



ourfamilyservices

# Newsletter

ourfamilyservices.org | (520) 323-1708 | **Fall 2020**



## Our Family Services is officially home!

Our Family staff moved into the Leonard Banes Campus and a virtual grand opening was celebrated over Zoom on November 12th. The new \$2.3 million campus features 10,600 square feet of new offices, shared rooms for client and staff meetings, a large lobby and client intake spaces.

The new, trauma informed design includes natural light in an overall space that acknowledges that trauma exists and will actively work to create a safe space where the clients trauma is understood and not exacerbated. Private meeting rooms, a quiet room for individuals in crisis and a welcoming lobby all provide dignity and privacy to those we serve.

Nearly all of Our Family staff and programs are housed at the consolidated campus, thus creating a comprehensive suite of transformative

services designed to help lift under-resourced teens, families, and adults out of homelessness, offering them an unbroken path to stability.

Centrally-located, on the site of our former Alvernon office, the campus houses Our Family's vast array of housing services, case management, intake and referral, and counseling and therapeutic programs. The Center for Community Dialogue & Training will continue to operate at their suite on the Community Foundation Campus.

We are deeply grateful to all who gave a gift to our capital campaign and made the Leonard Banes Campus a reality, particularly the Connie Hillman Family Foundation for providing a \$150,000 challenge match which has helped us raise \$639,705 of our \$500,000 capital campaign.

While we are very thankful and excited to be settling into our new home, we are also exercising caution with increased safety measures as COVID cases continue to rise. These measures include hybrid work schedules with staff alternating days working in the office with days working from home to reduce the number of individuals in the building to half of our usual capacity. All staff and visitors to the building are required to wear a mask and we have set up hand sanitizing stations throughout the building. At this time all in-person meetings on the campus are by appointment only.

A recording of the virtual grand opening with a photo tour of the campus is available to view at: [https://youtu.be/EP\\_9XYwYREQ](https://youtu.be/EP_9XYwYREQ)

## Beth's Corner



In a year with what seems has more downs than ups, my heart is so full of gratitude. Reflecting back on 2020 as it thankfully is coming to a close, I can't imagine having

experienced this world without the support of so many – personal support for my own losses and challenges as well as all of the incredible support, from you, for the important work of Our Family Services.

This was a year when it was often hard to distinguish between our work needs and our personal needs, they all seemed to get blended together. I'm so proud of how our team at Our Family pulled together, flipped to our work from home model, served our clients and found ways to support each other through homeschooling, family illnesses, COVID illnesses, social injustice, and the stress of being quarantined.

I'm so grateful for the check in phone calls, emails, and notes from our supporters. Early on, many of you reach out and said, how can I help? And help you did with increased donations and in-kind donations of needed items for our clients. Many of you also heeded our call for advocacy, contacting elected officials and asking them to step up their funding and support.

I'm so grateful for our construction team of Barker Contracting and Seaver/Franks Architects for their dedication to getting it right and building us a forever home for Our Family Services. And, oh so, grateful for all the donors who made this dream a reality.

Thank you for making 2020 a much brighter year for all of us at Our Family Services. Because of you, we kept focused on our mission and reached an agency high of housing, on average, 445 people each night. You are Our Family.

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 June 1, 2020 through November 1, 2020.

AmazonSmile Foundation  
Anonymous  
Arizona Community Foundation  
Arizona Multihousing Association  
Casas Adobes Congregational Church  
Chimienti Law, PLLC  
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona  
Concepts: corporate suites + design  
Connie Hillman Family Foundation  
Crisis Response Network, Inc.  
Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment  
Duley Bolwar Pederson  
Eliot Spalding Foundation  
Fred and Christine Armstrong Foundation  
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Jewish Community Pandemic Relief Fund  
Jimmy John's on La Cholla  
Kautz Family Foundation  
Kittle Design and Construction  
Kroger/Fry's Community Rewards  
LGBTQ+ Alliance Fund held at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona  
Marshall Foundation  
Panel Processing  
Pima Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
QuikTrip Corporation  
Raytheon Employee Giving  
Smile Generation  
St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church  
St. John on the Desert Presbyterian Church  
State Employees Charitable Campaign  
The Jane Elise Hendricks Revocable Trust  
Tucson Association of Realtors Charitable Foundation  
Tulsa Community Foundation  
Youth on Their Own

**Our Family Services' 2020 Annual Report now available online!**

Visit:  
[ourfamilyservices.org/who-we-are](https://ourfamilyservices.org/who-we-are)



# Coming soon! Advocacy alerts in your inbox

If you have ever spent time around a child once they become verbal, you have experienced advocacy! Advocacy, as defined by the Alliance for Justice, is any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports, defends, or pleads on behalf of others. Can you picture a 10-year-old standing before you, stating their reasons of why they need a (fill in the blank)? At its purist and simplest form, we have all witnessed and we have all been an advocate.

