



The Power & Perpetuation of Supportive Community Development for People with Autism and/or Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (A/I/DD)

Denise Resnik

Founder/CEO First Place AZ

Maureen Casey

Chief Impact Officer, First Place AZ Global
Leadership Institute



Session Objectives

- Learn about First Place–Phoenix and the First Place Global Leadership Institute, leveraging the power of examples for system change
- Recognize the benefits of tri-sector leadership and collaboration, addressing pressing crises and perpetual challenges
- Understand data-informed proof points, informing supportive housing, connected community development and public payor crosswalks
- Appreciate scaffolding strategies for greater impact

firstplace[®]

FOLLOWING MY NORTH STAR...



ONE FIRST LEADS TO THE NEXT

Historical Snapshot 1997 – Present

1997

Established Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC).

1999

SARRC develops Strategic Housing Plan for Special Populations.

2009

SARRC, ASU, ULI publish groundbreaking Opening Doors Report: A Discussion of Residential Options for Adults Living with Autism and Related Disorders.

2012

First Place AZ is established as a separate charitable nonprofit focused on housing and community development.

2013

First Place develops brand and continues engaging individuals/families; secured AZ Dept. of Housing grant with the Foundation for Senior Living to develop 29 Palms affordable housing property.

2014

Land is secured and capital campaign launched for building First Place-Phoenix; opening of 29 Palms.

2015

Design/development commences; first Transition Academy class enrollment and 29 Palms opens for seniors and Transition Academy participants.

2016

First Place secures zoning with full neighborhood support and breaks ground; PBS NewsHour names Phoenix "the most autism-friendly city in the world."

2017

Construction is underway and leasing office opens; hosted inaugural semi-annual symposium.

2018

First Place-Phoenix opens; second AZ Dept. of Housing grant is secured for second FSL affordable housing property, Spectrum Courtyard Apartments.

2019

First Place-Phoenix reaches 72% occupancy and partners with TPI to facilitate job creation; Transition Academy graduates reside at affordable housing, multigenerational property 29 Palms.

2020

First Place navigates global pandemic, launches several new initiatives, advances operational systems; completes major research project with the Autism Housing Network, ASU Morrison Institute and National Leadership Advisory Board.

2021

Demonstrates resilience and strength in community and operations amid COVID-19; launches new health and wellness initiative; builds crosswalk with public insurance funding for Transition Academy through AHCCCS; participates in release of award-winning autism documentary featuring Phoenix.

2022

Launches several studies including translational impact research focused on individuals, the community and local economies, plus Greater Phoenix Market Analysis and a "supportive housing stipend."

2023

Launching 5 additional market studies, maturing properties and programs, removing roadblocks standing in the way of more options.



About First Place

Vision

Ensuring that housing and community options are as bountiful for adults with autism and other neurodiversities as they are for everyone else.

Mission

Create a supportive, sustainable community where adults with autism and other neurodiversities live and thrive with pride, purpose and endless possibilities.



Communities of Opportunity

"Community is not just a physical location, but an emotional connection, too. It's defined by those you care about and trust to care about you. It's where you can be yourself and experience life knowing there are always people in your corner."

