



THE HOMING PROJECT

Stability, Compassion and Transition for Those Unhoused

July 2023 Newsletter

Update on Possible Sites for The Homing Project Village: A property in South Tucson and a property in Ward 3 are both currently under consideration for the site of the first Homing Project village. Kris Olson and volunteers met with Ward 3 Councilman Kevin Dahl to update him and his staff about the project. Kris also presented information about The Homing Project to the South Tucson City Council, where 11 of the 12 comments from the audience were in favor of The Project, indicating strong community support.

How the Demo House Got Wheels: Monika and Mahlon Kriebel generously provided funding for the purchase of a flatbed trailer for project use. Jimmy Noriega, owner of Carson Trailers, and volunteers Brian Noriega, Mark Brazzle, Mahlon Kriebel and Gogi Sethi worked to retrofit the trailer and mount the demonstration mini-home on it, making it possible to take it to different sites without the high cost of renting a forklift and trailer for each move. Jimmy Noriega stores the mini-home at his business between display events and also allows the curious to visit it during business hours at Carson Trailers, 2640 N Stone Ave. All that is needed to take the demo mini-home out for a public showing and fund-raising event is

the availability of a qualified driver and a suitable truck with trailer hitch.



Mini-home on Trailer

Volunteers--The Heart and Soul of The Homing Project: The Homing Project has a large cadre of volunteers who are making the project a reality. Each volunteer has unique skills but all share in having compassion for

unhoused people and wanting to make a difference in their lives. Since the fall of 2022, volunteers have generously worked more than 2000 hours, some involved now in getting the village built, others in line to contribute their skills as the first village gets up and running.



The Clean-Up: An early volunteer effort was the clean-up of a property donated by Pat DeConcini for a free, long-term lease. Teams of volunteers put in many hours of hard labor over several days to transform what was an illegal dump and homeless encampment into a property ready for the next steps in creating a village. Further progress at that property awaits support from Ward 5.



Funding: The project has raised \$307,000 toward establishing a village of mini-homes and operating it for a year. This amount has come from community donations, sale of raffle tickets for Jim Click's Millions for Tucson (all proceeds

from tickets go directly to the project) and grants.

Fundraisers: Our volunteer event coordinator, Rita Gray, and her team organized two successful fundraising events. The first was a BBQ held at the DeGrazia Gallery in November and the second an Egyptian Tea held at the Scottish Rite Temple in February. Volunteers prepared the venues and staffed these two events, with another event planned for the fall.



Egyptian Tea Fundraiser

Public Exhibit: Displaying the demonstration mini-home has been a successful way to inform the public about The Homing Project and to garner donations. Volunteers staffed displays and gave tours of the mini-home at the First Christian Church in December–January, at the Tucson Mall in March and again for 10 days in May.



Volunteers at the Tucson Mall

Volunteers have also staffed tabling events to share information about The Homing Project at the Rillito, Oro Valley and Green Valley Heirloom Farmers Markets, the Peace Fair, Mission Garden, and the Southern Arizona Volunteer Management Association. We plan to display the mini-home at farmers' markets and other venues.

June 10th Meeting: An in-service meeting was held at St. Philips Episcopal Church with consultant Lyda Wiegel-Firor providing training for volunteers (complete with role-playing!) on fund-raising strategies.

The Logo: The logo featured on our newsletter and our t-shirts was created by Martk Leinhos, the project's information technology lead.

The Homing Project Bookkeeper: Jennifer Leinhos joins The Homing Project with over 34 years of bookkeeping experience, and with a special interest in the unique challenges that nonprofit bookkeeping presents. Jennifer has worked with hundreds of organizations to improve their financial footing and is also the owner of her own bookkeeping firm in Tucson. Her keen eye for detail and commitment to organization and accuracy will help The Homing Project for years to come.

Volunteer Coordination: Shelley Carton and Pat Kelly joined Yolanda Sethi on the Volunteer

coordinator team. This team emails and coordinates volunteers for outreach events.

Call for Volunteers: Please consider joining us in this important work. If you or someone you know might be interested, email us at: volunteers@thehomingproject.org. Or come to our monthly volunteer meetings at St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church (Children's Chapel), 4440 N. Campbell, 10-12 am on the 4th Saturday of the month.

Board Meetings: 1 PM on the 3rd Saturday of the month, at Kris Olson's home. Project volunteers are welcome to attend.

The Homing Project Newsletter: Monika Kriebel, Raj Garewal, Mark Leinhos, Joe Vaughan, and Pat Kelly put this month's newsletter together. Email suggestions of item, for inclusion by the last day of the month to: raj.garewal@thehomingproject.org

BoardConnect: On June 6, The Homing Project participated in BoardConnect, an event sponsored by Community Foundation for Southern Arizona to help nonprofits connect with new volunteers and potential board members. Volunteers Mark Leinhos and Keith Gainer presented The Homing Project to the group and then had the opportunity to talk one-on-one with several people and to interact with other organizations that we may be able to partner with in the future. Our project got a positive reception from everyone at the event and many people commended the important work we are doing!

Elsewhere: On March 16, California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the state will spend \$30 million building 1,200 tiny homes this year as part of California's effort to decrease its unhoused population by 15% by 2025. "The crisis of homelessness will never be solved without first solving the crisis of housing – the two issues are inextricably linked," Newsom said. "We are tackling this issue at the root of the problem by addressing the need to create

more housing, faster in California."
(BusinessInsider.com, 3/26/2023).

The Homing Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit founded by Dr. Kris Olson and Raj Garewal. For more information visit

<https://www.thehomingproject.org>