

**MEDIA ONLY**

Nejlah Hummer  
Project Reinvest  
Coordinator / Executive  
Assistant to the CEO  
520.308.3098  
[nhummer@primavera.org](mailto:nhummer@primavera.org)

The Primavera Foundation  
Jim & Vicki Click Training  
Center  
Administrative Offices  
151 W. 40<sup>th</sup> St.  
Tucson, AZ 85713  
[primavera.org](http://primavera.org)



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## PRESS RELEASE

# Primavera Foundation Invests Half a Million Dollars in South Tucson Neighborhoods

Funds Awarded by Project Reinvest: Neighborhoods Grant



*The multiple award-winning Las Abuelitas Family Housing and Community Center in South Tucson, Arizona, is among several neighborhood revitalization initiatives led by the Primavera Foundation over the last 10 years.*

**Tucson, Arizona, August 24, 2017** – The Primavera Foundation received a competitive \$500,000 grant to build upon its successful, multisector neighborhood revitalization strategies in partnership with the City of South Tucson, which is emerging from disinvestment and the long-term impacts of the foreclosure crisis.

As one of the 55 grantees out of 240 applicants across the U.S., Primavera was declared the only nonprofit in Arizona to receive the Project Reinvest: Neighborhoods award.

Sixty percent of the grant funding will be spent on physical improvements in the community, supporting Primavera’s commitment to revitalization.

The CEO of Primavera, Peggy Hutchison, is thrilled about the positive impact this grant will have on the community.

“We will continue this investment in the vibrant neighborhoods of South Tucson in order to provide equitable opportunities for all residents and local businesses to thrive,” said Hutchison.

The overall strategy is focused on enhancing the quality of life through capacity building; real estate development designed to transform distressed lots attracting crime; improving homeownership rates; developing attractive, affordable housing; developing resident-inspired community gardens and neighborhood parks; and engaging the residents, business people, and overall community, to inspire and empower South Tucson.

Project Reinvest: Neighborhoods will support critical new projects, including a resident-informed design for a public park that will be a resting stop with public art along the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway; four new, single family homes for first time homebuyers on formerly distressed lots; and a public art wall designed by local artists and South Tucson students from the Las Artes Arts and Education Center, celebrating and honoring the multicultural roots and presence in South Tucson.

The Director of Las Artes, Arnold Palacios, said his staff and students are excited about the partnership with Primavera.

“This collaboration gives our students the opportunity to contribute to South Tucson through the creation of mosaic art that reflects the culture and history of our community,” said Palacios. “It will highlight the enormous pride we take in our cultural heritage. An added bonus is the workplace skills that students will achieve in collaborating, cooperating, and creating art for the community.”

In addition, Project Reinvest: Neighborhoods funds will support the initiatives of Healthy South Tucson, a multisector coalition whose mission is to build capacity and engage the community with projects like community events, community planning, and public safety strategies.

Healthy South Tucson members include representatives from the public sector, residents, nonprofit organizations, The University of Arizona (multiple schools and departments), Arizona State University, small businesses, and faith-based groups.

Primavera began its neighborhood revitalization initiative in the City of South Tucson in 2007 at the invitation of the City and Pima County. Since then, Primavera has rehabbed, redeveloped, and developed 42 single-family homes; a 12-unit, multifamily rental housing community named Las Abuelitas with a community center; and two community gardens.

**ABOUT THE PRIMAVERA FOUNDATION**

The Primavera Foundation provides pathways out of poverty through safe, affordable housing, workforce development, and neighborhood revitalization. Primavera's vision promotes social and economic justice, while working to build a future in which all people are assured basic human rights, a livable income, and safe, affordable housing. Primavera's continuum of services over the past 34 years focus on the following four pathways: 1) survival – emergency shelters, drop-in resource centers, homeless prevention and intervention; 2) stability – safe, affordable housing, job readiness skills, temporary and permanent employment, water harvesting, and drug treatment alternative to prison; 3) security – financial education and homebuyer education, financial and housing counseling, and affordable homeownership opportunities; and 4) sustainability – working collaboratively with a variety of multi-sector community partners on neighborhood revitalization, resident engagement, leadership development, education, and advocacy to create greater equity, healthy neighborhoods, and to support collective action around critical policy issues impacting low-income working families.

**ABOUT PROJECT REINVEST: NEIGHBORHOODS**

Project Reinvest: Neighborhoods provides grant funding to eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations to help stabilize and revitalize distressed communities suffering from the direct and/or indirect effects of the foreclosure crisis. Projects support and further existing multi-faceted, place-based initiatives working to transform communities. A total of \$27.5 million was awarded to 55 grantees through a national competitive process. Each grant award is \$500,000.

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