– Denise D. Resnik, Matt's Mom and First Place® AZ Founder, President/CEO



Demonstrating What Works & For Whom



**Apartments
(Supportive Housing)**
For residents



**Transition Academy
(Clinically Based Program)**
For participants/students

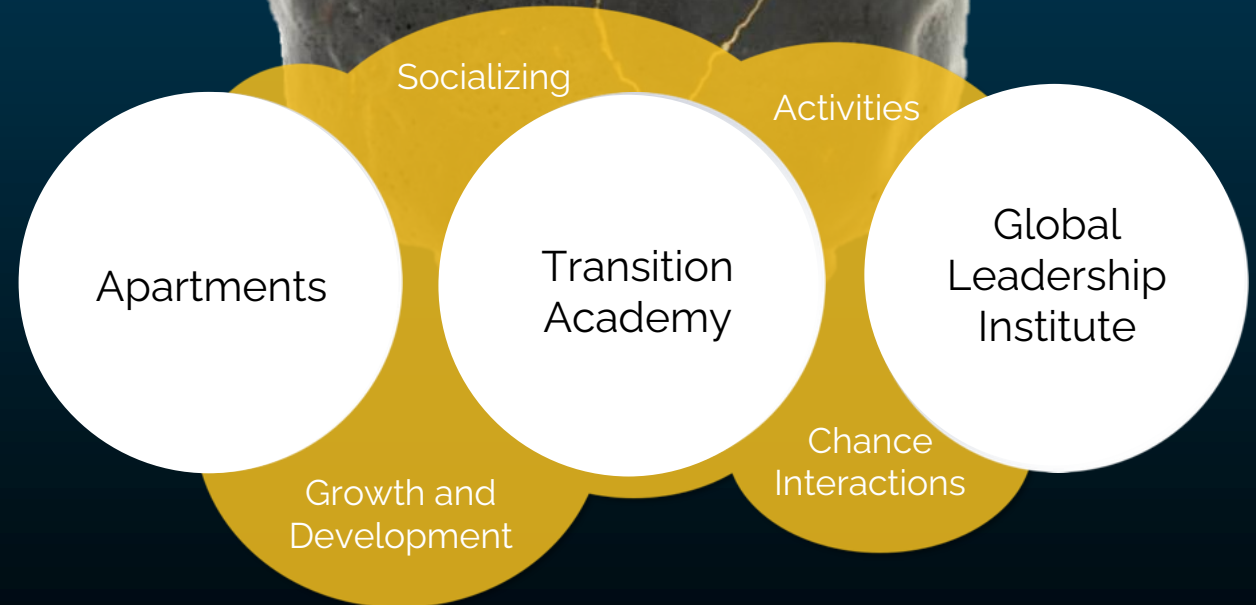
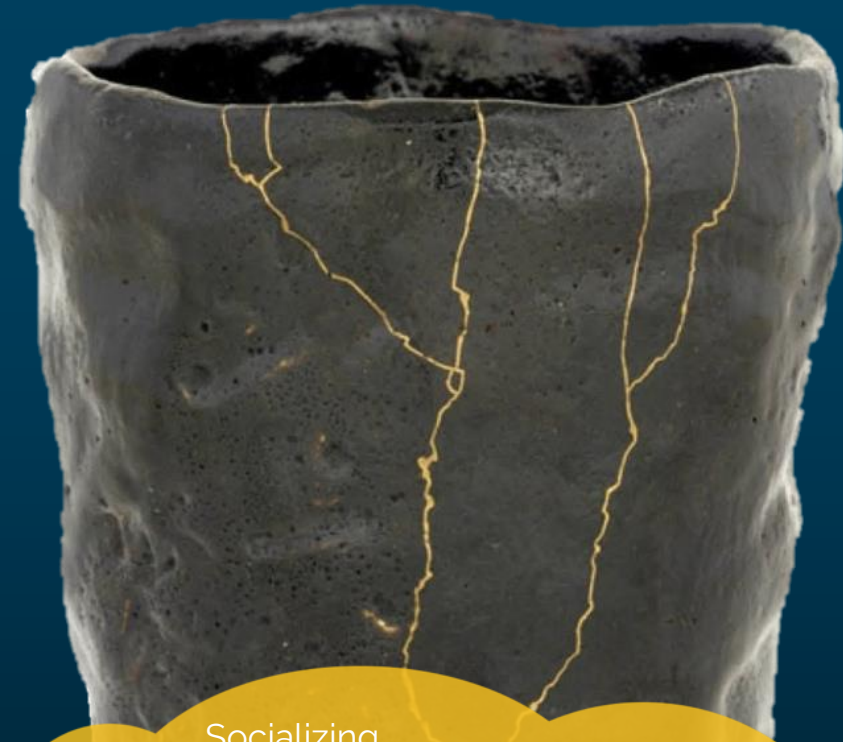


Global Leadership Institute
For support providers,
professionals, researchers & policy
leaders



Kintsugi

Japanese Art of Golden Repair





Demonstrating What Works & For Whom



Apartments
(Supportive Housing)
For residents





First Place–Phoenix

Phoenix, Arizona
firstplaceaz.org

For more information, see p. 124 of the Promising Practices section.

