



Dear Joe,

Happy New Year!

I am thrilled to share with you our latest quarterly newsletter. There has been so much activity in the past few months, that it's almost impossible to contain in one newsletter.

While enthusiastic plans are underway for this quarter, I would like to pause and reflect on some of TCAA's newer partnerships and program changes that are making a positive impact in Tempe and beyond.

TCAA works hard to maintain a pulse on the need in our community as well as the impact our programs make on creating positive and lasting change — a change that is only possible with help from area residents, businesses, service clubs, faith organizations, and city government. Community support is not just expressed in dollars donated, but also through the passion, time and talent contributed.

In just the past quarter alone, the difference YOU have made is demonstrated in part through the numbers below:

- **580** Turkeys dinners were provided to food-insecure households in November and December



- **\$13,500** was raised during #GivingTuesday (December 3, 2019)
- **101 families** were sponsored and over **244 gifts** provided to clients of all ages through our Giving Tree Program
- **29 Corporate Groups** volunteered in October through December, contributing **1,594 hours** in volunteer time

This newsletter contains several inspirational stories behind these numbers.

Stories that demonstrate the collective generosity of donors, corporate partners, funders and volunteers—people like you—who make change possible at TCAA.

If you're looking for ways to get involved in the new year ahead, check out this newsletter for several ideas.

A big 'thank you' for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Deborah Arteaga  
**Executive Director**



## Impact Measures

We recently introduced customer feedback surveys which give TCAA customers the opportunity to tell us first hand the impact that our services had on their current situation and their overall level of satisfaction.

Customer feedback is an important measure of our effectiveness in our key areas of focus: food and housing security, hunger relief, senior independence, and economic stability. We're thrilled with the results obtained in our fall 2019 surveys.

This information gives us great insight on program effectiveness and will help us highlight any areas that need attention. We'll administer outcome surveys twice annually hereafter.

[To read the Fall 2019 Survey Results, click here](#)

## New Partnerships





## Valley Center for the Deaf

To alleviate hunger in our service area, we must make food easily accessible to people who are most in need. We do this for young families in crisis by making food boxes available at Tempe K-12 schools. Improving access to food among low-income adults with disabilities is another important step.

TCAA has formed a partnership with Valley Center for the Deaf to benefit residents of the Apache (American Sign Language) Trails senior living community, which is an affordable housing property for seniors who are hearing impaired. We sought to increase the residents' access to food offered by TCAA's Food Pantry and Senior Meal programs. With this partnership, food is more accessible to Apache Trails residents.

[Read More](#)



## Financial Opportunity Just Became Easier

TCAA's Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) just got better. In addition to offering financial coaching services and income supports, TCAA just expanded its employment assistance services with the addition of Maricopa County's Arizona@Work programming.

Arizona@Work/Maricopa County now offers services at TCAA's main location on Apache Blvd. This means that clients of TCAA can now access the full array of resources offered by the Maricopa County's Workforce Development Division, including:

[Read More](#)



## King of Glory Lutheran Church, New I-HELP Shelter Provider

Each night our I-HELP shelters feed and care for up to 40 men and women. They operate in Tempe seven nights per week, 365 days a year. This would not be possible without the partnership and support from a network of Tempe faith-based organizations.

TCAA is thrilled to announce a new partner has joined us in providing emergency shelter to those who are experiencing homelessness in Tempe. King of Glory Lutheran Church has joined I-HELP as a host site on a rotating nightly basis.

[Read More](#)

# Grants

## Pless Foundation

We are excited to announce the receipt of a \$10,000 grant award from The Pless Foundation. The Pless Foundation chose to invest in TCAA's I-HELP shelter program to help ensure the continuation of Tempe's sole emergency shelter for men and women experiencing homelessness.

In the current fiscal year, we anticipate serving more than 600 men and women in need of shelter and providing close to 12,000 bed nights and 22,000 meals for I-HELP enrollments. Support from this grant will be utilized for the coordination of evening, shower and laundry hygiene services, intensive case management and other support services for program participants, including housing and healthcare navigation.

The Pless Foundation is a private foundation based in Tucson, AZ that was founded in 2002.

---

## Fortuna Family Fund

Our mission to foster dignity and self-reliance in the economically vulnerable within the communities we serve is further strengthened by the award of a \$5,000 grant from the Fortuna Family Fund. With this investment, TCAA will continue to offer a comprehensive array of programs that meet clients where they are at, whether the need is to improve their housing security, create a healthy home environment to raise their children, address food insecurity, promote aging in place, and/or further their economic status. A hearty welcome and thank you to the Fortuna Family Fund.

# TCAA Programs



## Financial Opportunity Center (Money Beliefs Workshop)

We all aspire to improve our financial wellness. To achieve this, it's important to understand how our financial attitudes and beliefs can shape our future.

Money beliefs help explain key differences between savers, spenders, and people who try to avoid money matters completely. In partnership with Newtown Community Development Corporation, TCAA's Financial Opportunity Center hosted a workshop on money attitudes and beliefs and how they impede financial prosperity.

