



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Homeless ID Project Receives 2020 Thunderbirds Charities Grant  
*\$100,000 will Empower the Homeless, Enable Jobs, Housing and Education***

PHOENIX (June 25, 2020) – The Homeless ID Project received a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from Thunderbirds Charities in support of the “ID Empowers Our Community” Program. Thunderbirds Charities’ support will help individuals and families end their homelessness and rebuild their lives by providing the critical first step of identification replacement services.

With offices in the Brian Garcia Welcome Center, the Homeless ID Project does much of its work on the Human Services Campus in downtown Phoenix. They also participate in 11 outreach programs intended to reach the homeless population in Maryvale, Glendale, Sunnyslope, Tempe, and Tucson.

According to Rick Mitchell, Executive Director, “Our mission is to help people end their homelessness by providing access to replacement documents. While it is not something many of us think about, it is not possible to get a job, to gain housing, to apply for healthcare, or enroll the kids in school without current and valid identifying documents. Support from Thunderbirds Charities will help us provide the critical first step of replacing lost or stolen identification documents necessary for so many individuals and families seeking to end their homelessness.”

“We’re thrilled to help Homeless ID Project and their mission to empower the homeless in our community to end their homelessness,” said Carlos Sugich, President Thunderbirds Charities. “Together, we can help motivated individuals and families to take the first step towards ending homelessness and rebuilding their lives.”

HOMELESS ID PROJECT is a privately funded, non- profit located in Phoenix, Arizona. Their mission is to empower individuals and families experiencing homeless to rebuild their lives by providing the first step of identification replacement services. They recognize and value the support of the community, and pledge to be good stewards of that support. The Homeless ID Project helped to issue nearly 8,000 documents in 2019 alone, and plans for growth to serve all those in need in order to eliminate barriers to obtaining identification documents across America.

“The Homeless ID Project is honored to receive this grant,” said Rick Mitchell. “With this ongoing support and concern from Thunderbirds Charities, we can help those seeking to end their homelessness to overcome the inertia that keeps people from rebuilding.

Importantly, a life rebuilt provides real help for that person, that family and the entire community.”

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### About Homeless ID Project

The Homeless ID Project is a privately funded non- profit whose mission is to empower homeless individuals and families to rebuild their lives by providing the critical first step of identification replacement services. The agency was founded in 1988 by Reverend Gerald Roseberry following a month of self- imposed homelessness. During his time in shelters and homeless camps, Rev. Roseberry became aware of the fact that many individuals experiencing homelessness wished to get a job or find housing, but had no access to replacement documents that had been lost, stolen or left behind. The agency was founded to make it possible for those so motivated to end their homelessness. More information is available at [www.HomelessIDProject.org](http://www.HomelessIDProject.org)

### About The Thunderbirds/Thunderbirds Charities:

**THUNDERBIRDS CHARITIES** is a non- profit organization formed in 1986 to distribute monies raised through the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament. The Thunderbirds Charities Board consists of 15 board members from varying professional backgrounds. The mission of Thunderbirds Charities is to assist children and families, help people in need and improve the quality of life in our communities. The organization’s giving is directed toward organizations based or with a significant presence in Arizona. The Thunderbirds were founded in 1937 with the mission of promoting the Valley of the Sun through sports. The Thunderbirds consist of 55 “active” members and more than 250 “life” members. For more information on the Thunderbirds or the 2018 Waste Management Phoenix Open, visit [www.wmphoenixopen.com](http://www.wmphoenixopen.com). For more information on the Thunderbirds Charities, visit [www.thunderbirdscharities.org](http://www.thunderbirdscharities.org).

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