



ourfamilyservices

Newsletter

ourfamilyservices.org | (520) 323-1708 | **Winter 2021**

THANK YOU!

Starting 2021 with Gratitude

2020 was a year like no other, full of hardships, grief and discord, but also full of so much generosity and hope. It was amazing to see how many friends of Our Family stepped up and contributed more than ever before. Your generosity during this very difficult time is very deeply appreciated by all at Our Family and has made a huge impact on those we serve, particularly during the holiday season. We would like to extend a special thanks to the following foundations, clubs, and businesses who donated or held fundraisers for Our Family from November 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021.



Thanks to Paige and Al Hector the shelves in the new, expanded storage rooms at the Leonard Banes Campus are fully stocked with essential supplies for families making fresh starts.

ADP
AmazonSmile Foundation
Angel Heart Pajama Project
Atlantis Realty
Blue Canoe Marketing
Casas Adobes Congregational Church
Cox Business
Crisis Response Network, Inc.
David C. and Lura M. Lovell Foundation
Duley Bolwar Pederson
Elizabeth Read Taylor Foundation
Ellen Kaye
IBM Employees and Retirees
Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona
Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona

Kautz Family Foundation
Kittle Design and Construction
Knisely Family Foundation
Kroger/Fry's Community Rewards
L2 Foundation
Long Realty Cares Foundation
Mark's Ace Hardware
Mister Car Wash
O'Rielly Family Foundation
Old Pueblo Lodge #2349 Order Son/Daughters of Italy in America
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Pacific Office Automation
Period.org Tucson Chapter
PICOR Charitable Foundation
Pima Federal Credit Union
Raytheon Employee Giving
Red Point Development

Redyns Development
SC Cleaning Systems
Southwest Gas Corporation
St. John on the Desert Presbyterian Church
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Stocker Foundation
Texas Instruments Foundation
The Carl and Mabel E. Shurtz Foundation
The Jane Elise Hendricks Revocable Trust
United Way of Metro Chicago
United Way of Northern Arizona
United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
Western Alliance Bank
Whole Foods Market

Beth's Corner



January is both a starting point and a midpoint for Our Family, kicking off the New Year as we also reach the middle of our fiscal year. We stop, for a moment, and reflect on where we have been and where we are headed.

It is easy to look back and think of the hardness of the past 6 months but instead when I look in that rear view mirror what I see is – hard work, tenacity, compassion, resilience, flexibility, generosity, and hope. The team at Our Family has pulled together to get it done, staff helping each other when a team member tests positive for Covid or had family members become ill or sadly, lose their life to this disease. If there is an “adaptability award”, Our Family would be a strong contender, as day by day we adapt what we do and how we do it, to meeting community needs. We have grown from housing, on average, 250 individuals per night to 456, all in a short period of time. In other words, we rock! And you rock, for helping us to get to these historic numbers, your gifts making it happen.

As we look forward, we know the road is going to be rocky. The housing crisis looms and as a housing community, we believe it will only get worse in the months to come. As our staff lines up next week for vaccinations, we know that so many others are at the back of the line, including many of those that we serve. We know as we tuck ourselves into bed each evening, there are others who are unsure where they will sleep tonight or tomorrow. As our leader, my privilege rings out in so many ways, but I stand ready to adapt, change, move, learn, advocate, and lead.

We cannot afford to linger too long in our reflection, as work needs to be done. Our team is rolling up its sleeves every day to chip away at our vision of a just community where everyone has a safe, affordable, and stable home. Thank you to our supporters for joining us in this work, rolling up your sleeves and asking, how can I help. We ask you to stay on this rocky ride with us and stand with us. Let us build this just community together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beth'.

Beth L. Morrison, *Chief Executive Officer*



Church Makes Big Impact with Eviction Prevention Gift

Eviction Prevention has traditionally not been a large program at Our Family. There haven't been large pots of federal, state, county or city dollars designated to support prevention and when we do have dollars there are restrictions on how it is spent.

But then 2020 and the Pandemic happened. People started to ask “**how will people stay in their homes?**”, “**what is Our Family doing to help?**” and “**how can we help?**”

One congregation in Tucson answered the call for help. Casas Adobes Congregational Church, led by Rev. Michael Bush and the church's Ministry of Mission and Outreach, reached out to Our Family to ask how they could best support the Tucson community.