[Read More](#)

---





## I-HELP Program 14th Birthday (Feb 12)

On a hot day in August 2005, Sandy--a homeless woman living on the street in Tempe--died from exposure. Like many others, Sandy was "living" in a local park as there were no shelters in Tempe.

This tragic event prompted TCAA and the local faith community to develop a shelter solution that would protect the lives of adults like Sandy who were homeless. The group studied the successful Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging (I-HELP) model launched in California and brought the program to Tempe. I-HELP Shelter opened in 2006.

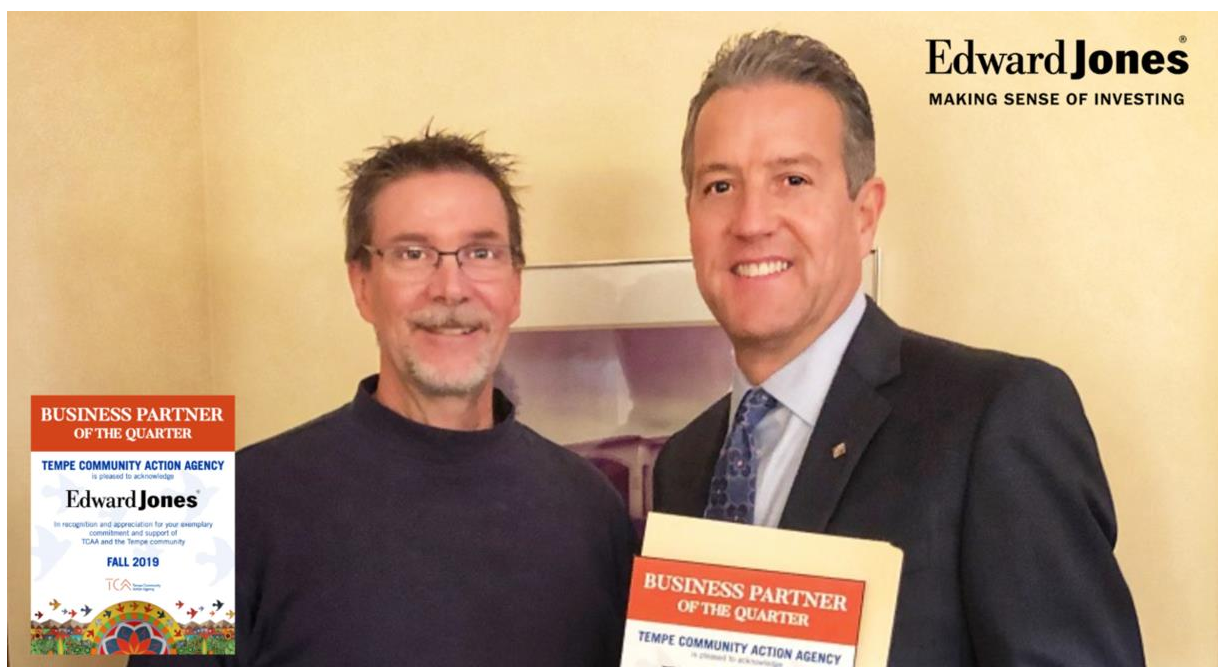
On February 12, I-HELP will be celebrating its 14th birthday. Since I-HELP was launched, TCAA has provided safe shelter to 7,458 men and women experiencing homelessness and placed 888 into permanent housing.

### [Read More](#)

To celebrate this wonderful milestone, won't you consider making a birthday contribution in support of the I-HELP shelter program? By making a donation, you help ensure that every person in need, regardless of income or housing status, is provided a pathway back to housing permanency.



# Business Partner of the Quarter



## Edward Jones

Tempe's business community inspires us by their ongoing financial support of TCAA programs, donations of food, office furniture, and other program resources, and contribution of volunteer time by their employees. TCAA launched a new recognition program to honor local businesses that go above and beyond in helping to further our mission and make our community a great place to live for all.

We are pleased to announce that Edward Jones was selected as our Business Partner of the Quarter for Fall 2019. This award recognizes the company's deep commitment to volunteering, charitable giving and advocating on behalf of TCAA.

[Read More](#)

# Events



## Senior independence “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” Breakfast

Last year, TCAA is hosted a breakfast fundraiser to benefit and enhance the lives of older adults struggling to age in place. The response from the community was truly humbling and amazing!

The event was sold out last year so keep watching your inbox for more information coming soon on how to purchase individual or group tickets.

You can also go to our [event page](#) to be kept up to date on all the exciting events we have going on.

