



# GOD AT WORK

A CELEBRATION OF A YEAR'S PROVISION AND PROGRESS

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Designed in partnership with  
Tandem Collaborative



House of Refuge  
SUNNYSLOPE



# Dear Friends,

**Titus 3:8 ".....so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone."**

Love. House. Equip. For many years we have followed these three simple words of our mission statement. In the first few years of my time as the CEO we continued the emphasis on Love - keeping the HRS legacy of loving people as Christ directs us to do. In the last two years, God brought our emphasis to House. He brought us a new property that increased our housing by 33% over last year (with an increase of 41% more children!). As our team looks to 2024, our emphasis will be to Equip.

Titus 3:8 will challenge us to devote ourselves to doing God's good work in equipping - activities that are excellent and profitable for everyone. We will accomplish this through personalized goal setting and case management, a focus on our ABC's of career readiness, and collaboration with other organizations.

We need these organizations to help us meet the specialized needs of those struggling with issues such as, sobriety, parents desiring to change the course of their child's life, the challenges of mental health well-being, and integrating into a church community.

I want to thank each of you for being a part of our community. Whether you pray for us, volunteer your time, or financially support us, you have been a part of God's work here in Sunnyslope.

We hope you will find new ways to join us this year to equip men, women, and children to deeper life change that can forever set them free from their former life and move them to the life God created them to live.

In Christ,

*Julie Supplee*  
CEO

## AT A GLANCE

*Jump to the information you want to read about.*

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*A Praise :*

**2024 - PROVIDING  
SAFE, CHRIST-FILLED  
HOUSING TO OVER 100  
RESIDENTS EACH DAY.**

*God shall supply my every need.*

*Philippians 4:19*





## Our Why

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### Sobering Statistics

**RIGHT NOW, OVER 9,000 PEOPLE ARE HOMELESS. AND THAT IS JUST HERE, IN MARICOPA COUNTY.\***

- 56% of those people are sleeping on the streets with no access to basic needs, a 22% increase in the past year.
- Nearly 2,000 children and their families are impacted by these sobering realities.

These heartbreaking statistics are why we are so passionate about our mission here at House of Refuge Sunnyslope. Here, those experiencing homelessness are given opportunities to rebuild their life. Your partnership helps us provide housing, meals, fellowship, and career services. Everything our residents need to beat homelessness.

\*Source: 2023 Point-In-Time(PIT) Count Report, Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care



## WHERE WE FIT AND HOW WE SERVE.

### *The 4 Phases of Homelessness*

#### *Phase 1: Hidden*

When someone is temporarily living with others (or 'couch-surfing') with friends or relatives because they lack other housing opportunities.

#### *Phase 2: Transitional*

When someone is currently in a shelter or temporary housing program for a specific time.

#### *Phase 3: Episodic*

When someone is currently homeless and has experienced at least three periods of homelessness in the previous year.

#### *Phase 4: Chronic*

When someone is continuously homeless for a year or more or has had a minimum of four episodes of homelessness in the previous three years.

House of Refuge Sunnyslope serves those in the most prevalent category of homelessness: **transitional**. People in this phase of homelessness have often been hit with a catastrophic life event or sudden life change. This can be due to a life of addiction, job loss or domestic violence just to mention a few of many different circumstances.

By reaching those in phase 2, we can help prevent the decline into deeper homelessness. Our Vision for Victory methodology has helped thousands of individuals in transitional homelessness find their pathway to a sustainable life.



*A plan to experience a resilient,  
Christ-focused and thriving life*

## VISION FOR VICTORY

# Vision for Victory

Vision for Victory is a plan to experience a resilient,  
Christ-focused, and thriving life.

*"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor 15:57*

### OPEN TO GOD

- ▶ Willing to Listen
- ▶ Curiosity
- ▶ Desire to Learn

### TEACHABLE

- ▶ Willing to Listen
- ▶ Willing to Consider
- ▶ Willing to Act

### SEEK HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

- ▶ Boundaries for Unhealthy
- ▶ Restoring Healthy
- ▶ Forming New

### DESIRE FINANCIAL STABILITY

- ▶ Consistent Fulltime Employment
- ▶ Ability to Budget
- ▶ Exit Strategy

## HOW WE WALK THAT VISION OUT:

### Love

We welcome all who desire a place to live, have the ability to work, and a desire for Vision for Victory in their life. We share God's love through multiple Bible studies throughout the week where mentors are paired up with residents to walk alongside them and point them to Christ.

