

Expanding to Better Service Our Community in Need



Homelessness is on the rise across Arizona, including the number of teens who are living on the streets or in a shelter.

According to a new report by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Arizona tops the list for the states with the largest increase of homeless youth. The data reveals a nearly 45% increase in Arizona compared to 2020.

HYC, with the support of our donors, is working to provide resources and multiple housing options for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. During this past year HYC has expanded its program services while staying focused on the mission of eliminating barriers to graduation for homeless youth and creating lasting solutions for a successful future.

In addition to providing comprehensive services including case management, in-kind donations, counseling services, access to medical care and vital documents, HYC offers housing through its Host Family Program which allows the youth to stay in their school community and complete high school.

In addition to the Host Family Program, HYC is proud of its first Transitional Living Program in Goodyear, AZ which serves youth in the West Valley by providing safe and stable housing for youth who are experiencing homelessness and are unaccompanied.

This past year, HYC had an opportunity to add its second transitional Living Program in Phoenix. The new facility will also house our in-kind donations and some administrative offices. This building will provide housing resources to unaccompanied homeless youth in the Metro-Phoenix area who are not participating in the Host Family Program.

In November 2022, HYC purchased a home in Flagstaff with grant funding from the Arizona Department of Housing to provide housing and transitional living services to unaccompanied homeless youth enrolled in school and in the HYC program. This will be HYC's third Transitional Living Program. HYC, in partnership with Flagstaff high schools has been providing services in Flagstaff since August of 2021.

By increasing the housing and transitional living resources combined with HYC's comprehensive social services, HYC will better be able to impact services for the rising number of youth experiencing homelessness in Arizona.

There are many ways you can help:

- Become a monthly donor
- Donate and take advantage of the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit
- Host a drive for needed supplies
- Volunteer your time and talents

**For more information,
contact info@hycarizona.org or
call 602-847-4300.**

Get to Know Our Youth: *HYC Student Stories*



Caitlin has a big smile and a hopeful outlook on life. She is a senior in high school and was referred to HYC by her homeless school liaison. She moved from Chicago to Arizona with her mother and enrolled in school when she arrived.

Her mother often travels for extended periods of time to Mississippi to be with her current husband. Thus, leaving Caitlin unaccompanied and having to find places to stay.

Caitlin lived with her aunt for a short time but was kicked out, so she went to stay with her cousin's family until she could find someplace else to go. They gave her a week to find another place to stay. Caitlin was finally able to convince another aunt to let her stay until she turns 18. When Caitlin is 18-years-old she can consent for services and will have more options available to her including housing and social services. She will be 18 in March and eligible for HYC's Host Family Program or HYC's Transitional Living Program which would both be great options for her.

In the meantime, Caitlin is working with her youth coach to complete her FAFSA and college applications. She plans to go to a community college for two years then transfer to UCLA to get her degree in Psychology in hopes of one day being a child therapist to help kids just like herself.

Caitlin shared that her biggest challenge is having to fend for herself and be independent at such a young age. She said, "Having my mother know I'm sleeping from couch to couch has been difficult to bear but it's what drives me to create a life of my own and become successful at what I set my mind to."



John grew up experiencing household instability at an early age. By the time he turned 10-years-old, child protective services had become a part of the picture and he and his siblings were taken away

from their mother. Sometimes John and his siblings were placed together. Oftentimes, they were not. From the age of 10-18, John had been in over 30 different placements while being a ward of the state. These placements included an inordinate number of group homes and foster care homes. When he connected with HYC, John was in his junior year of high school while being in and out of a state-mandated placement. His youth coach provided him with in-kind donations, case management support, regular check-ins, and helped with college opportunities.

Through resiliency and community support, John graduated high school in the Valley and is currently in his second semester attending Northern Arizona University. John quickly adapted to the college and dorm life in August 2022, initiating new relationships, and successfully transitioning to the Flagstaff area where he continues to be in HYC through the first-year college program. John is currently in the process of completing the necessary requirements to make him eligible for a study abroad program (through NAU) in Spain which he plans to begin in August of 2023.

John is thriving and has a positive outlook on his future! One of self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

Names have been changed to protect privacy.

