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Executive Summary

Non-Profit Funding for FY 20-21

**Town of Gilbert**

**Anticipate. Create. Help people.**

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OVERVIEW

The Town of Gilbert is a service organization striving to benefit the lives of residents. With a goal to be the City of the Future, Gilbert set its mission to anticipate, create, and help people. Helping people became an even more pronounced cornerstone for this past year in light of the global pandemic. Partnerships with our local non-profit organizations were a key component to providing critical services to residents in need. These organizations and their teams stepped forward to provide necessary resources, support, and opportunities to improve the lives of those they serve.

Gilbert assists these non-profits through the Neighbor 2 Neighbor program and General Fund distribution. In addition, many non-profits were allocated CARES Act funding for FY 20-21, 36 different organizations were chosen to receive funding from one or both sources.

The non-profit organizations are categorized into priority groupings, which are as follows:

**Priority 1 – Mental Health & Substance Abuse Treatment**

**Priority 2 – Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking**

**Priority 3 – Families in Crisis**

**Priority 4 – Homeless Individuals & Families**

**Priority 5 – Low to Moderate Income Individuals and Families**

**Priority 6 – Youth in Need of Social Services**

**Priority 7 – Special Needs Individuals**

**Priority 8 – Elderly/Seniors**

The following summary breaks down Gilbert’s non-profit funds for the fiscal year 2020-2021 (FY 20-21).

* **$311,000 FROM GENERAL FUNDS & $109,000 FROM NEIGHBOR 2 NEIGHBOR / SMS\* and $10,000 TOWN STORE FUNDS** (\*SMS refers to Save My Stamp – Funds that are derived from ad space sold and delivered in utility bills)
* **$430,000 TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS DISTRIBUTED**
* **$2,000,000 TOTAL SPECIAL ALLOCATION CARES ACT FUNDING**

Further information about the funding process and how to apply for funding can be found on Gilbert’s Community Resources page:

[*https://www.gilbertaz.gov/residents/community-and-neighborhood-services/community-resources/non-profit-funding*](https://www.gilbertaz.gov/residents/community-and-neighborhood-services/community-resources/non-profit-funding)

