



January 27, 2023

Arizona Women's Partnership, Inc.
13058 N. Surrey Circle
Phoenix, AZ 85029

Dear Paula and Members of the Arizona Women's Partnership,

Thank you for the Arizona Women's Partnership's longstanding commitment to supporting community vitality throughout Arizona. Please accept our sincere appreciation for Arizona Women's Partnership's generous grant of \$2,000 to help transform the lives of youth in our Housing Project. Your partnership directly improved the lives of 42 young adults, ages 18-to-24, who aged out of the Arizona foster care system or were on the verge of becoming unhoused from aging out of the foster care system.

Foster Arizona allocated the Foundation's grant to support a safe place for them to reside, basic provisions (food, hygiene products, and more), and life-sufficiency skills training for 42 young adults. Demographically, the young adult population was comprised of the following: African American: 38%; Caucasian: 38%; Hispanic: 9.5%; Multi-Racial: 9.5%; and unknown: 5%. The average length of stay is seven months.

As a result, the Arizona Women's Partnership helped achieve the following notable successes:

- 42 young adults were served through the Housing Project;
- Over 19,000 hours of life skills training provided to young adults;
- Hosted bi-monthly community meetings where topics ranged from financial literacy, legal rights, health care rights, car ownership and how-to's (maintenance, insurance, etc.), the importance of relationships and boundaries, home safety, first aid, and more.
- Hosted normalization outings, which is an important part of their journey to self-sufficiency. Oftentimes, foster youth are stripped from experiencing "normal" activities like their peers. Outings included: Jake's Unlimited, Dave and Buster's, and Christmas Cirque. Additionally, Foster Arizona took the young adults on a weekend camping trip in San Diego, Calif. For many, this was the first time they have camped, seen the ocean, or even been outside of Arizona. Oftentimes, foster youth are stripped from experiencing "normal" activities like their peers and it's an important part of their journey to become self-sustainable.

An illustration of the impact of partners like the Arizona Women's Partnership is reflected in Zack's story:

"When I was younger, my father would physically abuse me, and on the night of my 6th birthday, he sexually abused my brother and ended up in prison. My mom already had some underlying issues before this happened including losing our house, which led her to become mentally unstable.

I started to get verbally abused as I looked like my father. She would tell me I was just like my father, and I would grow up like him. I would end up in prison like him. She also said she wished I wasn't alive or that I'd never been born.

At school, I started to become socially isolated as rumors of what happened started to circulate. No one wanted to be my friend. I was told if anyone hung around me that their family would leave just like mine had.

And then a blessing in disguise happened when I was placed in the foster care system on my 14th birthday.

Over the year, I never addressed my trauma. It wasn't until I came to Foster Arizona Housing Project. After all I had been through, they (Foster Arizona) seemed to care about me. It honestly was -and still is -baffling to me that someone cares.

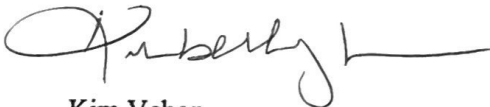
I have been incredibly lucky to be in a program like this. The fact I've been able to overcome my past and not let it define who I am or dictate my future; is that I actually have friends; that I've been lucky enough to find people that care about me. Those are the things that matter the most to me." - Zack Q.

We would also like to extend an invitation to you and the Members of the Arizona Women's Partnership to our Empower Hour, virtual open house, on Thursday, February 16, or Thursday, February 23 to see the transformational work taking place.

If you have any questions or would like to join our virtual open house, please contact Amanda Lasita, Director of Development and Communications, by phone at (480) 760-5008 or via email at amanda.lasita@fosteraz.org.

Thank you for your support in helping young adults in our community, one home at a time.

Sincerely,



Kim Vehon
Chief Executive Officer