



PHOENIX STARFISH PLACE 2022



Background

- ▶ The design of the supportive programming for Phoenix Starfish Place has been informed by our community's sex trafficking survivor leaders.
- ▶ goal of the program at Phoenix Starfish Place is to promote healing from trauma, promote independence, address health and mental health issues, and support recovery and reconnection to the community.
- ▶ Support services include a range of programming including case management, therapeutic groups, life skills and parenting classes, cooking and nutrition, and mindfulness.

Facility

- ▶ The site, built in 2013, along with fifteen apartments, has a 6,800 sq. ft. community center equipped with a library/computer room, case management offices, community kitchen, a teen room, and a therapeutic room.
- ▶ The community yard includes an outdoor grill and dining area, lots of space for biking and scootering, and beautiful outside seating around the courtyard.

Phoenix Starfish Place



A Place for Victims of Human Trafficking

**Purchased
with city
funds**

**Program
design and
training by
ASU**

**Owned and
operated by
Housing
Department**

**Services
managed
by HSD**



On-Site Supportive Services



Application Process

Community Referral

(Center for Hope, Dream Center, UMOM, Catholic Charities..)

Application Review by Advisory Board (2 survivors/clinical social worker)

Interview with clinical social worker (face-to-face/zoom)

Case Management Begins

Section 8 Housing Application

Meeting Client Needs

Basic Needs



Clinical programs

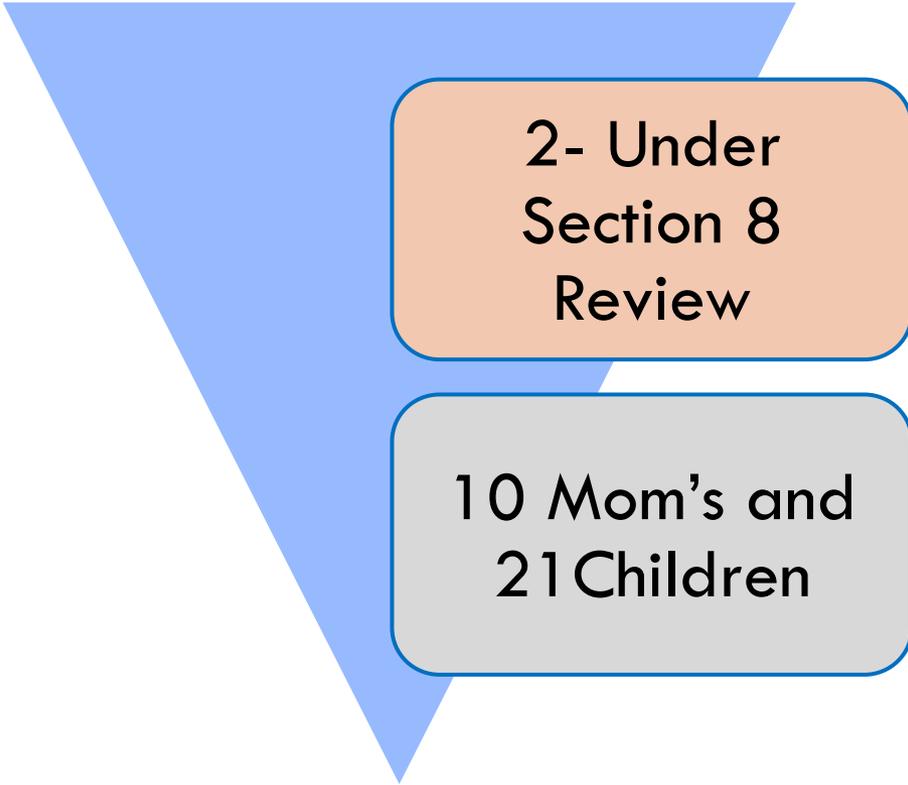


Medical Partnerships



Community Advocacy

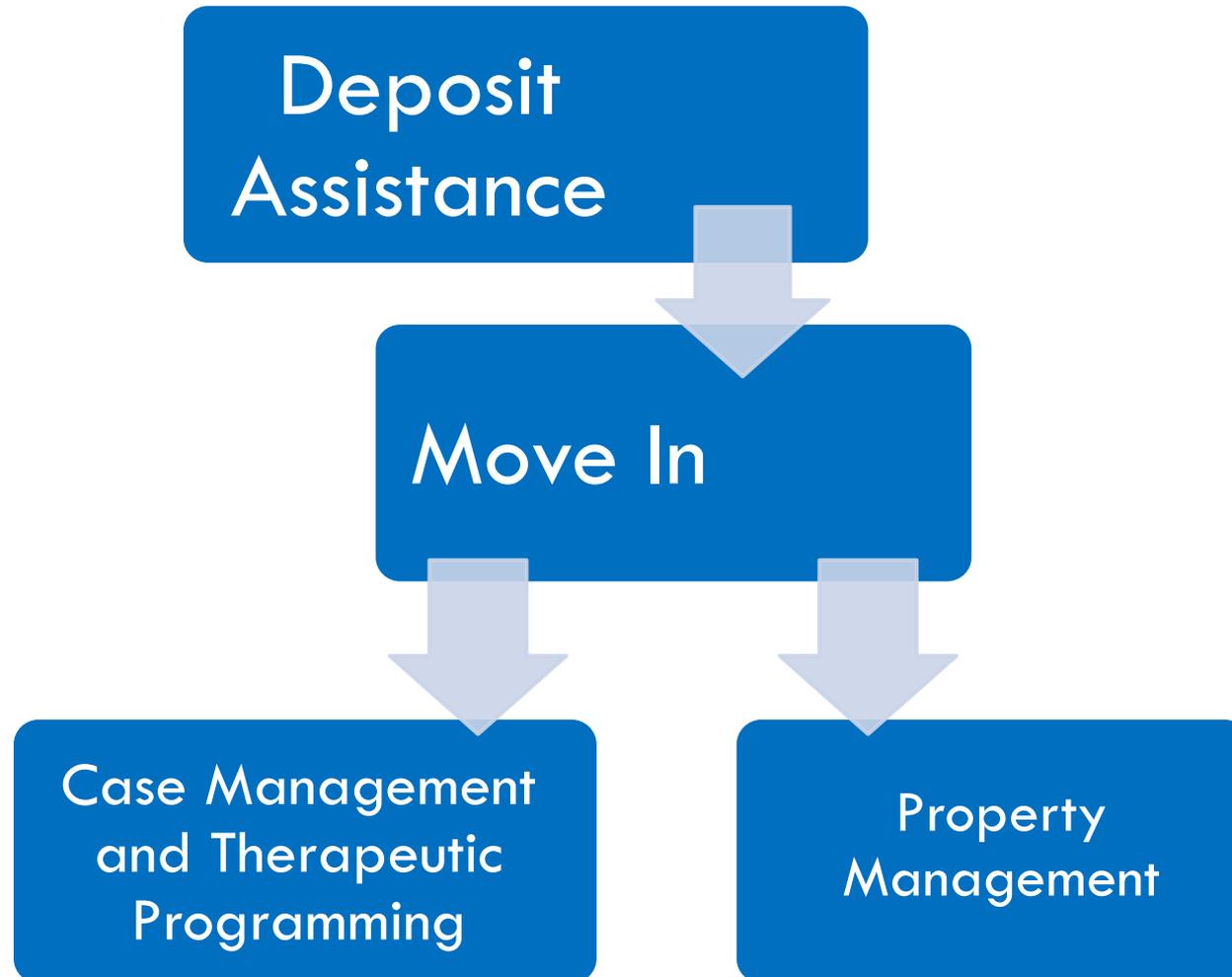
Current Status



2- Under
Section 8
Review

10 Mom's and
21 Children

Approval



Community Bridges Inc- Case Management Survivor Led

- ▶ Case management support includes:
 - ▶ assistance with enrollment in community resources
 - ▶ goal setting
 - ▶ transportation
 - ▶ encouragement and support for education and employment attainment

