

HONORHEALTH. Desert Mission Strengthening our communities with innovation

ANNUAL REPORT 2014





With the support of great staff, generous donors and dedicated volunteers, Desert Mission continued its mission of helping clients while empowering them to invest in their own well-being.

Even as the local economy improved, we still saw many vulnerable individuals and families in need. In 2014, we worked on how to serve clients more effectively and efficiently. Throughout the year, Desert Mission demonstrated innovation and began rebuilding systems that needed strengthening. We took a fresh look at how to better work together across program boundaries. For example:

• Non-federally-funded commodity bags: We provided 180 of these food bags to recently hospitalized patients served by our health system's transition specialists – former military medics. They noticed empty refrigerators and pantries when visiting the homes of clients with budgets stretched too thin. Desert Mission Food Bank launched a pilot program with the commodity bags of food and essentials, and vulnerable clients made it over a formidable hump.

• Community-based gardening: Out of the small gardens here at Desert Mission, we produced and distributed an amazing 800 pounds of produce. We distributed it to those who otherwise would have done without.

• Love and Logic class: Marley House Behavioral Health specialists taught this helpful communication skills class not only to their clients but also to teachers and parents at the Lincoln Learning Center. Lincoln Learning Center teachers saw significant improvements in the classroom following the implementation of this program.

philosophy.



In the following pages, you'll find the facts and figures behind our "let's make it even better"

Sue Sadecki Desert Mission Executive Director



About Desert Mission

Since 1927, Desert Mission staff and volunteers have provided tools and resources to help vulnerable individuals and families address their health and social needs.

Today, our legacy of caring continues through six integrated programs that meet our clients' basic needs while encouraging them to invest in their own well-being.

Our Food Bank, dental clinic for children, early childhood education program, adult day care, and community and behavioral health centers all work together with a common goal:

We help each person in our care achieve the highest quality of health and well-being possible while we work together to build stronger communities.

VOLUNTEERS



2,080

volunteers donated 38,987 hours of service to Desert Mission.

Impact on the organization:

\$936,000

Accessible Health and **Dental Care** **OUR CHALLENGE:** Basic health and dental care are beyond the grasp of many members of our community. In fact, a 2012-2014 Community Needs Assessment of north Phoenix found that 42 percent of respondents or someone in their household needed medical care in the past year but did not access it due to cost.

As a result, 13 percent visited emergency rooms for healthcare that was not urgent or an emergency. In addition, 5,000 children in north Phoenix do not have access to basic dental care.

OUR APPROACH: At Desert Mission, we believe that children cannot be healthy unless the entire family is healthy. Desert Mission's Community Health Center provides low-cost, high-quality primary care to under- and uninsured children and their caregivers. The goal of the Community Health Center – as well as our other health-related programs – is to serve as a medical home for our patients, connecting them with tools and resources so they can get on a path toward self-sufficiency.

Our services range from treatment of minor illness and injury to chronic disease management and care coordination.

Our Children's Dental Clinic provides low-cost, high-quality preventive care and treatment to children from the ages of two to 20 years. Clients can use AHCCCS or a sliding-fee scale to receive such services as X-rays, cavity treatment, cleanings, sealants and more.

To reach the underserved population, dental clinic staff visit low-income schools and perform oral health exams to screen for urgent needs. These children are then referred to our clinic for treatment.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

A \$100 donation will pay for:

- A medical visit.
- Dental screening for 44 students. •
- Five emergency dental appointments.
- 250 homemade milkshakes at Adult Day Health Care. ٠
- 200 games of bingo at Adult Day Health Care. •
- Two monthly bus passes for Marley House clients. •
- 10 books for classrooms at Lincoln Learning Center. •

The Desert Mission Community Health Center and Children's Dental Clinic:

- Experienced 37 percent of patients using more than one service.
- Had 4,063 healthcare visits.
- Had 3,363 child dental patients. •
- Conducted 6,295 students school screenings. •
- Had 423 emergency visits. •
- Had 1,146 behavioral health counseling visits.



