



Sojourner Center
Transforming Lives

A Year of *Possibility*

Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report





Our Mission

Overcoming the impact of domestic violence, sexual violence and human trafficking, one life at a time.

Our Values

Service

Kind acts to show someone you care

Community

A feeling of fellowship with others

Empowerment

Building confidence, choice, and self-determination

Our Programs



Emergency Shelter



Transitional Housing



Lay Legal Support



Community Outreach



Children & Youth



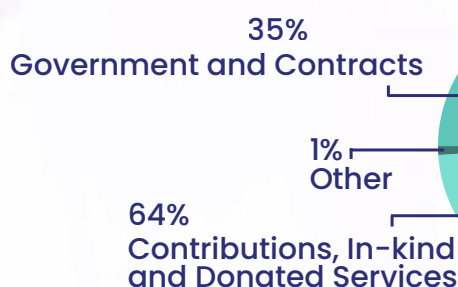
Pet Companion Services



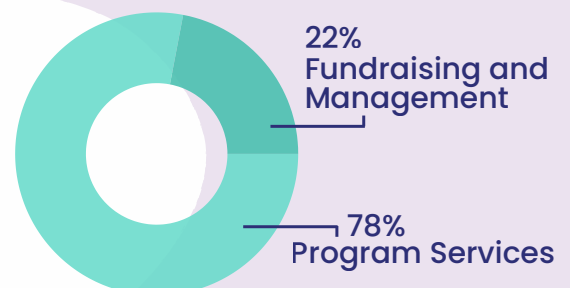
Donation Resource Center

Our Financials

Funds Raised



Funds Spent



Dear Supporters and Friends,

This year, Sojourner Center served 919 adults, children, and pets – all survivors who arrived in crisis and left with something they had not experienced in a long time: healing and a sense of what comes next. That is made possible through the courage of survivors themselves, the dedication of our staff, and the generosity of our donors, partners, volunteers, and community supporters.

The need has not slowed. Across Arizona, survivor service organizations are facing more requests for help than ever, while affordable housing remains scarce and the future of government funding for victim services grows increasingly uncertain. These pressures are reflected in the calls we receive each day and in how we direct every resource toward what matters most: survivors.

We have worked to ensure these challenges remain visible because change requires all of us. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Governor Katie Hobbs visited Sojourner Center for a real conversation about what survivors experience and what gaps remain in our community's response. Awareness is where action begins, and we will keep creating space for both.

What continues to fuel our work is the evidence of what is possible. Children settling into routines. Pets remaining with the families who love them. Survivors making plans instead of simply surviving the present. This is what it looks like to overcome the impacts of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking – one life at a time. This progress belongs to the resilience of survivors and to a community that refuses to look away.

Sincerely,



Julie Peterson
Co-Executive Director

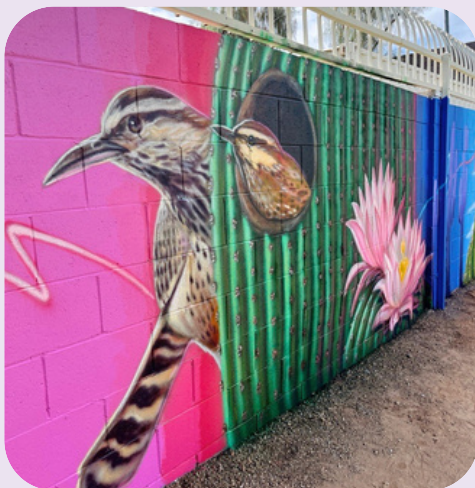
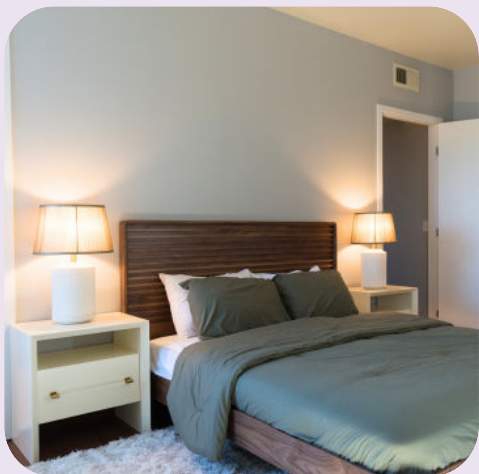


