



2021-2022

Annual Report

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

A message from our Board Chair



Dear Friends of St. Joseph the Worker:

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

This African Proverb has always spoken to me. And as SJW's Board Chair, it is my privilege to share on behalf of the governing board our gratitude for your commitment and loyalty to SJW's mission.

This past year has brought about many changes, yet SJW has maintained its focus on our singular mission: to assist homeless, low-income, and other disadvantaged individuals in their efforts to become self-sufficient through quality employment.

This upcoming year is a milestone time for us—we celebrate our 35th anniversary as an organization as well as the 25th anniversary of our Hike for the Homeless event.

What started as a small and mighty organization 35 years ago has grown beyond measure. This year, our budget is pushing \$7 million with a staff of nearly 40 full-time employees. With this growth has come system changes, infrastructure revisions, and process analysis.

SJW remains client-focused and has never once stopped getting people back to work! In fact, you will see the impact we have made and even read a few clients' success stories throughout this report.

We want to go farther—and our community needs us to go farther!

I'm thankful for each of you who have helped our team here at St. Joseph the Worker continue to do what we have always done—remove barriers to employment and connect people to meaningful jobs.

Your continued support allows us to keep innovating. Your generosity is why St. Joseph the Worker has been able to stay 100 percent client-focused, always meeting those we serve exactly where they are in their journeys, while providing the hand up that will prevent and end the cycle of homelessness and poverty for thousands every year. Without you, none of this is possible.

Thank you for your faithful support for those we serve!

With gratitude,

Ritta Fagain

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ritta Fagain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Board Chair, St. Joseph the Worker

OUR CORE VALUES

We believe there is **DIGNITY** in work

We believe employment is key to a healthy **COMMUNITY**

We express our **LOVE** through service

We exist to serve our **CLIENTS** —they are our "why"

We **RESPECT** each individual's obstacles

RELATIONSHIPS are essential & we cannot do this alone

We restore **HOPE** through care, compassion, and purpose

1 in 3

American adults has
trouble paying expenses

18%

of our community lives
in poverty

64%

of Americans live
paycheck to paycheck

Arizona has the

9th largest

homeless population
in the US



The only way out of poverty is a paycheck

At St. Joseph the Worker, we know the value of every human life, no matter their challenges or circumstances, and we offer the blessing of second chances. We know that a paycheck is the only way to prevent or escape poverty and homelessness.

Jobs provide far more than money—they lead to stability, independence, and a sense of purpose. Jobs fill desperate hearts with joy, hope, and gratitude.

Employment for all is essential to the health and well-being of individuals, their families, and the community.

Each time a client gets a job, they ring the Success Bell and we get to celebrate! This has been a tradition at SJW for over 10 years.



We offer a hand
UP, not a hand
out to those who
are ready to work

Our Mission

The singular mission of St. Joseph the Worker is to assist homeless, low-income and other disadvantaged individuals in their efforts to become self-sufficient through quality employment. We provide the right kind of hand up to make economic self-sufficiency possible, removing individual barriers to employment such as covering the cost of transportation to and from work, providing resumes, work clothing, coaching, and a transitional housing solution based around staying employed.

Our Vision

It is our vision that, through employment, SJW will end homelessness for a significant and measurable sector of the homeless population; and further, we will prevent homelessness from becoming a bigger problem by continually increasing our reach and employing greater numbers of impoverished and underemployed community members at risk of becoming homeless.

Through the work of SJW, anyone and everyone who is stable, ready, and wanting to work will be employed-- regardless of their situation. And, no homeless person who can work and wants to work will remain homeless for lack of employment.

Every time one of our clients obtains a job, they ring our 'Success Bell'



We're Transforming Lives Through Employment



It isn't often that we get the privilege of checking in with clients 5 years after we first meet, but a hot July day, Mona dropped by with the sole objective of saying 'thank you' to Ruben, SJW's Lead Employment Specialist, who helped her all those years ago. This is Mona's story:

In 2016, Mona was at one of the lowest points in her life. She had endured a bad romantic relationship, was deeply struggling with addiction, lost her cars, lost her home, and found herself experiencing homelessness. When we met her, she was ready to turn her life around and was determined to get a job.

SJW staff helped her create a resume, practiced interview skills, assisted her with navigating online job applications, provided her with bus passes & professional clothing for interviews. Her hard work paid off and after just one month of preparation and searching, Mona was employed!

Today, Mona is thriving. She's remained sober and employed for several years and is now working as a mentor to people who are struggling with addiction, offering tremendous hope to others who are in the position she was once in.

SJW removed employment barriers for Mona:

- ✓ **resumé support**
- ✓ **online job application support**
- ✓ **interview-ready clothing**
- ✓ **bus pass for interviews & work**

Employment Without Barriers

By removing common barriers to gainful employment, we're empowering our clients to get and keep jobs that foster independence, health, and wellbeing.

