



Valley of the Sun  
**UNITED WAY**

**TOGETHER,  
WE'RE CREATING**

# **Mighty Change**

**IN MARICOPA  
COUNTY**

MC2026 SCORECARD  
2024 ANNUAL REPORT



# OUR VISION

Every child, family and individual is healthy, has a safe place to live and has every opportunity to succeed in school, work and life.

For almost 100 years, Valley of the Sun United Way has partnered with local communities to co-create solutions to people's most pressing challenges. We take a comprehensive approach, listening and responding to local needs.

Our MC2026 plan for Mighty Change is designed to help our communities in several key, measurable ways. There are many pathways to reaching these goals, which are highlighted in this report. Those efforts are focused in four main areas:



We are pleased to share our progress in working to make our communities stronger. As part of a global network of more than 1,100 United Ways, we help to share innovations and scale impact to improve lives around the world. Together, we're working towards a future where every person and community can thrive.

To learn more, visit [vsuw.org](https://vsuw.org).



## A New Look for United Way



Valley of the Sun  
**UNITED WAY**

You may notice this report looks a little different than some of the materials you've seen from United Way in the past. In 2024, United Way Worldwide refreshed its brand to ensure the relevance and sustainability of one of the world's oldest and largest charities for its next century of impact. Valley of the Sun United Way is following suit and will be unveiling its new look as the year goes along in advance of our 100th anniversary.

# Dear Friends

Nearly 100 years ago, United Way began its service to the people of Maricopa County with the promise to unite the community and mobilize action so every person could thrive. As our community's population grew nearly 100 times since 1925 and now stretches across over 9,200 square miles, Valley of the Sun United Way remains committed to that promise to every person who calls the Valley home.

In 2021, we launched MC2026: A Plan for Mighty Change for Maricopa County, establishing bold, post-pandemic community goals guided by virtual forums, surveys and interviews with people across the Valley. We committed to marking our community's progress in an annual Scorecard, and this report, our third, represents the midpoint of the MC2026 plan.

This Scorecard shows that community metrics for homelessness, education, health and workforce development are either progressing too slowly or moving in the wrong direction. It points out that obstacles continue to put pressure on too many of our neighbors. For instance:

- Housing prices and evictions are rising at a record-setting pace
- Overall reading proficiency levels dipped for third graders who were in kindergarten during the 2020-21 school year impacted most by COVID-19
- American Rescue Plan Act funds that bolstered programs and families during COVID-19 are expiring and while needs remain (and in some cases are growing), these funds haven't been replaced through other sources

While the metrics are disappointing, the report also points to bright spots—positive impact on people—that we must celebrate AND replicate at scale. From the young students in Avondale who reached their reading goals to the Mighty Families participants who overcame unexpected financial setbacks, there are myriad examples of impact created when United Way, partners, companies, donors and volunteers came together.

These Scorecard metrics demand the attention of our entire community. We must see them as a catalyst for new, urgent conversations to drive our collective action. At United Way, they drive us to look at solutions from different perspectives; for instance, shifting our lens to focus on what people need to stay housed and prevent homelessness.

Findings from our partners at the Center for the Future of Arizona show these are issues Arizonans care about. In fact, despite political rhetoric that would lead us to believe otherwise, voters say that quality education, affordable housing and ending homelessness are among their priorities for Arizona.

As we look toward our next century of serving the Valley, United Way continues to do what we do best: bring together partners and resources to impact lives. We hope you'll join us, because we cannot do it without you.



*Carla*

Carla Vargas Jasa  
President & CEO



*Latasha*

Latasha Causey  
Chair, Valley of the Sun United Way  
Board of Directors

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# Community Snapshot 2024 Goal Data

EDUCATION

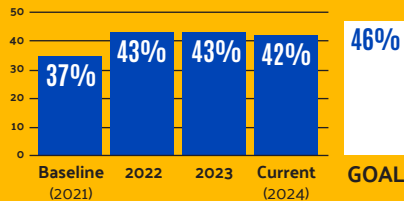
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT

HEALTH

HOUSING &  
HOMELESSNESS

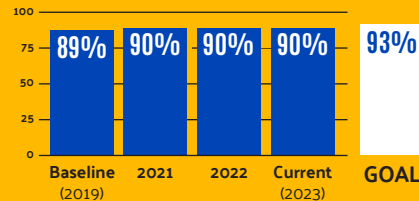
Progress on community level goals that United Way, our partners and others are working collectively to achieve.

**Increase** 3rd grade  
reading proficiency  
by **25%**



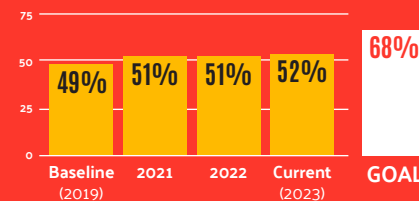
3rd Grade Reading  
Proficiency Rate

**Increase** youth aged  
16–24 engaged in education  
and employment  
opportunities by **38%**



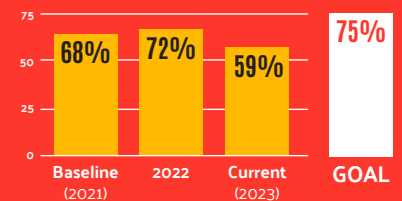
Rate of Engagement Amongst  
Opportunity Youth