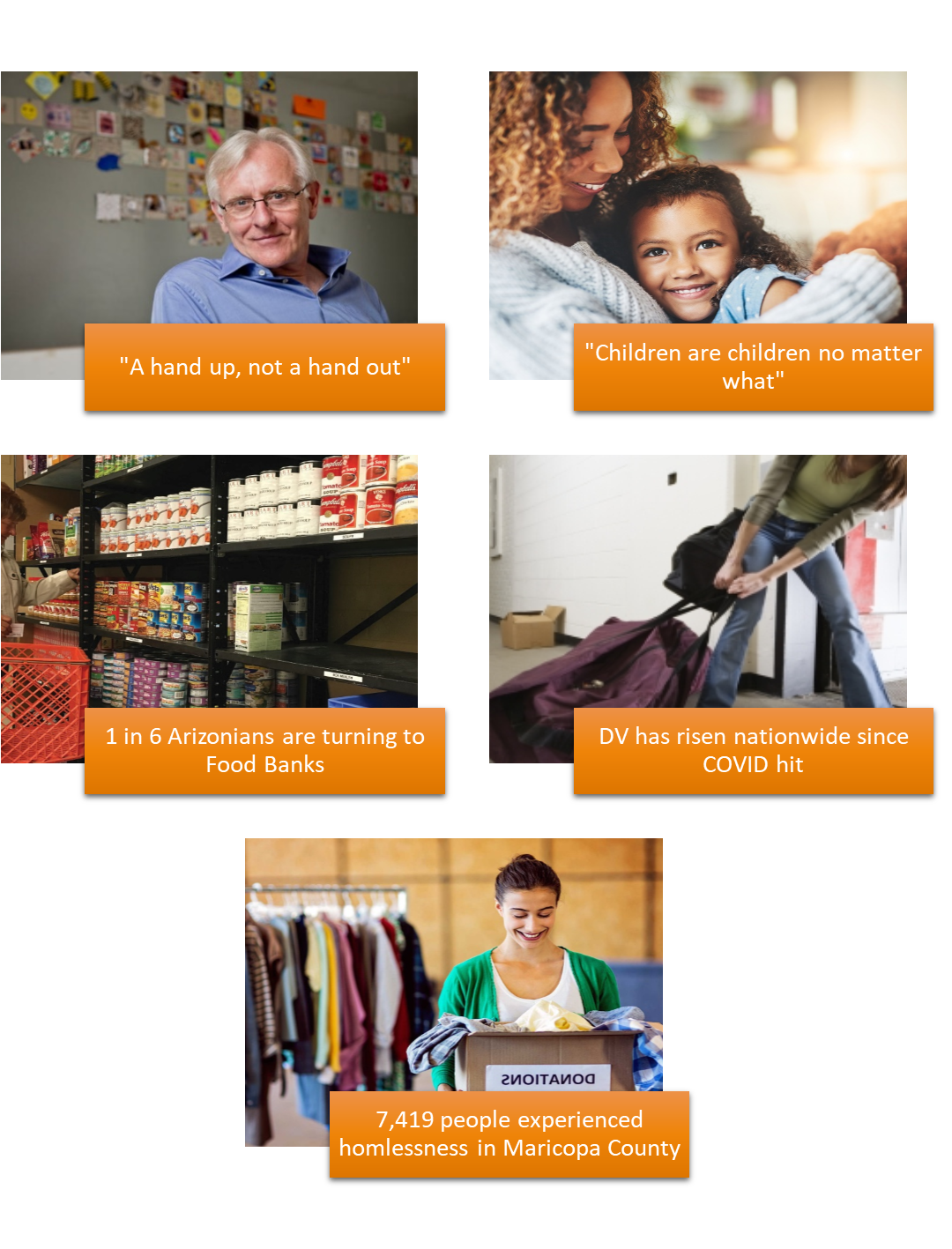
FUNDS DISTRIBUTED



SPECIAL ALLOCATION FUNDING

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The coronavirus, COVID-19, has continued to affect the State of Arizona, Town of Gilbert, and non-profit organizations alike. The pandemic shed a light on the invaluable resources our local non-profits provided to the Town of Gilbert. Still continuing, many are struggling to climb their way back to normal operations. Non-profit organizations faced many hardships with decreased service limits and heightened demands for services. With narrowed ability to serve their communities due to health and regulatory restrictions, 17 of the nonprofits listed lowered intake of ‘new’ individuals in need and 13 reported lowered volunteer hours. Many non-profits would not have survived in this complexed year without additional emergency funding; thus, a portion from the Arizona CARES Act was allocated out to these organizations.

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ORGANIZATIONS & HIGHLIGHTS

**Individuals in Need of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Treatment**

**Hope for Addiction, Inc.**

Hope for Addiction is a program provided to walk alongside, equip, and care for those who struggle with addition. This support system helps individuals on their transition to a new life through weekly recovery meetings, mentorship, transition support, and practical tools. Paid staff members work alongside volunteers providing guidance and direction. *Recovering Hope* are weekly meetings equipping people with practical recovery tools and gospel application in which one will *‘learn* ***how*** *to live a sober life”.*

* 239 support services were received by 19 Gilbert residents
* 18 Gilbert residents attended weekly recovery meetings 132 times
* Volunteers served a total of 804 hours in the Gilbert program

***Grace connected and utilized the Recovering Hope meetings on her journey to sobriety. She had a history of trauma and loss and struggled to stay sober. She had lost her license due to DUI. Working with the Hope for Addiction team for the past year she was able to receive mentorship and counseling services which helped her navigate court requirements to get her license back.***

**Jewish Family & Children’s Service (JFCS) - Telehealth**

JFCS East Valley Healthcare provides services to individuals with mental health and substance use treatment needs who were in crisis due to impacts of COVID-19. Patient care was client-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally sensitive. Proactive services are designed to help children, youth, and adults to learn to manage daily demands, changing lifestyle, life transitions, and situational crisis.

* Served 349 Town of Gilbert residents
* 11,168 hours of counseling, play therapy, and primary medical sessions were provided via virtual and/or telephonic visits
* 279 clients retained in services at one year
* 97% reported that with consistent care through counseling and/or play therapy have proved to reduce their anxiety, depression, and mental health issues

***“Sonja” received treatment services to help control her substance use and bouts of depression. Although she compromised her substance use early in the pandemic, Sonja says she credits the iPad and weekly interactions with her JFCS therapist to preventing a relapse and possible self-harm.***

**Jewish Family & Children’s Service (JFCS) – Financial Services**

JFCS has a mission to strengthen the community by providing behavioral health, healthcare and social services to all ages, faiths, and backgrounds. JFCS’ Emergency Financial Assistance funds covered short-term or one-time costs that helped stabilize a healthy living environment and continued path to healing for our clients who faced cycles of traumatic and emergent needs during COVID-19.