Bailey DeRoest
Co-Executive Director





919
SURVIVORS
found refuge and a fresh
start at Sojourner Center



57,562
SAFE NIGHTS
of shelter and supportive
services

374
CHILDREN

received support designed
to counteract childhood
trauma



58
PET COMPANIONS
received services
alongside their families



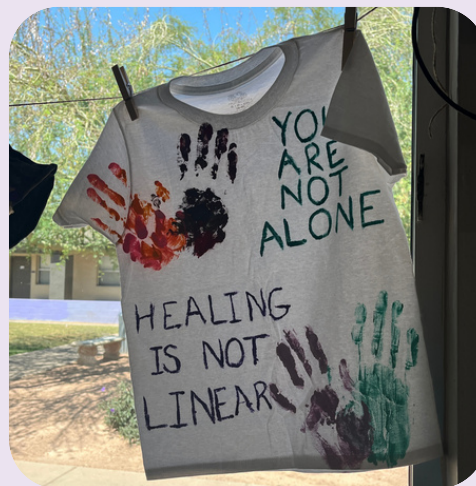


180
**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**
survivors received case
management



42,371
MEALS & SNACKS
served in our Emergency
Shelter Clubhouse

2,759
HOTLINE CALLS
seeking help
were answered



170
LAY LEGAL
survivors learned how to
navigate the legal system



The Phone Call That Changed Everything

Marie held her breath as the phone rang. When a voice said, “Hello, this is Sojourner Center,” something shifted. That call was her first step toward a different life.

Before reaching out, she had lost pieces of herself — medical coverage, friendships, family, sleep. Domestic and sexual violence had left her isolated, and she knew something had to change.

A neighbor mentioned Sojourner Center’s community outreach program. From her first intake call, Marie felt heard. Her case manager, Ashley, helped her access counseling, renew her medical benefits, and complete healthy relationship courses. Slowly, she started to recognize herself again.

“I put in 100% of the work. I wouldn’t be the woman I am today, standing strong, if it weren’t for Sojourner Center. They truly changed my life.”

She rebuilt relationships she had pulled away from, learned to trust her own instincts, and began sleeping through the night. The staff who supported her stayed consistent and present throughout.

Today, Marie is living independently, pursuing her goals, and building the future she envisioned for herself. Her relationships are stronger than ever, and she continues to grow into the best version of herself. We are incredibly proud of all she has accomplished and honored to have been part of her journey.



Make an Impact, Become a Sojourner Steward



"Consistent giving keeps me connected to the heart and mission of Sojourner Center and ensures I am contributing a small part towards making a difference in the community and in the lives of the survivors supported by Sojourner Center."

PJ Flores – Sojourner Steward

Some people change lives quietly, consistently, every single month. They're members of the Sojourner Stewards, a committed group of supporters who give monthly so survivors and their children never have to face the hardest chapter of their lives alone.

Interested in joining? Email our Annual Giving Manager, Sasha Copeland at sasha.copeland@sojournercenter.org, call 602-816-6203, or sign up directly on [our website](#).

A Powerful Partnership In Action



When Desert Financial partnered with Sojourner Center for a diaper drive last October, the response from our community was nothing short of inspiring. Together, they collected 10,400 diapers — a high-need item that families on campus rely on but rarely have enough of.

Diapers were just the beginning. Each month, Desert Financial volunteers arrive ready to work, helping with campus beautification, filling Easter baskets for children, and contributing to donation drives. In a few hours, they make families feel seen.

That kind of consistent presence matters. Volunteers don't just donate their time and supplies. They contribute something less tangible but just as important: the message to survivors that people outside these walls care. For Desert Financial, spreading this message has become an important and regular endeavor.

Ready to host your own donation drive? Learn more on [our website](#).

Looking Back on a Year of Connection and Community



Bringing supporters together during our Gratitude Tours



Adding canopies to our pet shelter to keep pet companions cool



Brightening up our campus with help from volunteers painting a new mural



Updating our Transitional Housing apartments with new cabinets and countertops



Celebrating our volunteers' hard work at the Volunteer Appreciation Party



Sundt Construction and Compass Data Centers' holiday toy drive



Sharing our mission with Arizona on ABC15



Passing out candy at our annual Trunk or Treat on Halloween



Newly renovated Emergency Shelter rooms

At Sojourner Center, our events bring together partners, sponsors, and community members who are passionate about creating change. From hands-on volunteering to fundraisers and donation drives, their collective efforts fuel our mission and amplify our reach.



