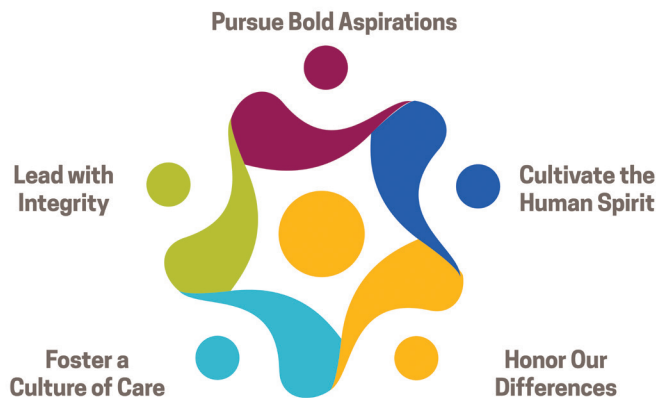


Beth's Corner



Vibrant. Energetic. Moving Forward. Engaging. Inclusive. When I shared Our Family's new branding with some friends, these words instantly came to mind for them. I smiled because this was exactly what we hoped to achieve. And the logo we

gravitated toward under the guidance of our friends at LP&G Marketing had 5 components that correspond perfectly with our 5 agency values. A sign perhaps?



Pursue Bold Aspirations.

Cultivate the Human Spirit.

Honor Our Differences.

Foster a Culture of Care.

Lead with Integrity.

More than words on a piece of paper and more than a visual representation, Our Family is committed to living these values every day. Imagine what our community will look like if we are propelled into further action – we can be an unstoppable force! Please check our brand new website ourfamilyservices.org for more detail about how these values translate into our work.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Morrison,
Chief Executive Officer

THANK YOU!



We are grateful to St. Mark's United Methodist Church for donating Mother's Day bags for our homeless moms and laundry detergent for Reunion House.

A special thanks to the following foundations, clubs, and businesses who donated or held fundraisers for Our Family from January through April 2018.

A Senior Journey
Adobe Dentistry
Arizona Cardinals
Charities Fund
Arizona Multihousing
Association - Big Hearts
Big Lots Foundation
Dependable Health
Services
Desert Diamond Casinos
& Entertainment
Distinctive Carpets, Inc.
Foothills Club of Tucson
Green Things
Hoeliein McMickell
Family Foundation
Knisely Family Foundation
KXCI Community Radio
Laura Tanzer Designs
Long Realty Cares
Foundation
Nordstrom Charitable
Giving
Pima County Attorney's
Office
QuikTrip Corporation
Sabino Smiles
Santa Cruz Community
Foundation Grants Fund
Scripps Media

Son Property Management
Southern Arizona Land
Trust, Inc.
St. Frances Cabrini Parish
St. Francis in the Valley
Episcopal Church
St. John on the Desert
Presbyterian Church
St. Mark's United
Methodist Church
Stone Canyon Community
Foundation
Sunbelt Medical
Management, LLC
The Lake Investment
Group, LLC
Thompson Accounting
Company, PLLC
Thunderbird School of
Global Management E24
Tucson Realtors Charitable
Foundation
Visiting Angels
Walmart Store #3377
Walmart Store #4603
Watermark Retirement
Communities
Women's Foundation of
Southern Arizona
Wells Fargo Foundation

Remembering Sweet Samantha

Samantha Jo Cravens was a singular individual – a rising star in this community. Tragically, Samantha was killed by a red-light runner on April 26 after having just turned 29. In her short life, Samantha overcame countless obstacles to devote her personal and professional life to serving others. She had a quick smile. She was curious. She was joyful, and she was thoughtful.

At just 18, Samantha was named “Tucson Youth of the Year” by the Boys & Girls Clubs, and was featured by the Arizona Daily Star as a young person of great promise. Samantha was the youngest person to have served as a Lions Cabinet Secretary in Arizona. By age 27, she had already won Tucson’s prestigious 40 under 40 award.

