



ourfamilyservices

Newsletter

ourfamilyservices.org | (520) 323-1708 | **Summer 2019**

Celebrating the Center's 40th Anniversary

In 1979, as the nation healed from war and political upheaval, our little desert city decided to take a practical step toward peace. The Community Mediation Project was launched with the goal of providing Tucsonans with a safe, respectful, accessible process for talking through conflicts and reaching win-win agreements. In the intervening 40 years — thanks to countless skilled neutral volunteer mediators — this goal has been achieved thousands of times, by neighbors, family members, co-workers, business partners, students, teachers, and others, in disputes ranging from noisy barking dogs to the leadership of organizations.

Following the shooting of Congresswoman Gabby Giffords in 2011, the project joined forces with Tucsonans for Civility to create the Center for Community Dialogue. While still providing free and low-cost mediation, the Center and its volunteers expanded the usage of civil dialogue as a conflict resolution tool in our community. Through Community Forums, large groups of people have their opinions heard, listen to others, and move toward



consensus on difficult topics. In facilitated Circle discussions, people of all ages and perspective make connections and share ideas. The Center's highly rated trainings place these tools in the hands of others and increase their skill in using them.

This fall we have an abundance of reasons to celebrate, and want to share our vision for the future with those who have shared their time and support in the past. In September we will have a celebration unveiling our new expanded location on the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona Campus.

Additionally, on October 20, join us at the Loft Cinema for an exclusive experience combining the thought-provoking film "The Insult" and community dialogue circles addressing causes of violence in our community. Finally, check out our schedule of enriching fall trainings available at ourfamilyservices.org/training.

As we look to the next 40 years of the Center, we see a bright future full of opportunities for growth and ways to apply our practices to new audiences. Our mission is unique in Arizona and rare in the nation. After 40 years, we're proud to say our desert city continues to take big steps for peace!

Youth Experience Survey Shines Light on Realities of Homelessness

Since 2014, Our Family Services has been a partner in the Youth Experience Survey, a project of the ASU Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research. This study focuses on how the life experiences

of Arizona's homeless young adults increase their risk for experiencing human trafficking. Staff from Our Family Services and other homeless serving organizations distribute a survey to young adults

to paint a picture of their homeless experiences, health history, and the risks they face as well as the ways they are protected. Because this project is in its fifth year, researchers

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Beth's Corner



Happy New Year!

In the nonprofit sector, many of us close out our fiscal year on June 30th. At Our Family, we are now looking back and forward all at the same

time. As we celebrate our accomplishments in FY19, we thank you for being our partner in making it possible for us to serve 6,500+ individuals! Did you know that on an average night we house 250 adults and children? You make all of that happen – each and every night!

A few accomplishments from FY19:

- The completion of a large national benchmarking project, looking at how the homeless services of Our Family compare to others across the country.
- With increased funding, we successfully expanded the reach of our Rapid Rehousing Program.
- Addition of a new 4-part curriculum on communication and conflict resolution, aimed at emerging leaders, in the Center for Community Dialogue and Training.
- Successfully raised \$100,000 to pay off the solar panels at our Reunion House shelter!

Over the next several newsletters, you will learn more about where we are headed in our new year, staying true to our mission to eliminate homelessness and strengthen our community. We are excited about 2020 and what it has in store for us.

Thank you to our donors and supporters for allowing us to serve the community!

Sincerely,

Beth L. Morrison,
Chief Executive Officer

THANK YOU!

A special thanks to the following foundations, clubs, and businesses who donated or held fundraisers for Our Family from January through June 2019.

- | | |
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| 2Propel Fund held at the
Community Foundation for
Southern Arizona | O'Rielly Family Foundation |
| AmazonSmile Foundation | Pima Dermatology |
| Arizona Diamondbacks
Foundation | Primavera Foundation |
| Arizona Multihousing
Association | QuikTrip Corporation |
| Arizona Picture & Framing
Gallery | Southern Arizona Land
Trust, LLC |
| Bank of America Charitable
Foundation | Southwest Gas Corporation |
| Barker Contracting | St. Francis in the Valley
Episcopal Church |
| Bashas' | St. John on the Desert
Presbyterian Church |
| BMO Wealth Management | St. Thomas the Apostle Church |
| Casas Adobes Congregational
Church | Stone Canyon Community
Foundation Fund held at
the Community Foundation
for Southern Arizona |
| Community Foundation for
Southern Arizona | Texas Instruments Foundation |
| Connie Hillman Family
Foundation | The Conway Bennett Fund
held at the Community
Foundation Boulder County |
| DeConcini McDonald Yetwin
& Lacy | The Lake Investment
Group, LLC |
| Distinctive Carpets, Inc. | TJX Foundation |
| Fred and Christine Armstrong
Foundation | Tortolita Presbyterian Church |
| Grace Temple Missionary
Baptist Church | Tucson Appliance
Company, LLC |
| Green Things | Tucson Electric Power Company |
| In-N-Out Burger Foundation | Tucson Federal Credit Union |
| Jay Rochlin | United Way of Tucson and
Southern Arizona |
| Jewish Community Foundation
of Southern Arizona | Unity of Tucson |
| Jewish Federation of
Southern Arizona | Watermark Retirement
Communities |
| Keegan, Linscott, Kenon, PC | Wines for Humanity |
| KGUN 9 - E.W. SCRIPPS | Wist Business Supplies |
| Kitay Family Foundation | Women's Foundation of
Southern Arizona |
| Kittle Design and Construction | Youth on Their Own |
| Kroger | William and Doris Rubin
Endowment Fund held at the
Jewish Community Foundation
of Southern Arizona |
| LGBTQ+Alliance Fund held
at Community Foundation
for Southern Arizona | Marilyn Haas Community
Youth Fund held at the
Jewish Community Foundation
of Southern Arizona |
| Long Realty Cares Foundation | Zuckerman Family Fund held
at the Jewish Community
Foundation of Southern Arizona |
| Lovitt & Touche, Inc. | |
| Mamas' Got Funk | |
| National Bank of Arizona | |
| NPS Merchant Services | |
| Oak Tree Foundation | |

