

THE PRIMAVERA PULSE

E-Newsletter | Sept 2022

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Primavera Pulse! The Primavera Pulse is a monthly e-newsletter to keep you informed about goings-on at the Primavera Foundation. Keep reading to learn about upcoming events, Primavera's unique connection with the business community, an inspiring story about one staff member's vision for a youth basketball team, and our new CEO, Tisha Tallman.

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CEO Peggy Hutchison Announces Plans to Retire from the Primavera Foundation

Since 2004, Peggy Hutchison has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Primavera Foundation, a social justice organization bringing dignity to communities through safe, affordable housing, workforce development, and neighborhood revitalization. She plans to retire from the organization in September of this year.

During her tenure, the Primavera Foundation has expanded to improve the quality of life for people living in the Tucson area. Hutchison has led tangible growth for the organization and the community, including a newly constructed and expanded downtown Resource Center which opened in 2021, an award-winning Las Abuelitas Family Housing and Community Center built in 2014, and a portfolio of programs that provide resources to support a more resilient community. However, it is the work that often goes unseen that she is most proud of.

"I am proud that we have listened to communities, residents, and neighborhoods, enabling us to adapt our strategies and programs to provide deeper accompaniment and support," said Hutchison. "I am proud that our diverse and committed staff members, representative of the communities with whom we live and work, are so devoted to creating a more compassionate, equitable, and just community."

[...Read more on our website.](#)

Q&A with Incoming CEO, Tisha Tallman

Welcome, Tisha Tallman! Tisha brings a unique lens and experience of time and place, having grown up in Iowa, the child of a Mexican American mother from a family of migrant farm workers and a Caucasian father who worked in factories his whole life. A Chicana attorney with an MBA, Tallman has served as a legal and public policy advocate, litigating in federal and state courts, and testifying, speaking, and writing on several public policy issues. She comes to the Primavera Foundation with 17 years of executive experience in the nonprofit sector, advocating for individuals, families, and communities at the intersection of poverty, homelessness, and race and ethnicity.



Here is a Q&A to help us get to know Tisha:

Q. What are two things you consider yourself to be very good at?

A. Oration - My first public speaking event was in the second grade at my First Communion. I have had the great opportunity to speak in many sacred and historic places large and small, advocating on behalf of those without voice.

Learning - I consider myself a lifelong learner. I am excited to learn from and about all of you!

Q. What do you consider your calling in life?

A. Service is my calling in life. I truly believe that we are all on this planet to help each other along... empowering each other.

Q. Given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would you want as a dinner guest? Why?

A. My deceased maternal grandmother, Isabel Rivera Ayala. I'd love to hear about her childhood in Mexico, and about all the things that made her hopeful in this nation.

Q. What excites you most about this new position?

A. Everything about this new position excites me. I feel especially privileged and honored to be a part of Primavera's rich and impactful history established by visionary founders. It is an amazing opportunity with great responsibility. I look forward to being a strategic part of the organization's history moving forward collaboratively through servant leadership with the amazing staff, board of directors, volunteers, partners, collaborators, and supporters.

Volunteer Spotlight

TEP Sack Lunch Team

TEP employees worked together to pack 50 sack lunches for the Primavera Men's Shelter in August. Thank you, Shirley, for coordinating these efforts.

TEP is one of many businesses that coordinate staff volunteer efforts to benefit Primavera participants. Business teams support our work in a variety of ways. They pack sack lunches for Primavera Works, Casa Paloma, and the Men's Shelter, deliver hot meals, and pack and deliver hygiene kits for our drop-in and shelter participants. Individuals who represent local businesses also offer professional classes for participants. We're grateful to volunteers from the business community for all that they do!



Shirley Reilly, Tucson Electric Power Community Program Assistant, delivered 50 sack lunches to the Primavera Men's Shelter in August.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Daniel Torres

Safety and Program Assistant & Primavera Panthers Coach

Daniel Torres joined the Primavera team in March of this year as the Safety and Program Assistant. He splits his time between the HIP Program at the Resource Center and Primavera's Las Abuelitas After School Program. Before joining the staff, Daniel and his girlfriend volunteered in the Community Gardens and learned about Primavera's programs and the Primavera approach to social justice and equity.



Coach Daniel and the 2022 Primavera Panthers.

"I love working with kids. I grew up low-income, so I feel like I'm really familiar with what these kids are going through on a day-to-day basis," Daniel said. "Once I found out that the After School Program at Las Abuelitas was geared toward kids from the City of South Tucson, that made me want to get involved."

Daniel brought his love of sports to the After School Program and advocated for a Primavera Panthers basketball team. At first, it was hard to get parents excited about the opportunity. Team sports can be expensive and time-consuming. Daniel is proud that he was able to help Panther families by making participation cost-free.

"We took a load off of the parents financially, and we gave the kids an opportunity to get out of the house and be with each other," he said.

His passion for this work stems from a young age when Daniel played sports in high school.

"I would have \$20 shoes and my teammates had \$100 shoes, but that just made me try to be better than them. Like, 'I can beat you in my cheap shoes,'" he said. "That makes me want to bring that to these kids because they might not have that outlet, that opportunity. **That's what really prompted me to start this basketball team: equality.**"

Congratulations to Coach Daniel and the Primavera Panthers for completing their first basketball season!

Upcoming Events

Medicinal Plant Workshop | September 27, 10:30am-12pm

Las Abuelitas Community Center, 440 E. 26th St., Tucson, AZ 85713

A free hands-on workshop to learn about plant medicine application basics. This event is open to the public. Anyone interested in plant medicine is welcome to join.

Homebuyer Education Workshop (English) | September 27 & 28, 2pm

If you know someone who is interested in purchasing a home, Primavera's Homeownership program can help find lenders, secure safe loans, and avoid predatory lending. Some first-time homebuyers may qualify for down payment assistance. Registration is required. Register by calling (520) 882-5383 x136 or emailing education@primavera.org.

Sincerely,

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