



2020-2021

Annual Report

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER



***No one can go back
and make a brand new start.
Anyone can start from now
and make a brand new beginning***



St. Joseph
THE WORKER

Transforming lives through employment

A message from our Executive Director



Hello!

These past two years have been one of the most trying times in St. Joseph the Worker's history. And yet, because of your support, we have been able to remain client-focused and have never once stopped getting people back to work! In late 2020 and throughout 2021, we moved boldly forward with a commitment to innovate within our work and to resist being driven by fear of an uncertain future. We were blessed with the opportunity to serve our clients more deeply and finally address the greatest barrier to becoming and staying employed: a stable, safe place to live.

As the COVID-19 pandemic raged on, Maricopa county's lack of emergency housing hit a crisis point. Simultaneously, we saw Arizona's economy expand as most state economies contracted significantly, making already-scant affordable housing options even less available. Long known for forwarding the discussion amongst our peers and partners about the lack of housing available for our working clients, we were approached with an opportunity to provide temporary, transitional housing for them, and my long held dream of busting down the housing barrier for our employed, yet unhoused clients became a reality. This could not have happened without the partnership and the commitment of Maricopa County, for whom we continue to be grateful. Together, we launched the Employment Bridge transitional housing program in August of 2020, which has now been aptly renamed the Workforce Villages program.

We put a roof over our working clients' heads while they commit to saving their money, improving their credit, and working closely with our staff to create both short- and longer-term life plans so that they can achieve sustained success. Ours is a simple solution to a system which doesn't often encourage individuals to work themselves out of homelessness and poverty to become independent and self-supporting.

This year, we've recommitted to our faith-based values of infusing love, dignity, and respect throughout all of our work. As our clients are leaving tragic pasts, addiction, and homelessness behind them, they have many SJW staff who have gone before them on this journey and act as beacons of hope. We are committed to providing the tools and resources necessary for our neighbors in need to work themselves out of homelessness and onto continued success. Such a program is the reason I am alive and honored to be in this position of leadership today.

Today, I'm thankful for each of you who have helped our team here St. Joseph the Worker continue to do what we have always done—remove barriers to employment and connect people to meaningful jobs. You've helped to create the opportunity for employment success through the blessing of a housing solution that is based around personal accountability and employment. Your support allows us to keep innovating and to continue to challenge existing public and social service systems at the most impactful pressure points. Your generosity is why St. Joseph the Worker has been able to stay 100% client-focused, always meeting those we serve exactly where they are in their journeys, while providing the hand up that will prevent and end the cycle of homelessness and poverty for thousands every year. Without you, none of this is possible.

Thank you for your faithful support of those we serve!

Sincerely,
Brent Downs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Downs". The signature is stylized and written over a light blue circular background.

Executive Director, St. Joseph the Worker

Our Mission

The singular mission of St. Joseph the Worker is to assist homeless, low-income and other disadvantaged individuals in their efforts to become self-sufficient through quality employment. We provide the right kind of hand up to make economic self-sufficiency possible, removing individual barriers to employment such as covering the cost of transportation to and from work, providing resumes, work clothing, coaching, and a transitional housing solution based around staying employed.

Our Vision

It is our vision that, through employment, SJW will end homelessness for a significant and measurable sector of the homeless population; and further, we will prevent homelessness from becoming a bigger problem by continually increasing our reach and employing greater numbers of impoverished and underemployed community members at risk of becoming homeless.

Through the work of SJW, anyone and everyone who is stable, ready, and wanting to work will be employed--regardless of their situation. And, no homeless person who can work and wants to work will remain homeless for lack of employment.

Every time one of our clients obtains a job, they ring our 'Success Bell'





We believe there is **DIGNITY** in work

We believe employment is key to a healthy **COMMUNITY**

We express our **LOVE** through service

We exist to serve our **CLIENTS** —they are our "why"

We **RESPECT** each individual's obstacles

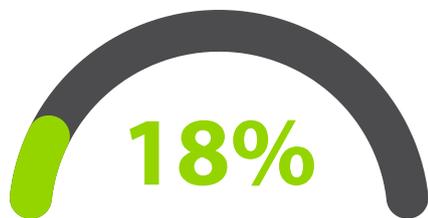
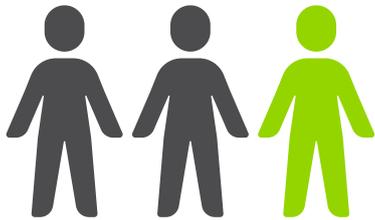
RELATIONSHIPS are essential & we cannot do this alone

