

JULY 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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# TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!

## Community Housing Builds Better Tomorrows



It's summer in Tucson, with long days, warm evenings, and community gatherings. As we enjoy the summer days, it's the perfect time to celebrate the incredible benefits of the Community Housing Program. At CAH, we believe affordable housing is more than just a roof over your head – it's a foundation for a thriving life.

Our Community Housing program provides stability for families and individuals transitioning from homelessness. With a secure, affordable place to call home, families can focus on building a better future rather than struggling to meet basic needs. This stability is essential because it allows families to focus on their futures without the stress of housing insecurity and health risks, especially as summer temperatures rise.

With a secure home, households can achieve their goals, pursue their dreams, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. When participants begin working with our Community Housing team, they prioritize their health and well-being, financial and economic security, access to essential services, nutritious food, and employment opportunities to build their future. Whether it's accessing medical care, receiving nutritional assistance, or finding support for behavioral health issues, Community Housing makes it easier to connect with the resources they need to thrive, and our Community Housing team is the shining star!

Our Community Housing Assistants connect participants with personalized support services and assistance. From budgeting skills to employment workshops, our team supports households in building skills that will benefit them year-round. CAH's GetAHEAD Employment Services offers job readiness training, resume building, interview preparation, and job application assistance. Our goal is to empower individuals to secure stable employment, achieve economic self-sufficiency, and break the cycle of homelessness.

Compass Affordable Housing is committed to creating vibrant, inclusive communities where everyone has the chance to thrive. This summer, join us in celebrating the transformative power of the Community Housing team. Whether you're a volunteer, supporter, or advocate, your involvement helps build a stronger, healthier, and more resilient community. Together, we can create a brighter future home, one community, and one goal at a time. Learn how you can get involved on our website:

<https://compassaffordablehousing.org>





## Compass Affordable Housing Board Spotlight: Randy Peterson

**M**et our newest Board Member, Randy Peterson. Randy grew up on his family's farm in Michigan as one of six kids. While attending Central Michigan University on a full-ride scholarship that required "meaningful community service," he began volunteering with the local Big Brothers Big Sisters; it sounded like a fun way to complete his service on the weekends. He met his first "Little Brother" at age 20 and has had seven little brothers: two in Michigan and five in Tucson.

For the past 25 years, Randy has worked exclusively for nonprofit organizations in Tucson, including KXCI Community Radio, the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Arizona. His current role is the Development Officer for Imago Dei Middle School, a tuition-free school with a mission of breaking the cycles of poverty for our kids and their families. When he is not working, Randy enjoys watching classic game shows and movies, sports, spending time with his dog, and attending concerts with friends.

For Randy, serving on the board of CAH is a natural progression to making our community a better place to live. *"Growing up on a farm, we lived in an old farmhouse that my grandparents had gifted to my parents, so my folks never had to worry about a house payment. It wasn't luxurious...But it was always a roof over our heads and a place to call home. I want that for everyone."*

Randy sees the issues surrounding poverty first-hand: *"At our school, improvements in housing lead to better test scores, better attendance, fewer behavioral issues, and greater overall achievement in the kids."* Randy shares, *"Is it too big to dream that we solve homelessness in our community? Everyone benefits from affordable housing, not just the people living in it. Everyone has a role to play in making it possible in our community. Donate, advocate, educate, and get out and vote!"*



## Affordable Housing Myth #6: Affordable Housing Looks Like "Cheap Housing"

**R**eality: Affordable housing today is often designed to blend in with its surroundings, using the same style and materials as other homes. Many people may not realize they are looking at affordable housing. The term "affordable" doesn't refer to low-quality construction or operation; instead, it signifies that housing is more economical for working families. It is supported by funding from both public and private sources. It is subject to the same building restrictions and design standards as market-rate housing and sometimes even higher standards when public funding is involved.

Nonprofit developers have community-based boards of directors committed to the community's long-term well-being. These boards ensure affordable housing is integrated into the community and managed effectively over time. Public agencies that finance affordable housing also have a stake in ensuring that their investment benefits the community in the long run. Thoughtful planning with input from the community can alleviate concerns about unattractive developments.

High architectural standards and proper maintenance also affect property values, particularly those of affordable rental properties. Well-maintained affordable housing developments designed and constructed with consideration for the community's architectural and aesthetic preferences may even contribute to increasing property values.



## TENANT SERVICES: Growing Stronger Communities Together—



Summer is a perfect time to celebrate the impact that Compass Affordable Housing's (CAH) Tenant Services program makes. CAH Tenant Services provides personalized support and access to essential resources--we empower residents to build a better future. This summer, we celebrate the incredible impact of our Tenant Services team and the vibrant, thriving communities they help create.

One of the best parts of summer is the endless array of outdoor activities. But without stable housing, it's hard to enjoy these simple pleasures. CAH Tenant Services ensures that any tenant residing in one of the CAH-owned apartment communities, Alvord Court, Downtown Motor, and Glenstone Village Apartments, and through our home-based program at the City of Tucson's Tucson House, have access to personalized support services so families can focus on making memories rather than focusing on how to make ends meet.

Summer is a time for neighbors to get together, and our Tenant Services staff work to foster a sense of belonging and strengthen social ties. Residents at CAH properties often come together for community events that support an inclusive environment. These connections help to build stronger, more resilient communities where everyone looks out for one another. In addition to building community, our Tenant Services staff provide personalized support, connecting households to other community resources and services they need. Our dedicated team is always ready to assist in navigating technology, applying for benefits, or accessing transportation. Personalized support ensures that residents can tackle obstacles that come their way and give them confidence.

Staying healthy when temperatures soar is crucial, and our CAH Tenant Services connects residents with vital health and wellness programs. Through Your Healthy Home Market, Tenant Services provides food assistance and nutrition education to ensure residents access healthy, delicious meals, free fresh produce, healthy food options, and knowledge on preparing nutritious meals.

At Compass Affordable Housing, our Tenant Services team is committed to transforming lives and building stronger communities. So, here's to a summer filled with fun, growth, and endless possibilities – thanks to the unwavering support of CAH Tenant Services.



### Why Invest in Affordable Housing?

- **Businesses** benefit when workers can afford to live near their workplace, strengthening Tucson's competitive position in attracting and retaining businesses.
- **Families** benefit when relatives have options to live closer for stronger relationships, mutual support, and the ability to support aging family members.
- **Children** benefit by living in a safe and stable environment with access to school, nutrition, and healthcare.
- **Neighborhoods** benefit when fewer low-wage workers must drive long distances to work, decreasing traffic congestion.
- **Schools** benefit when children can 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, which includes support services, is the most cost-effective way to help highly vulnerable populations of 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.

TRAVEL  
TIME

Compass Affordable Housing

# Great Escape

## SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE

Bidding opens on August 1st!

Learn more at  
[www.compassaffordablehousing.org/events](http://www.compassaffordablehousing.org/events)

**FST!** presents

## The Calm Before the Storm

Tuesday, August 13th  
7:30PM

The Rock @ 136 N. Park Ave.

Tickets \$10 Ages 21+

[www.fstorytellers.com/upcoming-events](http://www.fstorytellers.com/upcoming-events)

Proceeds benefit  
Compass Affordable Housing

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