### House

We provide Christ-centered housing through three programs: Working Men, Working Women, and Working Moms and their Children. They work full-time and pay program fees at a subsidized rate. The residential stay of 1-2 years allows them time to work on their Vision for Victory, a plan to experience a resilient, Christ-focused, and thriving life.

### Equip

Beginning their first month, we identify residents' needs through case management to equip them with the right services, and we work with them on their Vision for Victory plan to successfully move on from our program. We partner with agencies such as AZ at Work and St. Joseph the Worker to quickly equip residents with full-time jobs. Beyond work, we also teach life skills like budgeting and relationship boundaries. Residents in good standing also have access to dental, scholarships, career and counseling programs. We also provide spiritual equipping through Bible studies and volunteer mentors.





## 2023 Accomplishments

2023 was a year of expanding resources to serve over 100 residents at a time...



## ALUMNI PROGRAM

A year ago, the Alumni program was created as another step towards independence. Residents who qualify may extend their stay for an additional 6 months while establishing their own utility accounts, paying a deposit, and applying for more permanent housing, all while staying connected to our program. The additional 6 months has enabled alumni residents to secure apartments and houses, obtain vehicles, reconcile with family, increase income, and save money. In 2023 we were able to provide stable alumni housing for 13 individuals.



### DANIEL

#### ALUMNI PROGRAM 2023

Daniel expressed that "the benefit of Alumni housing was having more freedom to put into practice the disciplines I learned over the past year through Bible studies and case management". Daniel used his time in Alumni housing to reinstate his driving license, purchase a car, and find a home to rent - setting himself up for a more stabilized life.



### STEPHANIE

When Stephanie moved into House of Refuge Women's Program with her four children, she had a job working in a group home. The home was shut down and she lost her job. She then took a cleaning job to meet program requirements. Later she got a better job at Recovery Innovations as a Behavioral Health Tech. She is thriving as a full-time employee. She describes this her dream job and she loves it. She's even mentioned that someday she hopes to work here at HRS. .

## YOUR A-B-C GUIDE TO EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS

HRS requires that all residents secure full-time employment. Many have not worked in quite some time, however, we encourage them to embrace the A-B-Cs of employment, which are: A – find A job, though it might not be your ideal situation, a job is key to your future success. Secondly, get a Better job. Having a job shows that you are employable and marketable. And finally, begin working on your Career job. Often, having stabilized housing and a good job are predicates for career advancement. This takes the form of returning to a field that was once jeopardized, attending vocational training, and advancing into leadership at their present job.



## CHRIST-CENTERED CASE MANAGEMENT FOR GOAL ACHIEVEMENT

Ours is a Christ-centered case management approach that ensures that our residents have a significant say in identifying goals and service needs and that there is shared accountability. Our case management begins at the initial screening, assessment, then intake. Our case managers conduct regular case management to provide tools, resources, and guidance to our residents to achieve the goals they have agreed to accomplish at intake. We have added case management software to make the process more efficient as we collaborate on the goal of housing stabilization and spiritual development.



### KETA'S STORY

Keta became very active in her own case management goals. She focused on financial stability and through time with her case manager and a volunteer, she set a plan to purchase a car by developing a budget, saving money, and patiently waiting. She was able to purchase a car for cash and avoided a costly auto loan. She is now working with the same volunteer to prepare to purchase a home in the future.



### ROB & CHRIS

After a few months at HRS, Rob (right) attended a Men's Retreat, stepped up at an altar call, and shared that he had experienced the worst year of his life. Chris was drawn to his story and began volunteering and him every Thursday night until Rob successfully completed our program. "Chris becoming my mentor made a huge impact on my life." Chris reminds us that mentoring provides blessings both ways – "It is a brotherhood unlike any other I have experienced, and I get to be part of it. Thank you, Lord!"

## BUILDING CONNECTIONS: THE IMPACT OF VOLUNTEER MENTORS IN COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION

Volunteer mentors are a critical piece of the embrace we give our residents. At the end of 2023 we had 43 mentors paired up one on one with our residents. Mentors in many cases are the first person to reconnect our residents with the community that was lost due to drug and alcohol addiction, prison, divorce, and domestic violence. During the year we held two sessions called "Mentoring Reimagined" to train and develop our current and new volunteers.



## RESIDENTS EQUIPPED TO SERVE OTHERS

### A NOTE FROM JOEL

#### Director of Programming and Community Development

In my role as Director of Programming, I felt that it was critical to add a "serving piece" to our case management process. Typically, case management focuses on the individual and their progress towards housing stabilization.



