

# Where there's a home, there's hope. You can **be the one** to transform a life.

**Together, we can ensure everyone in our community has a home to call their own. Your generous support will enable us to:**

- Reach our goal to develop 1,000 permanent supportive housing units by 2015
- Through Project Connect, continue to provide vital services to 75,000 people experiencing, or at-risk of, homelessness
- Reduce homelessness in Maricopa County by 75% by 2020

The time is now –to help your neighbors get back on their feet, while making a lasting difference in our community.

## LIVE UNITED.

For more than 85 years, Valley of the Sun United Way has improved lives in the Valley. Together with our 90,000 supporters we are solving the most pressing issues facing our community. By galvanizing a diverse group of public and private partners, United Way does what no one organization can accomplish alone: ensure children and youth succeed, end hunger and homelessness and increase the financial stability of families.

Because of our wide array of partnerships, we can effectively create change at two vital levels: 1) we drive systemic change that impacts entire communities, and 2) we transform individual lives.

United Way is the Valley's top nonprofit investor in health and human services, touching millions of lives every year. We understand the value and power of each donation, so 90 cents of each dollar we raise goes back into the community.

We are motivated by the belief that a community will only move forward if each person has the opportunity to achieve the basic goals we all aspire to: a good education for our kids, a roof over our heads, a meal on the table and financial self-sufficiency. These are the pillars of strong, sustainable communities.

We can only accomplish this with your support.

**For more information or to make a donation contact:**

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Learn more about how you can be the one to transform lives in Maricopa County [vsuw.org](http://vsuw.org).



LIVE UNITED.