**Increase** preparation  
for a living wage job  
by **33%**



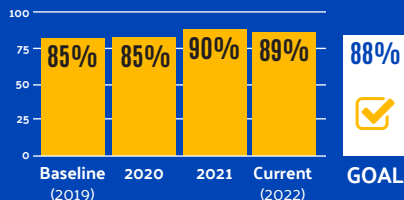
Rate of  
Attainment

**Increase** achievement  
of higher paying  
employment by **20%**



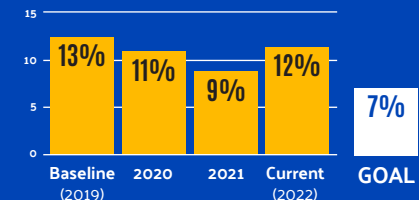
Rate of Higher Paid  
Employment

**Increase** access to  
affordable health care by  
**100,000** individuals



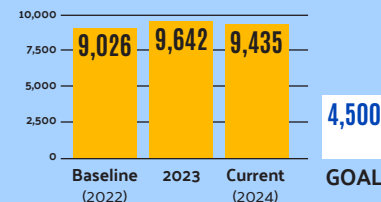
Rate of  
Insured

**Decrease** food  
insecurity by **50%**



Rate of  
Food Insecurity

**Reduce** homelessness  
by **50%**



Individuals Experiencing  
Homelessness

While last year's reporting saw consistent progress in key areas, with the data reflecting mostly growth and improvements, the most recent figures indicate stagnation in certain areas, and in some cases, a shift in the wrong direction. While this presents challenges, we remain committed to the opportunities ahead while assessing the underlying causes and adjusting our strategies to reach the MC2026 community goals.

For data sources and additional information, visit [vsuw.org/MC2026](https://vsuw.org/MC2026).

Information reported on most current data sources available at time of publication.





## Bringing People Together for Action

At Valley of the Sun United Way, our work is all about people. Not just the people we serve—the people who volunteer and donate to make our programs and initiatives possible. Nothing that you see on the following pages could be accomplished without the dedication and generosity of those who give their time and treasure to help others in their communities.

Volunteers and donors are the backbone of the Valley of the Sun United Way's mission to build stronger communities and empower individuals to thrive. Their diverse skills, experiences, and perspectives enable our organization to reach more people and create sustainable change.

By mentoring youth, packing food boxes, supporting those experiencing homelessness or serving on a committee, advisory circle, coalition or action team, volunteers provide direct, hands-on assistance that creates true change and ensures resources reach those who need them most, when they need them most.

Our supporters exemplify the spirit of giving back, making them indispensable to the Valley of the Sun United Way's vision of a better, united community. Their passion and commitment demonstrate the power of collective action and underscore the importance of civic engagement.

**23,000**  
DONORS

**5,538**  
VOLUNTEERS

**18,797**  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

VALUE OF  
**\$597,745**

to our community  
and nonprofit partners  
in volunteer hours  
through United Way

## Awards and Credentials



**Accredited Charity**  
Better Business Bureau

**Platinum Seal of Transparency**  
Candid/GuideStar

**Four-Star Charity (100% score)**  
Charity Navigator

**Compliance with National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework 2.0**  
National Institute of Standards and Technology

**Arizona's Most Admired Companies**  
AZ Business Magazine & BestCompaniesAZ

**Arizona Corporate Excellence Awards, Top Nonprofit Organization (#2)**  
Phoenix Business Journal

**Largest Phoenix-Area Nonprofit Organizations, Service/Assistance (#7)**  
Phoenix Business Journal

**Best Nonprofit Marketing Campaign**  
American Marketing Association, Phoenix Chapter



**EDUCATION**



# Our Aspirations

Close opportunity gaps to ensure children read at grade level by 3rd grade and youth are prepared for educational success and employment.

## Community Trends

### CURRENT 3RD GRADERS

3rd graders in the latest literacy progress assessment were mostly at home during COVID for their formative years.

### CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

In 2023, 35% of Arizona students (grades 1–8) were chronically absent, up from 13% in 2019. Currently, one in three students is regularly absent from the classroom, signaling a growing issue.

### TEACHER TURNOVER

High teacher turnover negatively affects student outcomes, reducing math scores by 7% and ELA scores by 6%. Last year teacher attrition rates rose sharply, with 16% leaving in 2023 (up from 10% in 2022 and 6% in 2021/2020).

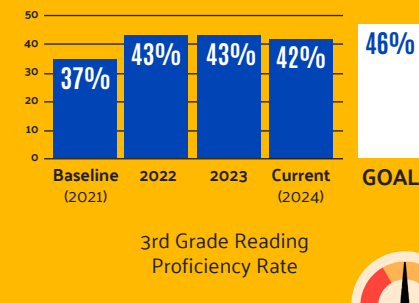
### YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Opportunity youth are individuals aged 16–24 who are neither in school nor employed, often experiencing poorer health, greater reliance on government aid, and a higher risk of criminal activity. In July 2024, employment was 54.5%, a slight decrease from 55.0% in July 2023. Opportunity youth unemployment rose to 9.8% from 8.7% over the same period.

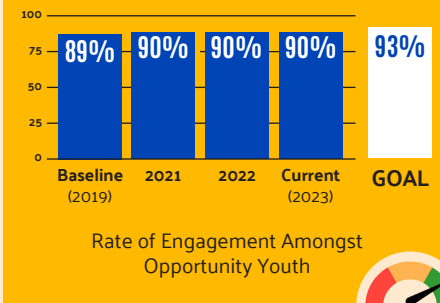
For data sources and additional information, visit [vsuw.org/MC2026](https://vsuw.org/MC2026).

