

HYCconnections

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF HOMELESS YOUTH CONNECTION

FALL 2022

Homeless Youth Connection Receives \$250,000 Grant from The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation



Homeless Youth Connection (HYC) has received a \$250,000 grant from The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation. The funding will directly support HYC's Empowering Youth For The Future (EYFTF) Program, a comprehensive social services initiative that provides youth experiencing homelessness, ages 13 to 21, with the basic resources to stay in school, complete their education and plan for post-secondary success.

Nationally, of youth experiencing homelessness, 87% are more likely to drop out of school than their stably housed peers. These students are at a significantly higher risk of experiencing poverty, unemployment, chronic homelessness, and poor health. One of HYC's top preventative measures, the EYFTF Program, works to intervene before homeless youth drop out by providing assistance with academics, health, housing, hygiene, employment and independent living to enable success.

"We are incredibly grateful to The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation for their generosity and support of HYC youth. This funding will provide youth experiencing homelessness with the resources and the support to stay in school, graduate and create lasting solutions for a sustainable future," said HYC Co-Chief Executive Officer Dawn Bogart.

Through the EYFTF program, each student is paired with a Youth Coach to identify their strengths and goals and establish a personalized action plan to attain those goals. The highly interactive program allows Youth Coaches to connect with students weekly, both virtually and in-person to discuss their progress. This approach helps students identify and achieve a series of short-term goals that ultimately lead to high school graduation and self-sufficiency. Through this authentic engagement, youth develop a sense of safety, structure, belonging, self-worth, and social contribution.

Integral to the EYFTF program, HYC has cultivated relationships with host

families to provide stable housing, food, transportation and all-around, at-home care and support through the student's academic journey. This initiative allows each HYC youth to build stronger relationships and interpersonal skills, experience stability in their home life and learn positive life skills that lead to full independence.

"School is hard enough, and without a roof over your head or food on the table, it's nearly impossible to focus on your education," said PXG Founder and CEO Bob Parsons. "Homeless Youth Connection is ensuring no student is left carrying this weight alone."

"Homeless Youth Connection intervenes in the lives of students experiencing homelessness before they drop out of school, before they give up on their dreams for the future," said President & Executive Creative Director of PXG Apparel Renee Parsons. "Working with local school districts and community partners, the organization provides students with renewed hope and the tools they need to graduate."

Along with academic support and housing, HYC offers employment, career development and financial literacy services. HYC currently serves more than 600 students in Maricopa County annually and has experienced tremendous growth in the past year: expanding to serve 13 school districts, including one in the City of Flagstaff, and partnering with 130 high schools to deliver case management resources, school supplies, clothing, hygiene products and more.

The recent grant from The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation will support our rapid growth and ensure HYC has resources to help youth experiencing homelessness complete their education and have a chance at a healthy, successful future.



Give Back this Holiday Season

Become a Holiday Sponsor

Fall has arrived, and the holidays are right around the corner. As temperatures cool off, the number of youth we serve increases throughout the fall and winter. We are prepared to meet the needs of our youth, but we need your help and holiday spirit to make this time of year special. Interested in making a difference in the life of a youth experiencing homelessness this holiday season? Here are a few ideas.

Fulfill a teen's holiday wish list to help them celebrate the season. Individuals, groups, or businesses can sponsor a student through HYC's Holiday Hope for Teens program and go shopping to give a youth experiencing homelessness something special this time of year. Gifts can be wrapped and the teens also love to receive gift cards. You can make a donation of \$50-\$150 online at hycaz.org/donations and we'll do the shopping for you.

Please note your donation is for Holiday Sponsorship.

Please consider signing up to be a HYC Holiday Sponsor today!

Your support will help to ensure gifts can be delivered to our youth before the winter holiday break.

For more information about our winter holiday needs, please contact:

Robin Telle, Community Engagement Manager, at rtelle@hycaz.org or 602-847-4300 x 106.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ARIZONA CHARITABLE TAX CREDIT

Help Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Arizona



If you are a resident of Arizona, one of the easiest ways to make a difference in the lives of youth experiencing homelessness is through the **Arizona Charitable Tax Credit**. This tax credit, which is separate from the Education and Foster Care charitable tax credits, is a way for state taxpayers to redirect their state tax dollars to organizations

and causes that are important to them. The state of Arizona provides an incredible incentive for taxpayers who donate to certain qualifying charities like HYC.

When you make a donation to HYC, you can receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your Arizona state return—up to \$400 for individuals and \$800 for those filing jointly. Donate \$800 to HYC by April 15, 2023 and get \$800 right back on your Arizona tax return. HYC's Qualifying Charitable Tax Code is **20200**. Donors are required to use this code when taking the tax credit on their income tax returns.

