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## PRESS RELEASE

# Primavera Foundation Hosts Annual Homeless Memorial on December 21

Commemorates National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day at Evergreen Cemetery



**Tucson, Arizona, December 7, 2018** – People in the Tucson community have died without a place to call home this year.

They have died of exposure to the cold, or the heat, of ill-health, or they were murdered in unprovoked hate crimes. Their deaths go unmarked by society.

The Primavera Foundation joins over 150 cities and counties across the nation commemorating National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, giving a voice to those who once lived on the streets and in desert washes.

The 2018 Homeless Memorial event brings attention to the tragedy of homelessness and honors those who have passed away on the streets.

The gathering is also a call to action to end homelessness in Tucson and the U.S.

“We will honor those who have died this year while experiencing poverty and homelessness, and we will recognize that to prevent such deaths in the future we must work to ensure everyone has access to safe, affordable housing, which is a basic human right,” said Peggy Hutchison, Chief Executive Officer of the Primavera Foundation.

The lives of persons who died this year in poverty and/or homelessness in Tucson will be honored with live music; remarks from elected officials, well-known homeless advocates, service providers, local religious leaders, concerned citizens, and people who were formerly homeless; along with additional reflections and readings.

The memorial service is open to the public and will take place on Friday, December 21 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Evergreen Cemetery, held at the west end at the County Plot.

Donations of backpacks and “Winter Survival Kits” are welcomed and appreciated (kits are 1-gallon zipped plastic bags containing socks, winter hat, gloves, lotion/sunscreen, lip balm, snacks, water bottle, and a \$5 gift card to a grocery store/restaurant).

Items may be brought to the memorial service or dropped off beforehand at the Primavera Foundation, Training Center located at 151 W. 40th St., Tucson, AZ 85713. Please call first at (520) 882-5383 to check for open hours.

#### **ABOUT THE PRIMAVERA FOUNDATION**

Since 1983, the Primavera Foundation has provided real pathways out of poverty through safe, affordable housing, workforce development, and neighborhood revitalization. Each year, our programs impact more than 8,200 individuals and families across Southern Arizona. Through partnerships with volunteers, donors, neighborhoods, a variety of community-based organizations, businesses, and public entities, we offer support in four areas: survival, stability, security, and sustainability. Primavera's participants strengthen their skills, obtain steady employment, find safe, affordable places to call home, set and achieve realistic goals, build assets and sustainable financial futures, advocate for their rights, and connect with their communities in meaningful, value-added ways. Learn more at [www.primavera.org](http://www.primavera.org).

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