However, while receiving services from case managers, volunteers, and mentors I felt that it was important to not allow these services to our residents to create an entitlement or dependency culture. To that end, we encourage our residents to be of service to others. In 2023, as a group, our men, women, and children engaged in serving for Feed My Starving Children and Food for the Hungry. As a result, several residents felt compelled to organize their own local outreach efforts and proceeded to feed, clothe, and provide resources to the homeless in several parks throughout Phoenix - in some cases, a park where they once stayed while living in their cars. Paying it forward!



### KASHIEF'S RETURN

Kashief has been inspired to serve others at the very park he was once homeless in. He remembers a time, in the heat of the summer, when he felt he was dying of heat and thirst and a stranger gave him a bottle of water, reviving his body and his hope. After becoming an alumni, he gathered needed items and returned to that very park to help others and pray that they would find the hope and recovery he found in Christ.







2023  
*Love. House. Equip.*

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Let's look at the Statistics





**LOVE.**

*344 men, women, and children were provided  
Christ-centered housing  
(33% Increase from 2022)*

*90 children had stability, critical for childhood  
development  
(41% Increase from 2022)*

*15,154 hours of service lovingly provided by  
volunteers  
(9% Increase from 2022)*

*88% of residents expressed new desire  
to learn about God*

*24 Residents Baptized*

# OUR CAMPUS HAS GROWN



**HOUSE.**

**We provided housing for  
344 individuals via:**

*6 homes*

*32 apartments*

*8 dorm rooms*

*46 housing units total*

*Alumni Program provided affordable  
housing to 13 Individuals*

*392,214 pounds of food donated to meet  
all our food needs*

*28,140 Evening Meals Prepared and  
served by volunteers*





**EQUIP.**

*70% of qualified residents left with a financial safety net  
from our Moving On Savings Program*

*832 evening classes equipped residents with Bible  
Studies, Life Skills, Celebrate Recovery, and childcare  
(19% Increase from 2022)*

*89% of residents achieved consistent  
full-time employment*

*1200+ Celebrate Recovery Attendees*



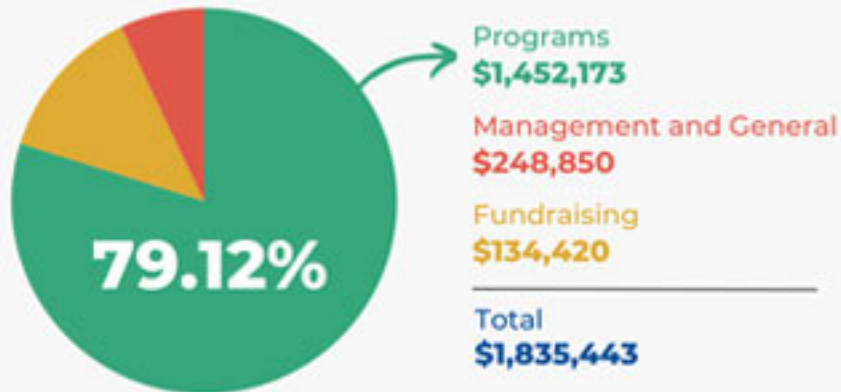
## OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP IN 2023

"As we share this financial snapshot, our hearts are full of gratitude for God's provision through our generous donors and volunteers. Your faithful service and giving allowed us to continue to Love-House-Equip with 79% of our expenses dedicated to resident programming."

