



# Harvest Compassion Center



**IMPACT**

**2019**







## IMPACT STORY

CLIENT: **Brionna**

## WHY WE EXIST

*To serve our  
community*

Meet Brionna. We first ran into Brionna while finishing clean-up duties at HCC Phoenix last summer. One of our volunteers heard her crying behind a dumpster. When our HCC director approached the area where the sound was coming from, she found this young lady. Brionna was 23-years-old, with no job, homeless and scared.

Over the next couple of hours our director encouraged her, helped her connect with additional resources, and also helped her fill out a couple of online job applications. Brionna left the HCC that day with a renewed HOPE!

The next day Brionna called to share the good news — one of her applications had turned into an in-person interview! Brionna, however, had nothing appropriate to wear. Our director told Brionna to come back to HCC and we could help her find that perfect interview outfit. Brionna came and found an outfit that fit like it was made just for her.

The next day our director's phone rang again. It was Brionna and this time our director heard tears of joy . . . she got the job! Brionna continued to thank everyone at HCC for the attention and love that was shown to her. "When I had no one to turn to, you all at HCC walked into my life literally. Thank you for seeing me, hearing what I needed and being there when I was alone."



# OVER 1,400 VOLUNTEERS AT HARVEST COMPASSION



“HCC is important to me because helping people in need is important to me. HCC is a place that provides not only physical necessities, but also love and encouragement to everyone who walks through the door; what could be better than that?”

– HCC Volunteer Yadira

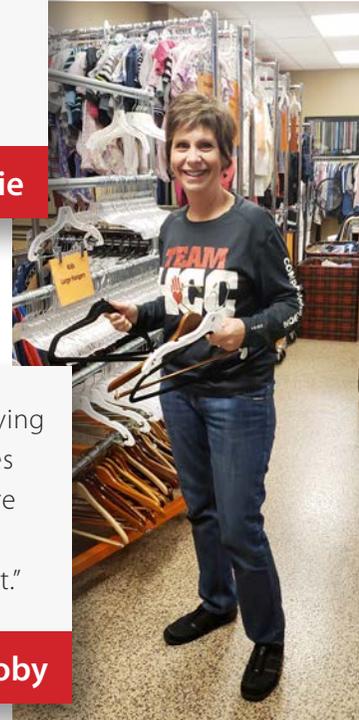


“I love volunteering at HCC! Our guests tell me how much they appreciate that we treat them with kindness and joyfulness. Serving others less fortunate helps keep me humble and thankful.”

– HCC Volunteer Debbie

“Volunteering at HCC is a way of paying it forward to those who find themselves in a challenging time of their lives. More importantly, to extend a helping hand and a smiling face to those who need it.”

– HCC Volunteer Toby



# SERVE ANNUALLY CENTER LOCATIONS



"Taking the time to volunteer as a company is important to us because, individually and holistically, we value putting others before ourselves. We want to set an example in the small business community of serving. HCC is a fantastic organization that we are thrilled to partner with as volunteers."

– Carson, Owner of Original Realty Co.



"HCC is a place where I can be the hands and feet of Christ - I can offer my time for a few hours and leave feeling deeply grateful to have a roof over my head and a loving family!"

– HCC Volunteer Laura

"We are so impressed with the work Harvest Compassion Center is doing and love to partner with them. They have a heart for the community and they treat everyone who walks through their doors with respect, care and compassion."

– HCC Partner Ann



## IMPACT REPORT

2019

**5,634** FAMILIES SERVED

**168,463** POUNDS OF FOOD, HYGIENE,  
AND BABY ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

**29,507** PIECES OF CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED

**24,126** DIAPERS DISTRIBUTED

**1,174** BIBLES AND CHILDREN'S  
BEDTIME STORIES DISTRIBUTED

**5,862** VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVED



“Joining the HCC team nine months ago, I was really looking forward to serving our clients not only with their basic needs, but with care and compassion to help them walk along a difficult time in life. The single mother of six who just left a domestic violence situation and is trying to get back on her feet. Or the homeless man saying how difficult it is to find a safe place to sleep at night or asking for a new pair of shoes or blanket. Or the teenage girl crashing on a friend’s couch trying to find solid ground after being rejected by her mother and never knowing her father. It has shed such an unbelievable perspective on life and the journeys that others walk. We are so blessed to extend help not only with basic needs, but with additional resources, emotional and spiritual help.

Another great realization are all the ways we help not only HCC clients, but others who come in. For example, the widow who donates her late husband’s clothes, or the volunteer who is estranged from her son or the donor who also lost a child and donates toys in his memory. I’m so glad that it’s a place where people can feel safe to share what’s weighing so heavily on their hearts. It’s a wonderful sense of community that truly supports others.”