Advocacy is not new to Our Family; our case managers do it every day for and with our clients. They advocate with an employer to better understand the transportation issues a client might have in getting

to work when the bus system isn't running; advocate with a landlord about a new fee; talk with a utility company to work out a payment plan, as just a few examples.

But now we need you, the supporters of Our Family, to join us in increasing our work in the advocacy arena, not on the individual level but on the macro level of systemic change. Throughout our history, we have frequently taken a stand in support of or opposition to a variety of legislative efforts, efforts that would have an impact on our mission and vision. Over the past few years, we have worked to develop a public policy platform and advocacy priorities. We are ready to step up

our own game in this space! In our current strategic plan, advocacy is highlighted as one of the areas we will be spending more time and effort. We recognize that the time is now to make change happen, if we are ever to realize our vision of a socially and economically just community where everyone has a safe, affordable and stable home.

Our next step and your role is simple – check your inbox and then take action! Advocacy alerts will soon be sent out to all Our Family supporters with an email on file. We have worked to make taking action as easy as possible for you. With newly purchased advocacy software, action can be as simple as a few clicks.



## Welcome David!

David Hagan has been selected as Our Family's new Chief Financial Officer.

David has an undergraduate degree in Accounting as well as a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Arizona. David has worked in the accounting and management field for 19 years in a variety of sectors and organizations, both for profit and non-profit including the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the University of Arizona, Arbor Education and Training, and Truly Nolen Inc. David moved from Iowa in 1988 to escape the cold winters and found a truly unique home in Tucson. David enjoys meditation, tai chi, hiking, and camping as well as spending time with his three young children.



## Gift cards and holiday meals needed

You can make this holiday season joyful for homeless families and youth by donating gift cards to Our Family Services. Gift cards from Target or Walmart allow families to buy exactly what their family needs or the perfect gift their child has been wishing for. We also have opportunities to sponsor holiday meals for teens at Reunion House Shelter.

**For more information please contact:**  
Janiene Samarripas (520) 323-1708 X 105  
[jsamarripas@ourfamilyservices.org](mailto:jsamarripas@ourfamilyservices.org)

### Our Family's Senior Leadership

**Beth Morrison**, Chief Executive Officer  
**David Hagan**, Chief Financial Officer  
**Laurie Mazerbo**, Chief Program Officer  
**Kimberly Yost Moyer**, Chief Development Officer

### Our Family's Board of Directors

Jorge Aguilar, Michael Beals, Andrea Carmichael, Melissa Cervantes, Joseph Chimienti, Larry Cochran, Peter DeLuca, Kathleen Dostalick, Julian Easter, Geneva Escobedo, Jessica Hayes, Angela Soliz, Hazel Heinzer, Ann Ventola, Jason Zeider



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**Change service requested**



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

# GIVING TUESDAY

## Mark Your Calendars!

*Giving Tuesday is December 1st.*

Each night we offer safe shelter and housing support for an average of 445 individuals. That's a 78% increase over the number of individuals we were able to serve last year and the need continues to grow!

On Giving Tuesday any gift made through the Our Family website will be MATCHED dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 by our generous supporters, Larry "Buzz" Petersen and Robbie Willingham!

Gifts made through Our Family's Facebook may potentially be TRIPLE matched! Facebook matching begins on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 8am Eastern Time. They'll continue matching qualifying donations to nonprofits until the \$7M match runs out.

### Can't wait until Giving Tuesday?

Donate today at [ourfamilyservices.org](http://ourfamilyservices.org) and under "I want to support" select Giving Tuesday from the drop down menu. Your gift will go towards our Giving Tuesday goal and will be matched.



This year at Our Family we have so much to be thankful for but, we are most especially thankful for **YOU!** Your generosity enabled us to house 445 individuals each night, build our new home, and continue to serve our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Happy Holidays From Our Family to yours!*