First Place–Phoenix Snapshot

First Place–Phoenix, the first property of developer First Place AZ, offers 55 private apartments, along with active living and life-skills training for neurodiverse residents in a consumer-controlled setting. This intentional community and mixed-use development is also home to the First Place Transition Academy (a two-year program that helps neurodiverse adults build crucial skills for independent living and career-readiness) and the First Place Leadership Institute (a multidisciplinary, hands-on training center for professionals, educators, support staff and medical personnel, as well as a site for research and advancements in public policy). Thoughtful building design includes sensory-friendly and accessible qualities, relaxation and recreation spaces, transit access and security features.

First Place–Phoenix is a supportive, inclusive community where residents can make friends, have fun, live independently—and have a place of their own to call home. The property provides various supportive amenities, including community life and health and fitness activities. In partnership with leading educational institutions, First Place doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships support scholars working in applied research, health, assessment and intervention, family support, service coordination, community development and integration, and public policy. Fellows enjoy the benefits of First Place as a living, learning laboratory and an enriching life experience.

Residents & Services

Target Market

- Adults with autism
- Neurodiverse adults

Resident Support Needs

- No support needs
- Drop-in support
- Low support
- Moderate support

Property Relationship to LTSS

- Consumer-controlled setting

LTSS Delivery Model

- Agency-based rotational staffing
- Residential transition program
- Self-directed support

Funding Options for LTSS

- Private pay
- Medicaid HCBS waiver



Photo: First Place® AZ, Good Eye Media



Residential Unit Type

Apartments
(55 Units)



Development Type

Mixed-use
development



Lifestyle

Intentional community
Active-living
community



Private vs. Shared Residence

Private Residence

Physical Amenities

- **Sensory-friendly design** (non-fluorescent lighting, natural light, non-toxic low VOC materials)
- **Accessible design** (ADA-compliant units)
- **Cognitive accessibility features** (color palettes and signage, including visual symbols and Braille for multiuse functions and way-finding)
- **Security features** (keycard access, concierge)
- **Smart home technology**
- **Relaxation space** (Zen room)
- **Common area space** (culinary teaching kitchen, multipurpose room)
- **Recreation space** (organic garden, swimming pool, patio, barbecue, fitness and game rooms, Lego and reading lounges)
- **Transit access**

Supportive Amenities

- **Life-skills training** (transportation navigation, meal planning and instruction, social integration)
- **Workplace & vocational support** (support developing career-readiness skills, such as arriving on time, packing a lunch, dressing appropriately)
- **Community life** (scheduled weekly activities focused on health, well-being, arts and culture, recreation and community connections)
- **Health & fitness activities** (meditation, yoga, Zumba, sports, pool activities)

Payment Model

- **Rental/Lease for housing**
- **Tuition-based program** for residential Transition Academy program