If you're interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Joe Rivera at [joer@tempeaction.org](mailto:joer@tempeaction.org)



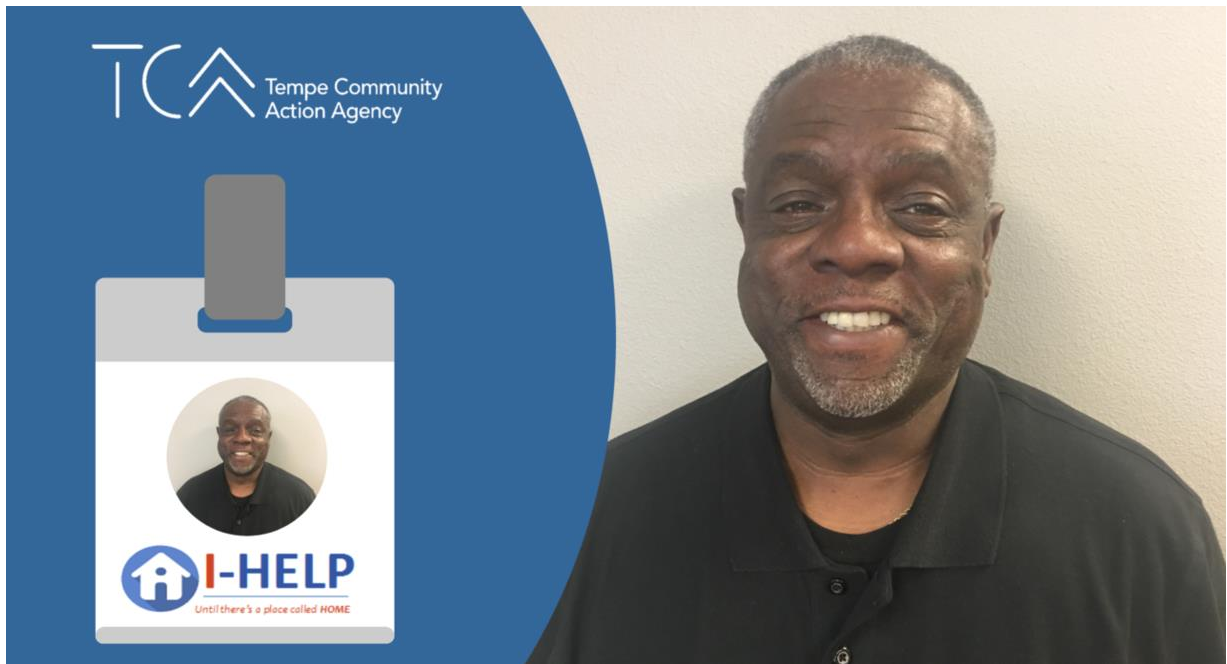
## Tempe Empty Bowls

Save the Date: February 28 & 29, 2020

Tempe Empty Bowls is a free event held on two days at two locations. Come enjoy the great weather and live local entertainment. Both dates offer the opportunity to purchase beautiful hand-crafted bowls for a \$10 donation. With your donation, you will receive a simple meal of soup and bread with proceeds benefiting TCAA and United Food Bank.

[Click here to learn more](#)

## Staff Highlight



## Anthony Woodard, Resource Navigator I-HELP Program

Anthony has spent much of his career working with vulnerable communities, even before coming to TCAA. With a background in real estate, Anthony has seen first-hand the struggle that many low-income and homeless individuals have in attaining permanent housing.

After retirement, life was a lot quieter and the pace was slower than Anthony was used to. To fill the void Anthony sought out ways he could help others in need, which brought him to TCAA. As a volunteer in the food pantry and I-HELP program, Anthony was exposed to all the different programs that TCAA offers and how they help the Tempe community.

[Read More](#)

# Community Involvement





## Senior Transportation Volunteers

Many of our older adult neighbors are unable to get to the doctor's office, grocery store, and local pharmacies to address their urgent needs due to several barriers such as limited mobility, lack of a vehicle or inability to drive, and inability to use public transportation due to physical or financial challenges.

Whatever the reason, day to day activities normally managed on their own, like going to a doctor or grocery shopping all become impossible. This can lead to isolation, depression and an overall decline in health and quality of life.

### [Read More](#)

Please consider volunteering today! Contact [debrab@tempeaction.org](mailto:debrab@tempeaction.org)

---



## **Sponsor one night of shelter and additional services for a man or woman in need: \$35**

Every day hundreds of individuals in Tempe search for a safe place to sleep for the night. Shelter services are an important bridge between homelessness and a home, and last year the I-HELP Shelter program assisted 478 homeless adults to change their circumstances and overcome homelessness. Sadly, more than 300 others were turned away primarily due to a lack of space.

For a donation of \$35, YOU can sponsor one night of shelter and additional services for a man or woman in need.

Your donation will help provide a safe place to sleep, daily meals, as well as a spectrum of services to prepare men and women for employment, financial stability, and permanent housing.

Sponsor 1 night: \$35

# Thank You!

TCAA thanks the following partners for their support and commitment to the Tempe Community. To become a sponsor, please email Joe Rivera at [joer@tempeaction.org](mailto:joer@tempeaction.org)





Questions? Contact us at [info@tempeaction.org](mailto:info@tempeaction.org)