We restore **HOPE** through care, compassion, and purpose

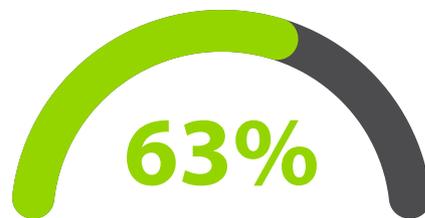
OUR CORE VALUES

The only way out of poverty is a paycheck

1 in 3 AMERICAN ADULTS HAS TROUBLE PAYING EXPENSES



OF OUR COMMUNITY LIVES IN POVERTY



LIVE PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK



THESE CIRCUMSTANCES PUT MOST AMERICANS ON THE EDGE OF INSOLVENCY AND DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO BECOMING HOMELESS



Resume & application assistance

One-on-one job coaching

Interview preparation

Professional attire

Uniform assistance

Job skills certifications

Transportation assistance

Basic tools & safety equipment

Employment Without Barriers

By removing common barriers to gainful employment, we're empowering our clients to get and keep jobs that foster independence, health, and wellbeing.



We offer a
hand UP,
not a
hand out
to those
who are
ready
to work

5,629 individuals served

2,996 newly employed

\$15.86/ hr average pay

79% receiving benefits

Workforce Villages

✗ Not qualified for housing vouchers

✗ Low wages limit the ability to save for a rent deposit

✗ Poor credit limits access to housing & banking



SJW's Workforce Villages is a **supportive transitional housing solution** that moves homeless, but employed clients from the streets to their own apartments within 90 days—for a fraction of the cost of other housing models.

SJW supports these clients for one year with resources, financial management and coaching, career advancement, and other hands-on support to help ensure sustained success.

71% success rate in clients maintaining employment and living independently

90 days is the average client stay in our free housing program before moving into a home of their own.

\$2,000 average savings when they first move into their own apartment

51 clients have moved from the streets to their own apartments through the power of employment since this program began in August 2020

41 clients are currently on our waitlist, with the need only continuing to grow





Teen Workforce Initiative

THE REALITY:

Half of Arizona’s graduating seniors are choosing not to enroll in post-secondary education, meaning they will need to enter the workforce upon graduation or risk becoming “opportunity youth” (youth ages 15-25 who are not working or in school).

Currently, this population makes up 27% (nearly one in three) of the youth population in Arizona and **nearly a quarter of the total homeless population**

OUR SOLUTION:

The Teen Workforce Initiative is a collaboration between St. Joseph the Worker and Dress for Success Phoenix to help teens and young adults ages 15 to 25, become employable and employed, so that they never fall into the troubling demographic of disconnected youth.

This program provides education, confidence-building experiences, connections to open jobs, and the tangible resources necessary to gain and maintain employment as young Arizonans. **Our mission is to enhance the likelihood of early success in young adulthood** and creating a difference for their futures.

The Best Solution to Unemployment is Prevention

4,391

teen workshop attendees

350

teens successfully employed



THE REALITY: OUR SOLUTION:

There are thousands of quality positions open throughout the Valley with a projected 5.5% increase in jobs by 2022.

St. Joseph the Worker partners with Valley employers through our Preferred Business Partners program and our social enterprise, Step Up, where we identify, place, and support our clients in quality employment opportunities.

At the same time, employers are struggling to find employees.

Every job placement offers competitive wages, benefits, good workplace culture, and opportunities for advancement.

WE'RE GENERATING POSITIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT!

\$100 million put back into the Arizona economy through wages



\$60 million saved by taxpayers for the cost of social services



We're Transforming Lives Through Employment

A cascade of circumstances landed Heather into homelessness. Able to live in her car, she was not yet on the streets when she was given an opportunity to secure an apartment contingent upon her finding stable employment. She had heard of SJW and met us at our Mesa office. **She was hopeful that SJW could help her find a job quickly--and together, we did!**

Heather walked out of our office that day with a complete resume and three job leads in-hand. The following week, she came back to share that she'd secured a position working in the kitchen of a local restaurant!



