



## NEWS

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### **THUNDERBIRDS CHARITIES DONATES MORE THAN \$2.5 MILLION TO VALLEY CHARITIES DURING FALL FUNDING CYCLE**

**PHOENIX, Ariz.** – Thunderbirds Charities, the charitable giving arm of The Thunderbirds – hosts of the Waste Management Phoenix Open – awarded more than \$2.5 million in grants to 56 Valley charities during its 2020 fall funding cycle. Thunderbirds Charities awarded grants of \$100,000 or more to seven Valley Charities that included \$250,000 to **A New Leaf**, \$205,000 to **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**, \$150,000 to **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley**, and \$150,000 to **Hospice of the Valley**.

With the fall funding cycle in the books, Thunderbirds Charities has now opened its 2021 spring funding cycle. Information about the spring funding cycle can be found at [www.ThunderbirdsCharities.org](http://www.ThunderbirdsCharities.org).

“Without a doubt, giving back to our communities is the most rewarding thing about what we do as tournament hosts,” said Tim Woods, President of Thunderbirds Charities. “We’re thrilled and so proud to give these grants to deserving organizations around the Valley. It’s an honor to have such a positive impact for those in need in our community, especially this year with so many challenges and obstacles. We know 2021 will still be a difficult year for so many charities in need, and while we understand we won’t be able to raise as much money as we typically do from the 2021 Waste Management Phoenix Open, we will do our best to support those that are most vulnerable.”

The \$250,000 grant from Thunderbirds Charities will support A New Leaf’s Phoenix Day Early Childhood Education Program and Therapeutic Behavioral Health After School & Summer

Programs, providing opportunities for marginalized children to overcome social and racial inequities and to break the cycle of poverty.

With the grant of \$205,000, St. Vincent de Paul will be able to purchase and install new industrial equipment in their kitchen, dining rooms and food pantry warehouse. This will serve tens of millions of meals for years to come; revolutionize the way they process, organize and distribute millions of pounds of food each year; and create an environmentally sustainable, cost-effective program to Feed Arizona's Food-Insecure Community.

Thunderbirds Charities' grant of \$150,000 will allow Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley to upgrade the technology at its 25 Clubs throughout Maricopa County to address the "digital divide" by providing Internet access to its low-income, at-risk and other youth. The Bridging the Digital Divide Project will ensure all of the youth served have access at their local Club so they can complete their homework, assignments, and participate in the Clubs' STEM and other educational activities.

Another grant of \$150,000 will go to support Hospice of the Valley's (HOV) Dementia Care & Education Campus, specifically the Adult Center Activity Room and Art Room which will allow HOV to continue their compassionate, palliative care for adults and children with life-limiting illness.

Additional grants awarded from the fall 2020 cycle:

Organization	Program	Grant Amount
A New Leaf	A New Leaf Services for Children & Youth	\$250,000
Society of St Vincent de Paul	Feeding Arizona's Food-Insecure Community	\$205,000
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley (BGCAZ)	Bridging the Digital Divide	\$150,000
Hospice of the Valley	The Dementia Care & Education Campus	\$150,000
St. Joseph the Worker	Employment without Barriers - Jobs NOW!	\$150,000
Hushabye Nursery	Hushabye Nursery Grand Opening	\$100,000
U.S.VETS - Phoenix	A New Home for U.S.VETS - Phoenix	\$100,000
Local First Arizona Foundation	Fuerza Local; Ending Poverty Through Entrepreneurs	\$85,000
Zion Institute	Neighborhood Roots Preschool Initiative	\$80,000
Ryan House	Sponsor-A-Stay Program at Ryan House	\$75,000
Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. (CPLC)	De Colores Domestic Violence Shelter	\$70,000
Family Promise-Greater Phoenix	Emergency Shelter Program	\$65,000
Assistance League of Phoenix	Operation School Bell	\$60,000
YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix	Senior Meal Program and Prosperity Program	\$60,000
Arizona Burn Foundation	HOPE Services	\$50,000
Arizona Council on Economic Education	Empower Tomorrow During and After the Pandemic	\$50,000
Jobs For Arizonas Graduates	Career and College Readiness	\$50,000
Native American Connections	NAC Housing and Services for Homeless Youth	\$50,000
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern AZ	House Heroes	\$50,000
Sandra Day O'Connor Institute	Camp O'Connor and the O'Connor Civics Challenge	\$50,000
Summer Youth Program Fund SYPF	2021 Summer Youth Program Fund	\$50,000
Teach For America - Phoenix	TFA's Innovative Education Response to COVID-19	\$50,000
Year Up Arizona	Supporting Year Up Arizona Student Advancement	\$50,000
New Pathways for Youth	Mentor Recruitment & Training to Serve Maryvale	\$40,000
Miracle League of Arizona	Safe At Home Programming Support	\$35,000
About Care Inc	Safely Empowering Independent Living	\$30,000
OCL Kids	Healing and COVID-19 Recovery for Foster Children	\$30,000