* 233 Town of Gilbert residents were served
* 100% of these residents reported that they were linked with community resources
* 93% of these residents served stated their emergency financial assistance needs were met
* 328 clients have completed and annual health assessment and reported positive steps to health and wellness

***“Thank you very much for all your help – you have been amazing! I am looking forward to the day when I am in a situation to pay it forward. Wishing you all the best!” – JFCS Client***

**notMYkid, Inc.**

notMYkid’s mission is to empower and educate youth, families, and communities with the knowledge and courage to identify and prevent negative youth behavior. Their organization works passionately to educate and protect our community’s kids by providing life-saving peer-to-peer programs and support with a team of behavioral health experts.

* Served 18,429 Gilbert residents with 231 hours of direct service
* 20 Teen Talks were facilitated and delivered
* 5 Mental Health Clubs were active all year
* 10 Parent Webinars completed
* Delivered four Mental Health First Aid training
* 25 Gilbert residents volunteered 108 hours

***The Youth Mental Health Collective launched in October 2020 has really taken off with a rally of the organizations notMYkid, Bring Change to Mind, and Laloboy Foundation, & TLC Pediatrics. There was an overwhelming need for mental health services says their lead pediatrician, “I have, on average, 8-10 actively suicidal teens in my office everyday”. After several meetings and planning sessions, the YMHC has stepped up to help provide immediate support for their doctors and patients. This new partnership is very exciting and the YMHC is hopeful to lead the way in setting the standard for adolescent behavioral health integrated care.***

**Hushabye Nursery**

Hushabye Nursery’s mission is to embrace substance exposed infants and their caregivers with compassionate, evidence-based care that changes the course of their entire lives. Hushabye Nursery’s unique and innovative integrative care model provides integrated healthcare and social services to fuel an evolutionary approach to assist family systems and communities impacted by the opioid epidemic. Created and led by nurse practitioners, our new care model, combining NAS treatment and continuous care for families, will serve as a model for other communities to replicate.

* 24 out of 32 unduplicated Gilbert residents were able to be served
* A total of 200 services were provided totaling 663 hours of direct service
* 199 Volunteers provided 2,130.5 hours of service

***“I felt good/hopeful because I had someone on my side to back me up or advocate for me with DCS. Happy knowing my baby would have more one on one time and being somewhere where they deal with babies who are substance exposed and specialized in caring for them.” – Lisa, Hushabye Nursery mom***

**Survivors of Domestic Violence**

**Catholic Charities My Sister’s Place**

Their mission is to help the communities’ most vulnerable with solutions that permanently improve lives. The staff assist individuals and families to move out of crisis and at-risk situations, into stable living conditions where they can thrive. Catholic Charities offers more than 20 programs throughout Central and Northern Arizona which include services for veterans, sex-trafficked survivors, refugees, domestic violence, and homelessness, adoption, and Head Start.

* Provided over 6,755 bed nights of safety to 62 adults and 88 children, of which four were Gilbert residents
* Offered 41 support groups for adults and their children with over 921 hours of residential counseling
* An extension of My Sister’s Place known as Pathways worked with 38 Gilbert residence with service of domestic violence advocacy, counseling, and community support group
* 32 volunteers gave 3,156 hours of their time

***A refugee male client who was experiencing domestic violence was served through the shelter. They worked with the client to find part-time employment, food stamps, and secure housing with VOCA funds to find an apartment that was large enough for himself and children to visit.***

**Chrysalis Shelter**

Every day, Chrysalis pursues the mission to lead our community to broad-based solutions to prevent domestic abuse. As the first domestic violence organization in the nation to be certified with Trauma Institute International as a Certified Trauma Informed Organization, Chrysalis is leading the way to transform how the community views domestic violence and serves survivors and their families.

* Provided 23 Gilbert residents with 57.5 hours of case management and 197.63 hours of victim services
* Served 1,139 victims with 15,896 services for Gilbert residents and Maricopa county residents alike
* 46 volunteers provided over 969 hours of work

***“Breaking free from abuse is more complex than most people realize.” – Tina, Chrysalis Client***

**Community Alliance Against Family Abuse**

**CAAFA’s mission is to empower individuals, families, and communities to be free from abuse through collaboration, prevention, awareness, and support. They provide a 16-bed emergency shelter, support groups, legal advocacy, case management, sexual assault victim advocacy, nutritional support through food boxes, community outreach services, and more.**

* **Served 22 new, and 12 ongoing Gilbert residents**
* **Merged with New Leaf**

***“Trauma can be very stressful and detrimental in your everyday life, but the support and encouragement from this group is what makes this group so amazing! I am so glad that I am able to be a part of something so amazing!” – CAAFA Client***

**Winged Hope Family Advocacy Foundation**

Winged Hope works to prevent family violence and provides hope and healing to those affected by family violence. They provide counseling and support services for those effected by domestic violence.