## Goals

**Increase** 3rd grade reading proficiency by **25%**



**Increase** youth aged 16–24 engaged in education and employment opportunities by **38%**





## Addressing Immediate Needs

United Way works with schools and nonprofit partners to build and strengthen literacy capacity in early learning environments, as well as to increase parent and family support for youth. Working with our partners, we provided approximately:

### 3RD GRADE LITERACY

- 1,720** Developmental screenings for students
- 59,200** Hours of tutoring to 9,683 participants
- 34,410** Literacy resources
- 2,600** Educators participated in professional development

### ENGAGING OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

- 26,520** Youth in safe place after-school programs with enriching activities
- 13,220** Youth in life-skills activities
- 202,280** Hours of mentoring

United Way  
convenes partners  
to both address  
immediate needs  
and work toward  
long-term solutions

#### **Dawn Gerundo** Community Development and Engagement Director for Education

Dawn is the chair of Read On Southwest Valley, a co-chair of Read On Phoenix and is a member of the Arizona Chronic Absence Task Force. Dawn's work in education has helped Valley of the Sun United Way and its partners identify and scale solutions to better educate students throughout Maricopa County.



**LEADERS  
IN ACTION**

# Working Toward Long-Term Solutions

## Supporting Attendance Across Maricopa (SAAM)

Addressing chronic absenteeism involves consistent community communication using materials in English and Spanish, aligned with evidence-based practices and tailored to the community's literacy level. Effective use of local resources and a closed-loop referral system ensures accessible and seamless support for families in need.

The Supporting Attendance Across Maricopa (SAAM) initiative employs strategies like training, coaching, peer learning, data-driven decision-making, advocacy, and community support to improve school attendance. Over nine months, three districts have received coaching, developed improvement plans, and achieved notable progress. Avondale Elementary School District reduced chronic absenteeism from 32.48% in 2022 to 23.5% in 2024, while Alhambra Elementary School District saw an 8% district-wide decrease and a 10% drop at individual schools. Phoenix Union High School District integrated data systems to address attendance issues proactively and emphasized attendance in parent-teacher conferences. Four additional districts are being onboarded for the 2025 school year.

*The Literacy Hub at Lattie Coor School offers parents a place of belonging, acceptance and cohesion that translates into a new understanding of the skills their children are learning in the classroom. This unity of classroom and home learning fosters an environment where parents can help their child succeed and teachers can set a higher standard of goals.*

– Dr. Geovanni Orozco, principal at Lattie Coor School



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### The Literacy Hub at Lattie Coor School

Valley of the Sun United Way is proud to be part of many educational programs and initiatives focused on improving literacy skills and strengthening support for underserved schools and communities. The Literacy Hub at Lattie Coor School is one way United Way and its partners are meeting the community where they are to address inequities and needs.

Through Lattie Coor's Literacy Hub, teachers can connect with families on a wholistic level to develop substantial relationships that translate to campus-wide success. Each quarter, Lattie Coor marks the beginning of a new literacy hub session with a family-oriented community event. These events connect families with additional resources for needs including health care and health literacy, financial literacy, educational resources and more.

Families see the Lattie Coor Literacy Hub as a place of belonging. While students receive additional academic support directly from their teachers, parents work in partnership with educators in the Literacy Hub to gain a better understanding—in their native languages—of the curriculum and skills their children are learning in the classroom. This family support offers coherence between home and school and allows families to understand that education doesn't stop when the school bell rings, but is a continuous and ongoing learning experience.

In addition to seeing more family connection and involvement with teachers and the school, the Literacy Hub can be directly tied to increased test scores.

Literacy Hub  
benchmark success

83%

Compared to rate of  
success among peers

77%





# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

# Our Aspirations

Open pathways to better-paying jobs.

## Community Trends

### COST OF LIVING

Arizona is experiencing a cost of living and wage disparity. A living wage in Maricopa County (\$24.70/hour) is insufficient to afford many types of housing, creating challenges for low-income individuals.

### CHILD CARE COSTS

The annual cost of child care in AZ per year is: \$14,040 (infant), \$12,662 (toddler), \$10,920 (4 year-old). This is 21-27% of the typical salary in Arizona.

### CHILD CARE EMPLOYEE ABSENTEEISM

Arizona employers lose \$958 million annually due to child care-related employee absences and turnover.

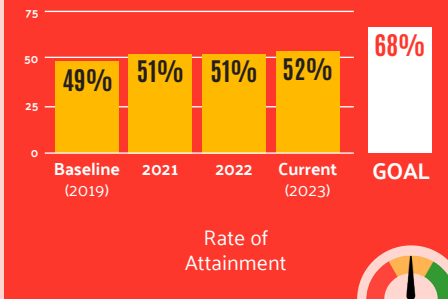
### JUSTICE-INVOLVED

It typically takes formerly incarcerated individuals at least six months to find a job after being released, and still large employment disparities for formerly incarcerated individuals exist due to immense hurdles, with national unemployment rates higher than 27%.

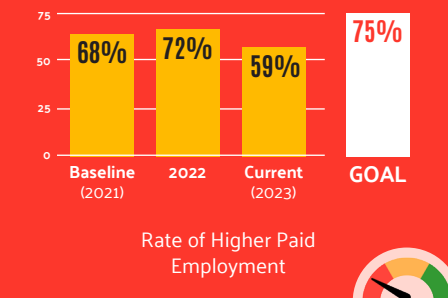
For data sources and additional information, visit [vsuw.org/MC2026](https://vsuw.org/MC2026).

## Goals

**Increase** preparation for a living wage job by **33%**



**Increase** achievement of higher paying employment by **20%**



Not only does the MC2026 plan drive social change in our community, but it enables the business community to come together to advance the needs of all citizens in Maricopa County.

- Chris Camacho, Greater Phoenix Economic Council



## Addressing Immediate Needs

United Way is working with community agencies, local educational institutions and private-sector employers to advance workforce development initiatives. Working with our partners, approximately:

- 6,600** People received **job training**
- 580** People received **new career certifications or licensing**
- 2,500** People obtained employment through initiatives we were involved in
- 1,200** People experienced **increased income**
- 11,000** Children received **scholarships for quality child care**, ensuring parents could pursue career or education knowing their children are in a supportive quality learning environment

### **Bertha Tapia** Community Development Director, Workforce Development

Bertha is a member of the Arizona Bank On Coalition, the Arizona Coalition for Career Readiness, and the Siemer Institute Community of Practice. She leads the Mighty Families program which takes a two-generational approach to support families, ensuring students can remain at their schools of origin, as well as the Fair Chance Collaborative, focused on ensuring justice impacted individuals can successfully join the workforce.