Central Arizona Dental Society Foundation	2021 Veterans StandDown Free Dental Clinic	\$20,000
Make A Wish Foundation® of Arizona	Wish Granting	\$20,000
Arizona Educational Foundation	Arizona Spelling Bee	\$18,700
DS Network	Down Syndrome Enrichment - A Continuum of Services	\$15,000
Stand For Children Leadership Center	Every Child Reads	\$15,000
House Of Refuge Sunnyslope Inc	Community Dental Program	\$14,000
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association - AZ Chapter	Living with ALS	\$10,000
Arizona Humane Society	Humane Teens for a Humane Future	\$10,000
AZCEND	Chandler Food Bank	\$10,000
Black Theatre Troupe	Neighborhood Children's Literacy Programs	\$10,000
Helping Hands for Freedom	Life Needs Program	\$10,000
One Step Beyond Inc	Scottsdale Technology Programming	\$10,000
Rising Youth Theatre	Rising Youth Theatre Arts Leadership Program	\$10,000
Veterans Heritage Project	After School Chapter Program - Since You Asked	\$10,000
Impact One Breast Cancer Foundation	Hope Box Program	\$8,000
Mesa Arts Center Foundation	Project Lit: Igniting Literacy in Uncertain Times	\$7,500
Desert Sounds Performing Arts, Inc.	Mariachi Sones del Desierto	\$5,000
Gift of Adoption Fund - Arizona Chapter	Maricopa County Forever Families	\$5,000
Leukemia Foundation for Arizona's Children	Encircled By Love	\$5,000
Northwest Valley Connect	Northwest Valley Connect Mobility Transport	\$5,000
Swift Youth Foundation	Swift After School	\$5,000
Wigged Out, inc	Wigs for Women and Children	\$5,000

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### **ABOUT THE THUNDERBIRDS/THUNDERBIRDS CHARITIES**

Thunderbirds Charities is a non-profit organization formed in 1986 to distribute monies raised through the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament. The Thunderbirds Charities Board consists of 15 board members from varying professional backgrounds. The mission of Thunderbirds Charities is to assist children and families, help people in need and improve the quality of life in our communities. The organization's giving is directed toward organizations based or with a significant presence in Arizona. The Thunderbirds were founded in 1937 with the mission of promoting the Valley of the Sun through sports. The Thunderbirds consist of 55 "active" members and more than 280 "life" members. For more information on the Thunderbirds or Thunderbirds Charities, visit [www.thunderbirdscharities.org](http://www.thunderbirdscharities.org).

### **ABOUT THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PHOENIX OPEN**

The 2021 WM Phoenix Open will be held at TPC Scottsdale February 1-7. "The People's Open" was named the Tournament of the Year by the PGA TOUR four times in the past six years (2014, 2015, 2018, 2019) to acknowledge the tournament's legendary status as one of the most unique events in golf. The 2021 edition will mark the 86th playing of the event (one of the five oldest events on the PGA TOUR) and the 12th as the WM Phoenix Open. For more information visit [www.wmphenixopen.com](http://www.wmphenixopen.com).