



ourfamilyservices

Newsletter

ourfamilyservices.org | (520) 323-1708 | Fall 2021

Obstacles to reliable employment compounded by Covid for Our Family clients

The Great Resignation of 2021 has put a spotlight on employers hiring throughout the community and the nation. Signs advertising higher wages, sign-on bonuses and better benefits certainly make it seem that finding good employment opportunities has never been easier. Unfortunately, for a considerable number of our clients at Our Family that is not the case. The obstacles to employment that our clients faced pre-pandemic still exist and are now compounded by new challenges due to the pandemic.

Many of our clients are going on interviews but not getting job offers. We have clients that are accepting part-time positions hoping that they will evolve into full-time roles and instead their hours are being cut. Only a small group of our clients have been asked to return to the roles they were in pre-pandemic. We have a large group of clients that work in low-wage positions in the food service, retail, and tourism industries and are not seeing the pay increases that are being promised.



Personal barriers to employment also exist, such as relying on public transportation and needing childcare. Our clients that receive employment offers and request assistance for childcare from DES often lose out on the job offer by the time the request is approved because they have missed too much work due to childcare issues.

Additionally, a substantial number of our clients are not vaccinated as they are fearful of the vaccine. Which limits their employment options further, as more and more jobs are now requiring proof of vaccination to work. Being unvaccinated creates other employment obstacles and fears like being fearful of using public transportation which at times is their only means of getting to work and fear of sending their unvaccinated

children out of their home, into childcare where they face a higher risk of Covid exposure.

These are some of the many factors that go into why our clients have difficulty finding reliable employment. It's never as easy as saying, "everyone is hiring, just go and apply," which is what we and our clients hear all the time. The system is not set up to support everyone, and those with the greatest obstacles to reliable employment, like transportation and childcare challenges, are the ones that need our empathy and assistance the most.

We hope that The Great Resignation causes employers/potential employers to start to invest in creative solutions to employment barriers that these individuals face that will help to lift them out of poverty.

Beth's Corner



A little over 5 years ago, I joined the incredible team at Our Family Services and now I'm in my final weeks of serving as its CEO. It has been an interesting and fulfilling journey

one with many challenges, changes, and comradery. A consistent factor in all of this – you – our supports! Our Family has a dedicated network of donors, supporters, and community partners. When I first arrived at Our Family, I was shocked and grateful to learn we had over 125 legacy donors, individuals who had consistently made financial gifts to Our Family for over 10 years! During the past 5 years that number has continued to grow. You have made our mission, **YOUR** mission – to eliminate homelessness and to strengthen our community.

It is a bit fitting to have my final newsletter column be a part of the Fall Newsletter, a time of year when we ask the community to come together and to support our neighbors who need our assistance. It is a time to be grateful, giving, and caring. You, our supporters have been that for me and the team at Our Family. We are grateful for you, your support, and your care.

Thank you. I look forward to joining the amazing group of legacy donors, watching and cheering Our Family on in the years ahead.

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 May 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021.

AmazonSmile Foundation
Anonymous
Arizona Community Foundation
Bank of America
Benevity
BMO Harris Bank
Casas Adobes Congregational Church
Catalina Smiles
City of Tucson ECAP
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment
Elevate Tucson
Eliot Spalding Foundation
Fred and Christine Armstrong Foundation
Maricopa County CFC
QuikTrip Corporation
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
State Employees Charitable Campaign
Stone Canyon Community Foundation Fund
Sundt Construction
The Foothills Club of Tucson
Tulsa Community Foundation
United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
Wells Fargo Foundation

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, Michael Bush,
Melissa Cervantes, Joseph Chimienti, Larry Cochran,
Julian Easter, Geneva Escobedo, Jessica Hayes,
Mary Ojeda, Angela Soliz, Jason Zeider

COMMUNICATION CREATES TRANSFORMATION

Our Family's Center for Community Dialogue & Training has been helping Southern Arizonans talk about challenging issues in a skilled, civil and respectful way for over 40 years.

THE CENTER OFFERS:

- **Community Forums & Dialogue Events**

Center staff and volunteers expertly facilitate dialogue processes for large Community Forums and small topic-centered groups, empowering respectful and productive discussions in which all voices are heard.

- **Community Mediation** - Highly skilled, trained and certified community mediators conduct confidential transformative mediation processes in which they help disputing parties communicate to design their own solutions – safely, with respect, and without going to court.

- **Strategic Planning & Facilitation** - Center staff use highly interactive methods that fully engage all members of the organization, board of directors, department, coalition or special project to set priorities, focus energy, allocate resources, identify obstacles and determine achievable actions.

- **Training for individuals, families, professionals & organizations** - Gain and enhance skills in conflict management, conflict resolution, dialogue facilitation, effective communication, and running productive meetings. *Customizable trainings available.*

LEARN MORE AT: ourfamilyservices.org/center



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:
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jsamarripas@ourfamilyservices.org



FOSTER A CULTURE OF CARE
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Family Services' 2021 Annual Report now available online!

Visit: ourfamilyservices.org/who-we-are



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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 November 30th.

Our Family offers a first step out of homelessness for hundreds of youth each year, providing not just a safe bed but the opportunity to build a community of support and stability. Last year we sheltered/served 847 youth and children and made 1,265 Street Outreach contacts.

On Giving Tuesday you can help youth experiencing homelessness in Tucson by making a **MATCHED** gift through the Our Family website. Thanks to the generosity of our amazing supporters, Larry "Buzz" Petersen and Roberta "Robbie" Willingham all Giving Tuesday gifts will be **MATCHED** dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000, doubling the impact of every gift!

Can't wait until Giving Tuesday?

Donate today at 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.

WE'RE HIRING!!



Our Family Services has several open positions in our Homeless Youth Services, Administrative and Development areas.

Our Family Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We especially encourage applications from veterans, individuals with disabilities, and alumni from national service programs, people of color, people of diverse gender identities, women, and people with lived experiences of homelessness.

Apply today at:

ourfamilyservices.org/about/join-our-team