We at Our Family were blessed to have known and loved Samantha during her five years here. She had just secured her dream job at Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson weeks before the tragedy. We are better people for having known her, and we are crushed at her loss and her family’s loss. We will never forget Samantha Jo Cravens and the impact she made on our community.



We Met Our Match!

Thanks to all of those who gave on Arizona Gives Day, our fabulous Spring Luncheon sponsors and donors and to Buzz Petersen & Robbie Willingham for their generous matching gift. In total, we raised more than \$130,000! We extend a special thanks to the Thunderbird School of Global Management “E24” Class for contributions totaling \$12,000. For every dollar it takes for us to provide a home and support to our clients, we only receive 79 cents in government funding. We must raise the rest from you - our friends



Robbie Willingham & Buzz Petersen

and supporters. This \$130,000 could fill gaps to house 400 people. Amazing!!

The closing component of this tremendous campaign was Our Family’s 2018 Spring Luncheon. Joining us as Keynote speaker was Dr. Brian Mayer, an Associate Professor at the University of Arizona, who shared that housing resources are a key gap in our community’s response to poverty.



*Corporate Partner of the Year:
Tucson Electric Power*

We also heard from Oceana, a young mother who surmounted challenges of addiction and found a home for herself and her children through Our Family. Thanks to the support she received, Oceana has turned her life around and is pursuing her dream to be a cosmetologist and to continue being a positive role model for her children. In addition we honored Melissa Suba of Sabino Smiles as Volunteer of the Year and TEP as Corporate Partner of the Year.

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

Our Family’s Board of Directors

Michael Beals, Rachel Chánes, Joseph Chimienti,
Peter DeLuca, Geneva Escobedo, Jessica Hayes,
Hazel Heinzer, Kay Nelson, Stella Rivera-Varela,
JC Rivers, Ann Ventola, Jason Zeider

Change service requested

Thank you!



For featuring Our Family as your
April 2018 Give Local Tucson
Award Recipient.

With your help we are making our
community a better place to live,
to grow up and to grow older.



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

Are you ready to take the next step toward a more peaceful you?

Hundreds of Southern Arizonans have taken Nonviolent Communication (NVC) trainings to improve their ability to listen with empathy and speak with clarity.

If you're ready to refresh and deepen your NVC skills, check out these opportunities from the Center for Community Dialogue and Training, and internationally recognized NVC instructor Sylvia Haskvitz.

Intermediate NVC, Aug. 4, 9 am – 4 pm, \$85.
Continue to explore and deepen NVC skills and awareness. **Prerequisite:** 4 hours of NVC training.

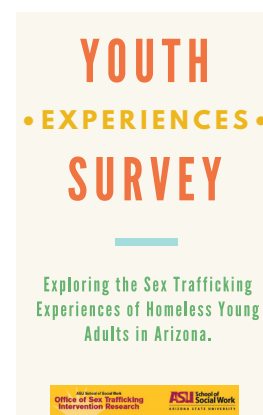
Advanced NVC, Sept. 29, 9 am – 4 pm, \$85.
Deepen your understanding of triggers, the dynamics of grief, giving and receiving feedback, and more. **Prerequisite:** 12 hours of NVC training.

Visit: ourfamilyservices.org/training -or-
Contact: Chris Medvescek (520) 323-1708 x 122,
cmmedvescek@ourfamilyservices.org

Sign up today!

YES Survey Human Trafficking Results

Our Family Services is a key partner in the Youth Experiences Survey, administered by the Arizona State University School of Social Work. The study



investigates sex and labor trafficking among homeless and runaway young people. Key findings include: the average age of sex trafficking first occurs at 16 years old; among homeless youth who were labor trafficked, over one-third experienced the trafficking as minors; and homeless youth who experienced sex trafficking were more likely to have come from abusive

households, to experience serious mental health challenges, and were at a greater risk among their peers to suffer from addiction. Our Family Services is working tirelessly to support survivors of human trafficking – find out more at ourfamilyservices.org.