

LIVE UNITED™



10 Reasons to Support the work of Valley of the Sun United Way

Because the **need is enormous**. According to the Arizona Department of Education, more than 80 percent of low-income children statewide enter school below the benchmark for literacy skills. Arizona's reported 2007-2008 graduation rate of 73.4 percent is 6.6 percent lower than it was just three years earlier. Statewide, more than 1-in-5 families live at or below the poverty level and do not have the skills to break the cycle of poverty for their family. And approximately 8,000 people experience homelessness in Maricopa County on any given day.

Because **resources are scarce**. The recent economic downturn coupled with a decline in government funding for health and human services has forced many agencies to reduce or eliminate critical programs or close their doors altogether.

Because your gift will **deliver results**. Every program that VSUW develops or invests in must demonstrate measureable and lasting results, which ensures that your contribution makes the greatest possible impact.

Because your contribution **helps your local community**. All dollars donated in Maricopa County, stay in Maricopa County. VSUW improves lives by investing your dollars in our work and in the work of health and human service agencies that share our goals to End Hunger and Homelessness, Ensure Children and Youth Succeed, and Increase Financial Stability for Individuals and Families.

Because your donation **does more than fund programs**. VSUW finds innovative ways to address short-term individual needs while working toward long-term community solutions. For example, we're working to do more than provide food and shelter, we want to end hunger and homelessness.

Because your dollars **leverage more dollars**. VSUW builds relationships and partnerships with the right people, organizations and businesses from all across the community who bring the passion, expertise and resources needed to get things done.

Because **no agency or program can do it alone**. It takes coordination and an entire network of programs and services to keep our community strong. We work with the whole community to help the whole person.

Because your gift will **address the greatest needs**. VSUW has been serving the health and human service needs of individuals and families in Maricopa County since 1925. With 85 years of experience we truly understand the challenges facing our neighborhoods.

Because **we all benefit** from United Way. Our work is about mobilizing the caring power of every individual to make our communities stronger and healthier.

Because your gift will **change lives**. Picture a community where children and youth are successful in school and beyond. Where families are self-sufficient. And where every individual is thriving. This is the Arizona we want and the Arizona that is possible with your support.

VISIT VSUW.ORG TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

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