



ourfamilyservices

# Newsletter

ourfamilyservices.org | (520) 323-1708 | Fall 2023

## Happy Holidays!

### Save The Date! Giving Tuesday is November 28th

*Giving Tuesday is a movement that was created in 2012 and is dedicated to unleashing the power of radical generosity around the world.*

#### How to Participate

On Giving Tuesday you can help youth experiencing homelessness in Tucson by making a gift through the Our Family website.

**Thanks to the generosity of our amazing supporters, Larry "Buzz" Petersen and Roberta "Robbie" Willingham, Giving Tuesday gifts will be MATCHED dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 doubling the impact of every gift!**

You can donate today on our website [ourfamilyservices.org](http://ourfamilyservices.org) or by clicking the "Donate Now" button below. Your gift will go towards our Giving Tuesday goal.

#### Giving Tuesday Impact

*The Giving Tuesday mission is to invest in communities around the globe to propel generosity across every culture, continent, and context.*

#### How Your Gift Helps

This season we are urgently asking generous people such as yourself to make a donation toward helping our Reunion House shelter, which is a safe place for abused, homeless, and runaway youth.

Reunion House is the only youth shelter in all of Southern Arizona. We provide a safe, welcoming home until a permanent placement is arranged.

#### When you donate:

\$50 - will provide a backpack, hygiene supplies, and food for a homeless youth on the streets.

\$500 - will provide youth the necessary housing supplies to establish themselves in their new apartment.

\$2,000 - will house, feed and clothe one teen for a month.

# GIVING TUESDAY

## Meet Klayton!

Klayton first came to Our Family Services Reunion House when he was 13 years old. He was referred to Reunion House through DCS due to being displaced from his home. He spent 30 days there and enjoyed cooking meals for the other youth and playing outside. Klayton had been placed in over 4 different living situations but Reunion House was his safe place.

He said the staff at Reunion House were very welcoming and made him feel cared for. Something he had never experienced anywhere else. Klayton is now 21 years old with stable housing and runs his own company in construction, painting, and landscaping. He hopes to give back to the community by fostering himself in the future.



## Jamie's Corner



I'm excited to share that Our Family's programming will be expanding with the award of two new federal grants, one from the Department of Justice's Office of Victims of Crime and another from the Department of Health and Human Services. These grants will play a vital role in our mission to combat

homelessness in our community, each with its unique approach.

In partnership with the Office of Victims of Crime, we will offer shelter and transitional housing to survivors of domestic violence. This grant is special because it provides funding to support survivor's pets. Abusers often threaten to harm pets, which can cause survivors to feel fearful of fleeing without their pet. Presently, there is only one shelter in Pima County that allows survivors to bring their pets. With this new funding, we can reduce barriers to the accessibility of shelter services in emergency situations.

Additionally, Our Family Services is proud to be one of only 11 agencies in the United States to be awarded funding from the Department of Health and Human Services for a pilot project to prevent youth homelessness. This pilot project will establish a national model for homelessness prevention using evidence-based best practices. A noteworthy aspect of this program is the provision of flexible cash assistance. By supporting youth with flexible funds, we empower them to use their discretion, engage in budget planning, and prioritize their expenses. The success of this project will serve as the foundation for future programs aimed at ending youth homelessness across the country.

As we approach this holiday season, I invite you to join us in supporting these new programs and our work ending homelessness for youth and domestic violence survivors in our community.

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

Jamie Snyder  
Chief Executive Officer



Photo from left to right: Corey Cravens, Mona Borham, Scott Koenig, and Our Family CEO Jamie Snyder

## 2023 Samantha Cravens Scholarship Recipient

***Congratulations to Mona Borham, our 2023 Samantha Cravens Scholarship Award Recipient!***

This award was founded in honor of our past employee, Sam Cravens, who worked in the Development Department for many years and started as a student intern. Sam touched many lives through her work at Our Family and her spirit of caring and generosity lives on through this award.

We are thankful to our former board chair and volunteer Scott Koenig and Corey Cravens who continue to make this tradition happen every year for our employees.



***Always in our Hearts***

### **Our Family's Senior Leadership**

**Jamie Snyder**, Chief Executive Officer  
**Alma Lopez**, Chief Equity & Human Resources Officer  
**Colleen McDonald**, Chief Program Officer  
**Joshua Travis**, Chief of Staff

### **Our Family's Board of Directors**

Julian Easter, Michael Bush, Cyrus Cameron,  
Iliana Perez, Katheryn Field, Mary Ojeda,  
Larry Cochran, Kevin Skinner



## Coming Soon...

We are excited to announce that Our Family Service's will be getting a mural done by a very talented local artist! The mural will be painted on the outside of our building facing Alvernon Road. The painting will have a southwestern feel that reflects the community of Tucson.

### *Meet the Artist, Danny Martin*

Follow his work on Instagram @dannymartinart\_



## Put Your Trust In Us

Trust-Based Philanthropy is a charitable approach that reimagines the relationship between donors, nonprofits and communities to rebalance power and decision making. It creates a place of trust and collaboration rather than compliance and control.

### How does this help?

Trust-based philanthropy gives us flexibility to match and leverage multiple fund sources, allows us to fill the gap for needs that are not covered by government sources, and ensures that we can provide for emergencies as they arise. With trust-based donations, we can provide a more equitable distribution of resources, allowing greater support for our clients and their families.

**Trust us to apply your donation to the greatest need.**

## Update on Pima County Anti-Trafficking Coalition

The Pima County Anti-Trafficking Coalition had their first meeting August 29 with great attendance. There were community representatives and government officials from organizations such as City of Tucson Safety, Health, and Wellness Program, Homeland Security, SAATURN, STIR, and more. They discussed introductions and goals to serve victims of human trafficking in Pima County. The coalition will be holding meetings quarterly.

Our Family Services also participated in a Human Trafficking Awareness event that Oro Valley Police Department organized and was hosted at Steam Pump Ranch. The event was created to increase public awareness about Human Trafficking.



## Congratulations, CEO Jamie Snyder!

Jamie was selected as Leader of the Month by Greater Tucson Leadership. Every month, Greater Tucson Leadership (GTL) recognizes a member of our community who demonstrates leadership excellence, is an inspiration to others, and who is positively impacting our community.



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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.*

## Sponsor a Youth For The Holidays

### ***Reunion House Needs Your Help***

'Tis the season to give! For many, the holidays are the most wonderful time of the year. But for those struggling, it can be difficult to get into the spirit of the season. You can make this holiday season joyful for homeless youth by donating to Our Family Services. Items such as gift cards from Target or Walmart allow our homeless youth to buy exactly what they will need for the holidays. If you are interested in viewing the *Reunion House Holiday Wish List* please contact:

Cynthia Quijano

520-323-1708 x 243 -or-

[cquijano@ourfamilyservices.org](mailto:cquijano@ourfamilyservices.org)



## THANK YOU!

A special thanks to the following individuals, foundations, and businesses who helped support Our Family's Mission!

Connie Hillman Family Foundation

Wells Fargo Foundation

Harry and Marie McDermott

Arizona Community Foundation

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Anonymous

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