



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**\$100,000 GRANT FROM THUNDERBIRDS CHARITIES WILL EMPOWER THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, 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 for many is the critical first step of identification replacement services needed to end and prevent homelessness.

“We are very grateful for this vital grant from Thunderbirds Charities,” said Executive Director Rick Mitchell. “An ID provides tangible help for individuals working toward ending their homelessness. It also infuses 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’s Director of Programs, 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 2022, Homeless ID Project provided 12,143 documents, including 8,000 state-issued IDs and 4,000 replacement copies of 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. This year, the Homeless ID Project has expanded services into Mohave and Navajo Counties with future outreach expanding services into Yavapai, Coconino, Gila, and Yuma Counties.

“Thunderbirds Charities is honored to support Homeless I.D. Project,” said Pat Williams, President of Thunderbirds Charities. “Individuals in need are able to move forward in their journey to a better life because of this incredible program.”

**About 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 was 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 [wmphoenixopen.com](http://wmphoenixopen.com). For more information on the Thunderbirds Charities, visit [thunderbirdscharities.org](http://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 during which he discovered 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 [HomelessIDProject.org](http://HomelessIDProject.org).

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