



PLEASE JOIN US...

Bringing Hope

TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE



Imagine...

...living with a parent that has been high on drugs for most of your lifetime. Imagine never having enough food to eat. Imagine never having your birthday acknowledged... or being an older youth bounced from group home to group home, always trying to protect your personal possessions. When Arizona Helping Hands learned about children placed into foster care who often arrived with only the dirty clothes on their back, we rose to the occasion—instead of giving these children a sofa, inflatable air mattress, or simply a spot on the hard floor on which to sleep, we began our journey to ease the burden of children in foster care.

From 2009 to 2015, the number of children in foster care grew by 86 percent. There are currently between 17,000-19,000 children in the system at any time. Unfortunately, as long as there are drugs, alcohol, abuse and neglect, there will be a need. Providing these recently displaced children a safe place to sleep was our first priority. Consequently, our **Safe Place to Sleep** program has grown more than 500 percent in the past five years. Owing to our positive reputation in the community, and an increase in foster care tax credits and word-of-mouth support, our organizational growth has been tremendous.

The Problem

As an active listener to the needs of foster families, Arizona Helping Hands learned that becoming a foster parent is emotionally overwhelming and physically taxing. Being ill-prepared to raise someone's else's child(ren) is difficult at best. **Through our extensive interviews with new foster parents we found that they lack...**

- Space for new family member(s)
- Parenting skills
- Resources
- Knowledge to navigate the foster care system
- Money to support their new family

These issues quickly lead to new parents becoming overwhelmed and stressed. Forty-four percent of foster care placements are “kinship-based” meaning that the child(ren) are moved to a home of a relative—aunt, uncle, grandparent or family friend. The remainder of placements is in licensed homes, which, while typically more prepared, often find themselves under financial stress to provide adequately for their new charges. While Arizona Helping Hands connects families to other foster care resources, another stressor is that the family has to make multiple phone calls and appointments and typically have to travel throughout the city for these services.

Additionally, Arizona Helping Hands regularly receives truckloads of in-kind donations from national manufacturers and retailers to distribute to our clients. Currently leasing an 8,000 square foot warehouse and office, we are consistently in need of additional space to accommodate these valuable donations. As a true collaborative partner, we often share the overflow of these gifts with other nonprofit organizations serving children in foster care and other needy families. However, even with “sharing the wealth” and renting additional storage space, we often run out of room.

Arizona Helping Hands Foster Family Resource Center is a long-time dream which time has come!

We want to do all we can to support foster parents and give their new family hope for the future.

The Solution

WHAT IF there was a one-stop-shop with multiple services under one roof to support families in their new lives?

WHAT IF a Foster Family Resource Center could be the go-to place for parenting classes, first aid and CPR training and licensing workshops?

WHAT IF Arizona Helping Hands could add square footage to avoid renting or borrowing storage space and have adequate office space for staff?

WHAT IF this could be accomplished without increasing the organization's monthly expenses?

These are the questions that will be answered with the new Arizona Helping Hands Family Resource Center.

Arizona Helping Hands recently closed escrow on an 18,000 square foot building, centrally located off of Highway 51 (Piestewa Freeway) and Thunderbird Road. With the ceiling height more than double what we have in our current location, our warehouse space will triple, allowing us the ability to receive more in-kind donations to serve the foster care community.

We have identified the project managers, CRESA, a global commercial real estate company with specialized project management services. They have developed an accelerated schedule to assist with assembling the cost projections and space plan with the hopes of occupancy in fall 2018.

During this planning period, Arizona Helping Hands will—

- Choose nonprofit partners to co-locate
- Develop memorandums of understanding with nonprofits in hopes to offer as many services under one roof as possible
- Connect with the construction industry for pro bono and discounted services
- Meet with foundations, donors and funding partners to gain project support

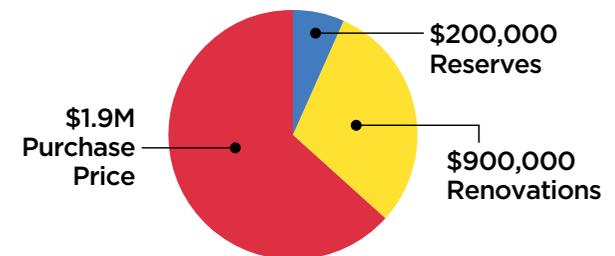
What Will it Take?

Arizona Helping Hands is a fiscally conservative organization. We budget for the least amount of income and the highest possible expense. And we accomplish the most that is possible for as little as possible. We run a tight ship!

With the full support of the board of directors, Arizona Helping Hands has purchased the \$1.9M property with a five-year mortgage carried by the owner. We believe it is realistic to complete the capital campaign and pay the loan in full by 2020. Converting the building to usable space for offices and warehouse, equipment and furnishings is budgeted at \$900,000. It is our goal to receive much of the renovations pro bono, at cost or reduced prices, which based on our connections in the construction industry, seems very plausible.

We hope to meet the \$3M capital campaign goal by 2020, with any remaining funds to be placed in a board-restricted endowment to assist with the building upkeep and maintenance.

\$3M BUILDING HOPE CAMPAIGN





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MISSION STATEMENT

Arizona Helping Hands is a non-profit organization providing basic essential needs to boys and girls in foster care in Arizona.

