

THE PULSE

Nov 2022

Welcome to The Pulse, Primavera's monthly newsletter.

A New Beginning

"It's very hard for me to ask for help. I've always been one to help others," said Desiree Ruiz, a recent Primavera participant. Desiree was a single, working mother with a full-time job, but she was laid off from work a month after giving birth to her second daughter. "I didn't see it coming," she said. "I had some savings, but not enough to get me by."

Desiree found herself unemployed and living in a 500-square-foot apartment with a school-aged daughter and a newborn. The apartment, infested with rats and roaches, was unsanitary for her small family – especially the newborn. She was desperate and overwhelmed.



*Desiree Ruiz with her daughters,
Emily and Bella.*

Finally, she reached out for help in the community. The Primavera Foundation received her referral from the County and she was contacted by Evelyn Yecies, a Resource Specialist with [Primavera's Rapid Rehousing Program](#).

"To be honest, I had started to get really depressed. I couldn't see the light at the end of the tunnel," she said. "Instantly when I got connected with Primavera, and having a one-on-one with Evelyn, I was able to start to see who I am again and it gave me the motivation to pull forward."

With help from our Rapid Rehousing team, Desiree got back on her feet. She was able to move into a new apartment and she received diapers, food boxes, and financial assistance through the program's referral to community resources. She also set up child care through the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES). With a safe, stable home, child care, and a regained sense of confidence, Desiree started a new job earlier this year and feels positive about her future.

Asking for help reminded Desiree of the importance of connection. "I haven't been that close with my family, but after reaching out to Primavera, I was able to get back into contact with my family and see that I'm not alone," she said. She is now planning to host Thanksgiving dinner for her family in her new apartment for the first time since becoming a mom.

"We are a village, and you guys are our village. Thank you so much."

Meet Dwayne Walker, Outreach Specialist at Project Action for Veterans

Dwayne Walker joined Primavera in December 2021 as an Outreach Specialist with our [Project Action for Veterans \(PAV\)](#) program. Dwayne first came to Primavera Foundation as a Program Assistant and soon moved into the role of Outreach Specialist, where he collaborates with organizations and agencies to connect with and educate veterans experiencing homelessness.

Dwayne is passionate about his work and especially intentional about ensuring that the veterans at PAV are heard and respected. "It's important to listen to them, regardless of what their situation is," Dwayne said.

Dwayne shared that he enjoys engaging with the veterans in the community and learning more about the services that are available. He feels motivated to keep doing what he's doing every time a veteran participant calls him to say thank you for his help. "It makes me feel really good to help someone. It's fulfilling."



*Dwayne Walker,
Outreach Specialist, PAV*

Thanksgiving Gift Baskets

The Citi - Tucson Center Women's Network has coordinated an annual Thanksgiving food basket drive for Primavera participants since 2014. This year, they teamed up with students from the Arizona College of Nursing to collect food and gifts from Citi employees. Thank you to Citi - Tucson Center Women's Network, Arizona College of Nursing students, and Citi employees for your efforts and generosity.



Thank you to the Women's Network at Citi - Tucson Center for providing Thanksgiving gift baskets for Primavera Participants.

Sincerely,

Amanda Gormley

Director of Communications & Advocacy

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