## Heidi Dwigun

***DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS  
HCC PHOENIX***

## IMPACT REPORT

2019

**4,140** FAMILIES SERVED

**126,258** POUNDS OF FOOD, HYGIENE,  
AND BABY ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

**18,367** PIECES OF CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED

**5,491** DIAPERS DISTRIBUTED

**1,041** BIBLES AND CHILDREN'S  
BEDTIME STORIES DISTRIBUTED

**2,748** VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVED



"This past year has been one of growth and impact in the Maryvale community. We've established HCC as a stronghold within Maryvale and connected with many other local partners as together we strive to meet the many needs of our neighbors," commented Paul Thompson, Director of Operations HCC Maryvale.

"We've had record setting days this year, one day serving 75 families! I've been blessed this past year to meet hundreds of new clients who quickly became friends. One little boy especially grabbed my heart from his very first visit. After experiencing physical and verbal abuse, Graham was placed in foster care. He visits HCC with his large foster family, where he is one of seven kids. In Graham's early years he learned to trust no one, always have his guard up and do anything he had to in order to survive. The first time I met this little boy he gave me his meanest smirk, refused to pick out a toy from our kids' play corner and he was so mean to his family. Something inside told me to keep reaching out to Graham because he needed to know he was special. Every month I'd see Graham and little by little his wall of anger began in crack. One day he came in and I wasn't there, so he wrote me a note and left it at our check-in desk telling me I had better be there next time! Graham and I are best buddies now. He runs to our kids' play corner and his smile fills the room as he picks a toy and book. On one of Graham's recent visits he left me a card he drew at home. On the inside he wrote, "Thanks for showing me love." If I had to sum up what we do at HCC Maryvale it is just that — we show love!"

THANK YOU! FOR  
Giving us stuff and loveing  
US THANK YOU!!!



## Paul Thompson

**DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS  
HCC PHOENIX**

# BACK-2-SCHOOL OUTREACH

**IMPACT**  
**2019**



2019 marked our Fourth Annual Back-2-School Backpack and School Supply Drive. HCC had a fun time last summer creating HCC's very own 'Kids Pop-Up Shop' fully stocked with brand new backpacks, school supplies and lunch boxes for kids in the Valley. What is the most important feature of HCC's Back-2-School Pop-Up Shop? It is for KIDS ONLY! HCC volunteers had a blast inviting kids from the community in to shop (for free, of course!) for their much-needed items to kick off the 2019-2020 school year.

Years ago HCC recognized a need for these essential items that prepare kids for a successful school year. "Education is one basic area that will change the future of a child."

**755 BACKPACKS FILLED WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES  
WERE GIVEN TO KIDS**

“If we can encourage a child to dream big and excel in the classroom, then we are all for it!” commented HCC Executive Director Nicolee Thompson. “Plus, our Kids Pop-Up Shop does more than just serve children. We invite local businesses, churches and families to donate these items, giving them a platform to love their neighbors!”

Long lines formed everyday as the HCCs served 755 kids during this special summer outreach. Because of the generosity of local donors HCCs were able to serve 127 more children than the previous summer making, 2019’s Back-2-School outreach the most impactful to date!



**IMPACT**  
**2019**



**10,500 BRAND NEW TOYS DISTRIBUTED  
THROUGH BOTH HCC LOCATIONS**



2019 marked HCC's sixth year of collecting and distributing brand new Christmas toys during the month of December. HCC's original mission didn't include providing brand new toys for local families, however after years of requests, HCC leadership decided to take action. What makes HCC's Christmas outreach special is 100% of all toys distributed are donated by the local community. "It takes an army of donors and volunteers and an amazing staff who organize the entire drive, with planning that begins months before the holiday season approaches. We're thrilled to announce that over 10,500 toys were collected and distributed to local families in December!" reported Heidi Dwigun, HCC Phoenix Director.



"Getting to experience and volunteer during the HCC toy drive with my family for the first time was life changing for us all. We now look at the holiday season differently as we have seen firsthand the amazing impact a new toy can have on a child. Truly giving back is what the holidays should always be about," commented HCC volunteer Carrie.

With over 80 local partners collecting and donating toys this year, thousands of children woke up on Christmas morning with a gift to open knowing they were loved!



## IMPACT REPORT

2019



## Small People Reaching Out Unselfishly To Serve

Three years ago HCC committed to raising up the next generation of leaders by teaching the pillars of community awareness, hard work and volunteerism through our Kids-Feeding-Kids program, Serving SPROUTS (Small People Reaching Out Unselfishly To Serve). 2019 brought an exciting addition to our Serving SPROUTS program with Lauren Sullivan now leading the charge as Program Coordinator. Throughout the year our SPROUTS served with several local community partners and fed several hundred HCC clients through their generous donations. As we look ahead to 2020, we hope to welcome many new children into the SPROUTS family and create big change within our community through service, outreach and giving.

