

Dear friends of Homeless ID Project,

As the first quarter of 2021 nears an end, and the COVID vaccine is rolled out for our clients and employees, I am hopeful. I wouldn't say we're in the clear, but I think we're close enough to consider what the new normal might look like, how our service offering might change, how and when we will be able to reintroduce our valued volunteers, and what fundraising challenges might exist. Things will be different and we need to plan for that.

As always, I am guided in planning by our Mission, Vision, Values, and Belief Statement – each carefully considered and developed over time by our Board of Directors. At our February Board Meeting we revisited these items – our guiding principles – and I found myself moved and inspired all over again. For that reason, I thought I would share it with you.

Our seven Core Values are shown below with a few words about why each is important. In future newsletters we will spotlight Mission, Vision and Belief Statement. Please take a minute to look at our values.

Sincerely, Rick Mitchell

Our Seven Core Values

1. We exist for our clients and our community.

 We do not exist for the sake of the agency. We work to end homelessness and – if we are successful – to end the need for our agency to exist. We will serve the client as long as there is a need and we will do our part to eliminate the need.

2. We believe that every person matters and is worthy of respect.

Of course this applies to clients – especially our clients since it is easy to overlook the need to
respect those who live under our line of sight. Every person working to solve homelessness, to
ease the way for kids in foster care, to ease the transition from jail or prison back into society, and
every government employee working with one arm tied behind their back due to inadequate
funding deserves our respect. They matter just as you and I matter.

3. We strive to inspire by providing hope, dignity, and encouragement.

• I am inspired every day by the work of Homeless ID Project and I hope that when you think about it, you too are inspired. Moreover, I hope clients of Homeless ID Project are inspired by the fact that what seemed impossible (reestablishing one's identity) is not impossible. And if that's possible, what else is possible?

4. We believe that our work is the cornerstone, providing the opportunity to overcome homelessness and poverty.

 An ID does not end homelessness by itself but without an ID little else is possible. To quote our founder, Rev Gerald Roseberry, "Without an ID they were stuck!"

5. We are ever mindful of our place as partners and collaborators within a larger community of providers, without whom our work would not be possible or effective.

• We are about ending homelessness. Our work would look different if we were about IDs, but we are about providing IDs so that clients can take advantage of other services provided by our respected and valued partners on the Human Services Campus, in The Center of Opportunity or in one of our dozen or more shared space locations. We are intentionally partner-centric. We are a single variable in a complex equation. One piece.

6. We strive to be at the center of the discussion about ending homelessness.

 Homelessness is not inevitable. It will not end until we understand it and we will not understand it unless we talk about it. Let's talk about it.

7. We recognize and value the support of the community and pledge to be good stewards of that support.

A \$12 donation covers the cost of an ID and an ID may be the single thing that ends the
homelessness of an individual or even an entire family. Every dollar matters and every dollar
entrusted to Homeless ID Project returns \$60 to the community. That looks like good stewardship
and we couldn't do it without you!

Dear Hayley...

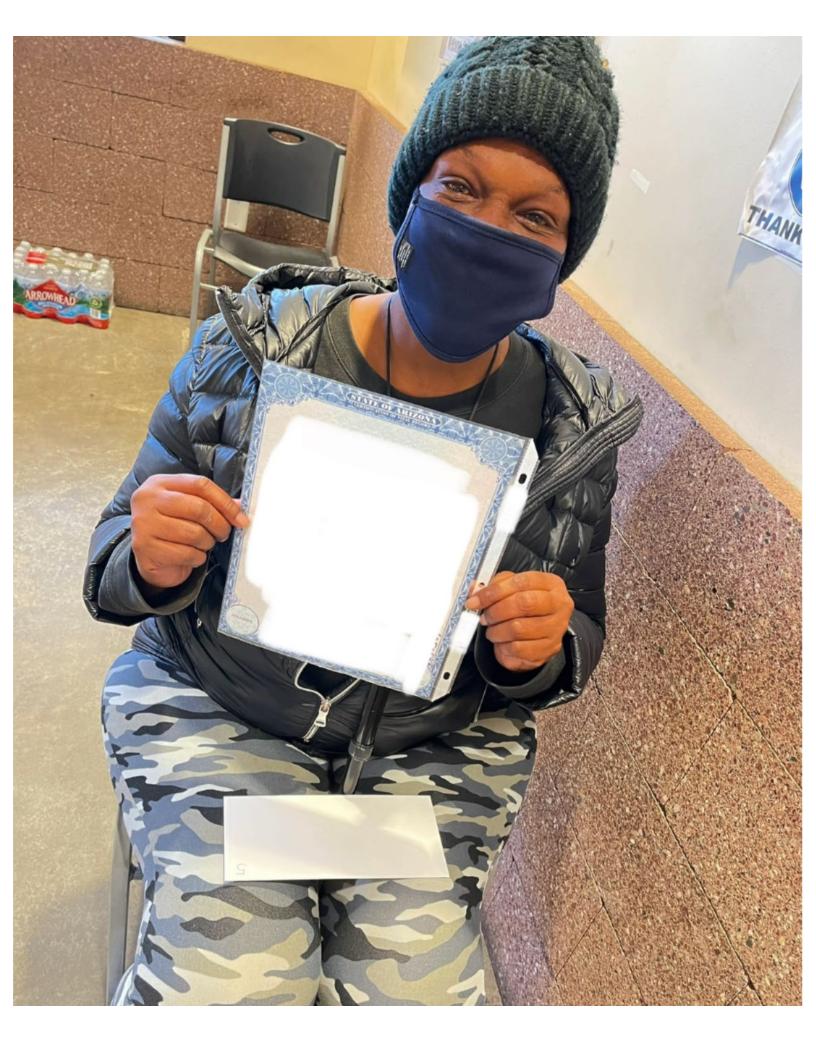
The Arizona State Charitable Tax Credit can be confusing. Some of our readers find themselves in shocking situations, in dire need of guidance. Never fear, social media manager and (almost) tax credit expert, Hayley is here! "Dear Hayley", our ongoing installation on social media, answers basic questions about the tax credit in simple ways- no Google searches required. Stay tuned to our social media for future episodes of "Dear Hayley".



Did you know?

- Seventy-five percent of homeless individuals will no longer be homeless a year from now.
- More than 80% of mothers experiencing homelessness have experienced domestic violence.
- Half of those experiencing homelessness in Arizona are families with children.
- Solving an issue requires understanding of the issue so we can't solve homelessness without understanding homelessness.
- Homelessness is *not* inevitable.

Support in a(n) (almost) Non-COVID Environment



Uncertainty remains. It is our hope to restore our fall fundraising events this year, depending on CDC guidelines and, frankly, your appetite for attending a populated event. Similarly, we would like to hold a series of "Lunch & Learn" events throughout the year but as noted at the beginning of this newsletter, we are not out of the woods just yet. We are looking at a few virtual options and will keep you posted. In the meantime, you can support Homeless ID Project at no cost to you through the AZ Tax Credit Program – give a donation and get it right back. *It's not too late to take advantage of your 2020 tax credit!* You can donate to Homeless ID Project for 2020 until April 15, 2021 and receive up to \$400 for an individual, or \$800 for a couple. The tax credit simply redirects the amount donated to Homeless ID Project rather than sending it to the state's general fund. Use your voice to support a cause that's important to you!





