



ourfamily**services**

Newsletter

ourfamily**services.org** | (520) 323-1708 | **Spring/Summer 2021**

TSUNAMI OF ARIZONA EVICTIONS FEARED

State and Federal rules enacted to prevent evictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are set to expire on June 30th.

During the Soar Over the Luncheon virtual event on April 29th, Our Family's Chief Development Officer Kimberly Moyer discussed the looming eviction crisis with Joan Serviss, Executive Director of the Arizona Housing Coalition. Joan described evictions as a "lose, lose, lose situation," in which tenants, landlords and the community are all negatively impacted. She went on to say that the eviction crisis has been "ripe for reform before the pandemic and really the pandemic has shown us that there is a lot of work to be done."

A common misconception is that the state and local eviction moratoriums have stopped evictions. In reality evictions have continued throughout the state and country. What the moratoriums did stop is the enforcement of writs of restitution (the legal document needed to evict) due to non-payment of rent for those impacted by the pandemic.

According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition and the University of Arizona's Innovation for Justice Program there are at least 210,000 Arizona households at risk of eviction. "When the moratorium is lifted, we at the Arizona Housing Coalition are fearful that we are going to see a significant increase in homelessness." Joan went on to state that the conservative estimate is that we will see a "16% increase



in street living homelessness" on top of the increase that Arizona has already seen pre-pandemic. Combined with the lack of affordable housing and shelter bed availability this is creating the perfect storm conditions for a tsunami of evictions.

How can you help?

At the end of the interview Joan went on to say that "what we at the housing coalition are prioritizing ...is to take an active stance at the state legislature. Contact your senator and representative and ask them to do two things" 1. Restore the state housing trust-fund. 2. Advocate for a state low-income tax credit.

Our Family has made this call to action easy for our supporters. All you have to do is visit: **[***The Arizona Housing Coalition is a statewide organization working to end homelessness and advocating for safe affordable homes for all Arizonans. Our Family Services is a proud member of the coalition.***](https://ourfamilyservices.org/advocate and under Take Action on Housing Funding click the Take Action button. You can watch the full Soar Over the Luncheon recording by visiting Our Family's YouTube page.</p></div><div data-bbox=)**

Beth's Corner



Today is one of those bittersweet days. After serving as the Our Family CEO for the past 5 years and with a career of over 25 years leading nonprofit organizations, I have made the decision to retire. It has been a

true honor to spend the last 5 years serving on Our Family's team. After successfully completing the capital campaign and settling into the new facility, along with the expansion of our housing and homeless programming, it is an opportune time for a new leader to embark on Our Family's next chapter. I will be staying on through the end of August and possibly a bit longer, if needed, to help with the transition to the new leader.

Although I am retiring from being a CEO, I will be launching an executive/personal coaching and nonprofit consulting practice as well as building in more time to do some volunteering and spending time outdoors.

Hazel Heinzer, Our Family Services' board chair states, "We are saddened to lose Beth as our leader, but we are happy for her and also look forward to what lies ahead for Our Family. Beth leaves us with a positive financial base, strong community support, and quality programming in place." The Board has created an executive search committee and has taken the initial steps of working toward identifying my successor. The job posting will go up on our website as soon as it is available.

Today's announcement is not a goodbye! I hope to have the opportunity in the months to come to chat with many of you. I also am looking forward to continuing to work with our amazing team of staff, board, and volunteers to continue our mission of serving the community.

Beth L. Morrison
Chief Executive Officer



Soaring with Gratitude!

Thank you to all who made a gift to Soar Over the Luncheon. Through your generosity we were able to meet our \$10,000 TEP match challenge and raise over \$39,000 for homeless youth and families. Your contribution will bring hope to many of our most vulnerable neighbors.

We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to all of sponsors, together we strengthen our community. Thank you to all who joined us for our virtual event on April 29th, a recording of the event is available to view on our YouTube page.





Thank you to Stone Canyon Community Foundation who held a supply drive for our Reunion House shelter.



THANK YOU!

A special thanks to the following foundations, clubs, and businesses who donated or held fundraisers for Our Family from February 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021.

- Arizona Cardinals Charities Fund
- Arizona Multihousing Association
- Benevity
- Casas Adobes Congregational Church
- Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
- Davis Monthan AFB 5/6
- DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy
- Duley Bowlar Pederson
- Eliot Spalding Foundation
- HSL Asset Management LLC
- IBM Employees and Retirees
- Immanuel Presbyterian Church
- Kroger/Fry's Community Rewards
- Lovitt & Touche, Inc.
- Mister Car Wash
- National Bank of Arizona
- Nordstrom Charitable Giving
- Period.org Tucson Chapter
- Pima Dermatology
- Raytheon Employee Giving
- Solari Crisis & Human Services
- Southwest Gas Corporation
- St. John on the Desert Presbyterian Church
- St. Mark's United Methodist Church
- Stone Canyon Community Foundation Fund
- TJX Foundation
- Tucson Electric Power Company
- Tucson Federal Credit Union
- United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
- Youth on Their Own

550+ Pounds of Supplies Donated

Thank you very much to SSgt Javier Ortega and the Davis-Monthan AFB 5/6 group! They hosted a huge supply drive in March, collecting over 550 pounds of supplies like hygiene and cleaning products for families and youth in need. The Davis Monthan AFB 5/6 group's focus is to provide members with professional development, increasing morale and esprit de corps for all Davis-Monthan AFB NCO's. We are so very grateful for your generosity!

We Met Our Match! Arizona Gives Day Gratitude

Thank you to everyone who helped make Arizona Gives Day 2021 a success! Together we met our \$5,000 Long Realty Cares Foundation match and raised a total of \$15,888 for homeless youth and families. That equates to 9 weeks of safe housing for 10 homeless youth! We are deeply grateful for your support and for the profound impact you make on our most vulnerable neighbors.

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.



Samantha Cravens Scholarship Award

The Samantha Cravens Scholarship Award was founded by Our Family former board chair and volunteer Scott Koenig to honor an employee who makes a personal commitment to professional growth.

The award is named in memory of former Our Family employee Samantha Cravens. Sam touched many lives through her work at Our Family and her spirit of caring and generosity lives on through this award. Our Family staff member Stephanie Thrasher was named the second recipient of the scholarship award. Congratulations, Stephanie!

Housing Security Challenge Finalist

Our Family was selected as one of five finalists for the \$250,000 Housing Security Challenge. The competition is put on by the Arizona Community Foundation, Republic Media, and ASU's Morrison Institute for Public Policy.

Our Family's submission, titled *Closing the Gap: Post Homelessness Housing Security Subsidy* states those who have weathered homelessness and completed a housing program exit in a financially precarious position in a post-COVID world, and proposes giving 25 households a no-strings-attached subsidy of \$500 per month for one year, empowering them to build their own foundation for long-term stability.

The winner will be selected on Wednesday, May 26 at a virtual Pitch and Prize Ceremony.