CAUCC launched their fundraising efforts in November 2020, building upon the initial generosity of one family and inviting others to “multiply the gift”. Their efforts to make a transformative difference in the lives of local families impacted by the global pandemic are now being felt through Eviction Prevention at Our Family. To date they have contributed over \$100,000 toward Eviction Prevention in unrestricted dollars and continue to be partners in supporting the program to the best of their ability.

This generous, unrestricted gift allows Our Family to help families struggling with back rent and utilities get caught up with payments and start with a zero balance. Thank you CAUCC for your incredibly kind support of the Tucson community and of Our Family!

ADVOCACY ALERT

COVID-19 has exposed our affordable housing crisis, something we are all too familiar with working in this sector. Even before the pandemic, too many families struggled to make rent, put food on the table, and pay bills. There are simply not enough affordable homes for families struggling to work, keep kids in school, and stay healthy. To help fill the gap, the Arizona Housing Coalition and Our Family Services are advocating for the creation of a state affordable housing tax credit. Senate Bill 1327 / House Bill 2562, introduced by Senator Gowan and Representative Cobb, do exactly that. These identical bills create a state affordable housing tax credit, modeled after the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), and will result in the construction of over 6,000 affordable homes over the length of the credit, as well as create about 1,800 construction jobs, and produce upwards of \$2 billion in total economic activity, according to Arizona economists.

We need your help in encouraging the Arizona Legislature to pass these bills. To take action, please visit: ourfamilyservices.org/advocate

Giving Tuesday was a MASSIVE success!

In this time of uncertainty, there's a fundamental truth that keeps us going - that together we can do extraordinary things. Thank you for your generosity on Giving Tuesday and for giving hope to our most vulnerable neighbors.

Your cumulative matched gifts added up to \$50,857.80! That is 2,034 nights of safe housing for a homeless youth -or- 407 weeks of secure housing for a homeless youth. Those numbers are LIFE-CHANGING.

An extra special thank you to Larry "Buzz" Petersen and Robbie Willingham for their many years of support and for matching all gifts made to Our Family on Giving Tuesday!

Improve your conflict resolution skills from the comfort of your home

The Center for Community Dialogue & Training now offers all trainings online!

The Center promotes effective communication by helping people navigate challenging issues in a skilled, civil and respectful way. Plus, did you know that 100% of the Center's profits directly support Our Family's housing programs! Hundreds of Southern Arizonans have improved upon their communication skills and helped their most vulnerable neighbors through Center trainings. Check out some of the Center's upcoming trainings below.

Introduction to Nonviolent Communication

Friday, February 19 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

It is About Me: Self-Care Strategies for Handling Conflict Wednesday, March 10 | 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Intermediate Nonviolent Communication

Thursday, March 11 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dialogue Facilitator Training

Thursday, March 18 | 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Conflict

Wednesday, March 31 | 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Nonviolent Communication and the Enneagram

Saturday, April 3 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

42-Hour Mediation Training

April 8 - April 17 | *Times vary by day*

Advanced Nonviolent Communication

Friday, May 14 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Nonviolent Communication and the Family

Saturday, June 5 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

To view a full list of trainings and/or to register please visit: ourfamilyservices.org/training. Please send questions to: center@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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Our Family Services publishes this newsletter three times a year. If you no longer wish to receive it, please let us know.

Mark Your Calendars!

There are two ways to help homeless youth and families this April

The number of people we serve each night has steadily continued to increase. In 2019 we offered safe shelter and housing support for an average of 250 individuals nightly by November of 2020 that number increased by 78% to 445 individuals. Today we are currently serving 456 people each night, the majority of which are under the age of 25.

Soar Over the Luncheon

Last year we invited you to Leap over our luncheon, in 2021 we ask you to Soar with us over our luncheon! This safe and hassle free opportunity allows you to support Our Family from the comfort of your home all throughout the month of April. As part of Soar, **Tucson Electric Power** is generously MATCHING dollar-for-dollar all gifts up to \$10,000. Invitations to our non-event with more details will be coming soon.

Arizona Gives Day

Any gift made to Our Family on Arizona Gives Day, April 6th will be MATCHED dollar-for-dollar up to \$5,000 by our generous supporters, **Long Realty Cares Foundation**.

WE ARE HIRING

Join the Our Family Team

As the number of people we serve each night continues to grow so does our need for qualified team members. We are currently looking for:

Case Manager - Coordinated Entry & Housing Inspections

Assistant Manager - Reunion House

Program Assistant-Center for Community Dialogue & Training

Youth Care Worker - Part-time

For more information about the perks of working for Our Family, job descriptions and applications please visit:

ourfamilyservices.org/join-our-team