

2020 Impact Report

**Arizona Community Foundation
of the Gila Valley**



ABOUT US

Since inception, ACF of the Gila Valley has awarded more than \$1.1 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofits and students in Graham and Greenlee counties.

We are a family of charitable funds created for the community, by the community. Some funds have a broad grantmaking focus while others target a specific organization or field of interest. Grants are awarded year-round either by the advice of donors or through a competitive process overseen by our local Board of Advisors.

Creating a Legacy

You have the option to leave a lasting legacy by establishing or giving to a named fund after your lifetime. Gifts that are planned today and realized after your lifetime ensure a healthy future for your favorite organizations in the Gila Valley.

There are a number of ways to give that vary in simplicity, flexibility, and permanency. Giving to your family or community? You don't have to choose.

Explore all the options to find the right fit for you by contacting Regional Director Angie Laskarides at 520.505.3676 or visiting azfoundation.org/plannedgiving.

Board of Advisors

Don Smith, Chair, Safford
Neil Karnes, Vice-Chair, Safford
Stephen Ahmann, Clifton
Eva Harper, Safford
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Thanks to the support of many in our community, we were able to award **more than \$312,140 in grants and scholarships in the past fiscal year through our annual competitive grant cycle and scholarship season.**

MAKING AN IMPACT

The Arizona Community Foundation of the Gila Valley is a growing and permanent collection of funds created by and for the benefit of communities throughout Graham and Greenlee counties.

This collective generosity and will of the community make our region stronger and more resilient.

In addition to this funding, we provided **\$64,500 in immediate COVID-19 relief** to nonprofits serving the Gila Valley region, including:

Mount Graham Safe House, Inc.

Nalwoodi Denzhone Community

Our Neighbors Farm & Pantry

San Carlos Apache Tribe

South Eastern Arizona Community Unique Services

Staff and volunteers from these organizations expressed deep gratitude to the foundation, our corporate partners, and the many families and individuals who contributed to the fund.

They shared stories about the critical support these grants provided during this unprecedented crisis.

Two examples are shown on the following pages.



BUSH'S
Great
Plant-Based
Beans

6 lb
Peter Pan
Candy

12
GREEN BEANS

BUSH'S
Great
Plant-Based
Beans

PRIMAL
PET FOOD
FORMULA

BUSH'S
Great
Plant-Based
Beans

SHIN
SPICY
RAMEN

Peter Pan
Candy

Peter Pan
Candy



OUR NEIGHBORS FARM & PANTRY

Thanks to the support of ACF of the Gila Valley, **Our Neighbors Farm & Pantry have not had to shut their doors since the beginning of the pandemic.** They had the resources needed to meet all their goals and continue to serve neighbors by working for basic, quality food for everyone in Graham County.

Working with the Farmers Feeding Families Food Box Program, Our Neighbors Farm & Pantry distributed 2,000 boxes of food to veterans, churches, low-income/senior apartments and mobile home parks, neighborhoods, and other nonprofits. Funds provided by ACF of the Gila Valley were used to purchase:

- Bread when bread donations stopped
- HEPA air purifier filters for pantry
- PPE supplies such as cleaners, hand sanitizers, masks, gloves for pantry and garden staff and volunteers
- Bins and storage containers that could be easily disinfected
- Canned goods

Learn more: ourneighborsfarm.org





NALWOODI DENZHONE COMMUNITY

The Nalwoodi Denzhone Community provides struggling youth and their families with hands-on education, inspiration, and life skills training in a peaceful, life-giving, and transformational environment. **Thanks to donated funds, the Nalwoodi Denzhone Community was able to provide direct relief to the San Carlos Apache community. They bought supplies to purchase and distribute non-perishable food items such as canned food, flour, diapers, toiletries, pet food, and other necessary items for those suffering on the reservation.** Assorted boxes were distributed once a week across the reservation by members of the community, through partnerships with the Tribal Emergency Response Committee, TANF, and Social Services to help identify those in need.

The Nalwoodi Denzhone Community shared that they regularly visited homes where the eldest child was caring for multiple younger children in the family. Those children were exceptionally thankful to receive the boxes and the community was able to go the extra mile to provide them with additional resources to help them through the pandemic. Nalwoodi Denzhone is Apache for strength and beauty. The community feels deeply for children in similar positions and believes they exemplify the true strength, beauty, and resilience that can be found in small places.

Learn more: apachendc.org/our-story

OTHER GRANTEES

ACF of the Gila Valley's legacy of giving helps enhance the quality of life in Graham and Greenlee counties. In 2020, we awarded \$36,600 through our competitive grant cycle to 12 nonprofit organizations serving the region.

Arizona Land and Water Trust received a grant to coordinate with Gila Valley water users to perform an analysis of Gila River flows. This baseline data will enable mutual benefits for local agricultural producers and the Gila River. This will support our vital natural resources. Visit: alwt.org

Arizona Town Hall received a grant to assist in bringing their "Creating Vibrant Communities" event to the Gila Valley. Their efforts help to build strong communities across the state. Visit: aztownhall.org

Boys & Girls Club of the Gila Valley received a grant to support their Torch Club Summer Project focused on substance abuse prevention and good decision-making. Visit: bgcgilavalley.org

Child and Family Resources, Inc. received a grant to support their Happiest Baby on the Block program that provides classes for new parents to better understand a newborn's needs, how to calm a crying baby, and how to encourage a baby to sleep longer. They are an important resource for new families in Graham and Greenlee Counties. Visit: childfamilyresources.org



Desert Cat Rescue & Sanctuary of Arizona received a grant to support their low-income discount spay/neuter voucher program. We appreciate all they do for the human and animal residents of the Gila Valley. Visit: desertcatrescue.org

Duncan Pride Society received a grant to purchase a display rack to allow for the presentation of historical documents, maps, letters, and pictures that have been collected over the past 15 years. They are committed to preserving and enhancing the Town of Duncan. Visit: duncanpridesociety.org

Gila Valley Arts Council received a grant to support the educational component of The Fitzgeralds, a Canadian fiddle and dance family. Artists will offer a bus-in performance for hundreds of students as well as visit multiple schools and programs in Graham/Greenlee Counties to provide in-school residencies and dance/strings workshops. Visit: gvac.org

Gila Valley Samaritan Home, Inc. received a grant to construct a facility that will provide housing for residents as well as shower and laundry facilities for the local homeless population and residents in need, and rooms for counseling and consultations. They compassionately provide food and shelter for the homeless while promoting self-sufficiency and restoring dignity.

Southern Arizona Clean and Beautiful received a grant to purchase a new storage trailer and to support ongoing efforts to tackle public cleanups and wildcat dumpsites. Visit: sites.google.com/view/seazcab

Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona received a grant to grow the Girl Scout leadership experience in the Gila Valley. They provide engaging activities for local girls and their families. Visit: girlscoutssouaz.org

Special Olympics Arizona received a grant to provide supplies and training for in-person and virtual engagement opportunities for students in Graham and Greenlee counties with and without intellectual disabilities. Visit: specialolympicsarizona.org

Tooth BUDDS received a grant to purchase water bottles that are filled with a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, disclosing tablets, and bracelets. These supplies are given to each child to use at home after they are taught about oral hygiene in their classroom. Visit: toothbudds.org

To learn more, contact:

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