*June Taylor*

Board Finance Committee Chairperson

### TOTAL EXPENSES



### PUBLIC SUPPORT/ REVENUE



\*Includes one time proceeds from sale of property

## OUR MINISTRY PARTNERING TO FEED THE VALLEY

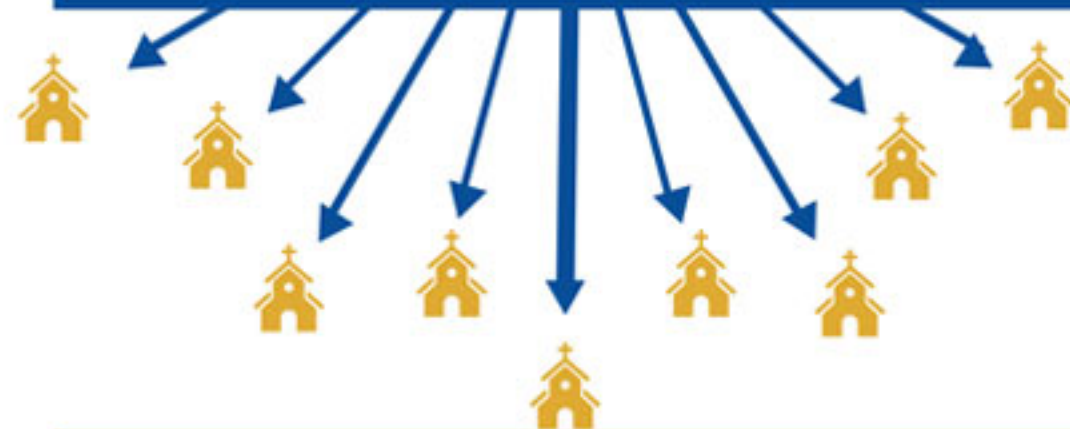
There are many ways we strive to be good stewards of the provisions God gives us and sharing bountiful food with others has been a long standing tradition of House of Refuge Sunnyslope.



Our instrumental partnership with St. Mary's Foodbank allows our team of volunteers to capture food 10 times weekly that would otherwise go to waste.



This allows us to feed 100+ residents daily and keeps our kitchens stocked for our volunteer cooks. The abundance of rescued food enables us to support nonprofit organizations across the valley. This collaborative approach makes our partnership a win-win.



"Thank you for your faithfulness and obedience to God. By providing food to places like ours you allow us to devote more effort to providing Spiritual nourishment to the lost and afflicted of the Valley. May God continue to bless your good works."

*Set Free AZ Ministries*



# 2023 Resident Success Stories

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See the Impact





## Tesa's Story

**TESA'S STORY IS A POWERFUL REMINDER OF THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY.**

She wasn't born into luck but found herself in a cycle of turmoil, seeking stability and love in a world of chaos. Through your support, we were able to open our doors to Tesa and her daughter at House of Refuge Sunnyslope.

Your contributions brought hope into Tesa's life. She found a job, enrolled her daughter in school, and discovered a community that helped her heal from a troubled past. Her transformation is a testament to the life-changing impact of your donations.



## Roland's Story

YOU AND I OWE A DEBT OF **GRATITUDE** TO ROLAND. FOR 8 YEARS, HE PROTECTED OUR NATION AS A MEMBER OF THE **U.S. ARMY**. HE SURVIVED COMBAT MISSIONS. HE SERVED ABLY AND WELL.

However, the scars of war, particularly PTSD, haunted him upon his return home, leading to a decade-long battle with addiction and crime. His journey took a turn when he began a 7.5-year prison term, where he found a sense of relief and utilized his military discipline to thrive in the structured environment. Upon his release, a paperwork error redirected him to the House of Refuge Sunnyslope, where he discovered a transformative program centered on resilience and faith.

Embracing this new chapter, Roland emerged from his past struggles with a renewed sense of purpose. He dedicated himself to helping fellow veterans, serving as commander of a Disabled American Veterans chapter and contributing to nonprofit organizations focused on housing for disabled vets. Roland's tireless efforts have brought hope and opportunity to many, echoing his own journey of redemption and demonstrating the power of second chances.



U.S. ARMY







# Jake's Story

## FROM DARKNESS TO REDEMPTION:

### JAKE'S JOURNEY OF FAITH-BASED RECOVERY

Jake endured 15 tumultuous years trapped in addiction, cycling through various recovery programs with little success. Despite his desperation for change, he found himself repeatedly falling back into darkness. It wasn't until he checked into a faith-based recovery program that Jake experienced a true breakthrough. The transformative power of God's love took hold of his life, leading him on a path of renewal and redemption.

However, even with newfound hope, Jake feared returning to the outside world alone. Thanks to the support of House of Refuge Sunnyslope and their Vision for Victory program, he found the guidance and structure he needed to rebuild his life. Embracing teachings focused on faith, healthy relationships, and financial stability, Jake now stands as a testament to the transformative power of faith-based recovery. He firmly believes in the unique restoration offered through Jesus, emphasizing the importance of purpose and spiritual fulfillment in overcoming addiction.





# Partner with us in 2024

## 3 WAYS TO CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER IN 2024

### Pray

Join us in Praying for the Ministry  
[refugesunnyslope.com/prayerful](https://refugesunnyslope.com/prayerful)



### Serve

Become a Volunteer  
[refugesunnyslope.com/volunteer](https://refugesunnyslope.com/volunteer)



### Give

Make your one-time gift or set up monthly giving  
[refugesunnyslope.com/give](https://refugesunnyslope.com/give)