* 69 Gilbert residents were served
* 176 services were provided
* 7 Volunteers gave 2,440 hours of their time, 3 of which were Gilbert residents

***“Thank you doesn’t say enough. How can a parent express enough gratitude for saving their child’s life?” – Mother, Winged Hope patron***

**Families in Crisis**

**AZCEND**

The mission is to change lives by nourishing minds and bodies to create a connected, thriving community. With support from the Town of Gilbert, AZCEND provides Community Action Program (CAP) services. CAP provides financial assistance to help low- and moderate-income Gilbert residents maintain stability through a crisis. Through direct assistance, the CAP prevents evictions and utility disconnections. They also address the barriers to stability through case management, financial coaching, and referrals to other community resources.

* Provided 3,946 referrals for food and clothing boxes, job training, budgeting, home repairs, and many other community resources
* With other funding, AZCEND provided 2,799 direct financial assistance payments to Gilbert residents in crisis, totaling $6,173,776
* Recruited and coordinated 1,309 community volunteers who donated 30,676 hours

*In the month of November of 2020, AZCEND offered ‘Story Time with Tia Lala’. 3-5-year-old clients were encouraged to join her every Friday morning to read a new book and have some fun with age appropriate crafts.*

**Matthew’s Crossing**

Matthew’s Crossing provides food and other basic needs to those in need and to unite our community in the fight against hunger. Their program Meals to Grow, provides area students with hunger relief (with backpacks, on-campus food closets, and summer snack packs) by delivering food to schools each week of the school year and at the beginning of summer break.

* Served 467 new, and 903 ongoing Gilbert residents
* Volunteers hours were valued at $423,250
* Gilbert Students were provided services valued at $45,000
* Volunteers deliver to over 30 schools

***This year we were able to acquire new partners in Gilbert including the University of Arizona campus in downtown Gilbert. Our mobile distributions at colleges has been increasing every month which has led to us beginning work on expanding that program to schools in the east valley.***

**Child Crisis AZ-Child Shelter**

Child Crisis Arizona exists to provide children and youth in Arizona a safe environment, free from abuse and neglect, by creating strong and successful families. Their vision for the community is “Safe Kids. Strong Families.”

* Cared for one Gilbert child for 103 days
* At the Group Home, a Gilbert adolescent was cared for 57 days
* 31 children were placed and/or monitored into Foster Care and Adoption program homes who received 5,370 nights of care
* Child Crisis Arizona finalized 46 adoptions, 6 of those were within Gilbert homes
* 28 volunteers provided 1,112 service hours

***Mr. and Mrs. Rabun started their foster care journey with Sue and Sarah being placed with them the day after they were licensed. The first-time parents took in sisters that hit their house like a tornado by having many tantrums and hitting each other. Through continued advocacy for the sisters by the couple they were able to receive a high needs caseworker and the appropriate services for behavioral health. In October of 2020, Sue and Sarah were adopted into the Rabun’s family.***

**The Salvation Army**

Their family services emergency programs provide social services to individuals and families who are experiencing financial crisis. Their clients are undergoing a temporary stage of financial hardship and come to this program to stay in their homes, keep their, utilities running, and feed their families.

* Served 118 new Gilbert residents
* 64 days of Mobile HR Assistance was available for Gilbert residents
* 120,024 bottles of water distributed statewide
* Volunteer hours totaled 3,256

***The Corps was happy to report assisting a woman from Gilbert who was particularly hit hard by COVID-19. As the pandemic began, her husband was in recovery from emergency heart surgery and was taking time off work. After the onset of the pandemic, he was laid off and their household income was cut in half. She ended up contracting COVID forcing her to rely on unemployment for months. After burning through their savings to cover their expenses and still suffering from unemployment, the couple turned to The Salvation Army rental and utility assistance program.***

**Open Arms Care Center**

**Open Arms’ mission is to serve the growing Gilbert community by providing supplemental food and clothing to those in need regardless of age, race, religion or national origin. They serve the “working poor” of Gilbert. The Bureau of Labor Statistics classifies the working poor as people who spent at least 27 weeks a year working or looking for work, but whose income still falls below the poverty line.**

* Served 2,089 new, and 3,117 ongoing Gilbert residents
* Over 400 families get supplemental food and clothes each month
* 75 Volunteers gave countless hours to facilitate their location move