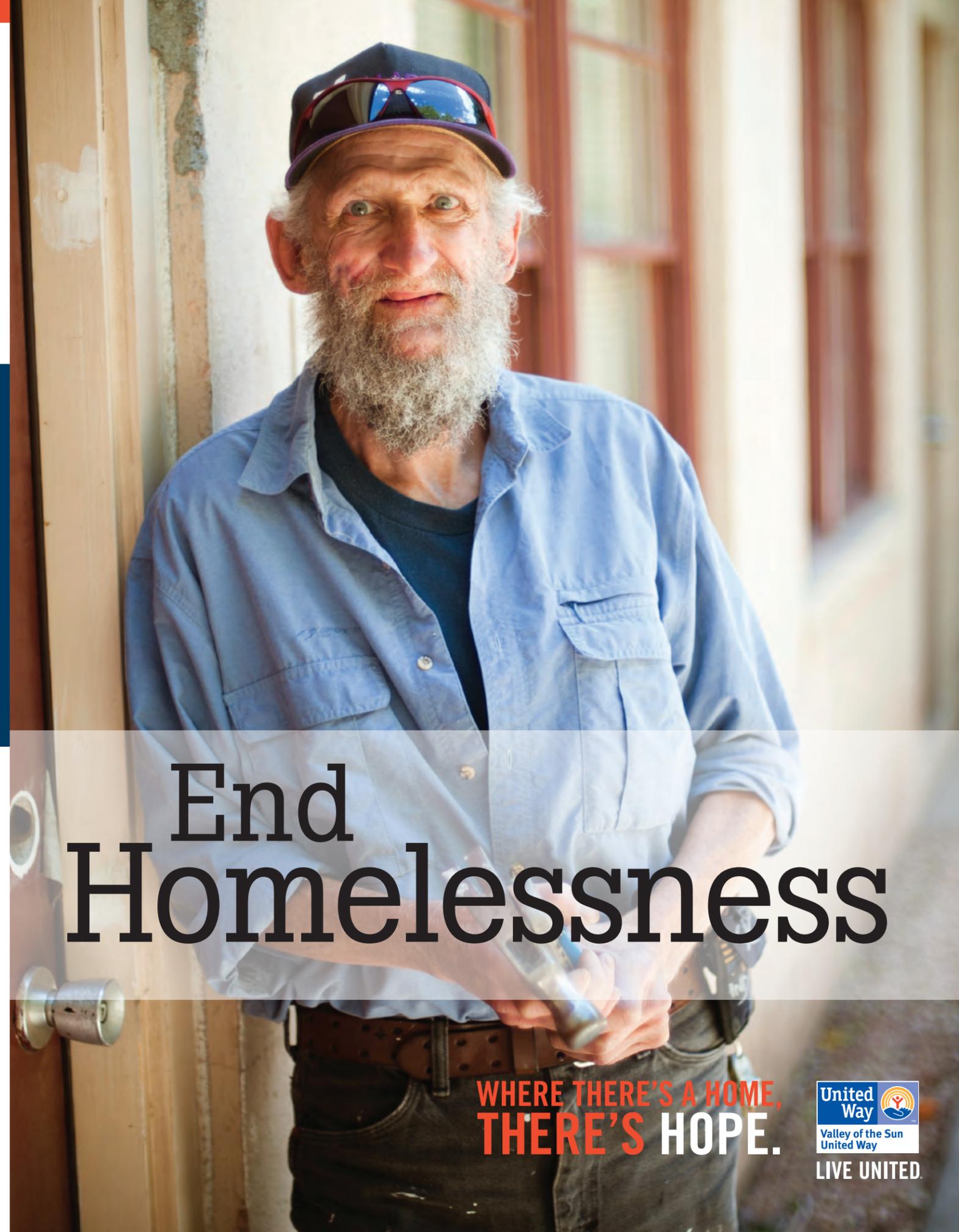


# End Homelessness

**WHERE THERE'S A HOME,  
THERE'S HOPE.**



LIVE UNITED.



# EVERYONE deserves a place to call home.

**It sounds simple enough, yet on any given day, there are thousands of people in Maricopa County living on the streets and spending the night in their cars, in parks or on canal banks.**

Sadly, many of those who are homeless find themselves in this position for the very first time, largely because of a job loss, home foreclosure or unexpected medical bills.



Many of the people experiencing homelessness for the first time are veterans and families with children. Too often, they can't find safe shelter or services because chronically homeless individuals – people who've been on the street for more than a year – consume more than 50 percent of available community resources, such as emergency response systems and shelter beds.

Perhaps most telling is the hefty toll that homelessness takes on our community's resources. Consider the cost – an estimated \$40,000 per year for each person experiencing chronic homelessness – for hospital emergency rooms used as primary care facilities, police calls for minor violations, and overcrowded jails that are taxed even further.

Then consider the longer-term consequences: Without a stable place to call home, children are at risk of low school attendance and poor academic achievement rates.

The bottom line is, homelessness affects us all.



“There are lots of heroes out there doing good work. **Only United Way could pull all those heroes together to end homelessness.** Once they were all in the same room, real magic happened. That couldn't happen without United Way.”

**DOUG PARKER,**  
*US Airways Chairman and CEO*  
Co-Chair, Valley of the Sun United Way  
Ending Homelessness Advisory Council

**A**fter dedicating years of service in the armed forces, Gabriel returned to Phoenix with little hope and no place to go. So he lived on the streets for eight long years.

Then, he found his way home, thanks largely to Valley of the Sun United Way.

United Way helped guide Gabriel on a new path to life. Six weeks after applying for a permanent supportive housing unit, he moved into an apartment, with a kitchen, a shower and a bed he could call his own.

Along the way, he discovered a passion for cooking and was quickly connected to United Way's partner, St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance Community Kitchen, for training and employment.

Today, with renewed faith and a fresh outlook on life, Gabriel is a living example of how your support can change a life.

# TOGETHER, we can end homelessness

**Struggling to survive isn't the answer. That's why Valley of the Sun United Way created an ambitious plan to end homelessness altogether.**

We've mobilized businesses, elected officials, nonprofits, faith-based organizations and others to focus on three solutions.

- Provide 1,000 permanent supportive housing units for the most chronically homeless and ensure the services they need to stay off the streets. This will free up services for people experiencing homelessness for the first time.
- Through another groundbreaking program called Project Connect, United Way and its partners link homeless individuals, or those at risk of homelessness, with vital services. Monthly, at a different location in the Valley, those seeking assistance are connected with dozens of organizations and hundreds of volunteers who provide food, clothing, shelter, wellness checks and many other resources.
- Each year, United Way invests \$3 million in homelessness prevention, intervention and emergency shelters.