July 2021 - June 2022

Resume & application assistance

One-on-one job coaching

Interview preparation

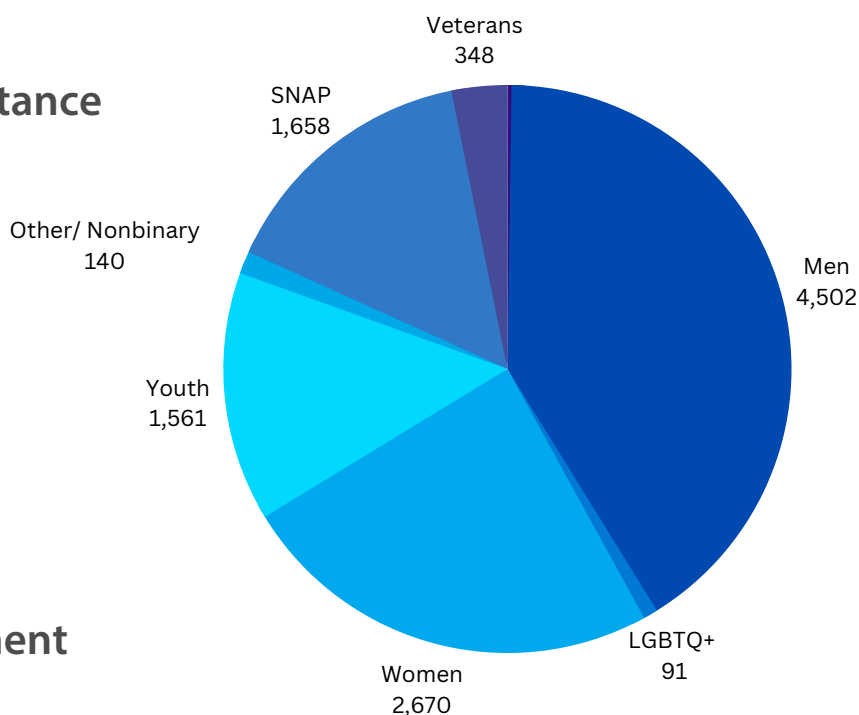
Professional attire

Uniform assistance

Job skills certifications

Transportation assistance

Basic tools & safety equipment



7,312 individuals served

5,399 newly employed

\$15.94/ hr average pay

68.4% receiving benefits

Stuart has a job!



Stuart came to Phoenix looking for new and exciting adventures, working in call centers for about 12 years, always with unstable living situations and frequently needing shelter and other community resources. He was living in his own apartment in Mesa until 2020 when he was laid off due to COVID and became homeless. Stuart is a person who knows exactly what he wants and is willing to work hard to accomplish his goals. Our team supported him in securing a new job and he was soon able to join our Workforce Villages program.

While in the Workforce Villages program, he became a mentor to other clients and was able to save over \$6,000, empowering him to secure his own apartment with all the amenities he desired. He is determined, has a strong work ethic, even earning a promotion. He is looking forward to coming back as a mentor to others who are looking for success in this program.

If Stuart could offer any advice to a client going through the program, he says, "If you don't want it, you don't get it" and to "follow the rules and the plan because it works."

SJW removed employment barriers for Stuart:

- ✓ job interview support
- ✓ budgeting and financial planning
- ✓ 3 months of rent-free housing
- ✓ apartment search & moving support

COMMON BARRIERS TO STABLE HOUSING:

- ✗ Not qualified for housing vouchers
- ✗ Low wages limit the ability to save for a rent deposit
- ✗ Poor credit limits access to housing & banking

WE'RE FIXING THAT!



SJW's Workforce Villages is a **supportive transitional housing solution** that moves homeless, but employed clients from the streets to their own apartments within 90 days—for a fraction of the cost of other housing models.

SJW supports these clients for one year with resources, financial management and coaching, career advancement, and other hands-on support to help ensure sustained success.

57% success rate in clients maintaining employment and living independently

84 days is the average client stay in our free housing program before moving into a home of their own.

\$3,121.78 average savings when they first move into their own apartment

102 clients have moved from the streets to their own apartments through the power of employment since this program began in August 2020

55 clients are currently on our waitlist, with the need only continuing to grow



THE REALITY:

42% of Arizona's graduating seniors are choosing not to enroll in post-secondary education, meaning they will need to enter the workforce upon graduation or risk becoming "opportunity youth" (youth ages 15-25 who are not working or in school).

Currently, this growing population makes up 27% (nearly one in three) of the youth population in Arizona and **nearly a quarter of the total homeless population**

OUR SOLUTION:

SJW's Youth Employment & Resources program helps teens and young adults ages 15 to 25, become employable and employed, so that they never fall into the troubling demographic of disconnected youth.

This program provides education, confidence-building experiences, connections to open jobs, and the tangible resources necessary to gain and maintain employment as young Arizonans. **Our mission is to enhance the likelihood of early success in young adulthood** and creating a difference for their futures.

The Best Solution to Unemployment is Prevention

1,093

teen workshop attendees

190

teens successfully employed



THE REALITY: OUR SOLUTION:

There are thousands of quality positions open throughout the Arizona, with a 3.7% increase in jobs in 2022.

St. Joseph the Worker partners with Valley employers through our Preferred Business Partners program and our social enterprise, Step Up, where we identify, place, and support our clients in quality employment opportunities.