***“It’s a godsend here. You people take great care of everybody. It’s been great. You’re always friendly, always caring, always giving, and I try to turn it around and do that to the people who come in here who need extra help. You know…You give to me; I’ll give back to you. Just keep it going because it’s a great program.” – Mike from Gilbert***

**Homeless Individuals & Families in Crisis**

**Save the Family Foundation**

Save the Family Foundation of Arizona offers a variety of programs designed to empower families to conquer homelessness and achieve life-long independence. Through targeted services that align with the goals and strategies set by Valley of the Sun United Way and the Maricopa Association of Government’s Continuum of Care, families end the damaging effects of family homelessness by: improving their education and employment opportunities, accessing safe, permanent housing, and building family competencies.

* Provided housing, case management, and wrap-around supportive services to 10 Gilbert residents in two homeless extremely low-income situations
* The average length of stay in the program was 7.5 months
* One family successfully graduated into a long-term site-based Section 8 housing program
* 1,917 volunteers, including 201 Gilbert residents, donated 6,829 hours of service

***“I am in tears. I am so thankful for the backpacks and shoes for my kids…it was like they were reading my mind that I desperately needed these things. I couldn’t believe there were new shoes too! You guys have saved my family so many times and I want you to know how much it means to me and my kids. I really want to thank the ladies handing out the stuff – they were so kind and double checked to make sure I had the right backpacks for my kids’ age – they didn’t have to do that – but they did – which lets me know how much they care.” – Mother of Four***

**A New Leaf**

A New Leaf offers emergency shelter for men at the East Valley Men’s Center (EVMC) and families at the La Mesita Family Shelter and Autumn House Domestic Violence Shelter. They are committed to helping individuals and families with shelter and basic needs up to 120 days. They also offer additional support services such as physical/behavioral health, workforce development, transportation, education/skills, financial literacy, legal aid, and housing assistance.

* 70 Gilbert residents received emergency shelter and support services
* 49 calls were received from Gilbert residents through A New Leaf’s Domestic Violence Services which includes a crisis hotline, Court Advocacy Services, and DVSTOP program
* 1,652 volunteers with the three program shelters provided 18,775 volunteer hours

***Gilbert resident Ann fled with her four children in May of 2020 to escape an abusive relationship with her husband. They were provided food, clothing, hygiene products, diapers, interpreter services, and case management from staff. Staff worked with her to develop a case plan and legal goals during their stay in shelter. Ann was given guidance and educated on several legal counseling options and resources. In August of 202 Ann was able to find and secure an apartment for her and her children.***

**House of Refuge**

Is a faith-based, not for profit organization helping homeless families in crisis. Their community includes 88 2-bedroom homes that are rented to families experiencing homelessness. By providing a home and comprehensive, wrap-around support services, they help these families overcome homelessness, become self-sufficient and move to sustainable housing.

* Served 498 unduplicated individuals, of those 39 were Gilbert residents
* 346 volunteers donated a total of 3,353.27 hours
* In October of 2020, House of Refuge received the Santander Consumer USA Foundation Award to assist with COVID-19 impact

***In January of 2021 the House of Refuge welcomed a new President and CEO, Kayla Kolar. With over 30 years of executive leadership for non-profit organizations she successfully maintained a seamless transition into the organization. Since joining the team, Kala has implemented and revised the streamlining of the application process and policies and programs for a safer community. They have seen an increase in communication between residents and staff with more residents attending in person services.***

**Central AZ Shelter Services (CASS)**

In the 35 years since its founding, CASS has worked tirelessly to end homelessness by providing shelter, case management, and housing services to the most in need. They are the largest and longest serving homeless emergency shelter provider in Arizona. Gilbert residents have had access to case management and behavioral health services, and access to Vista Colina Family Emergency Shelter through the Family Housing Hub.

* 17 Gilbert residents were served
* CASS provided 579 bed nights
* Population served includes: 10% Veterans, 29% Seniors, and 58% Disabled

***Since April, a daily weather relief and day-time program was provided for those who choose to come indoors during the day. Those which were most highly vulnerable people: those with medical conditions or disabilities, as well as elderly. In October of 2021, CASS started undergoing a shelter expansion project. This was to increase the bed capacity to 600; a 28% increase in beds.***

**Low-Mod Income Individuals & Families**

**Boys and Girls Club**

The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Valley empower all young people, especially those who need it most, to reach and achieve their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible community members. They provide developmental and support services along with activities including sports, safety training, tutoring help, and daily meal and snacks.

