



STONE CANYON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

EMPOWERING YOUTH TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS!

2024 - 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Support Tucson-area non-profit organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life of youth-in-need through educational success.

DONATE NOW!

"We cannot always build the future of our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt



All grants funded by Stone Canyon Community Foundation (SCCF) are focused on organizations supporting Tucson's youth-in-need. The financial assistance from SCCF grants help thousands of children, teens and families access services to build stronger, more positive futures. Due to your generosity, the Advisory Board, on the recommendation of the Grants Committee, approved 26 grants in 2025 totaling \$425,000, helping to support the services of non-profit organizations whose missions focus on positively transforming the lives of youth-in-need and their families.

Youth On Their Own (YOTO) is a 17-year Stone Canyon Community Foundation grant recipient.

YOTO's focus is on dropout prevention supporting high school graduation and continued success of youth experiencing homelessness in Pima County. Founded in 1986, Ann Young, a guidance counselor in the Amphitheater School District, noticed talented and motivated students were dropping out of school due to homelessness and being forced to live on their own without a parent or guardian. Due to YOTO's services, the organization reports a 93% graduation rate.

Homeless youth, also referred to as "unaccompanied youth", face devastating obstacles. The consequences of homelessness include:

- mental health problems
- substance use
- criminal activity
- barriers to education and employment

High school students are not the only youth at risk. An average of 3 percent of all first graders across the United States were identified as homeless in 2023, an increase from 2.5 percent in 2022.

Experiencing homelessness as a child is a traumatic experience associated with delays in language, literacy, and social-emotional development—even after a child is stably housed.

The facts:

- Homelessness is up 18% nationwide, with a 3.5% increase in AZ. In 2024, people living in cars, outside, in shelters and unaccompanied homeless youth reached the highest levels ever reported. (U.S. Housing & Urban Development 2024 Assessment of Homelessness)
- Tucson's 2024 "Point in Time" count shows total homelessness is up 53% since 2019. (Tucson Sentinel.com – January 22, 2025)

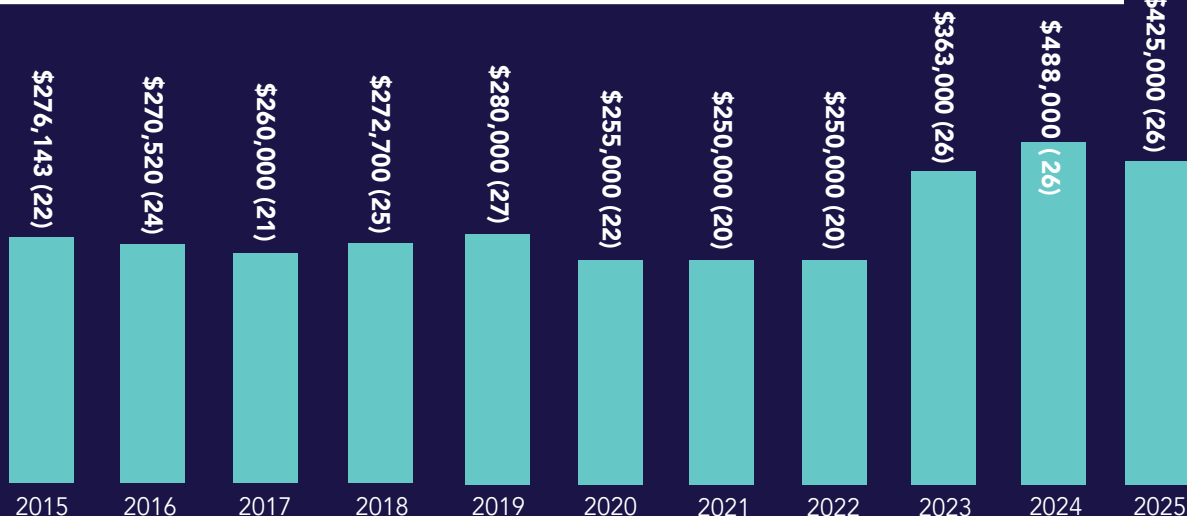
THANK YOU to the Stone Canyon members who have generously given donations or volunteer time. SCCF is helping to make a difference by supporting programs which positively impact children's educational and developmental services in the Tucson area.

SCCF's grants have supported over **20** grantees annually since **2015**, all with the mission of directly benefiting Tucson area's youth-in-need. To learn more about our 2025 grantees click on this link:

<https://stoneccf.org/news-and-reports/grant-report/>

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED:

2015 - 2025



GRANT RECIPIENTS

SCCF supports between **20-30** grantees annually. This year, the committee awarded **26** grants to organizations with initiatives that benefit Tucson's youth-in-need.