HYC STAFF ADDITIONS

Meet Our Newest Team Members

HYC continues to experience growth in our services. We are excited to introduce new members to the HYC team:



Terrance Bailey
Resident Assistant



Marcus Miller
Resident Assistant



Regina Ramondo
Youth Coach



Ellyse Rooks
Youth Coach



Dustin Sallaz
Program Manager



Robin Telle
Community Engagement Manager



Jasmyne Wells
Resident Assistant

For more staff member information, visit our website to read their complete bios: hyc.org/hyc-staff-bios



6th Annual Rainbow Classic Golf Tournament Set for April

Sponsored by the Greater Phoenix Equality Chamber of Commerce

Calling all golfers! Join the Greater Phoenix Equality Chamber of Commerce (GPECC) as they host their 6th Annual Rainbow Classic. Proceeds from this event will benefit Homeless Youth Connection and Los Ojos De La Familia. Interested in representing HYC at the tournament? Register as an individual golfer or register your entire foursome at once, by visiting RainbowClassic.org. Registration is \$125 per golfer and includes a round of golf, cart rental, range balls, on course snack, hot BBQ lunch, one drink ticket, commemorative photo, and cool premium tee prize.

Want to support HYC without having to know anything about golf? Join us for lunch at the event with a "Lunch Only" ticket. Lunch will be provided immediately after the golf event (approximately 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.) and is \$35 for GPECC members and \$40 for non-members.

Attendees will have the opportunity to win a Premium 7-Night Cruise for two to your choice of the Caribbean or Australia courtesy of Expedia Cruise Ship Centers! Golfers may purchase a raffle ticket the day of the tournament, at \$50 per ticket and limited to 100 tickets—and limited to those in attendance at the Chamber Rainbow Classic!

6th Annual Rainbow Classic

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start | Stonecreek Golf Club
4435 North Paradise Village Parkway South | Phoenix, AZ 85032

Registration and sponsorships available at RainbowClassic.org.

Please mention you are playing on behalf of HYC in the "Comments" section of the check-out page.



HYC IS PROUD TO WELCOME
Bobby Barnes
to our Board of Directors



BOBBY BARNES began his career in the mortgage business in 1992. He founded and served as President of Legacy Home Mortgage from 1996 to 2010. Bobby has been at the executive level in the mortgage business since this time and remains a top producer, with a primary focus on private and commercial lending. Bobby is currently Director of Development of Diversified Commercial Capital.

Bobby is an Arizona native and learned his business principles from his grandfather, a highly successful Arizona water well driller and cotton farmer. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Business from the University of Arizona and has been recognized by The Phoenix Business Journal as one of the Valley's "40 under 40." He is active in the community and served several organizations including the Arizona Human Rights Fund/ Foundation, the Arizona Science Center, Southwest Center for HIV and AIDS, Homeward Bound, the Human Rights Campaign, GLADD, the Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix Museum of History, Phoenix Theatre, Kids in Focus, and Childsplay Theatre. Bobby was also selected to participate in the prestigious Valley Leadership Program.

We are excited to have Bobby join our board of directors and support our mission!

**WE'VE MOVED! New Address:**

224 East Hatcher Road • Phoenix, AZ 85020

602-847-4300 • hycaz.orgNon-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Phoenix, AZ
Permit No 750

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

HYCconnections

Homeless Youth Connection Newsletter

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Invest in HYC... Invest in Your Community

*Save the Date: Arizona Gives
Day April 4, 2023*

Join HYC for 24 hours of online giving during Arizona Gives Day, an annual giving movement uniting nonprofits to celebrate and increase philanthropy in Arizona through online giving.

This year Arizona Gives Day is Tuesday, April 4.

Donations made on HYC's official Arizona Gives Day fundraising page could qualify us for bonus dollars. The funds raised during this 24-hour period allow HYC to provide essential needs, case management and support to the youth in our program so they can stay in school, graduate and have a successful, sustainable plan for their future.

Donate on Arizona Gives Day and you can receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your Arizona state return. **HYC's Qualifying Charitable Tax Code is 20200.** To support HYC during Arizona Gives Day, visit azgives.org/hycaz to donate and transform the lives of youth experiencing homelessness. You can save time by scheduling your gift in advance or donating as early as March 15, 2023.