* 116 new Gilbert residents were served
* 185 ongoing Gilbert residents were served
* There were 2,107 services provided to the youth
* 14,737 meals were served
* 15 volunteers gave 361 hours of their time

***The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Valley developed a new out-of-school time enrichment program for ALL Club members. During the pandemic, students have struggled to remain at their grade level in academics, and they missed Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Thus, the LEAP program was initiated to address this equity gap by increasing academic success, opportunities, and SEL. Through the LEAP program, members Learn, Engage, Achieve, and Progress.***

**Child Crisis Arizona – Family Education**

Child Crisis Arizona exists to provide children and youth in Arizona a safe environment, free from abuse and neglect, by creating strong and successful families. Their vision for the community is “Safe Kids. Strong Families.” The Family Education/Safe Kids Maricopa program offers cost-free classes, workshops, and support groups, all designed to teach and reinforce positive parenting skills to strengthen families and prevent child abuse or neglect.

* Child Crisis offered 437 unique educational opportunities, of which 108 unduplicated Gilbert residents were provided services
* 1,112 volunteer service hours were provided by 28 volunteers
* Board member, Trevor Wilde, was 1 of 4 finalists for the 2020 Az Business Angel of the Year

*“Each class I took opened more doors for me. I really want to encourage others to undertake this learning. I thank Child Crisis Arizona, and their excellent teacher, for their work to help people and provide these opportunities.” – Craig, single father of three*

**One Small Step**

Helps children, families, and individuals in need to attain a more productive life by providing high quality clothes, shoes, and other services. Their vision is that no person or family within their service area lack the clothing needed to secure employment, enhance self-esteem, maintain a healthy and hygienic life, and be socially accepted.

* 7 large Pop-Up Giving Events served 613 individuals giving 8,900 articles of clothing and linens
* 1 homeless Warm 4 Winter event assisted 9 homeless clients with hot breakfast, extra warm clothing, and linens for the winter months
* A total of 350 volunteer hours were donated at events

*“I truly like helping people. I feel called to volunteer my time with others. Because I have been given so much in my life and believe it is important to give as well.” – Connie, Volunteer*

**United Food Bank**

Provides, stores, and distributes wholesome and nutritious foods to low-income people throughout Arizona. They combine with a network of community and strategic partners to advocate and educated people to enhance lives through their hunger relief programs. Programs include emergency food boxes, mobile pantries, children’s weekend backpacks, afterschool meals and snacks, and Help Yourself Co-Op and School Food Panties.

* UFB distributed over 22,500,000 meals
* Through the 165 community partner agencies more than 345,000 individuals were served in Arizona
* 56,522 meals were served directly to the Town of Gilbert
* 2,800 volunteers donated more than 25,000 hours of service

***About one in six Arizonians are turning to food banks and charity programs like the UFB to feed themselves.***

**Junior Achievement**

The Junior Achievement of Arizona (JA) prepares young people to succeed in a global economy through their JA BizTown Adventures program. In this self-guided virtual simulation, students gain an understanding of various aspects of running a business through roleplay as a CEO, CFO, Marketing Director, Sales Manager, and Consumer.

* JA served 6,455 low-income students through the BizTown Adventures program
* 473 volunteers donated 608 hours of their time

***“The skills I have learned from my JA experience will help me be more prepared for my life in the future as a hopeful business person!” – Rocco, 8th grade student***

**Midwest Food Bank (MFB)**

A faith led organization whose mission is to alleviate hunger and malnutrition locally and throughout the world and providing disaster relief; all without discrimination.

* Increased the number of agencies located in Gilbert from 12 to 17
* $2,352,000 of food was distributed to agencies located in Gilbert
* Served 25,000+ Gilbert residents monthly
* 4,600 volunteers donated 81,000 hours of their time, 400 of which were from Gilbert (per quarter)

***With the pandemic hitting all areas of Non-Profit organizations there was a significant decrease in the number of overall volunteers due to the stay-at-home directive. While many restaurants closed during COVID there was an increased amount of food procured which allowed MFB to increase the amount food distributed to our partner agencies. While traditional volunteers decrease the Arizona National Guard was able to be utilized to help support the food chain supply.***

**Boost a Foster Family**

Boost a Foster Family was created to meet the needs of low-income kinship families caring for Arizona’s foster children. They believe that by helping people through in-kind donations and services (such as fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, pool fences, pet vaccinations, fees for CPR classes, etc.) they can remove some of the obstacles that inhibit the licensing process while at the same time make a home safe for these valuable children.

