

JANUARY 2024



Compass
Affordable
Housing

compassaffordablehousing.org

The mission of Compass Affordable Housing is to improve the quality of family and community life through low-cost housing, support services and advocacy. Our vision is an engaged community working together to increase housing that is affordable at local, state and national levels.

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Celebrating the Spirit of Giving: Compass Affordable Housing’s 2023 Holiday Event

On December 8th, 2023, Compass Affordable Housing, Inc. hosted a heartwarming holiday celebration that brought our community supporters together to celebrate the season and our partnerships. The event was held outdoors at the beautiful Tucson Racquet & Fitness Club, providing guests with a perfect, sunny day with just a touch of winter. The adorable Santa Elf centerpieces provided by our friends at Casa Maria-Tucson and the picturesque setting against the Tucson Mountains backdrop welcomed guests as soon as they arrived, setting a festive tone.



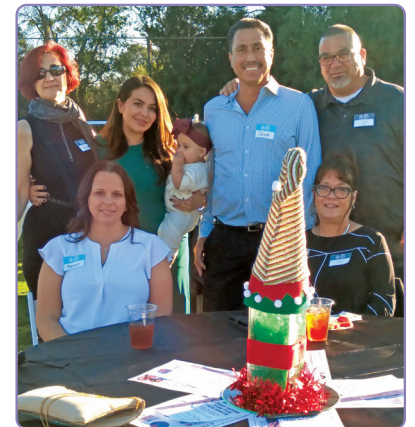
The event kicked off with open networking hosted by our Board of Directors. Guests enjoyed appetizers and a cash bar while mingling with new acquaintances and old friends. Our Silent Auction featured original artwork from local artisans Laurel Parker and Textile Artist Chris Murphy. Together, we celebrated the season of giving and the accomplishments made in Tucson and Pima County during the past year.

We were incredibly honored to have two exceptional guest speakers join us. First, Assistant City Manager for the City of Tucson, Elizabeth “Liz” Morales, shared the importance of having accessible, quality, affordable

housing available in Tucson and the critical role affordable housing plays in benefiting our community. She also spoke of her mission of supporting affordable housing and services that benefit our vulnerable populations in the Tucson community.

Following Liz, our next guest speaker, Joseph F. shared how moving into Compass Affordable Housing’s Glenstone Village Apartments was crucial to his success in battling and overcoming addiction and homelessness. Joseph shared his story of how he was able to rebuild his life, live in sobriety, create financial stability, and eventually purchase his own home. Because of his experience, he is now able to help others in addiction and behavioral health care—giving them the support Compass gave him.

We are so very grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of this event—A special thanks goes out to our sponsor, Casa Maria-Tucson, the staff at the Tucson Racquet & Fitness Club, and our generous supporters and community members who helped raise over \$15,000 which will be used to continue supporting the people we serve. And, of course, to our CAH Board of Directors and outstanding Compass Affordable Housing staff, who made this event memorable!



You can check out our photo gallery from this year’s event on our website at <https://compassaffordablehousing.org/Upcoming-Events>.

Cheers to a beautiful 2024!

Compass Affordable Housing Board Spotlight: Laurel Parker



Board President Laurel Parker Recognition of Service Award presented by incoming Board President, Richard Mullen

Met Laurel Parker, Board President for Compass Affordable Housing, Inc. (CAH) since 2018. Laurel joined the Board of Directors in 2016. It started when her good friend, Bill Schlesinger, Compass founding Board President, asked her to design and donate a bench for the new Compass Affordable Housing project, Alvord Court Apartments. Laurel was happy to put her artistic skills to good use and created a beautiful park bench that still sits in the courtyard at Alvord Court. Bill then invited Laurel to attend a Board meeting, and she was soon voted on to the board. In 2018 when Bill stepped down as board president, Laurel stepped into this crucial leadership role.

Laurel has 40+ years of experience in engineering project management, transportation planning, and her lifelong artistic passion, including painting, metal sculpture, and jewelry making. While working for Pima County, Laurel combined her work experience and artistic passion to create the guidelines for Pima County's one percent for art program, requiring roadway projects to include artwork. Her projects have included River Parks, major roadways, and freeways. Now retired, she continues to sculpt, using found-metal objects.

Laurel shared that she is proud of the extraordinary job CAH is doing to provide quality, affordable housing, and services to so many; "It is important and significant work we are doing with a small, dedicated, and talented staff. We don't just build housing and walk away—we provide services, support, and a community to our residents and participants. We help people have a home." Laurel would like to see Compass Affordable Housing, Inc. build and collaborate on more affordable housing because it is greatly needed.

Myths of Affordable Housing: Myth #4 people in affordable housing won't fit into my neighborhood.



Reality: When rents are guaranteed to remain stable, tenants move less often, providing more stability within the neighborhood. In most cases, people who need affordable housing are already members of a community, regardless of race or background. They are senior citizens living on fixed incomes and working families, including those in entry-level and low-income jobs. They are preschool teachers, travel agents, food service workers, clergy, and medical assistants.