# LEADERS IN ACTION

# Working Toward Long-Term Solutions

## Fair Chance Collaborative

Valley of the Sun United Way launched the Fair Chance Collaborative on July 2024, supported by an investment from the JPMorganChase Foundation and guidance from Envoy, a social impact consulting firm. This initiative promotes fair chance employment, which expands job opportunities for justice-impacted individuals—those with criminal records or histories of incarceration.

With Arizona's incarceration rate among the highest in the U.S. and 15,000 individuals expected to be released from state prisons annually, the Collaborative aims to support rehabilitation and workforce reentry. By partnering with employers, service providers, educational institutions, and state agencies, United Way seeks to increase the number of fair chance employers and equip businesses with tools to hire and support justice-impacted individuals, fostering productive employment and economic stability.

By addressing structural barriers to employment and hiring norms across industries and sectors, we will shift the dynamics of opportunity distribution within our community. The economic impact on marginalized communities not only helps individual families, but also strengthens our local economies by enabling more people to contribute productively and to create a better future for their children.

*We applaud the efforts of Valley of the Sun United Way to bring together the community to address the comprehensive needs of individuals who have been involved with the justice system so they can get the support they need and pursue good jobs and careers.*

*– Noreen Bishop, JPMorganChase, Arizona Leadership Team*

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT Arizona Career Pathways

Amanda was a single mother struggling to raise her three young children after the death of their father. As a dental assistant earning \$45,000 annually, she knew she needed to upskill to earn a livable wage for her single-income family of four. With the help of Arizona Career Pathways, she enrolled in Phoenix College's Dental Hygiene program.

While in the dental program, Arizona Career Pathways was able to provide Amanda with financial assistance for books, testing fees and utility payments. They were also able to assist when she faced unexpected auto repairs. With the burden of these expenses lifted, Amanda was able to focus on school, her three kids and building a better future for her family.

With the support of Arizona Career Pathways, Amanda graduated at the top of her class and is now making nearly double her previous salary at a private dental office. She loves the career she chose and is grateful for the support she received to advance her career.

Since graduating and beginning her new career, Amanda has become a proud homeowner and is now financially independent. She has joined the Arizona Career Pathways Alumni Association and plans to volunteer as a mentor to other dental hygiene students.







**HEALTH**



# Our Aspirations

Increase access to affordable health care and decrease food insecurity in the Valley.

## Community Trends

### INFLATION

Inflation has made food more expensive for Valley residents. Prices are more than 21 percent higher than pre-pandemic levels, and as a result, more than 1 in 8 Arizona residents are experiencing food insecurity.

### INCOME LIMITS FOR HEALTH CARE

110,282 individuals in Maricopa County were referred to the federal health insurance marketplace after exceeding income limits for eligibility

### LIMITED INSURANCE ACCESS

Individuals with lower income or limited insurance coverage often face barriers to accessing preventative care, leading to more emergency room visits for treatable conditions, which lead to higher health care costs for all.

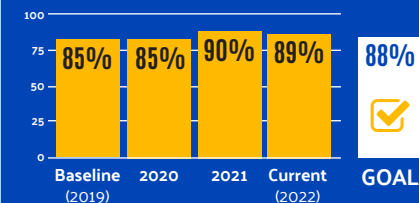
### RECORD HEAT WAVES

Record heat waves over the past few years have created dangerous health conditions for many individuals who are experiencing homelessness, have housing without fully functional cooling systems or face other economic hardships. In 2023, 645 people died from heat-related causes in Maricopa County.

For data sources and additional information, visit [vsuw.org/MC2026](https://vsuw.org/MC2026).

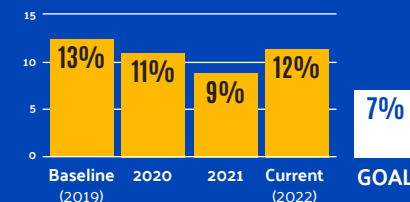
## Goals

**Increase** access to affordable health care by **100,000** individuals



Rate of Insured

**Decrease** food insecurity by **50%**



Rate of Food Insecurity



## Addressing Immediate Needs

Health and nutrition are closely linked for economically disadvantaged families. Working with our partners, we provided approximately:

<b>28 Million</b>	<b>Meals</b> for Maricopa County residents
<b>330,000</b>	individuals enrolled in <b>SNAP</b> programs benefits
<b>2,600</b>	Individuals enrolled in <b>medical</b> benefits
<b>15,000</b>	<b>Heat Relief Kits</b> distributed



**Gilbert Arvizu** Community Development and Engagement Director for Health  
Gilbert serves on the Health Improvement Partnership of Maricopa County steering committee with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, which is a collaborative effort to bring together public and private organizations, including Valley of the Sun United Way, to address priority health issues throughout the Valley.



# LEADERS IN ACTION

# Working Toward Long-Term Solutions

## Expanding Access to Health Care

Valley of the Sun United Way is leading discussions with managed care organizations and systems providers to standardize social care reimbursement through the Health Information Exchange/Closed Loop Referral System. This streamlined process aims to simplify claims submission, reduce administrative burdens for community-based organizations and provide a sustainable, long-term solution for individuals in need of health care.