Clinical Services- ASU

- ▶ ASU provides clinical services for adults including substance abuse groups, trauma intervention group, mentoring support groups, nutrition/cooking group, acupuncture clinic, and music lessons.
- ▶ For children, a structured therapeutic play program has been developed. ASU provides all clinical services are provided with support of a grant from the Arizona Attorney General's Office and private donors.
- ▶ Spring and Fall Festivals (community building)

About the PSP Residents

Where referred from:

Agency	#	%
Community Bridges (Center for Hope)	5	23.8%
Dignity Diversion	4	19%
Phoenix PD HEaT Victim Services	4	19%
Dream Center	3	14.3%
UMOM New Day Center	2	9.5%
Sojourner Center	1	4.8%
Phoenix Children's Hospital	1	4.8%
The Resolution Group	1	4.8%

About the PSP Residents

- ▶ Since opening in November 2017, 21 adult female survivors of sex trafficking and their 48 minor children. The 21 residents ranged in age from 19 to 45 years old with an average of 29.8 years old. The residents have between one and eight children living with them. Many of the residents reported experiencing significant trauma during their lifetimes including experiences of being unsafe and abused in their childhood homes and experiences of homelessness, addiction, and domestic violence as adults. The clients at Phoenix Starfish Place also report high rates of depression, anxiety, intrusive thoughts, dissociation and defensive avoidance.
- ▶
- ▶ All of the residents reported experiencing sex trafficking which is defined as being under the age of 18 and exchanging sex for something of value, or, over the age of 18, having a third-party use force, fraud, or coercion to exchange sex for something of value. The age of first sex trafficking experience ranged from age 12 to 26 years old with an average of 17.7 years old.
- ▶
- ▶ The clients at Phoenix Starfish Place have come from a number of different referral locations including family or domestic violence shelters, treatment programs, couch surfing, or living with family. All of the Phoenix Starfish Place residents reported unstable housing in their application. Three residents were living in crisis domestic violence shelters, four residents were living in programs where they received support and direct services. Four residents were referred from the victim services worker at the Phoenix Police Department Human Exploitation and Trafficking Unit. One resident was living in her vehicle when she applied to Phoenix Starfish Place.

Presenting Issues

When the residents move into Phoenix Starfish Place they are given a life history assessment and offered the array of clinical services. Many of the residents reported traumatic childhood and adult experiences and challenges with drug addiction and addressing their criminal justice system involvement.

Sixteen (80%) of the resident had used drugs in their past with the age of first use ranging from age 7 to 28 years old with an average of 15.4 years old.

Adult Presenting Experiences	#	%
Victim of Domestic Violence	21	100%
Criminal Justice Involvement	12	57.1%
Drug Addiction	8	42.1%

Childhood Experiences of PSP Residents

Childhood Experiences YES	#	%
Ran away before age 18	16	80%
Childhood Sexual Abuse	13	65%
Parent with Drug/Alcohol Problem	13	65%
Observed Domestic Violence	9	45%
Childhood Emotional Abuse	9	45%
Childhood Physical Abuse	7	46.7%
Special education	6	30%
Social Services Involved	6	30%
In Foster Care	4	20%

Additional Services

- ▶ Additional services to support the residents at Phoenix Starfish Place include assistance with childcare, GED courses and testing, community college tuition, license trainings, and books for coursework. All children at Phoenix Starfish over the age of four years old received an i-pad in October 2020 and over time, any adult resident enrolled in any training or schooling received a laptop computer. All apartments received WIFI services for 12 months in 2021 to support child and parent educational pursuits.
- ▶ In November 2020, the ASU Clinical team set up a non-perishable food pantry for residents. As of March 2022, residents have received 6,807 food items in 344 visits. In the fall and spring of each year the ASU and Community Bridges Inc team puts together events including Spring Festivals and Fall Celebrations.



City of Phoenix Housing Department

PHX HOUSING

Quality Affordable Housing and a Pathway to Self-Sufficiency