A full range of affordable and available housing is critical for restoring a competitive business climate. Locally, access to affordable housing enables working households to pursue education and training, leading to higher-paying careers and establishing roots in the community.

These households are critical to the economy, and all of us regularly depend upon their jobs to help us maintain our quality of life and wellbeing. Affordable housing enables individuals, especially young families, to stabilize their lives. The availability of affordable housing allows the city to attract and retain employers who require affordable housing for their entry-level employees. The high cost of housing is one of businesses' most frequently cited impediments to recruiting and maintaining employees.

Success Spotlight: “Compass Affordable Housing is my Lifesaver!”

Karen remembers the day she was told that her application had been approved to move into Compass Affordable Housing’s Glenstone Village Apartments. She had been living in sobriety after completing a substance abuse program through COPE Rehabilitation when her sponsor recommended visiting Glenstone Village, affordable housing for people choosing to live in recovery. Karen says, “Compass Affordable Housing has been a Godsend ever since.”



Once Karen moved in, she soon found the support services and community she needed to live in recovery and rebuild her life through the groups and services offered on-site at Glenstone Village. Surrounded by a community of support and friends, Karen quickly became an engaged member, attending the many activities the on-site Tenant Services program provided. Today, she invites neighbors to attend potlucks and events with her. “The community is a potential new friend, brother, or sister...” for others to get involved.

Her addiction caused her to lose her family, her home, and her belief in herself. Karen credits Compass Affordable Housing for saving her life and giving her a home. Compass gave her peace of mind when she needed it most. She has been able to reconnect with her family and learn to love and respect herself again. “You can’t erase the mistakes in life, but you can make goodness out of it.” Today, she is proud to have a healthy relationship with her two children, three grandkids, and many grand-animals. “When I look around today, I’ve got the world.”

GIVE & GET AZ Tax Credit

Did you know that you can donate to Compass Affordable Housing, Inc. and be eligible to receive it back on your Arizona State Tax Return?

Through the Arizona Charitable Organization tax credit, you can direct your dollar-for-dollar tax credit donation to address the critical need of affordable housing for our community’s future — **\$421 for individuals and \$841 for Married Couples filing jointly.**

Homelessness and food insecurity remain persistent challenges in our community despite our collective efforts. By directing your AZ tax credit to Compass Affordable Housing, Inc. (QCO 20341), you bring our shared vision of a community where homelessness and hunger are no longer an issue, closer to being a reality. Your gift provides:

1. **Affordable Housing:** Your generosity maintains and expands our affordable housing initiatives to ensure more people have a place to call home.
2. **Daily Life Needs:** Your contribution provides individuals and families access to food, hygiene products, and household goods for essential daily needs.
3. **Supportive Services:** Your investment provides job support, life skills, recovery support, and financial workshops that empower people to regain their independence and flourish.

Your tax preparer can handle the details—all you do is say, “Yes, I want to support Compass Affordable Housing, Inc.”



THE BENEFITS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- **Businesses** benefit when workers can afford to live near their workplace, strengthening competitive position in attracting and retaining businesses.
- **Families** benefit when relatives have options to live closer for mutual support, stronger relationships, and the ability to help aging family members.
- **Children** benefit by living in a stable environment with access to school, nutrition, and healthcare.
- **Neighborhoods** benefit when lower income workers live closer to work, increasing productivity.
- **Schools** benefit when children have easy access to their neighborhood schools. Schools can count on stable average daily attendance to create an effective budget.
- **The Local Economy** benefits when households can purchase additional goods and services instead of just paying bills. Affordable housing that includes support services, is the most cost-effective way to help highly vulnerable populations in our community.
- **The Environment** benefits because affordable home developments use land more efficiently and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from added travel miles and pressure on open spaces.
- **The Healthcare System** benefits because people in affordable housing with support services can live healthier lifestyles, reducing demands on the healthcare system, such as emergency room visits, crisis care, and hospitalizations.

Compass Affordable Housing

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Compass Affordable Housing Changes Lives!

Compass Affordable Housing (501 c 3) provides housing, programs, and support services to vulnerable and unhoused populations in our community.

COMPASS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS

- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING** Compass Affordable Housing provided **579** residents with low-cost, quality housing at our three communities: **Alvord Court, Downtown Motor Lodge, & Glenstone Village.**
- **COMMUNITY HOUSING** supported **426** people transitioning from homelessness to stable housing and income.
- **EVICITION PREVENTION** assisted **2339** Tucson households in remaining in their homes despite financial hardships and loss of income.
- **TENANT SERVICES** provided **1,393** Compass Affordable Housing participants with help to improve their social and economic stability and lives.
- **GET AHEAD EMPLOYMENT SERVICES** provides one-to-one assistance to help people transition out of homelessness and gain employment.
- **YOUR HEALTHY HOME MARKET** provided **25 Tons** of healthy food and fresh produce to Compass Affordable Housing participants and at-risk individuals.



4,737

PEOPLE SERVED

ALL COMPASS PROGRAMS

(July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

Compass Affordable Housing works to improve the quality of family and community life by providing programs, support services and housing for low-income persons, including those with special needs. Our vision is to provide our services to help create a more balanced family and community.