## Community Gardens and Farms

Valley of the Sun United Way collaborated with the City of Phoenix Community & Economic Development Department to launch the city's first commercial vertical farm. Highlighted by the Mayor at the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Datos event in Fall 2024, the farm addresses food insecurity by reducing food costs through sustainable practices. Vertical farming uses less water and electricity while producing affordable, nutritious leafy greens, making it a cost-effective alternative to traditional agriculture.

*Valley of the Sun United Way's support has been vital in advancing HonorHealth Desert Mission Food Bank's efforts to fight hunger and tackle the root causes of food insecurity. Their generous funding has played a key role in our growth, helping us increase our reach from serving 2,000 individuals a month to over 5,000. With their continued partnership, we're able to provide nutritious meals to more people in need and work toward a healthier, hunger-free community.*

*– Haeli Miceli, HonorHealth Desert Mission Food Bank*



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### Aster Aging

As the Valley continues to experience rapid growth in population, so comes a higher need for community support and comprehensive services to assist our older population to attain and maintain an active, autonomous and engaged lifestyle. Aster Aging is one of the many partners Valley of the Sun United Way has joined forces with as part of its MC2026 Health initiatives to support and address this growing need, and more.

From center-based services including social hubs, congregate meals, educational programs and social activities to in-home and social services support, Aster Aging provides a continuum of services to help older adults and their families navigate aging with independence and dignity.

In her mid-70s, Jean began receiving home-delivered meals through Aster Aging after suffering a fall that left her temporarily homebound. A little over a month after the fall, Jean was gaining increased mobility and finding herself feeling isolated and seeking more socialization and in-person connection. Aster Aging helped Jean transition from in-home meal delivery to its congregate dining in Downtown Phoenix where she was able to enjoy café-style meals created by nutritionists, but most importantly, among friends. In addition to dining with peers, Jean was able to work with Aster Aging's social services team to identify different assistance programs that would allow her to continue living independently, while still supporting herself.

Jean is just one of the many adults that benefit from the services at Aster Aging. Between its Downtown Phoenix and Red Mountain campuses, the organization serves lunch to approximately 150 individuals each day for their congregate meal. Community partners like Aster Aging and their array of services help address the needs of our community on a personal, yet significant level.





## HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

# Our Aspirations

Ensure all can have a safe home to call their own.

## Community Trends

### EMERGENCY SHELTER WAIT LISTS

Maricopa County residents struggling with homelessness currently experience a wait list of up to nine weeks for emergency shelter. More than 300 families are on the wait list at any given time.

### HOMELESSNESS

For every 10 families that exit homelessness, 19 families are entering such situations.

### EVICTIONS

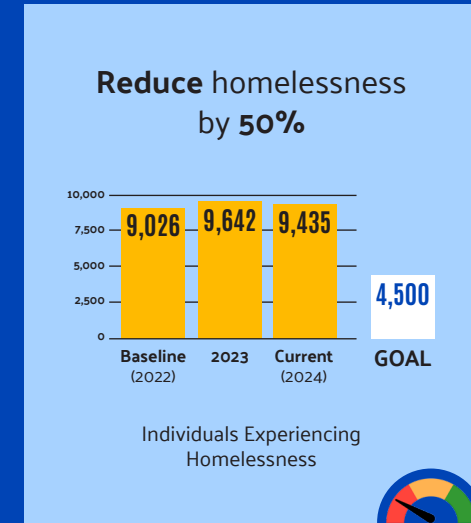
More than 87,000 individuals and families were evicted from housing in Maricopa County last year.

### RENTALS

In 2022, nearly half of all rental households (49%) were cost-burdened, the highest percentage since 2010.

For data sources and additional information, visit [vsuw.org/MC2026](https://vsuw.org/MC2026).

## Goal





Ending homelessness  
will take a team effort  
and Valley of the  
Sun United Way is an  
invaluable partner to us  
at the City of Phoenix.

- Mayor Kate Gallego, City of Phoenix



## Addressing Immediate Needs

United Way is committed to expanding access to sustainable housing for Valley residents and finding long-term solutions for homelessness. Working with our partners approximately:

- 7,900** Individuals were served in **emergency shelters**
- 280** People were **diverted from needing** emergency shelter
- 550** Individuals were **moved into stable housing**
- 1,900** Individuals **received rental assistance**
- 1,700** Individuals **received utility assistance**

### Samantha Jackson

Community Development and Engagement Director for Housing and Homelessness

Samantha participates in the effort to end family homelessness led by the Garcia Family Foundation and is examining equity and leadership development within homelessness services as a member of the Race Equity Committee with the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care.