Apartment Supports

Team Approach



Employment



Community Life



Support



Health & Wellness

Skill Building



Grocery Shopping



Money Management



Personal Care



Transportation &
Navigation



Basic Culinary Skills



Household
Management

Person-Centered Future



Support Services



Future Stability



Employment



Housing



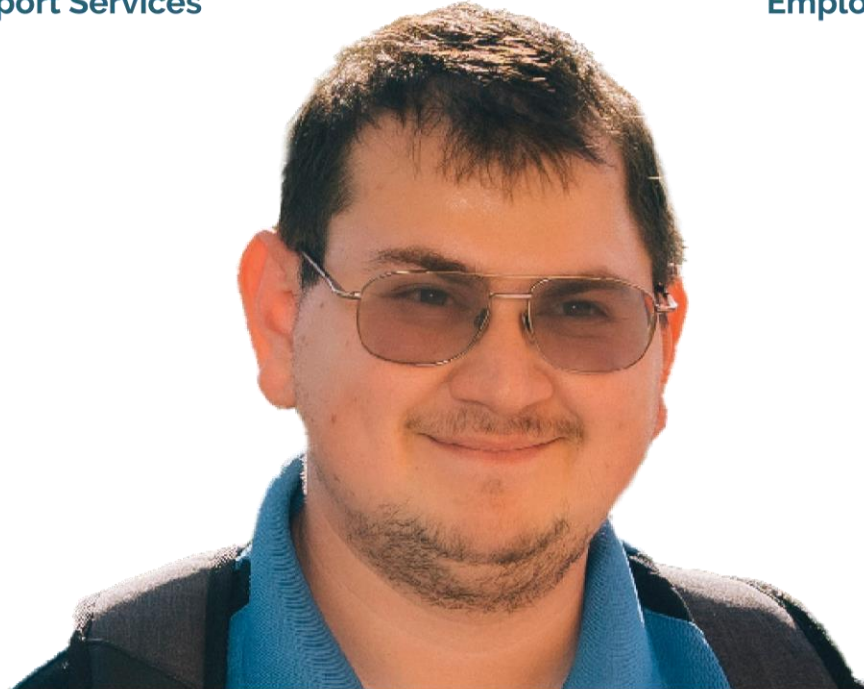
Volunteering



Meaningful Activities



Natural Supports





Demonstrating What Works & For Whom



Transition Academy (Clinically Based Program) For participants/students





A comprehensive, 32-course curriculum focusing on employment and life skills. Each semester-length course comprises 16–17 modules. Information learned from courses is implemented in daily life.



Work



Getting a job & navigating the workplace



Finances



Money basics & personal finance



Safety



At home & in the community



Relationships



Friendships & family relationships



Nutrition



Safety, meal planning & prep



Identity



Personal & community identity



Community



Roommates & community apartment living



Health



Physical & mental health



Solutions



Conflict, coping & personal management



Etiquette



Courtesy & manners



Transportation



Travel planning, budgeting & etiquette



Living On My Own



Creating a life of independence



Organization



Setting goals & organizing daily life



Southwest
Autism
Research &
Resource
Center

2021 Transition Academy Graduates

Path to Independence

94%

NAVIGATE

public and private
transportation.

90%

**HAVE SET
LIFE GOALS**

with a focus on
jobs/careers, health,
relationships and
home.

90%

TAKE CARE

of their health and
safety needs with little
or no assistance.

85%

**MANAGE
THE CARE**

of their home space
(cleaning, laundry,
maintenance, etc.).

83%

ARE ABLE

to make decisions about
preferences for daily living.

80%

**PLAN &
MANAGE**

their personal
expenses.

70%

**ARE
EMPLOYED**

upon graduation.



Demonstrating What Works & For Whom



Global Leadership Institute

For support providers,
professionals, researchers
& policy leaders





Maricopa County IDA Center
for Education, Training & Employment



Make Waves Center
for Community Development



Colonel Harland Sanders Center
for Applied Research



Mulzet Center for Expression



The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation
Center for Public Policy

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Maricopa County IDA Center
for Education, Training & Employment