Supporting survivors at Rio Verde's Women's Golf Association fundraiser



Honoring survivors during our Domestic Violence Remembrance Event



Annual Fire and Ice event raised funds to help survivors rebuild their lives



PayPal employees collected 2,000 hygiene kits on Impact Day



Raising awareness at the Shimmy Mob event



Educating our community at the Consent and Beyond event



Greater Good Charities donated essential items for pet companions



Organizing the Donation Resource Center with Santander volunteers.



Celebrating Sojourner Center's mission at J. Cor Architecture's Paint with a Purpose event

Investing in Joyful Moments

The holidays carry weight for survivors. Financial instability, grief, and isolation can surface during a season that emphasizes togetherness. Sojourner Center responds with intentional events that offer something real: comfort, dignity, and connection.

This past December, a gift from the T.W. Lewis Foundation helped us spread holiday cheer.



Families gathered for a tamale dinner and a hot cocoa night, creating small moments of connection that become anchors. These memories will remind survivors and their children that joy is still possible. Survivors in our community outreach program gathered at a holiday party to celebrate the season in solidarity, and families experienced the quiet dignity of giving and selecting meaningful gifts for loved ones at Sojourner Center's Gifting Hope Holiday Boutique.

The T.W. Lewis Foundation's contribution did more than help cover holiday expenses. It wrapped our community in care that felt personal and intentional. For survivors of abuse, feeling seen and celebrated is an important part of healing.



Real Support. Real Change.

The Sojourner Truth Society is more than a giving circle, it's a lifeline. Your annual gift of \$1,000 or more gives survivors and their children a real chance at a new beginning.

To learn how your generosity makes healing possible, email Liz Zelazo at lzelazo@sojournercenter.org, call 602-369-8823, or join now on [our website](#).

A Legacy of Hope: Diane Abe's Commitment to Survivors of Domestic Violence

For Diane Abe, the issue of domestic violence is deeply personal.

"My grandmother was a victim of domestic violence. When I was a teenager, I would notice the bruises," Abe recalls. "At the time, I don't think we knew what resources were available. That's why I want to help people in these situations who may not know how to get out."

Abe has included Sojourner Center in her estate plans — a decision rooted in both family history and firsthand knowledge of the organization's work.

"You have good programs," she says. "That cemented it for me."

Her mother spent years supporting nonprofits, including Sojourner Center. That connection stayed with Abe, and as a member of the newly revitalized Legacy of Hope Society, she is extending it into the future. Her planned gift creates access for survivors who will need support long after today.

"You're paying it forward. Why not share some of it? You can't take it with you," she reflects.

Including Sojourner Center in an estate plan can be straightforward. You can choose to leave a specific dollar amount or a percentage of an estate.

For more information, email Director of Philanthropy, Liz Zelazo at lzelazo@sojournercenter.org or call 602-369-8823.

If you have already included Sojourner Center in your plans, please share that generous decision by emailing legacy@sojournercenter.org.



Board of Directors

Dedicated to advancing safety and healing, the Sojourner Center Board of Directors provides governance and strategic oversight to support the organization's mission and future growth. While Sojourner Center operates as a wholly owned subsidiary of Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS), it maintains its own 501(c)(3) status. It is led by a board committed to ensuring survivors and families have access to the resources and support they need to thrive.

DR. LORRIE HENDERSON
Board Chair

GWYNN SIMPSON
Board Member

LINDA SCOTT
Board Member

JULIE PETERSON
Ex-Officio

TERRENCE DANIELS
Board Member

BAILEY DEROST
Ex-Officio

Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee members don't just advise; they open doors. By sharing their expertise and making meaningful connections, this Committee helps advocate for survivors and secure the vital resources that keep Sojourner Center's mission moving forward.

SARA CANDELARIA
Community Volunteer

SHARON HAMILTON
Cabi Clothing

SALLEE MURPHY
Aclarity

STACY CLINE
GitLab

LINDE HARNED
PeopleInk

WARD SIMPSON
Projects Inc.

JESSICA CORBETT
J. Cor Architecture

SUSAN OTTO
Community Volunteer

DENYSE DOUBLEDAY
BOK Financial

For more information about the committee and to apply, contact our Asst. Director of Community Engagement, Berkley Harris-Jensen at bharris@sojournercenter.org, call 480-518-4527, or learn more on [our website](#).



Sojourner Center's Community Partners

Behind every survivor's new beginning is a community that believed it was possible. We are honored to recognize the following corporate and foundation partners who gave \$5,000 or more through gifts, grants, and employee giving programs during Fiscal Year 2025 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025). Thank you for your trust. We are inspired by your generosity and compassion!

