



ourfamilyservices

Newsletter

ourfamilyservices.org | (520) 323-1708 | **Winter 2024**

Pima County Street Count

What is a Point in Time Count?

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single day in January. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered, as well as sheltered in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally.

Why do we Count?

As recipients of 5 HUD grants, Our Family sends at least 10 staff to help with this yearly count. We take on leadership roles, which help with training, organizing, and scoping out the assigned sections. We volunteer as interviewers, who help find individuals to complete the PIT count survey and pass out resources and gift cards to those who need it. Every year we help gather the estimated number of people experiencing homelessness in Pima County. It's a community-wide effort to provide data to better understand who in our community is experiencing homelessness and what service gaps exist in community systems.



How can you help?

This PIT count happens every year and anyone can volunteer to help! You can also lend your aid by donating:

- Water bottles
- Flashlights
- Gift cards
- Snacks

Introducing Our Spring Campaigns

Arizona Gives Day Returns April 2, 2024

Arizona Gives Day is an annual giving movement uniting nonprofits big and small, new and established, to celebrate and increase philanthropy in Arizona through online giving. Your support of Our Family on Arizona Gives Day will enable us to continue to provide safe housing to our most vulnerable neighbors. To learn more and to make your Arizona Gives Day gift, please visit: azgives.org/ourfamilyservices



JOURNEY HOME

EMPOWERING SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Join us for an incredible event as we come together to support youth survivors of human trafficking. This in-person event will be filled with expert speakers, and interactive activities.

Our amazing supporters, Larry "Buzz" Petersen and Roberta "Robbie" Willingham are generously matching all Arizona Gives Day gifts and Journey Home Event gifts made to Homeless Youth dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000.00, doubling the impact of your gift!

For more information regarding a donation or event registration please contact: Cynthia Quijano at 520-323-1708 x 243 or cquijano@ourfamilyservices.org

This event will take place April 17, 2024 at the Community Foundation Campus. To register please scan the QR code below.



Jamie's Corner



As you may remember from our last newsletter, Our Family Services is forming a separate advocacy branch for the purpose of engaging our state legislators to increase their investment in ending homelessness.

Arizona has made important progress to address the needs of our unsheltered neighbors and Governor Katie Hobbs' authorization to disburse State Housing Trust funds has given nonprofits new resources to expand the number of emergency shelter beds and to strengthen transitional and permanent housing programs.

We are honored to work alongside Governor Hobbs and to serve on the Governor's Interagency Community Council on Homelessness and Housing (GICCHH), which spans the public, private, nonprofit, and faith-based communities from across the State, and includes individuals who have experienced housing insecurity and homelessness themselves. As chair of the GICCHH's Public, Private, and Nonprofit Finance working group, I have been moved by the thoughtful feedback and dedicated participation of housing experts and members of the public in the council's work and the formation of a public policy framework for ending homelessness.

If you would like to learn more, we invite you to join Our Family on this journey and lend your voice to magnify the impact of our messaging to state legislators that we CAN end homelessness.

For more information on the GICCHH, visit <https://housing.az.gov/about/press-release/ mailing-list>.

Jamie Snyder
Chief Executive Officer

New Mural Alert!



Shout out to our amazing artist Danny Martin for creating the coolest piece of art for us to share with our community. Big thank you to Steve and Russell from Barker Contracting for supporting us by donating a lift to help make this happen!



YOU can help youth move beyond homelessness with tax credit dollars you already pay in Arizona

Donations made up until tax day, April 15, 2024 can be deducted from your 2023 state tax liability. Joint filers can donate \$841 and single filers \$421 for a dollar-for-dollar credit on your 2023 taxes.

Every dollar makes a difference.

Donate online at ourfamilyservices.org or make checks payable to Our Family Services and send to 2590 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712

We accept donations of securities.

Questions? Contact Cynthia Quijano at (520) 323-1708 x 243 or cquijano@ourfamilyservices.org

Our Family Services is a Qualifying Charitable Organization with the Arizona Department of Revenue (QCO 20250). This information is not intended to be legal or tax advice. Please consult your professional advisors.

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, Ellie Hutchison,

Nicole Levin, Klayton Williams

Congratulations, CEO Jamie Snyder!

Jamie was selected to represent Our Family Services in the Greater Tucson Leadership's Civic and Political Leadership Academy. The program focuses on cultivating civic leadership and enhancing personal growth to prepare participants for active engagement in local governance and politics.

Participants will have opportunities to connect with influential leaders, learn from their experiences, and develop a robust support network. Additionally, Jamie's selection reflects Our Family Services' dedication to nurturing civic engagement and leadership growth among its team members.



Thank You Tohono O'odham Nation!

With your support, we purchased a new vehicle for Reunion House, Southern Arizona's only shelter for runaway or abused teens. This gift will transport teens to work, school, and medical appointments.



Faith in Action

*A message from Our Family's Board Vice Chair,
Michael Bush*

As a leader of faith communities for 30 years, I appreciate that people within those various churches across the country have given abundant time, energy, and financial resources to support charitable organizations. Historically, religious groups and institutions founded many non-profits, from hospitals to shelters for unhoused people, from clinics in underserved communities to counseling centers, understanding that their spirituality called them to help more people experience compassion, care, and love by attending to physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

The church I currently serve has been looking at underlying issues and root causes that often marginalize people and place large portions of our population at risk for harm, hunger, and so much more. We are seeking deeper understanding of how legislation, politicians, policies, and government funding keep many people marginalized and impoverished, so that we can better advocate for systemic change that can bring more justice for all people. We are leaning into the reality that we cannot just feed the hungry and shelter the unhoused, but we also need to work to bring systemic change so that more people have access to what they need to thrive, and not just survive.



In that spirit, I have been delighted to lead the Our Family Services justice advocacy committee, and am pleased that the work of this team has birthed a new entity: Our Family Advocacy (see Joshua Travis, jtravis@ourfamilyservices.org for more info). To live into our mission to "eliminate homelessness and strengthen our community," we will not only engage the important work to keep families in their homes and help youth and families who are unhoused move into secure and stable housing, but also support legislation, policies, and leaders who will help us change systems so that we better advocate for those who are vulnerable and therefore strengthen the fabric of our Tucson-area community.



2590 N. Alvernon Way
Tucson, AZ 85712

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Change service requested



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

Support Our Family with Trust and Confidence

We're excited to share that we have earned a 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency with Candid (formerly GuideStar) and met all 20 of the BBB 20 Standards for Charity Accountability. When donating to Our Family Services, you can be assured that any gift you make to Our Family is handled with the utmost financial responsibility and transparency.

Visit our Candid and Better Business Bureau profiles to learn more:

[guidestar.org/profile/94-2598560](https://www.guidestar.org/profile/94-2598560)

[bbb.org/charity-reviews/tucson/our-family-services-inc-in-tucson-az-1600](https://www.bbb.org/charity-reviews/tucson/our-family-services-inc-in-tucson-az-1600)



Thank you QuikTrip!

With your continued support, we are proud to operate Reunion House, Southern Arizona's only shelter for abused, homeless, and runaway youth (ages 12-17). Reunion House helps enroll teens in school, provides home cooked meals, and supports family reunification.

Reunion House is the only licensed Safe Place Agency in all of Pima County. Many teens who come to Reunion House are brought there through the National Safe Place Program.