“As the SPROUTS Coordinator, I have the unique privilege of exposing children to different types of need in our local community, from hunger, to childhood cancer, to homelessness and more. My hope is that each child finds passion for a specific cause and pours their heart into serving in that area of need. Encouraging children as young as age three to get involved by giving their time and resources is how we will leave a legacy of compassion and love for others,” commented Lauren.



## In 2019 Serving SPROUTS:

- Donated over 1,000 candy-filled Easter eggs and assisted with the free Palomino Community Park Easter Egg Hunt
- Participated with Unite Phoenix serving in local refugee neighborhoods providing summer fun, water games/ sports, free shoes, water/snacks and more
- Participated in Arizona Coyotes Nonprofit of the Night
- A summer at-home project provided 36 hand-made blankets to Amanda Hope Rainbow Angels that were delivered to local children battling cancer
- Painted and decorated over 200 Kindness coins through Ben's Bells
- Participated in Sweet to the Soul Farmer's Market, highlighting seven SPROUT kid-run businesses
- Fed over 450 families and helped raise over \$10,000 in local fundraising



"The SPROUTS program has been a gift to our family. Having volunteer opportunities setup for us each quarter and serving alongside other families has grown my boys in ways I could never teach at home," commented SPROUTS mom Carolyn.

"As a parent, the SPROUTS program allows me to stand beside my children and teach them the power of giving to others and the importance of taking care of one another. It is so neat to see them working hard at making money in order to support HCC families," added SPROUTS mom Lindsey.





Harvest Compassion Centers accept no government funding and/or food product to serve our local neighbors. We partner with local churches, schools, businesses and families to feed, clothe and serve one family at a time!



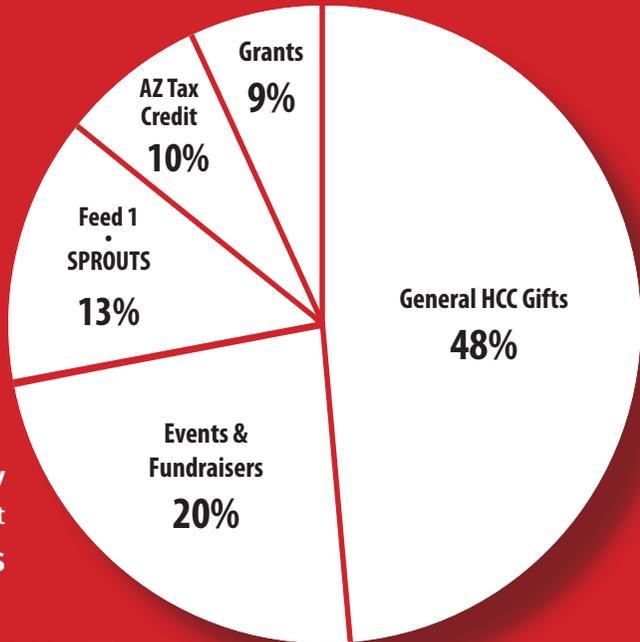
**FEED 1**  
1 BAG. 1 FAMILY. 1 MISSION.

## How Harvest Compassion Centers are funded

"Harvest Compassion Centers are doing tremendous work in the community, providing vulnerable families with vital grocery, home and clothing items," said Chance Cozby, Thunderbirds Charities President. "At Thunderbirds Charities, we know the deep and long-lasting impact that food insecurity has on families and we are very proud to work with Harvest Compassion Centers to make a difference."

— **Chance Cozby**  
President

**Thunderbird Charities**



"AZTV is honored to partner with Harvest Compassion Center and support the amazing work they are doing in our community!"

— **Ashlee Lewis**  
Director of Community Outreach  
**AZTV Channel 7**

“We are honored to have partnered with Harvest Compassion Center and their SPROUTS program over the last few years. ‘Community’ is one of our organization’s core pillars, and with HCC, we have the opportunity to partner with an organization that impacts and helps those in need.”

– Taylor Campbell  
Manager

## Arizona Coyotes Foundation



“Phoenix Metro Chamber Foundation’s mission is to support children, families, veterans and pets. We have seen firsthand how Harvest Compassion Center helps others and our community. Not only do they provide care to anyone walking through their doors, they do so with dignity. We are honored to support Harvest Compassion Center.”

