



Mesa United Way
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Mesa United Way

2015-2016

Mesa, Arizona

Federal Legislative Districts 5 & 9

PROGRAM FAST FACTS

Congressional District(s): 5 & 9
State Legislative District(s): 25 & 26
Service Area by County/City: Mesa, AZ
Project Federal Share: \$96,204
Project Local Match: \$37,752
Community Volunteers Recruited or managed: 809
Volunteer Hours Served: 4,521
Value of Volunteer Hours: \$101,812.92
 *[2013 Independent Sector Rate](#) for the Value of a Volunteer Hour in Arizona is \$22.52

Community Need

Mesa, Arizona is the 38th largest city in the U.S., the largest first-tier suburb, and one of the fastest growing cities in the country. As a large city, Mesa has a diversity of neighborhoods, including many struggling with profound poverty. In order to combat this poverty, Mesa United Way has focused VISTA efforts on improving outcomes in support of Education, Veteran Services, Community Service, and Foster Care.

National Priority Area and Program Performance Goals

Mesa United Way has identified the priority areas of Education, Veterans and Military Families, and other Community Priorities. Performance goals include the expansion of educational services to at-risk students, an increase in the number of veterans receiving services, growth in neighborhood outreach for under-resourced families and individuals, and expansion of the number of community volunteers serving throughout the city.

Program Activities

VISTA members serving with Mesa United Way impact the community in a multitude of meaningful ways. Collaboration among VISTA members and with partner agencies allows for strategic, concerted efforts to meet each of the performance area goals. In order to meet these goals, VISTA members work to: improve opportunities and resources available to veterans and their families, expand mentoring and educational services for current and prospective post-secondary students, increase community service opportunities in support of neighborhoods and families in need, and expand the resources available to foster youth.

Program Impact

During the 2014-2015 service year, Mesa United Way VISTA members raised \$61,850 in cash and in-kind donations. Additionally, VISTA members recruited and/or managed more than 800 community volunteers. These resources helped facilitate more than 50 neighborhood outreach projects and helped provide services for more than 300 veterans throughout the city.

VISTA member Jennifer Nalley coordinated, marketed, and managed a legal services clinic for the veteran students at Mesa Community College that resulted in 80 consultations and 74 closed cases. Nalley and 2 other VISTAs working with MCC also collaborated to create a September 11th Commemoration event that resulted in the donation of 24 bicycles to veterans.



VISTA members celebrate the successful completion of their commemorative 9/11 event in honor of veterans.

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Program Impact (continued)

VISTA service was crucial to the opening of Mesa Counts on College, a City of Mesa initiative helping students achieve their post-secondary goals. After months of preparation and hard work, VISTA member, Amy Williams, helped open Mesa Counts on College in August, 2015. The center has already exceeded expectations for serving the student population in and around Mesa.

Mission

The mission of Mesa United Way is:
Uniting Community.
Inspiring Donors.
Improving Lives.

Vision

Mesa United Way's vision is to facilitate a community of people that energizes, inspires and cares for one another.

History

Though the legal name has changed with the times, Mesa United Way has a local history extending back to 1921 when it was known as "The Welfare League." Today it is one of more than 1,200 local United Way agencies across the nation, all of which are dedicated to strengthening the safety-net of essential human services within their respective communities. Each United Way is an autonomous agency, joined by common objectives and strategies through participation in member-agency associations at the state, national and international levels.

Historically best recognized by the public as a centralized fundraising organization, over the past decade many United Way agencies have significantly expanded their missions to include other forms of support for community service organizations. This includes promoting collaborations that increase the capacity of community members to care for each other.

Mesa United Way recognizes the power of synergy and collaboration in combating the causes of poverty. To that end, Mesa United Way has very strong relationships with the City of Mesa, the Corporation for National and Community Service, Mesa Public Schools, the East Valley Institute of Technology, Mesa Community College, and Arizona State University, as well as with other social purpose organizations in the community.

Partnerships

Mesa United Way's VISTA program partners specifically with:
The City of Mesa
Helen's Hope Chest
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Mesa Community College



VISTA Member, Durrie Parks, distributes tools in support of neighborhood and outreach projects for the City of Mesa's Tool Lending Program.