“

“This job means a step up for me. It’s an achievement that can help me continue to better my life.” - Heather

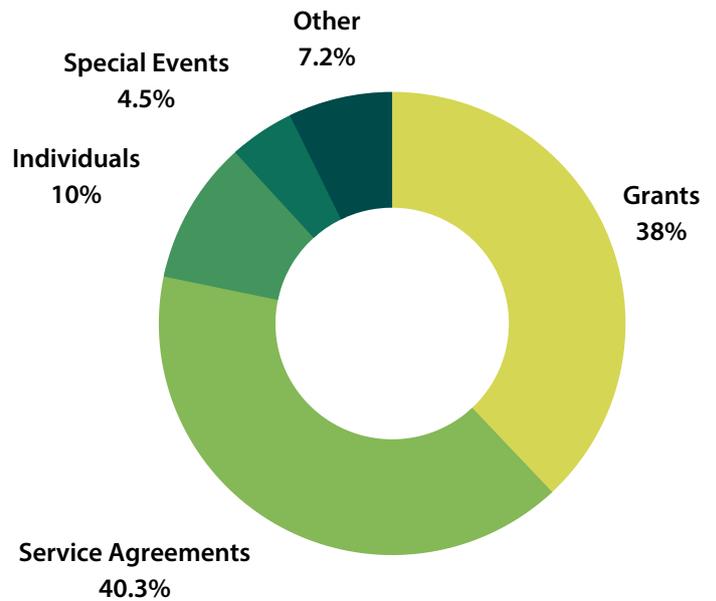
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INCOME DISTRIBUTION

A NOTE ABOUT SJW STAFF:

At St. Joseph the Worker, our greatest assets are our employees. We carry out our mission through the hands of the Employment, Outreach, Workforce Villages (Bridge Housing) and Teen Workforce Specialists who deliver our services with passion and compassion for those we serve. In addition to the many services and resources we offer, our amazing employees receive tremendous gratitude for giving the individuals with whom they work hope and encouragement. Without our valued employees, our work would stop, our mission would cease to be carried out, and the over 2,500 individuals that we have hired this year alone would likely still be struggling.

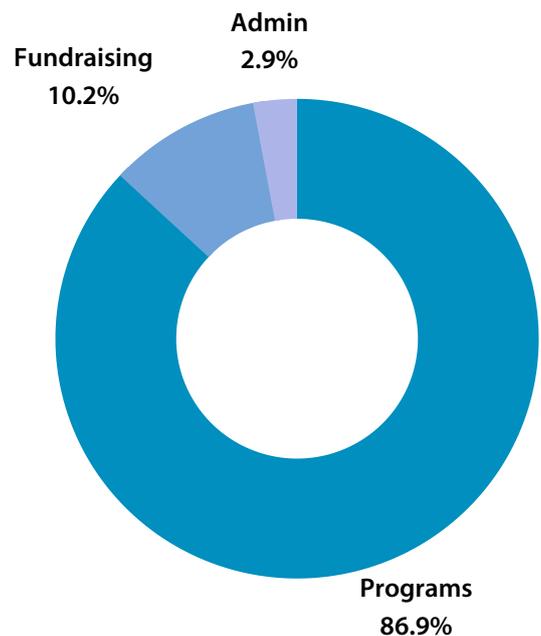
[We acknowledge and thank our entire SJW team!](#)



A NOTE TO OUR SUPPORTERS:

We are immeasurably grateful for each of our donors, funders, volunteers, and supporters! Thank you for allowing us the privilege of helping to end and prevent homelessness through work. Thank you for having faith in us to use your money to create lasting change with the utmost integrity. [Thank you for being a part of this movement to change the system](#) through common sense innovation and measured results, centered around work, personal responsibility, and the kind of support that empowers personal success.

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



Our Financial STEWARDSHIP



THANKS



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AZ Rocks the Tax Credit!

Your donation is completely tax deductible dollar-for-dollar up to \$400 if you are filing independently and up to \$800 if you are filing jointly. In other words, for every dollar you donate, you'll receive the same amount credited back to you, reducing your overall tax liability up to \$800!

Know with 100% certainty that your tax dollars will be spent exactly how YOU want them spent! If you care about helping disadvantaged people find quality work, then donate to St. Joseph the Worker!

St. Joseph the Worker

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