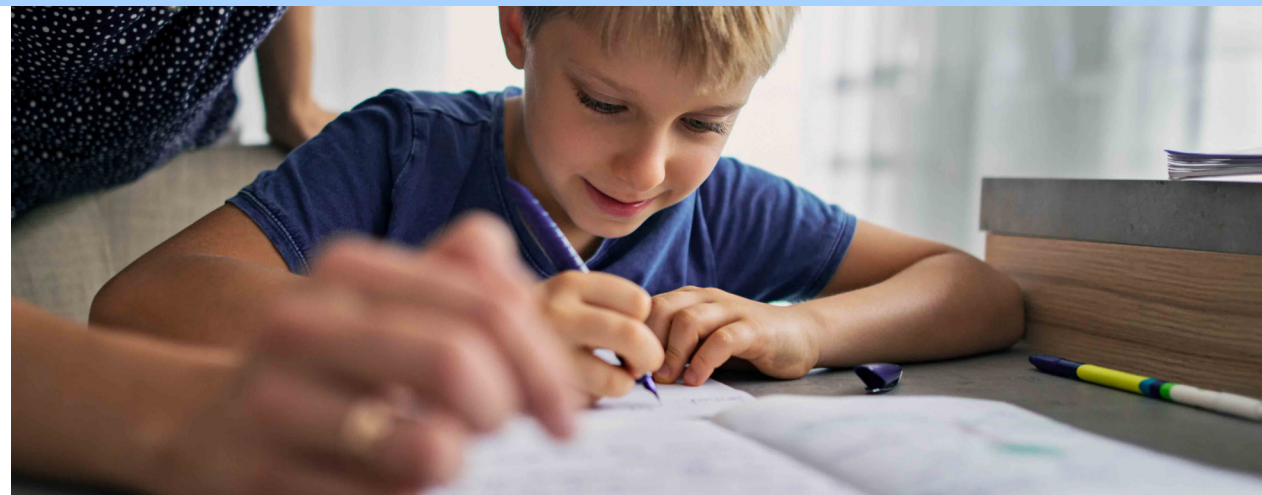
**LEADERS  
IN ACTION**

# Working Toward Long-Term Solutions

There are more people entering homelessness than leaving homelessness. From October 2023 – September 2024, there were 19 new people experiencing homelessness for every 10 people finding housing, and there is a significant number of new people entering homelessness each month. Strengthening the community's safety net to help households in crisis to help avoid losing their homes is less traumatic and more cost effective.

In collaboration with the Arizona State University Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions, Valley of the Sun United Way brought together key stakeholders, including the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Arizona Housing Coalition, to tackle homelessness prevention at a community forum. The event emphasized innovative solutions and the importance of comprehensive support services like legal aid, financial assistance, case management, and rental support to promote stability and prevent homelessness for vulnerable populations.

The forum was an opportunity to learn about community needs, the new USICH Preventing Homelessness Before It Starts framework, and to discuss and explore a collaborative effort that includes a broader range of partners to reduce the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in our community. Feedback from the event informed the first Homelessness Prevention grant application cycle, and a new collaborative effort to design strategies to increase prevention services that include policy solutions.



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### Mighty Families

Robert was the sole provider for his family of five. As a self-employed landscaper, his work was inconsistent and seasonal. With a recent decrease in available jobs and his wife also unemployed, the family had fallen behind on rent and began struggling to keep up with their family's basic expenses.

Through their children's school in the Isaac School District, Robert and his family were referred to Valley of the Sun United Way's Mighty Families program in partnership with Chicanos Por La Causa. The Mighty Families' community resource navigator met with Robert to discuss his family's current situation and began exploring opportunities to address their specific needs.

To avoid the possibility of eviction and to address the immediate need of missed rent payments, the family found support in Chicanos Por La Causa's supportive housing program for rental assistance. Working closely with both the community resource navigator and a housing navigator, Robert and his family were approved for rental support and received \$836 to cover their rent to keep the family in their home and their children in their school. In addition to rental support, the Mighty Families' community resource navigator was also able to provide the family with gift cards that assisted in obtaining school uniforms for their children and the navigator also supported the family in applying for health insurance.

As his experience with the Mighty Families program was ending, Robert expressed deep gratitude for the support provided through the program, highlighting how much the support of his community resource navigator helped to stabilize his family's situation.

# MC2026 Coalitions

Valley of the Sun United Way brings together nonprofits, and schools, as well as many other corporate, foundation and regional partners to form MC2026 Coalitions aligned to focus on our shared community-level goals.

A New Leaf \*  
Activate Food Arizona  
Adelante Healthcare  
Advocacy31nine ^^  
Afri-Soul ^^  
AHCCCS  
Alhambra Elementary School District  
Aliento  
American Academy of Pediatrics,  
Arizona Chapter  
American Family Insurance  
APS  
Area Agency on Aging, Region One  
Arizona Association for the Education of Young  
Children ^^  
Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation  
Arizona Board of Regents  
Arizona Career Pathways \*  
Arizona Centers for Comprehensive Education  
and Life Skills  
Arizona Community Foundation  
Arizona Department of Child Safety  
Arizona Department of Economic Security  
Arizona Department of Education  
Arizona Department of Health Services  
Arizona Faith Network ^^  
Arizona Food Bank Network  
Arizona Head Start Association  
Arizona Housing Coalition  
Arizona Housing, Inc. \*  
Arizona Kids THINK Too ^^  
Arizona Latino Leaders In Education  
Arizona State University  
Arizona State University Retirees  
Arizona Technology Council Foundation/  
SciTech Institute \*

Arizona Youth Partnership  
Arizona's Children Association  
Arouet \*  
Aster Aging \*  
Atabey Outdoors ^^  
Autism Life and Living ^^  
Avondale Elementary School District\*  
AZ Community Impact  
AZCEND\*  
Backpacks 4 Kids AZ ^^  
Balsz School District  
Banner Health  
Banner Olive Branch Senior Center \*  
Be A Leader Foundation \*  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona \*  
Body and Soul Sovereignty United ^^  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale \*  
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley \*  
Boys Hope Girls Hope of Arizona \*  
Buckeye Elementary School District  
Camp Catanese Foundation \*  
Campesino Sin Fronteras  
Cancer Support Community Arizona  
Candelen \*  
Cartwright School District #83 \*  
Catholic Charities Community Services \*  
Center for the Future of Arizona  
Central Arizona Shelter Services \*  
Chandler Education Foundation  
Chandler Regional Medical Center  
Chicanos Por La Causa \*  
Child & Family Resources  
Child Crisis Arizona \*  
Childsplay  
City of Avondale

