



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$100,000 GRANT FROM THUNDERBIRDS CHARITIES WILL EMPOWER THE HOMELESS, ENABLE JOBS, HOUSING AND EDUCATION

Homeless ID Project received a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from Thunderbirds Charities in support of the “ID Empowers Our Community” Program. Funding will provide what is for many, the critical first step of identification replacement services needed to end, and in some cases prevent, homelessness. “We are most grateful for this generous grant from Thunderbirds Charities” said Executive Director Rick Mitchell. “An ID provides real, direct help for the individual seeking an end to homelessness. It also provides a measurable value to the community as newly empowered individuals are able to engage, to support themselves and their families, and to contribute to the community by reducing resources spent on homelessness.”

Homeless ID Project Program Manager Eric Ortega added that, “an ID is not the first thing we think about when considering the state of homelessness, but without an ID, people are stuck. There is no opportunity to get a job, housing or even basic services. There is no way out.”

During 2021, Homeless ID Project provided 8,276 documents, including State IDs and birth certificates from all 50 states from their office in the Brian Garcia Welcome Center on the Human Services Campus in downtown Phoenix and in outreach programs across Maricopa and Pima Counties.

“Obtaining personal identification is a critical first step in order for individuals and families to begin the process of rebuilding their lives”, said Michael Golding, President of Thunderbirds Charities. “Homeless ID Project provides a pathway to success and we are proud to support the work they do in our community.”

About The Thunderbirds/Thunderbirds Charities:

THUNDERBIRDS CHARITIES is a non-profit organization formed in 1986 to distribute monies raised through the WM Phoenix Open. The mission of Thunderbirds Charities is to assist children and families, help people in need and improve the quality of life in the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area. 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 285 “life” members. For more information about The Thunderbirds or the 2023 WM Phoenix Open, visit www.wmphenixopen.com. For more information on the Thunderbirds Charities, visit www.thunderbirdscharities.org.

About Homeless ID Project

Homeless ID Project is a privately funded nonprofit 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 where he learned that many individuals experiencing homelessness wanting to get a job or find housing had no access to replacement documents that had been lost, stolen or left behind. The agency now serves the community from two permanent locations and 12 shared space locations, seeking both to end and prevent homelessness. More information is available at www.HomelessIDProject.org

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