\$1 Million+

QuikTrip

\$999,999-\$250,000

The Bob and Renee Parsons Foundation

\$249,999-\$100,000

Gila River Indian Community

Santander Consumer USA Inc. Foundation

The Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation

\$99,999-\$20,000

Jim Troxell Foundation

Phoenix Suns/Phoenix Mercury Foundation

Rio Verde Women's Golf Association

Sullivan Charitable Trust Foundation

Surplus Line Association of Arizona

Thomas Nelson Abdella MD Foundation

Thunderbirds Charities

T.W. Lewis Foundation

Valley of the Sun United Way

\$19,999-\$10,000

Aerie Real Foundation

Arizona Community Foundation

Arizona Republic Season for Sharing

Dr. Scholl Foundation

DiBiase Arizona Living

Fire & Ice Event

\$19,999-\$10,000 Continued

MacLeod Family Charitable Lead Annuity Trust

Maureen and Paul Rubeli Foundation

McKinsey & Company

O'Reilly Automotive Foundation

Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation

Sundt Foundation

Tempe Community Council

The Ellie and Les Hayt Family Foundation

The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation

The Rosendin Foundation

Salt River Project

\$9,999-\$5,000

Charles Ruth Knippenberg Foundation

Columbia Bank Community Impact Fund

Discover Financial Services 

Mercy C.A.R.E.S. 

Meritage Cares 

Otter Tail Power Company Foundation

Salad and Go Charities

Southwest Gas Foundation

Steven Lawrence Kaplan Foundation

Sunstate Equipment Foundation

Target Foundation

Whole Foods Market Foundation

Yelp Foundation



Sponsor a Room Donor

We invite organizations to sponsor a room for \$5,000. Sponsoring a room provides survivors safe nights of rest and access to services in our Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing programs. [Click here to learn more!](#)

Get Involved, Give Back, Grow Together

Sojourner Center offers many meaningful ways to get involved with our organization and support the greater community. Whether through volunteering your time, donating essential items, or making a financial contribution, every act of generosity helps create safety, stability, and hope for survivors of domestic violence.



Give Funds

We are grateful to partners like The Rosendin Foundation, which awarded Sojourner Center a generous grant to support our mission. Whether through a grant, partnership, or individual donation, every contribution helps provide critical resources, safe shelter, and life-changing services for those on their journey to healing and independence.



Donate Items

Each holiday season, our community comes together to make the Gifting Hope Holiday Program a special and memorable experience for survivors and their families. Through generous donations of toys, gifts, and other holiday items, community members help stock a holiday shop where survivors can select meaningful gifts for their loved ones.



Volunteer Your Time

For a couple of years, Perla has been volunteering at Sojourner Center, bringing creativity, consistency, and joy to children on campus each week. For Perla, volunteering is about making a lasting connection. As she shares, "Showing up for the children to provide a consistent, safe, and fun presence is what keeps me coming back."



Sojourner Center

Transforming Lives



Sojourner Center is a safe haven from domestic violence, sexual violence and human trafficking in Arizona.

We provide shelter, support services, and resources to adults and children affected by violence.



Get Help

For immediate help, please call
our 24-hour Hotline:
(602)244-0089.



Get Informed

Stay up-to-date by following
our social media and signing up
for our monthly newsletter.



Get Involved

Give

Every dollar donated to Sojourner Center makes a difference in the lives of thousands of survivors. We are a Qualifying Charitable Organization making your gift qualify as an Arizona State Tax Credit.

Donate

Sojourner Center offers an onsite donation center where participants can rebuild their lives. Your donations help to provide needed items for self-reliance, stability and confidence.

Volunteer

Sojourner Center's volunteer program provides individuals, companies and community groups the opportunity to partner with Sojourner Center to help our participants rebuild their lives.

sojournercenter.org



How Your Gift Benefits Survivors and YOU



Your Arizona charitable tax credit donation will directly impact the lives of survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking, helping them take the next step toward a safer, more hopeful future.

Donate up to \$506 per individual or \$1,009 per couple to Sojourner Center. Your donation helps keep survivors of violence safe while they rebuild their lives, and you'll receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your Arizona state taxes.



Give today and make a lasting difference for survivors in your community.

Please consult your tax advisor to discuss your unique tax situation.

SCAN TO DONATE!
www.DirectYourTaxes.org

Sojourner Center is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. EIN Tax ID #94-2465081
Sojourner Center is an Arizona Qualifying Charitable Organization (QCO). QCO Code #20544