Helping *more* families become

STABLE SAFE & STRONG

2025 - 2026 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

save the family
FOUNDATION OF ARIZONA

CELEBRATING OVER 35 YEARS OF IMPACT

HOUSING THAT EMPOWERS

Stable housing provides more than shelter. It creates the opportunity for families to pursue their goals, complete their education, and build a stronger future.

At **Save the Family Foundation of Arizona,** we know that overcoming homelessness begins with a safe, stable place to call home.

When families no longer have to worry about where they will sleep each night, they can begin focusing on the future instead of simply surviving the present. For parents, that future often includes education, a pathway to higher wages, greater financial stability, and lasting self-sufficiency.

Backed by donations from **The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation**, **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona**, and the **The Burton Family Foundation**, this vision became a reality with the opening of **Phoenix Scholar House**, the first program of its kind in Arizona.

Designed to support resident and community student parents and their children, it combines affordable housing with academic support, career development, and family-centered services that help overcome barriers as they work on their educational goals.

The need for this model is clear. Many families experiencing homelessness are headed by single mothers, and at least half of the homeless families we serve have experienced domestic violence. **Phoenix Scholar House** provides the stability, support, and opportunity these families

Opened April 23, 2026,
Phoenix Scholar House features a mural donated by local artist Laura Thurbon.

need to move forward with confidence.

Through partnerships with **Helping Hands for Single Moms**, **Maricopa Community Colleges**, **Turnbow Foundation,** and **St. Mary's Food Bank**, residents have access to educational pathways, career opportunities, and resources that strengthen family well-being.

Nationally, only 18% of single parents enrolled in college earn a degree. In contrast, 89% of single parents who participate in Scholar House programming graduate.

Within months of opening, Phoenix Scholar House is already fully occupied, and helping more families build a stronger future.

THE PATH TO GREATER STABILITY:

543,294

safe nights of sleep

5,498

individuals on housing waitlist served

880

*families served – a **13% increase** from the previous year.*

SUCCESS STORY

"We finally feel like we can build a future"

Sierra Chavez-Fiore, a mom of three, is one of the earliest residents at Phoenix Scholar House, Arizona's first education-focused affordable housing community designed so that single parents don't have to choose between building a career and their family's stability.

Currently a full-time nursing student with a part-time nursing job, she knows how difficult it can be to balance school, work, parenting, and housing costs at the same time.

Thanks to the support and stability provided through Phoenix Scholar House, she's able to focus on her education while raising her children in a safe and supportive environment.

"It definitely helps give me that peace of mind," Sierra shared in a recent ABC15 interview. "We're safe here and we have a good home."

With access to academic support, career development, financial literacy resources, and family-focused services, Sierra is optimistic about the future – because when families have stable housing and meaningful support, incredible things can happen.

We can't wait to see all she will accomplish in the years ahead.

Already, Sierra and her family are settling into the Phoenix Scholar House community. Sierra has noticed improvements in her schoolwork, and feels greater confidence about her future.

A COMMUNITY THAT BRINGS HOPE

No family succeeds alone. For over 35 years, our donors, volunteers and partners have helped Arizona families feel more safe, supported and hopeful.

For families, safety goes beyond having a roof overhead. When the simplest steps forward feel out of reach, they don't have to face these challenges alone.

For more than 35 years, Save the Family's community of supporters have helped families overcome barriers to stability and self-sufficiency. Through their generosity, families gain access to the resources, services, and opportunities they need to move from crisis to long-term success.

This year, more than 475 dedicated volunteers donated their time to help families find stability. Community partners expanded access to healthcare, food assistance, household essentials, and other resources that strengthen a family's well-being. Through partnerships with **Adelante Healthcare** and **NOAH**, families gained access to healthcare services and wellness resources. **St. Mary's Food Bank** helped reduce food insecurity, while organizations like **Valley Bloom**, **Desert Financial Credit Union, Nationwide, DPR Realty, LDS, SRP**, **Kiwanis of Carefree,** and **WestUSA Realty** provided essential supplies and practical support.

Together, these efforts created a network of support that extends far beyond housing. By connecting families to the resources they need and surrounding them with a community that cares, we are helping parents and children build stable, safe, and strong futures.

SUPPORT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES:

6,044
holiday gifts, Thanksgiving baskets, food and housing supplies given to families

2,690
outbound referrals to community partners

93%
obtained and accessed healthcare

SUCCESS STORY

"We are grateful for the Step Up to Independence Program"

When Malicka Gulley made the difficult decision to leave a domestic violence relationship, she was choosing safety and fighting for a brighter future for her two young children. But with little income, a son with autism who required specialized care, and the uncertainty of homelessness, the road ahead felt overwhelming.

Through **Save the Family's Step Up to Independence™** program, Malicka found the stability and support needed to rebuild her family's life. Working alongside her case managers, she secured developmental services for her son, and became an approved paid caregiver through Arizona Long Term Care Services, allowing her to care for him while earning an income. She also took on part-time overnight work, diligently increasing her household income fourfold during her time in the program.

Her niece, Karliyanna, joined the household and pursued cosmetology training while working part-time, further strengthening the family's support system. Together, they steadily paid off a past eviction judgment, built savings, and prepared for their goals of independent living.