City of Glendale  
City of Goodyear  
City of Phoenix  
City of Surprise  
City of Tempe  
College Bound AZ \*  
Community Bridges, Inc. \*  
Creighton Community Foundation \*  
DAS Foundation ^^  
Denova  
Dignity Health  
Disability Rights Arizona  
Dorn Agency, Inc.  
Dress for Success Phoenix  
DSquared Homes for the Homeless ^^  
Duet: Partners In Health & Aging  
Dysart Community Center \*  
Educare Arizona  
Education Forward Arizona  
Elaine \*  
Elevate Phoenix \*  
Equality Arizona  
Equality Health  
Family of God Ministry ^^  
Father Matters ^^  
First Things First  
Foster Arizona  
Foster Your Future ^^  
Foundation for Blind Children  
FrameShift Group \*  
Free Arts for Abused Children of Arizona \*  
Fresh Start Women's Foundation \*  
Friendly House \*  
Fuerte Art Collective ^^  
Gateway To Freedom ^^

Gervonni Cares, Inc. ^^  
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce Foundation ^^  
Grand Canyon University  
Greater Phoenix Chamber  
Greater Phoenix Chamber Foundation \*  
Greater Phoenix Urban League  
Harmony Project Phoenix ^^  
Helios Education Foundation  
Helping Children Succeed in School Foundation ^^  
Helping Families In Need \*  
Helping Hands for Single Moms \*  
Homeless Youth Connection \*  
Homeward Bound \*  
HonorHealth  
HonorHealth Desert Mission \*  
Hope's Crossing ^^  
Hushabye Nursery \*  
ICAN \*  
Jewish Family & Children's Service \*  
Jobs for Arizona's Graduates \*  
JPMorgan Chase  
Junior Achievement of Arizona \*  
Justa Center  
Keys to Change \*  
La Frontera EMPACT–Suicide Prevention Center \*  
Laboratory Sciences of Arizona  
Littleton Elementary School District  
Live and Learn \*  
Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest \*  
Lyft  
Maggie's Place \*  
Make Way for Books \*  
Maricopa Association of Governments  
Maricopa County  
Mayo Clinic

## MC2026 LEAD INVESTORS



MentorKids USA \*  
 Mercy Care  
 Mercy House \*  
 Murphy Elementary School District \*  
 National Kidney Foundation of Arizona  
 Native American Community Health Center  
 Native American Connections \*  
 Neighborhood Ministries \*  
 New Life Center \*  
 New Pathways for Youth \*  
 notMYkid \*  
 Opportunity for A Better Life \*\*  
 Opportunity Through  
 Entrepreneurship Foundation \*\*  
 Our Sister Our Brother \*\*  
 Parental Support Services \*\*  
 Pathward  
 Payving A Way \*\*  
 Pendergast Elementary School District  
 Per Scholas \*  
 Phoenix Cancer Support Network \*\*  
 Phoenix Children's Hospital Foundation \*  
 Phoenix Indian Center  
 Phoenix Legal Action Network \*\*  
 Phoenix Local Organizing Committee \*\*  
 Phoenix Rescue Mission  
 Phoenix Union High School  
 Pipeline AZ \*  
 Project Roots \*\*  
 Raising Special Kids  
 Read Better Be Better \*  
 Read On Arizona \*  
 Read On Chandler \*  
 Read On Tempe \*  
 Read On Phoenix \*  
 Read On Pima \*  
 Rising Youth Theatre \*\*  
 Rotary Club of Goodyear Pebble Creek  
 Sage Foundation for Health \*\*  
 Save the Family Foundation of Arizona \*  
 School Connect  
 Scottsdale Community College  
 SER-KALLAI \*\*  
 Si Se Puede Foundation \*\*  
 Skye's the Limit Foundation \*\*  
 Sojourner Center \*  
 Solari \*  
 SOUNDS Academy \*  
 Southwest Autism Research  
 & Resource Center \*  
 Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS  
 Southwest Human Development \*  
 Southwest Lending Closet \*\*  
 St. Joseph the Worker \*  
 St. Joseph's Foundation  
 St. Mary's Food Bank  
 Stand for Children Arizona  
 Stepping Up for Seniors \*\*  
 Surya Partners  
 Televerde Foundation \*  
 Tempe Community Action Agency \*  
 The Arc of Tempe \*\*  
 The Arizona Partnership for Immunization  
 The Black HR Society \*\*  
 The Bridge to Hope \*\*  
 The Salvation Army \*  
 The Society of St. Vincent de Paul \*  
 TigerMountain Foundation  
 TNTP  
 TPI Composites

Treasures 4 Teachers  
 U.S.VETS  
 UMOM New Day Centers \*  
 UnidosUS  
 Union Elementary School District \*  
 Unite for Literacy \*  
 United Food Bank \*  
 University of Arizona  
 Unlimited Potential\*  
 UPWARD for Children and Families \*  
 Valle del Sol  
 Valley Leadership  
 Valley of the Sun Early  
 Childhood Association \*\*  
 Valley of the Sun YMCA \*  
 Valleywise Health Foundation  
 Vanguard  
 Village 360 \*\*  
 Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust  
 Walgreens  
 Waste Not \*  
 Wesley Community & Health Centers \*  
 West Valley Health Equity \*  
 WHEAT \*  
 Year Up Arizona \*  
 Youth Impact Mentoring  
 YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix \*  
 Zion Institute \*

Funded Partner \*  
 Funded Partner and Grassroots \*\*

## Grassroots and Small Nonprofits

Valley of the Sun United Way launched Grassroots and Small Nonprofits Partnerships to identify and support community-based organizations with annual budgets less than \$250,000 that are making a critical impact in Maricopa County aligned to our work with MC2026. Core initiatives include funding, capacity building and other support.

With a particular focus on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color individuals that have long experienced under-investment, we know that investing in grassroots and small nonprofits provides a mechanism for activating a critical missing ingredient in more traditional community development strategies—the knowledge, passion, commitment, and enduring presence of people who live in a community.

