

Bank of America Awards \$167,500 to Tucson Nonprofits Addressing Basic Needs and Workforce Readiness

Partnerships part of strategy to move people out of the cycle of poverty and onto path to economic sustainability

Tucson, AZ – Bank of America today announced \$167,500 in grants to 15 Tucson nonprofits providing workforce development opportunities and education that help people chart a path to better economic futures, and nonprofits providing basic needs resources that are fundamental to building personal and financial stability.

Having the skills to access sustainable jobs has been challenging for many Arizona families, contributing to the state having among the highest child homelessness and high school dropout rates in the nation, according to Youth on Their Own, a school dropout prevention agency and 2018 Bank of America grant recipient. In Pima County alone, more than 5,600 school age children and teens are homeless, and thousands of individuals and families rely on emergency shelter and transitional housing services in southern Arizona annually.

The nonprofits receiving funding are connecting youth to first-time jobs, giving young adults alternative pathways to employment and providing second chances to individuals who face barriers in rebuilding careers and lives. This work aligns with Bank of America's commitment to building a diverse Tucson workforce, providing skilled workers to organizations while creating economic opportunity. Additionally, funding will help individuals and families access food, shelter, social resources and other fundamental needs.

"So many of us are just one life event away from needing to depend on basic needs services such as food banks or emergency shelters. But through strategic philanthropic investments into Southern Arizona's incredible nonprofit network addressing fundamental services like hunger relief, shelter and education, Bank of America can deploy capital to advance more economic opportunities in the region," said Adriana Kong Romero, Tucson market president, Bank of America.

Youth on Their Own (YOTO) will use the funding to pay for additional full time staff for its Student Living Expense Program. In this past school year alone, YOTO assisted 1,739 homeless students in grades 6-12 throughout Pima County with financial assistance, basic human needs, and personal guidance to ensure that homeless youth have the resources necessary to stay in school and graduate.

"For students who are homeless through no fault of their own, the monthly stipend is often the only thing between staying in school or being forced to drop out because they need to support themselves," said Youth on Their Own Chief Executive Officer, Nicola Hartmann. "This grant enables us to make a difference in the lives of more homeless youth in our community."

Other organizations receiving grants include: Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona, Jobpath Inc., Interfaith Community Services, Old Pueblo Community Services, Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona, Literacy Connects, Tucson Center for Women and Children, Earn to Learn, Our Family Services, Inc., United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, Inc., Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Tucson, YWCA of Southern Arizona and B'NAI B'rith Covenant House of Tucson Arizona, Inc.

These grants are part of the company's commitment to responsible growth as it works to improve the financial lives of individuals and families. Philanthropic and volunteer investments

play a key role in this effort, with local employees donating 3,200 hours of volunteer time across Southern Arizona last year alone.

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