



Summer Newsletter

Meet Raul

Our team was fortunate to meet Raul when he visited our office last week. When asked why an ID is so important to him, Raul immediately answered that he is in need of food stamps. Individuals experiencing homelessness struggle with many things, including a regular source of food. Even something as basic as food security requires an ID! He lost his documents when his wallet was stolen. Our program specialist Steve is here to guide him through the application process. In addition to employment and housing, an ID allows access to basic services including food and medical care. Together we can end homelessness!



Ending and Preventing Homelessness

The Homeless ID Project [mission](#) is around the concept of ending homelessness but our work is increasingly in places where we might prevent homelessness before it sets in. Prevention is likely more efficient than cessation.

For example, one of our many outreach programs is located at New Freedom, an organization whose mission involves successfully transitioning the formerly incarcerated and reducing recidivism. In the first five months of operation at New Freedom, we have provided more than 200 documents, including state IDs and birth certificates needed to obtain state IDs.

Another example is our recently passed legislation, House Bill 2588, initiated by Homeless ID Project, sponsored by Representative Bolding and signed into law by Governor Ducey. This bill will allow 16 & 17 year-olds in foster care or otherwise in the custody of the Department of Child Safety (DCS) to apply for a State ID and birth certificate without a parent or guardian signature. The bill also includes kids experiencing homelessness.

Historically, nearly 50 percent of kids aging out of foster care in Arizona are homeless or incarcerated within 2 years. By removing an unnecessary administrative requirement and allowing youth at a vulnerable age to obtain their documents, homelessness will be avoided by at least some of those aging out of foster care.

The Value of Partnership



As House Bill 2588 worked its way through the approval process, [Generation Justice's](#) legislation, Senate Bill 1019 was also signed into law by the Governor. This bill requires DCS to provide a picture ID card for every child in a group home and makes the state ID cards free for every child in the foster care system.

According to Rebecca Masterson, Chief Counsel for Generation Justice, “20,000 children go missing from foster care each year and until now, there is often no picture ID available for use in finding or identifying those missing. Further, by age 23, 39% of children who aged out of the foster care system had been homeless. Working together with the Homeless ID Project to improve outcomes for Arizona’s foster children and homeless population is an obvious solution.”

Partnership is one of our [core values](#) and by advocating for our missions, together, we forged a new, critical partnership. Generation Justice gave HB2588 a much needed boost and we are planning a co-sponsored Lunch &

Learn to discuss implementation of both bills. We are thrilled to share that Rebecca has even joined the Homeless ID Project as an Advisory Board Member!

Save the Date

Homeless ID Project's first Rootin' Tootin' Roundup!
Mark your calendars for all you can eat barbecue on Saturday, November 6 at 5PM.
More information coming soon!



Donate to Homeless ID Project Charitable Organization tax credit, and support Generation Justice via the Qualifying Foster Care Organization tax credit for a dollar for dollar return on both. Visit [our website or respond](#) to this email for more information.

Donate