At the same time, **employers are struggling to find employees.**

Every job placement offers competitive wages, benefits, good workplace culture, and opportunities for advancement.

WE'RE GENERATING POSITIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT!

\$156 million put back into the Arizona economy through wages



\$42 million saved by taxpayers for the cost of social services

Our Financial STEWARDSHIP

A NOTE ABOUT SJW STAFF:

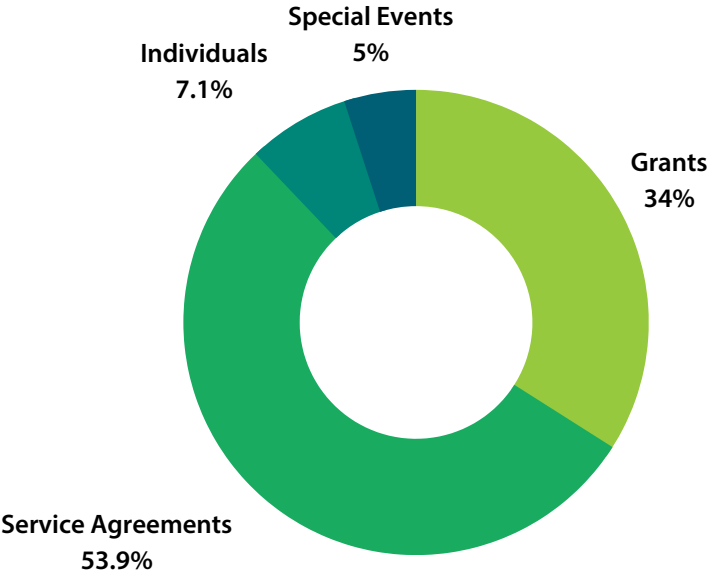
At St. Joseph the Worker, our greatest assets are our employees. We carry out our mission through the hands of the Employment, Outreach, Workforce Villages, and Youth Employment and Resources team members. Nearly 40 staff members deliver these services day in and day out with passion and compassion for those we serve. In addition to the many services and resources we offer, our amazing employees receive tremendous gratitude for giving the individuals with whom they work hope and encouragement. Without our valued employees, our work would stop, our mission would cease to be carried out, and the nearly 7,312 individuals that we have helped to employ this year alone & who would likely still be struggling.

We acknowledge and thank our entire SJW team!

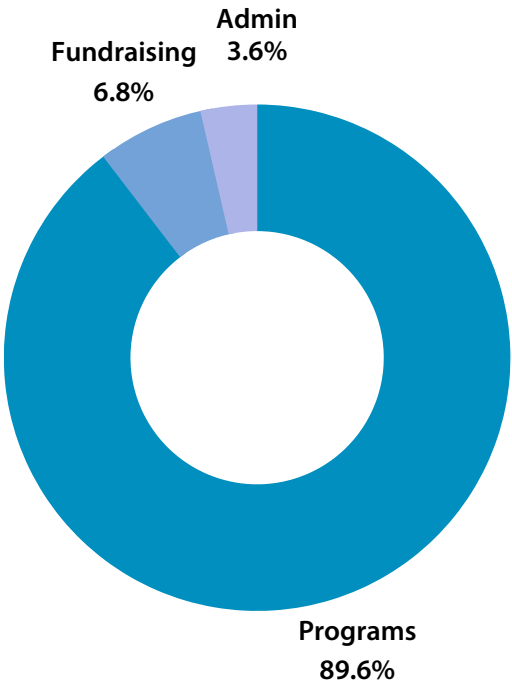
A NOTE TO OUR SUPPORTERS:

We are immeasurably grateful for each of our donors, funders, volunteers, and supporters! Thank you for allowing us the privilege of helping to end and prevent homelessness through work. Thank you for having faith in us to use your money to create lasting change with the utmost integrity. **Thank you for being a part of this movement to change the system** through common sense innovation and measured results, centered around work, personal responsibility, and the kind of support that empowers personal success.

INCOME DISTRIBUTION



STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



THANK YOU

Executive Leadership:



Ritta Fagain
Acting Chair



Rick DeBruhl
Board Vice-Chair



Karl Johnson
Treasurer



Garth Stevens
Secretary



Brian Cole
Governance Chair

Board Members:

Chad Willems

Chris Baker

Dan Miller

Juana Hernandez

Kristie Thompson

Lauren Merdinger

Melody Cline-Valdes

Nick Morrison



AZ Rocks the Tax Credit!

Your donation is completely tax deductible dollar-for-dollar up to \$400 if you are filing independently and up to \$800 if you are filing jointly. In other words, for every dollar you donate, you'll receive the same amount credited back to you, reducing your overall tax liability up to \$800!

Know with 100% certainty that your tax dollars will be spent exactly how YOU want them spent! If you care about helping disadvantaged people find quality work, then donate to St. Joseph the Worker!

St. Joseph the Worker

1125 W. Jackson St.

P.O. Box 13503

Phoenix, AZ 85002

1 844-SJW-JOBS (759-5627)

1-833-SJW-GIVE (759-4483)

info@sjwjobs.org

www.sjwjobs.org