– Jason Bressler  
Executive Director

## Phoenix Metro Chamber of Commerce



## Team MSC's Annual 5k Run/Walk *Wheaton, IL*

Over 150 participants and volunteers made up **Team MSC** this year as we partnered with DuPage PADS and Harvest Christian Academy

**OVER  
\$75,000  
RAISED**



## Striking Out Hunger Phoenix, AZ

Over 200 participants came out to Let It Roll & Bowl for HCC's second Family Fun Bowling event

**\$45,000 RAISED  
BY ALL BOWLING  
TEAMS!**





# Harvest Compassion Center

## IMPACT STORY

CLIENT: **Ammar**

Meet Ammar and his wife. Both are Arabic refugees who recently fled Iraq for safety in the United States. Our Valley is populated with families and refugees from various countries, all with a common goal; flee to a land where they will be safe. No matter one's personal political views on the current refugee situation, our communities are filled with thousands of immigrants who have found a place where their children can wake up without running from gun fire.

The first time we met Ammar he shared with us through Google Translate that he fled his home country after witnessing the execution of his mother, sister and aunt. After surviving such gruesome killings, Ammar and his wife knew it was finally time to flee their country and seek a land where they would no longer live in fear of being killed.





Ammar and his wife found refuge in the United States, which they are grateful for, but not speaking English and being unemployed presents new problems for this desperate couple. Harvest Compassion Centers serve many refugee families and oftentimes HCC volunteers are some of the first American faces they meet. When Ammar and his wife checked into HCC for the first time with their temporary U.S. papers, they spoke no English, so we used sign language and technology to communicate with them.

**“Thank you for  
the comfort you  
offered us today.  
We both feel  
hope here.”**

As Ammar went through the check-in process he shared that ‘his mind and heart were no good’ and they lived with little hope. Our staff assured Ammar that he and his wife were safe at HCC and we were new friends who only wanted to help, a foreign concept they did not understand.

With their guard up Ammar and his wife chose food, hygiene and clothing items and by the end of their shopping trip, a slight smile could be seen on Ammar and his wife’s faces. On their way out they Google Translated again, “Thank you for the comfort you offered us today. We both feel hope here.” HCC provides more than just free food and clothes; we offer comfort for so many who have truly experienced darkness.



## *In closing...*

**Mitchell Swaback Charities, Inc.** (MSC, Inc.) was started in 2004 in memory of my brother Mitch, whose life was cut short in a drowning accident at the age of 23. Because of my brother's amazing example of helping others, which was confirmed by the hundreds of strangers we met at his funeral, my family knew Mitch's work was not done.

We took our lead from Mitch who, even as a kid, would be the first to volunteer for any cause and was never afraid to enter uncomfortable situations or get dirty in the name of service. Fifteen years later MSC, Inc. has jumped into uncomfortable situations, finding the solution to best serve our neighbors in need.

In 2011, the **Harvest Compassion Center** Phoenix was born and soon after our HCC model was perfected and repeated. In 2016, Harvest Compassion Chandler, our sister-location, was launched followed by Harvest Compassion Center Maryvale opening in 2018. In 2020 we plan to launch our next HCC location!

Our primary mission continues: to run first class, one-stop food and clothing banks where families want to come back when in need. HCCs are kid-friendly, clean, welcoming mini-marts and clothing boutiques where friends are made daily — we are in the business of developing relationships. As our relationships deepen with our clients, a level of trust forms and true transformation is the result. In addition to providing lifesaving physical items we are blessed to be able to offer our clients encouragement, prayer, and additional resource referrals. Whether we serve kids, single parents, veterans, seniors, the working poor, foster families, domestic violence survivors, sober living residents or the homeless, each client will receive our very best!

With 1 in 4 children and 1 in 5 adults going hungry in Arizona, our mission to provide food and clothing in a hope-filled environment to the underserved remains constant.

By feeding some of the 456,760 children who face hunger daily in Arizona, HCC clients can use their food budget on rent, utilities, and transportation, allowing families the opportunity to stay in their homes, decreasing Arizona's homeless population. Providing life's necessities improves the overall health, well-being and safety of each child and adult HCCs serve. Pinpointing the most underserved areas in the Valley, HCCs are on the ground serving the public six days a week, experiencing crisis situations, creating solutions, connecting to referrals and building stronger communities.

My brother was a big kid himself. I still smile every time I see a goofy photo of him as he was always trying to make others laugh. He demonstrated the heart of a child and I know he's guiding us as we make sure every kiddo we meet has enough food to eat, clean clothes that fit and a fully stocked bathroom. There are thousands of kids, all who didn't ask to be in their current situation, who need to know that others do care — and we truly do.



May I take a moment to thank every volunteer, partner, donor, and foundation who has locked arms with us to reach more! Our work continues as the need is far greater than we ever anticipated and with the Lord's blessing we press on!

**- Nicolee Thompson**

MSC/HCC Co-Founder & Executive Director



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