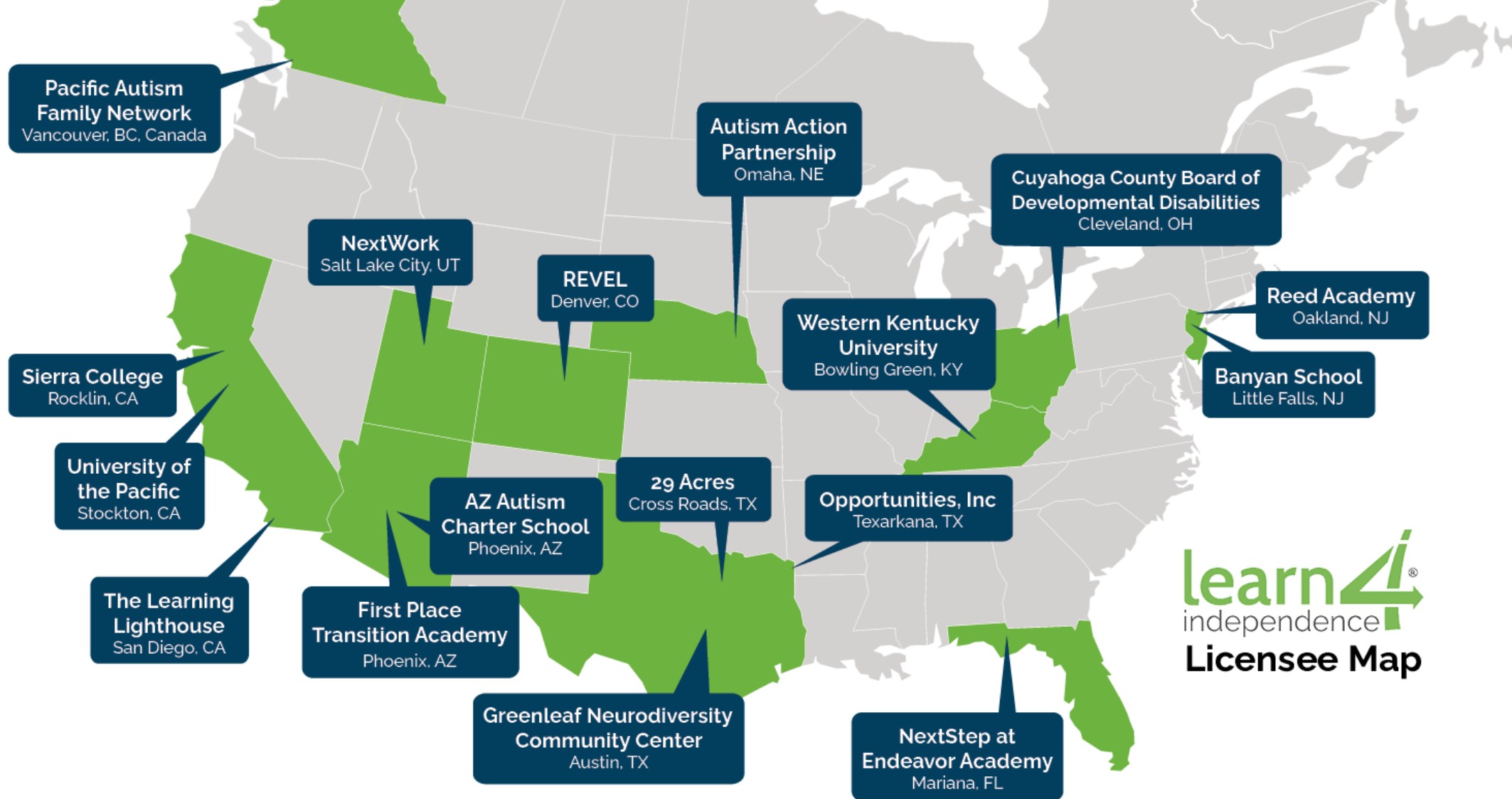
Innovation & adulting

Neither is easy and both require skill building and lots of practice!



Ensure fidelity & expand

Increasing opportunities for more adults and adolescents to access the Learn4Independence[®] curriculum in Arizona through collaborations with Gateway Community College and a Title I-funded high school.



learn4i
independence
Licensee Map





Maricopa County IDA Center
for Education, Training & Employment

Employment

Create new pathways to independence which includes jobs and purpose-filled days.



Deepening our reach

Developing a training curriculum for adults with A/I/DD as Peer and Recovery Support Specialists through the Place4Peers™ that addresses strategies to overcome recurrent social emotional challenges, including loneliness and isolation.