* Served 81 unduplicated Gilbert residents
* Of those above residents, 53 were children, and of those children 26 were in foster care
* Boost had four primary volunteers, two of whom are Gilbert Residents

***One family in great need that came to Boost involved a single grandmother named Maria who was raising three grandchildren on her own. Her hot water heater needed to be replaced and she had additional plumbing problems that resulted in above average costs. Her home was in a state of ‘non-compliance’ when she was referred to them but with their assistance was able to receive repairs to regain compliance standards for foster families.***

**Mission of Mercy (MOM)**

Mission of Mercy’s mission is to restore dignity, “Healing through Love,” by providing free healthcare.

* MOM clinics served 45 Gilbert residents with 166 total visits
* 481 medications were dispensed free of charge
* 85 volunteers served a total of 6,537 hours

***Lily, age 63, is a Gilbert resident who visited the MOM’s Mesa clinic with diagnosed hypertension, diabetes, and weight struggles. In October 2020 she weighed in at 232 pounds but in her last visit in April she lost a total of 13 pounds, bringing her BMI down to 42.77!***

**Dignity Health – Gilbert Children’s Dental Clinic**

The Dignity Heath Children’s Dental Clinic at the Heritage Center provides comprehensive preventive dental care to low-income and uninsured children including dental exams, cleanings, x-rays, sealants, fluoride varnish treatments, oral health education, nutrition education, and referrals for restorative care.

* 89 children served
* 177 preventative dental care appointments
* 89 children received toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss
* Dental hygiene students provided a total of 512 hours of preventative clinical dental services

***A new partnership was developed with the Rio Salado Dental Hygiene program. The three month long dental hygiene student clinical rotations assisted with serving additional patients during the spring semester. Having student rotations allowed the Dental Clinic to see 18 patients per clinic day versus 14 per day.***

**Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun**

Rebuilding Together provides repairs to homes to create safe homes and communities to everyone.

* Provided 10 critical home repairs to Gilbert residents
* Distributed 100 Emergency Home Safety kits
* Volunteers served 190 hours

***Valley of the Sun was able to help M. Burke, whose air condition was old and did not cool her whole house. She was on a fixed income and was worried about the costs of replacing the unit. She wrote, “You will never know in this life what a blessing it is to me. Thank you again, you were incredible.”***

**Youth in Need Social Services**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS)**

The BBBS program matches and supports one-to-one mentoring relationships to promote mental health and the well-being of thousands of children served across America. Their vision is that all youth achieve their full potential.

* 45 Gilbert youth was provided with mentoring services
* 13 of the 45 mentors matched to the Gilbert youth were also from Gilbert
* At least 18 events or workshops were provided for the matches to attend
* 45 mentors provided over 1,000 volunteer hours through the year

***Since joining the BBBS program in 2008, Big Sister Melissa has continued a strong and resilient relationship with her Little Sister Cheyanne. Through hardship and a lot of commonalities their relationship grew. Each shared a continued gratitude and support for the match that BBBS supplied.***

**Aid to Adoption of Special Kids (AASK)**

AASK is one of the largest foster care agencies in Arizona. Since 1988, they have been helping kids of all ages and backgrounds who are in the foster care system. They recruit, train, and support families who are building relationships with children through foster care.

* 243 mentee/mentor match meetings and 672 contact hours were provided to 8 unduplicated Gilbert youth
* The number of Gilbert mentors increased from 15 to 20
* The Mentoring Program had 124 volunteer mentors, 20 of which were Gilbert residents

***Tiffany, age 19, came into the program with numerous challenges including serious mental illness, cognitive delays, and extreme trauma. With the help of her mentor Tiffany is learning the life skills that youth will need to transition to independent living in the future. With ongoing assistance and encouragement, the youth is getting closer to graduating from high school, getting a job, and entering a housing program that will assist the youth with living independently.***

**Raising Special Kids**

Raising Special Kids provides support and information for parents and children from birth to age 26, with the full range of disabilities and special health care needs. Their supports and services are designed to educate and empower families with the information and tools they need to understand the nature of their child’s disability, work collaboratively with professionals in the education and treatment of their child, and advocate effectively in the best interest of their child to support positive educational and health outcomes.