*Grassroots and small nonprofits are the boots-on-the-ground when it comes to educating our community, growing civic leaders, and enacting sustainable change across Maricopa County. The recognition, advocacy and support Valley of the Sun United Way provides to these organizations not only shows a genuine commitment to supporting the Valley, but elevates them as a leader in uniting and mobilizing all available resources to create a community where everyone has the ability to succeed.*

– Teniqua Broughton, VerveSimone Consulting





# 2023-2024 Community Investment

## \$111,233,852

**88%**

Community investments through United Way network of partners, community services and program support, including First Things First and other restricted funding

**5%**

Donor-directed designations to nonprofit organizations

**7%**

Total supporting services  
(administrative support and fundraising)



# Board of Directors

## OFFICERS

### **Latasha Causey, Chair**

*President*

Phoenix Raceway

### **Matt Byrnes, Vice Chair**

*SVP, Proprietary Brands  
and Sourcing*  
PetSmart

### **Ruben E. Alvarez, Secretary**

*Co-Founder and Managing Partner*  
Molera Alvarez

### **Dave Long, Treasurer**

*Community Leader*

## DIRECTORS

### **Robyn Arnell Brenden**

Red Robin Gourmet Burgers

### **Tracy Bame**

Freeport-McMoRan Foundation

### **Jeff Barton**

City of Phoenix

### **Paula Boca-Bommarito**

CopperPoint Insurance Companies

### **Lee Ann Bohn**

Maricopa Community College  
District

### **Angie Bond-Simpson**

Salt River Project (SRP)

### **Geoff Burbridge**

Capital One

### **Rebecca Burleigh**

EPCOR

### **Lisa D. Cagnolatti**

Community Leader

### **Chris Camacho**

Greater Phoenix Economic Council

### **Patrick Edwards**

Burns & McDonnell

### **Steve Evans (H)**

Evans Family Foundation

### **Paul R. Fannin**

Vedura Residential Operating, LLC

### **Matt Feeney**

Snell & Wilmer

### **Sabrina Freiberg**

Nationwide

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BMO Commercial Bank

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Northern Arizona University

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Greater Phoenix Leadership

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Sunbelt Holdings

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TPI Composites

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Microsoft

### **Hope B. Levin**

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### **Jen Pokorski**

Maricopa County

### **Adam Reich**

Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP

### **Todd Sanders**

Greater Phoenix Chamber

### **Ray Schey**

Phoenix Business Journal

### **Anthony Sharett**

Pathward

### **Brad Smith (H)**

Deloitte

### **Don Smith (H)**

Community Leader

### **Kyle Steinbuch**

PNC

### **Kimberley Thompson-Heinl**

USAA

### **Lauren Tobiassen**

Bank of America

### **Monica Villalobos**

Arizona Hispanic Chamber  
of Commerce

### **Daniel G. Wani, Esq.**

U.S. Bank Private Wealth  
Management

### **Monica Whiting**

Arizona Public Service Company  
(APS)

### **Christine Wilkinson, Ph.D.**

Arizona State University

(H) = Indicates Honorary Member



# Call to Action

## How You Can Help

By supporting Valley of the Sun United Way, you're helping thousands of residents get the tools they need to succeed. You can support our work financially or through many volunteer opportunities.



## Financial Support

### ARIZONA CHARITABLE TAX CREDIT

Give a charitable donation that assists hardworking families by supporting areas like job skill training, childcare, education, and more.

### LEADERSHIP GIVING

Join fellow pacesetters who lead by example and inspire others to support Mighty Change.

### WOMEN UNITED

Join a global network of 55,000 people dedicated to improving their local communities

### PATHWAY TO IMPACT CIRCLE

A philanthropic group of young, community-minded executive leaders and business owners who are passionate about making our community a better place.

### TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY

Tailor your gift to your philanthropic goals and help make a lasting impact.

### MAJOR GIFTS

We will work with you to find innovative solutions for a better community.

### UNITED WAY PLANNED GIVING

Get more flexibility and greater tax benefits with every gift.

### ENDOWED GIFTS

Prepare for our second century of impact by investing in Valley of the Sun United Way's endowment through our Rising to the Occasion Campaign.

Visit [vsuw.org/give](https://vsuw.org/give) to find out more.

# Corporate Partners

Creating Mighty Change is so much greater than any one person or organization. It takes an entire community. Our Mighty Change Champions are some of our community's biggest supporters that are making a positive impact through corporate philanthropy, employee giving and volunteerism. Thank you to our partners for their generous support.

## MILLION DOLLAR CORPORATE CIRCLE – \$1,000,000 +



## CHANGEMAKERS – \$500,000 - \$999,999



## ADVOCATES – \$250,000 - \$499,999

American Express  
Costco  
Enterprise  
PetSmart

Siemer Institute for Family Stability  
SRP  
USAA

## LEADERS – \$100,000 - \$249,999

Banner Health  
City of Avondale  
City of Scottsdale  
City of Surprise  
CopperPoint Insurance Companies  
General Dynamics  
Gore  
Maricopa Community Colleges  
Maricopa County

Microchip Technology  
NBA Foundation  
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust  
PCL Construction  
PNC  
Snell & Wilmer  
Team Fishel  
Wells Fargo

*Arizona State University and Valley of the Sun United Way share a commitment to make our communities healthier, stronger and more resilient. Over the years, ASU has been locally and nationally recognized for its steadfast support of United Way and the incredible generosity of our university community. When we work together, we can significantly elevate not only United Way's ability to empower and serve our communities but everyone's ability to create change and make a better future for all.*

– Michael Crow, President, Arizona State University





# Mighty Change

*The sky is the limit. We can change things; they don't have to be the way they have always been. We have to be disrupters and Valley of the Sun United Way is doing that in a very strong way.*

*- Monica Villalobos, Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*

[VSUW.ORG/MIGHTYCHANGE](https://vsuw.org/mightychange)