Less than a year after entering the program, Malicka and her family moved into their own three-bedroom apartment. With a safe place to call home, they now have the confidence and financial stability to continue building the stable, safe, and strong future they deserve.

With a recent move into their own apartment and the foundations of support in place, Malicka and her family now have the confidence to reach their full potential.

GROWING INDEPENDENCE

With a $1 million grant from the Arizona Department of Housing's State Housing Trust Fund, the **Step Up to Independence™** program is now poised to build four new units.

This successful initiative is designed to help families experiencing housing instability achieve greater self-sufficiency, financial stability, and long-term housing. Typically lasting around 12 months, required supportive services and transitional housing helps families move into long-term housing and a safer future.

95% *of Step Up to Independence™ families increased their financial security.*

SUPPORT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Increasing access to essential resources helps families become stronger.

Left: *Wild Rose Project renderings show a vibrant place for families.*

For many Arizona families, housing instability creates obstacles to education, employment, and long-term self-sufficiency. This year, Save the Family expanded its **Supportive Services** to meet growing community needs and help more families achieve lasting stability.

WILD ROSE PROJECT

We have teamed up with **Ulysses Development Group** and the **City of Phoenix** to provide on-site supportive services including case management, health and wellness resources, and career development to support 72 residents as they build strong futures.

MESA ARTSPACE LOFTS

As a unique mixed-use live/work community for working artists, we are now providing support services for this 50-unit affordable housing complex fostering creativity and cultural growth.

Right: *We provide support to families at the Mesa Artspace Lofts.*

Created as an affiliated nonprofit in 1992, **A.R.M. of Save the Family**, the Affordable Rental Movement, continues to establish working families in affordable housing while providing life-changing supportive services.

Expanding to a total of 409 units throughout Arizona, this program continues to strengthen families by creating new opportunities for them to build self-sufficiency.

By connecting more families to housing and services, we equip families with much-needed resources, so they become stronger for generations to come.

by the numbers

A YEAR OF IMPACT

Every milestone we've reached ensures a brighter future for at-risk children and families in Arizona.

WHO WE SERVE:

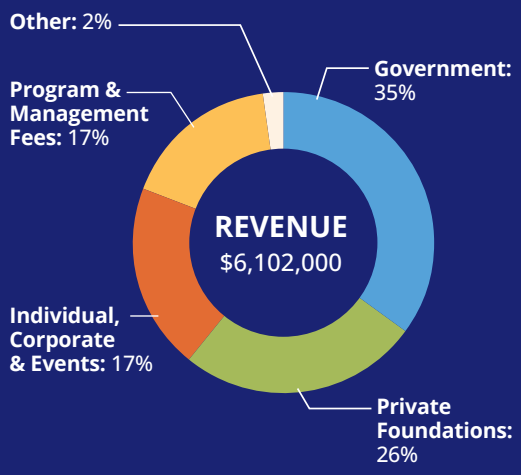
76% *are single parent households*

49% *are under the age of 18*

2,489 *parents and children served*

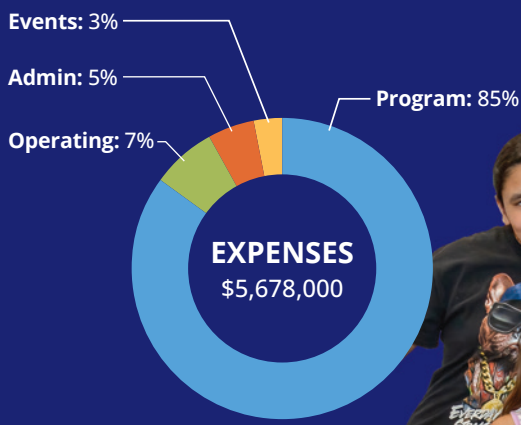
HOW WE'RE SUPPORTED:

5,000 *volunteer hours given by over 475 individuals, equaling $180,000 of market value.*



$424K *of net surplus*

85% *of revenue directly funds programs that support families.*



THE STRATEGIC PLAN

AFTER 35 YEARS, WE'RE LOOKING AHEAD

In 2025, the Save the Family Foundation of Arizona Board of Directors wanted to strengthen more futures by setting a powerful new strategic goal:

To grow the number of families served by 30% in three years by expanding our geographic footprint through Maricopa County, and by creating dynamic partnerships with stakeholders, including board and community leaders, donors, affordable housing professionals, and community service providers.

IN FY26 13% MORE FAMILIES WERE SERVED,

exceeding our annual increase goal of 10%.

OUR MISSION

at Save the Family Foundation of Arizona is to equip families to address poverty, overcome homelessness, and achieve self-sufficiency.

We envision communities free from family homelessness, where every person has a safe, affordable place to call home.

On behalf of the families we serve, thank you.

As you plan for the year ahead, we invite you to continue making a lasting difference through your annual support, or by including Save the Family Foundation of Arizona in your estate plans.

save the family
FOUNDATION OF ARIZONA

www.SaveTheFamily.org
125 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85201
p: 480.898.0228 | f: 480.898.9007
Tax ID: 86-0665712 | QCO Code: 20320

Stable homes.
Safe children.
Strong families.