* 123 children with disabilities were served
* 96.5% of parents reported a decrease in unwanted behavior in their child
* 95% of parents reported increased confidence and competence in implementing an evidence-based behavioral intervention

***“Thank you for being available to talk to me and support me while we as a family get through this difficult time. I’ve already registered for the classes you recommended. I appreciate you’re listening ear and support.” – Family served by RSK***

**Special Needs Individuals**

**Best Buddies International**

Is an organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and development disabilities (IDD). Best Buddies seeks to envision a world where people with IDD are so successfully integrated into schools, workplaces, and communities that its current efforts and services will be unnecessary. Until that vision becomes a reality, this organization will continue to educate middle school, high school and college students, community members, corporations and employers about the emotional, functional, and natural needs and abilities of people with IDD.

* Best Buddies delivered school-based inclusion services to a total of 334 students in Gilbert, including 258 Chapter members who are Gilbert residents
* Gilbert chapters created and supported 94 one-to-one friendships
* 334 student volunteers in six chapters at Gilbert schools provided a total of 3,101 volunteer hours

***Higley High School chapter friendship pair Aubrey and Kenzie were selected to speak at the Best Buddies National Virtual Graduation on June 4, 2021 and highlighted on ABC 15 local news with their story.***

**Advocacy31nine**

Advocacy31nine advocates for the educational success of children impacted by foster care in Arizona.

* Served 101 new, and 123 ongoing Gilbert residents
* Provided 470 volunteer hours of direct service
* Provided 480 hours of tutoring through the Lux Academy and Tutoring Program

***Advocacy31nine was able to secure services for a young girl in foster care that had severe trauma. Their volunteer advocates were able to help her school team know what type of support she would need and connect them to a local trauma therapist to collaborate and use best practices to support this student’s success.***

**Elderly/Senior**

**Mercy Housing SW (Page Commons)**

Is committed to creating affordable homes and inspiring dreams as they work with residents and partners to establish engaged, strong, and inclusive communities. Their mission is to create stable, vibrant, healthy communities through developing, financing, and operating affordable, program-enriched housing for families, seniors, and people with special needs who lack the economic resources to access quality, safe housing opportunities.

* 118 Gilbert residents were served
* 41 volunteers provided 97 volunteer hours, 15 of which were Gilbert residents
* Services provided included door-to-door meal services, personalized birthday treats, ice cream socials, and socially distancing concerts

***Resident Services Coordinator, Glenn Whitaker, takes great pride in his work and services provided to the residents of Page Commons. He undertook a turning of their standard food pantry into a full-fledged Mini Mart this year.***

**About Care**

About Care is delivering caring, compassionate support services using trained volunteers with special concerns for the elderly and disabled homebound residents of Chandler, Gilbert, and Queen Creek. Their goal is to encourage and enable independent living, meet basic needs, and reduce social isolation.

* 65 Town of Gilbert residents were provided transportation to medical appointments
* 70 received assistance to shop for groceries, medication, and supplied with clothes
* 45 individuals received two-hour friendly visits
* 15 were provided with minor home repairs
* 35 individuals were provided four-week individualized care plans after being discharged from the hospital

***One of our volunteers and his brothers helped pack up one of our Gilbert clients move then help her unpack all her materials. This was above and beyond his call of duty.***

**Aster Aging (East Valley Adult Resources)**

Seeks to empower and support East Valley older adults and their families to remain independent and engaged in our communities. Aster Aging provides direct services and mobilization of resources that support the changing needs of the older adult population.

* Aster served 13 unique Gilbert residents through the provision of 70 services contacts

***One Aster Outreach Specialist provided intense case managed services by escorting a resident to the Gilbert CAP office. Through this effort she was able to assist with rental assistance, SNAP, medical savings program, and other resources.***

**Dignity Health – Healthier Living Program**

Dignity Health offers structured educational 6- to 8-week courses on living healthier. Programs include Overall Healthier Living, Diabetes, Chronic Pain, or Matter of Balance which are all offered virtually and in-person.

* 34 new Gilbert residents were served
* 1 Gilbert resident gave 18 hours of service

***The Healthier Living Program was able to create new partnerships with Mercy Housing & CRMA Trauma Department to offer virtual and in-person workshops for their patients.***

Conclusion

Even through this year’s up and down pandemic road the Town of Gilbert received many services from the 36 non-profits. Below are the estimated totals pulled from each organization’s annual reports.

The COVID-19 epidemic has continued to impact all areas of Arizona and the World. With the help of non-profits, the Town of Gilbert residents have endured and have been given hope when there seemed little to none. It isn’t difficult to think of many reasons why we should be thankful for non-profit organizations. From providing basic and essential services to giving voice to the voiceless, non-profits fill every type of role one can imagine. Non-profits give us strength and provide support networks during some of our most difficult times. These organizations have changed and enriched lives in the Town of Gilbert with passion through compassion.