Amphi Foundation (2nd year)
Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (8th year)
Aviva Children's Services (4th year)
Big Brothers/Big Sisters (14th year)
Boys and Girls Clubs of Tucson (6th year)
Boys to Men Tucson (3rd year)
Casa de los Ninos (6th year)
Children's Museum Tucson (3rd year)
Educational Enrichment Foundation (1st year)
Girl Scouts of Southern AZ (9th year)
Higher Ground (15th year)
Interfaith Community Services (5th year)
Junior Achievement (14th year)
Literacy Connects (13th year)
Live the Solution (11th year)
Make Way for Books (17th year)
Our Family Services (14th year)
Pio Decimo Center (1st year)
Project Access Inc (4th year)
San Miguel High School (14th year)
Southern AZ Association for the Visually Impaired (11th year)
Southern AZ Research, Science and Engineering Foundation (7th year)
STEP (8th year)
Strength Building Partners (1st year)
The Edge School (5th year)
Youth On Their Own (17th year)



2024-2025 GRANTS COMMITTEE

A big THANK YOU to SCCF's Grant Committee members for the many hours spent reviewing grant applications and working through the selection process.

Rick Ellpersman, Chair
 Brett Averick
 Mar Borie
 Dave Button
 Jane Davlin

Jayne Gissiner
 Michelle Martin
 Stan Martin
 Stan Steffen

For a complete review of our grant review process, click **HERE**



In addition to another successful Annual Appeal, SCCF sponsored the 5th annual Spirit of Giving event as well as continuing the popular Speaker Series.

NOVEMBER 2024 SPIRIT OF GIVING

Once again, the 2024 event ended with 3 SUV loads of essential need supplies for Youth on Their Own.



SPEAKER SERIES

SCCF sponsored three educational and interesting Speaker Series events

- Peter Breslin, Phd, University of Arizona – Desert Lab Research Affiliate**
 Peter shared outcomes of his 20+ year research project "Future of the Saguaro Research Project" located at the Desert Laboratory on Tumamoc Hill.
- Taylor Boyd, Stone Canyon member**
 Taylor has a passion for finding crested saguaros within Stone Canyon. Taylor hosted a couple of hikes, providing members with a close up look at many of the special crested saguaros.
- Golder Ranch Fire Department, Danielle Walker & Dan Habinek**
 Dan and Danielle recommend clearing unwanted grass species up to 40 feet around your home to help minimize the possibility of a fire. They also taught us to update our fire extinguishers. Use an extinguisher for kitchen grease fires and keep a fire blanket handy. It's also helpful to get a lockbox for your front door, so EMT and Fire Dept. can access your home in an emergency.
- Ben Tully, University of Arizona – Invasive Species Outreach Coordinator**
 Ben taught us how to identify Stinknet, Buffelgrass and Fountain Grass. These grasses burn hot in fires and should be removed.



Stone Canyon Member Donations

July 2024 - June 2025

Thank you, Stone Canyon member donors. Your financial support and donated items help SCCF continue to support organizations that positively impact children's futures.

Barbara & Bruce Abbett
David Ahmad & Kristina Hornback
Tony Apolloni & Maria Mar
Kay & Gary Ariniello
Jenny & Brett Averick
Dianne & Dave Balak
Kristi & Scott Bandy
Bye Barsness & Susan Maxwell
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Gail Williams
Craig Wright & Ruth Fischer-Wright
Barbara Young & Ann Bowman

CORPORATE DONORS

Caterpillar Foundation
Principal Financial Group
Southern Arizona Home Builders Association

Thank you for your Stone Canyon Community Foundation grant! We are beyond grateful and excited to put your foundation funds to work. Thank you for believing in Higher Ground.

Most Sincerely,
Jeanie McKnight Guyman
Development, Higher Ground



This list should not be used for income tax purposes. Tax deductions are maintained and reported exclusively by the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. Stone Canyon Community Foundation is a donor-advised fund held at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona.

2024 ADVISORY 2025 BOARD

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TREASURER Kay Reeves*

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*Executive Committee Member

Thank you to Rosemary and Frances

A big thank you to Rosemary, who has given 10 years of her time and expertise fulfilling many roles within SCCF – most recently SCCF's Advisory Board Secretary, and before that, Grants Committee Chair. Rosemary will transition her responsibilities to Mar Borie.

Thank you to Frances Calcutt, who served as Member Engagement Chair for three years, before handing the reins to Jessie Jones.

SCCF LEGACY FUND

The SCCF Legacy Fund's purpose is to ensure an alternative source of funding to make annual grants more predictable and stable. **SCCF's goal is for the Legacy Fund to become endowed, so its income will fund grants, rather than depending upon annual fund raising.**

The SCCF Legacy Fund was developed in partnership with the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (CFSA). CFSA has the infrastructure to accept current or estate gifts on behalf of the SCCF. SCCF's intention is to grow the Fund over time. Our goal for our Legacy Fund is to attain at least \$10 million in pledges by 2030. Impressively, the SCCF Legacy Fund has already received over \$5 million in pledges.

To learn more, visit **Ways to Give** at stoneccf.org.



"We are so grateful to receive the continued support of Stone Canyon Community Foundation. The community coming together to support students is what makes this all possible."

We just started a grief support group that is supported by Stone Canyon and Tu Nidito trainers. The ability to continue these programs is monumental to creating change in students lives.

Thank you for believing in Edge students!"

Anne M. Ortiz, CPA
Edge High School