YOUTH • EXPERIENCES • SURVEY

Exploring the Sex Trafficking
Experiences of Homeless Young
Adults in Arizona.



Youth Experience Survey

Continued from page 1

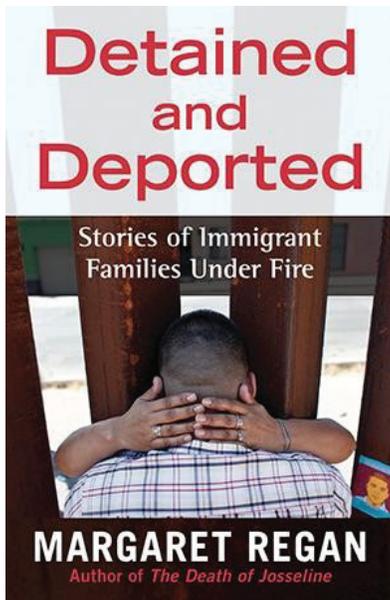
can track notable trends and make recommendations about how to best serve this vulnerable population. Some of the key findings include:

- The average age of participants' first homeless experience was 16 years old.
- Over one third of participants experienced sex trafficking exploitation and nearly one third experienced labor exploitation.
- Youth who were sex trafficked

were significantly more likely to have come from abusive households, to experience significant mental health challenges, to engage in self-harming behaviors, and to become victims of dating violence.

These sobering statistics are used to inform our approach so that we are serving the complex needs of homeless youth who have been trafficked to the highest possible standards. Additionally, information like this highlights the need for increased funding and support to organizations like Our Family Services, and redoubles our commitment to end homelessness and protect our most vulnerable neighbors.

Meet the Author at the Next Our Family Book Club Meeting



Detained and Deported: Stories of Immigrant Families Under Fire. There will also be time for discussion and Q&A with Margaret.

Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019 | 4 p.m. at 3830 E. Bellevue Street

Can't find the book? WE CAN HELP! An anonymous bookworm is donating 10 copies of each book club selection, starting with *Detained and Deported*, so that cost or long library waits are not a barrier to participate! We'd like to share this amazing gift with as many people as possible.

For more information or to RSVP please contact Sarah McNamara at smcnamara@ourfamilyservices.org or (520) 323-1708 x 416.

Join us for an exciting opportunity to hear local author Margaret Regan talk about her book,



Photo Voice Reception at Banner South Campus

Guests will see a selection from our Photo Voices Project, in which homeless mothers document the struggles and triumphs of raising their children while navigating housing instability.

Tuesday, August 20, 2019
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
2800 E Ajo Way - Lobby

Our Family's Senior Leadership

Beth Morrison, Chief Executive Officer
Joan Hubele, Chief Financial Officer
Laurie Mazerbo, Chief Program Officer

Our Family's Board of Directors

Michael Beals, Andrea Carmichael, Joseph Chimienti,
Whitney Clark, Larry Cochran, Peter DeLuca, Kathleen Dostalik,
Julian Easter, Geneva Escobedo, Jessica Hayes,
Hazel Heinzer, Ann Ventola, Jason Zeider



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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.

Southwest Gas Volunteers Gather to Help Homeless Youth

On a Saturday morning when many of us may have spent our time sleeping in or reading the newspaper, hundreds of Southwest Gas employees donated their time to help young people living on the streets. With a DJ in the background, games for the kids, and delicious food on the grill, Southwest Gas employees brought their families and friends and formed an assembly line putting together food packs for our Street Outreach team to distribute to homeless teens and young adults.

Youth living on the streets have a deep mistrust of adults and systems of care because their homelessness may have roots in trauma such as sex and labor trafficking, abuse, and exploitation. Our Street Outreach Team goes to places where homeless youth congregate, providing critical food and hygiene supplies. It may take several interactions, but when



our staff can build a bridge of trust with homeless youth it creates the critical link for them to enter one of our housing programs, empowering them to do things like get back in school, and go to work, ultimately paving the way to stability and permanency.

It is heartwarming to see families gathering together to provide food and supplies that help their neighbors in need. We are so grateful to our partners at Southwest Gas for supporting and uplifting the Tucson community. Thank you!



Ride in El Tour de Tucson with AMCF Big Hearts

Registration is now open to join the AMCF Big Hearts El Tour de Tucson Team. Funds raised benefit Our Family Services.

Learn more at:
facebook.com/bh4lhtucson