Feeding Hungry Individuals and Families

OUR CHALLENGE: Arizona's hunger rates are higher than the national average. More than 19 percent of Arizonans are food insecure, compared to 16.4 percent nationally. Nearly 30 percent of Arizona children face hunger, compared to 22.4 percent nationally.

The working poor are part this group – 40 percent of households receiving emergency food assistance through food banks, charity care or public assistance programs have at least one full-time working adult in the home. In fact, two million Arizonans are classified as working poor, living at or below the federal poverty level.

OUR APPROACH: Proper nourishment is a critical part of good health. That's why the Food Bank offers emergency food and food security programs to families. But Desert Mission's goal is not simply to feed people. We also arm them with nutritional knowledge leading to informed, healthy food choices.

Because we're located in a "food desert," a low-income area with limited access to grocery stores, our 4th Street Market plays a vital role in making sure children and families have safe, healthy food options. The market offers pantry staples, seasonal produce, protein items and other goods at significantly discounted prices.

The Food Bank also provides emergency food bags, cooking demonstrations, nutrition services and emergency baby bags. The Snack Pac program gives food to schoolchildren at risk of going hungry over the weekend.

In 2014, the Food Bank served:

- 15,457 households.
- 42,940 emergency food bags to
- 39,165 Snack Pacs to schoolchildren.
- 41,510 individuals.

How You Can Help

- A \$100 donation pays for 20 Sna hungry children over the weeker
- A \$1 donation buys five meals.

Did You Know?

- About 50 percent of clients enro in AHCCCS.
- 70 percent of patients live within radius of Desert Mission.
- 641 total Health E Arizona Plus ap were submitted (AHCCCS/SNAP).

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Providing Early Education for a Brighter Tomorrow

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LINCOLN LEARNING CENTER, A LICENSED, ACCREDITED CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM, IS ONE OF THE FEW SCHOOLS IN ARIZONA TO MEET THE NATION'S HIGHEST STANDARDS FOR CHILD **DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL READINESS.**

OUR CHALLENGE: Laying the foundation for a child's success in school - and for a bright future - needs to start early. Research shows that 90 percent of a child's brain is formed by age five. However, many members of our community lack access to guality early childhood education because of socioeconomic and geographical barriers. The consequences can last long past the preschool years.

Sixty-six percent of Arizona kindergarten teachers report that their students are not prepared to start school, and only 26 percent of fourth-graders are proficient in reading. Arizona also is ranked 50th in the U.S. for percentage of high school graduates attending college.

OUR APPROACH: Every child deserves access to high-quality learning environments, regardless of race, income or geography. We strive to give children a solid groundwork for academic success by providing learning opportunities for children from the ages of six weeks to 12 years.

Our Impact

Lincoln Learning Center:

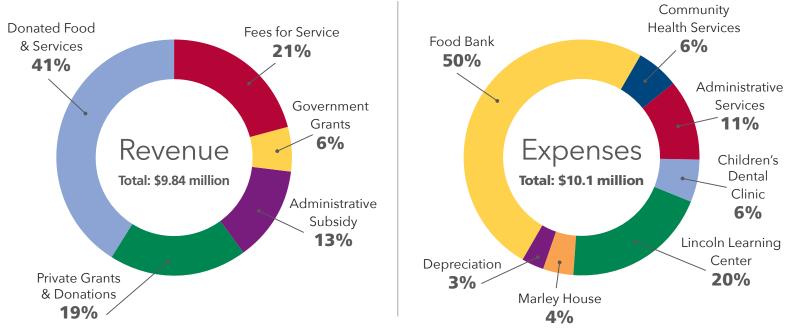


Learning Center were ready for kindergarten.



Financial Summary

As a service to the community, HonorHealth supports the administration costs of Desert Mission. This allows all donated dollars and revenue (less depreciation) to have the greatest impact on those we serve.



Join our efforts. Make an impact of your own.

Support Desert Mission by directing some of your tax dollars through the Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit, now known as "Credit for Donations Made to Qualifying Charitable Organizations." Desert Mission is a Qualified Charitable Organization for the Arizona State Tax Credit.

As a direct credit, it can reduce your state income tax payment by as much as \$200 for individuals and \$400 for married couples filing jointly.

Major Corporate and Foundation Donors

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