There are more than 7,800 homeless youth in grades 9-12 living in Arizona,

and more than 1,100 of these youth are unaccompanied. Often, it's a result of circumstances beyond their control.

The consequences of homelessness are devastating. Many youth impacted by homelessness do what they have to do in order to survive—sleep in cars, barter sex for shelter, couch surf or live with an abusive family member. Your charitable donation to HYC will directly help youth in Arizona who are experiencing homelessness.

Visit hycaz.org/arizona-tax-credit to take advantage of this opportunity to help youth experiencing homelessness in Arizona. For details, consult your tax professional.

HYC Recently Awarded Grants

THUNDERBIRDS CHARITIES

Supporting Empowering Youth For The Future Program



Thunderbirds Charities recently awarded HYC a \$50,000 grant to support Empowering Youth For The Future (EYFTF) Program, HYC's comprehensive services that provides homeless youth, with resources to stay in school, complete their education and plan for post-graduation success.

"We are extremely appreciative to Thunderbirds Charities for their longtime support of and generosity toward HYC youth. This funding will provide youth experiencing homelessness with the resources that are often taken for granted that our youth need to stay in school and graduate," said HYC's Co-Chief Executive Officer Dawn Bogart.

The grant from Thunderbirds Charities will significantly support the continued growth and the increased needs of HYC youth working to stay in school. In addition, it safeguards the ability for HYC to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness, so they can graduate and have a sustainable future.

ALLSTATE FOUNDATION

Helping Hands Grant Supports Volunteer Causes



Thank you to Allstate volunteers for empowering people and our community. Nine local Allstate agents participated in their annual "Back to School" gift card drive and helped us receive a \$10,000 Allstate Foundation Helping Hands Grant. The Allstate

Foundation supports the causes that Allstate agency owners, financial specialists and employees care about most by providing Allstate Foundation Helping Hands Grants to nonprofits where they volunteer their time to help communities thrive.



HYC IS PROUD TO WELCOME

Frank Garcia

to our Board of Directors

Frank Garcia, a Flagstaff native, is a graduate of Flagstaff High School and Northern Arizona University (NAU). He was a teacher in Kearny

and Whiteriver, AZ before returning to Flagstaff. Frank has served in the Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) as a teacher, counselor, coach and principal for more than 30 years. He is currently the Director of Educational Enrichment for FUSD. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from NAU as well as his Principal and Superintendent Certificates. He currently sits on the Board of Northern Arizona Girls on the Run, the Board of the Flagstaff Public Library and the Board of the Raymond Educational Foundation. Frank is an avid reader and enjoys hiking, biking, camping and sports, especially baseball. He appreciates being able to live, work and be involved in the community where he grew up. He and his wife Jean have three grown children.

It is important for HYC to have board representation in the Flagstaff community, serving youth in need. We are excited to have Frank join our team and support our mission!

HYC STAFF ADDITIONS 2022

Meet Our Newest Team Members

HYC has experienced growth in our services and some staff changes since this past March. We are excited to introduce new members to the HYC team.



Danielle Cameron
Youth Coach



Angelique Gomez
Youth Coach



Lauren Kaibetoney
Community Engagement Manager, Flagstaff



Robin Miller
Finance & Compliance Manager



Yomairis (Yomi) Paulino
Resident Assistant



Allison Ryal-Bagley
Resident Manager



Rustbelt (Rust) Villegas
Youth Coach

For more information about HYC staff, please visit: hyc.org/hyc-staff-bios



HELP US CONNECT TO YOU!



Please let us know your preferred method of communication by taking a quick 2-minute survey at:

surveymonkey.com/r/HYC-AZ

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Homeless Youth Connection Newsletter

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The HYC Youth Advisory Council (YAC) was formed in March of 2022. The purpose of HYC's YAC is to enlist the lived expertise of the students we serve in evaluating and providing feedback on HYC's services. Council members consist of current HYC students, as well as alumni, who are enrolled in high school and college.

To date, the HYC YAC has provided valuable critique of the youth feedback surveys, *Plan For The Future* workbook, and processes related to how the YAC will operate. Members of HYC's YAC receive a stipend for their participation, as well as leadership experience and opportunities to represent HYC at community events. Current HYC YAC members have participated in a strengths assessment and self-inventory discussion around leadership skill building. We are excited to grow the membership of the YAC and learn how we can best support the youth we serve.

HYC Has a New Look

Updated Logo Better Represents Services Offered



Homeless Youth Connection is excited to that we have updated our logo to better represent the services we offer youth experiencing homelessness.

In our new logo you'll see a triangle and square shape that represent a home that is unstable and experiencing disruption. You'll also see the outline of a home that represents the stability HYC offers and if you notice the home is missing one wall to show there is still work to be done on the youth's journey to a sustainable future. In the center, the heart represents the passion and support HYC staff, volunteers and donors provide to make a difference in the lives of our youth.