Maricopa County IDA Center
for Education, Training & Employment



Make Waves Center
for Community Development



Colonel Harland Sanders Center
for Applied Research



Mulzet Center for Expression



The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation
Center for Public Policy





Make Waves Center
for Community Development

Mature the marketplace

Build trusted relationships through annual symposia, published work and engagement of tri-sector leaders while advancing the narrative set forth in *A Place In the World*.



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Build on our foundation

Positioning First Place AZ as an economic expansion asset, engaged in catalyzing the development of homes, jobs, healthcare options, lifelong education and a supportive community across Greater Phoenix.

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Featured Properties





Housing market analyses

Identify needs and preferences of an "invisible" population while educating the broader community about the housing crisis and the housing industry of opportunities.

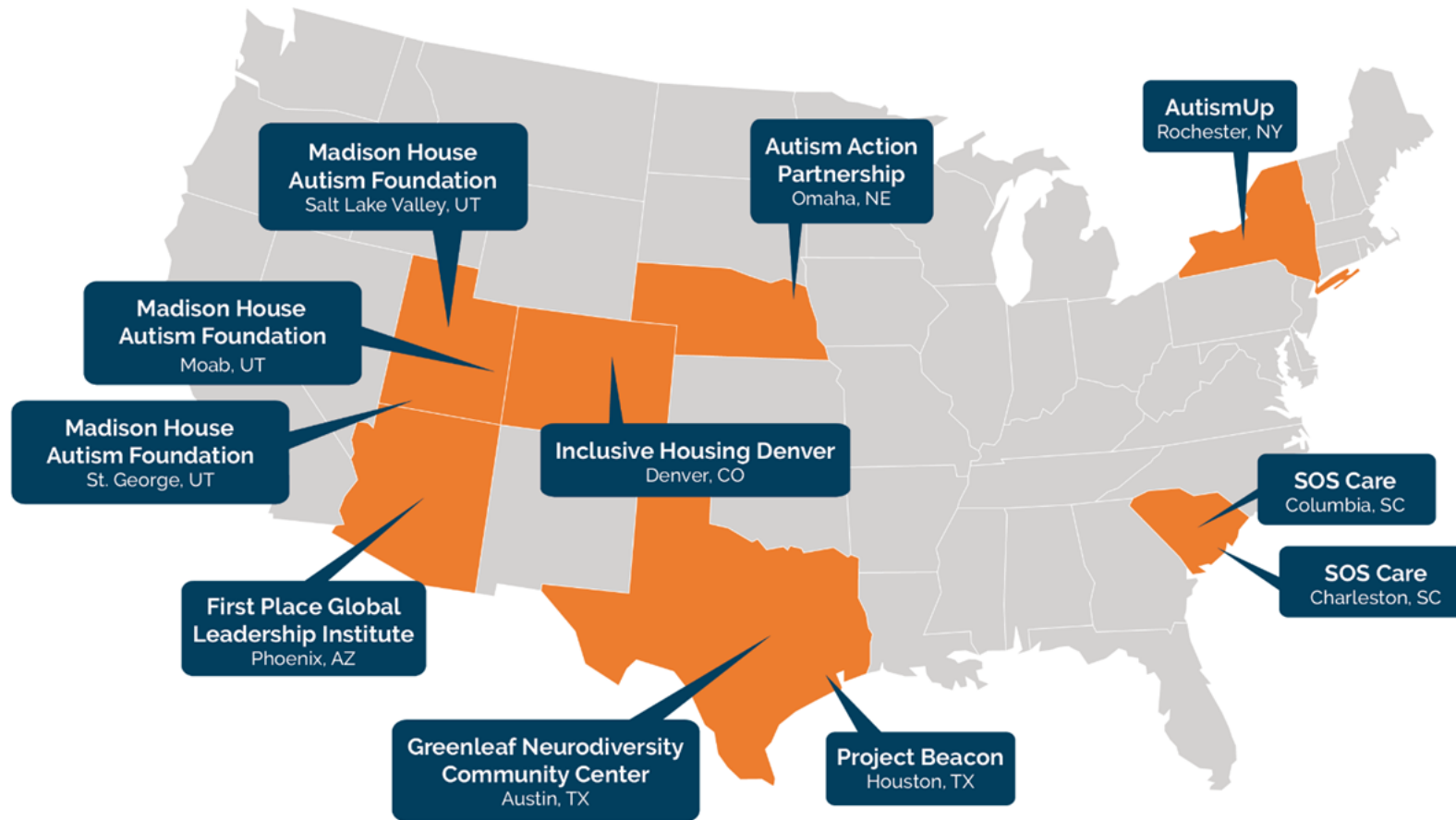


Broadening the data

2023: Salt Lake City, Charleston, Omaha, Austin

2024: Columbia, Frisco-Houston

- Data informing pilot projects and policy reform
- Additional locations scheduled for 2024

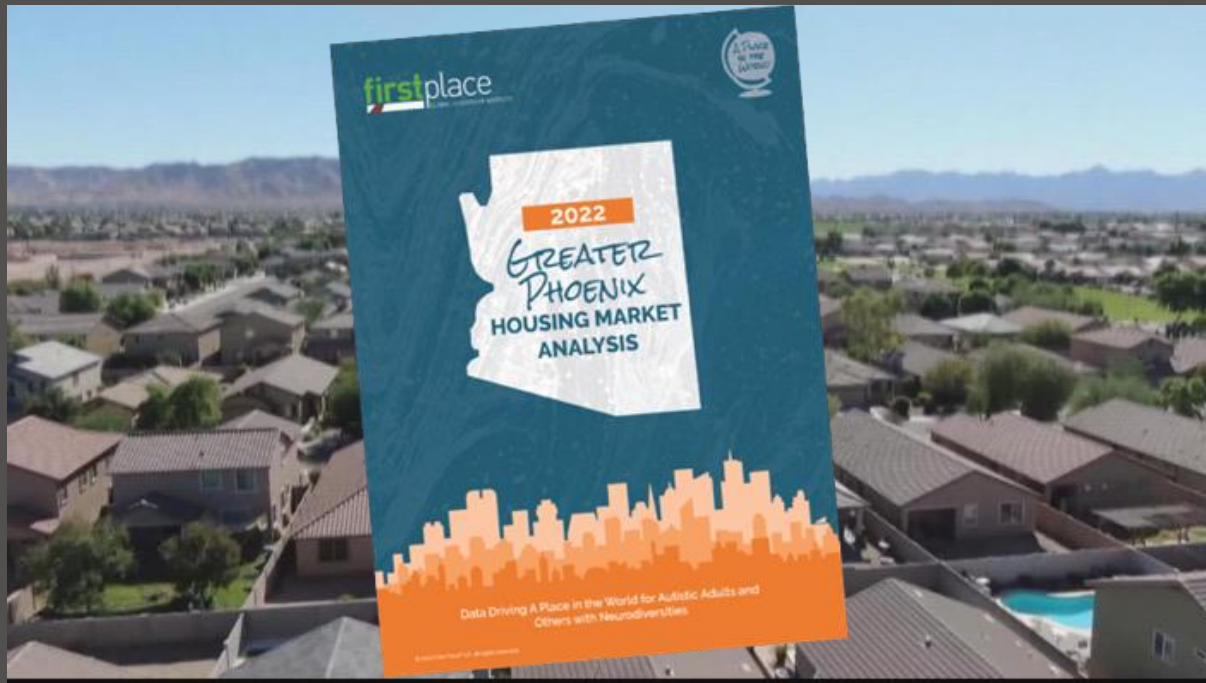




Make Waves Center for Community Development

(Co)Develop new models

Create 10 new properties by 2030 in communities across the U.S. Deploy strategies for benchmarking and raising the bar in select communities.



Expand our impact

Impacting Arizona policy and data gaps by leveraging findings and recommendations from the Greater Phoenix Housing Market Analysis and adding 100 housing units with supportive amenities for adults with A/I/DD by 2028.



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Make Waves Center
for Community Development



Colonel Harland Sanders Center
for Applied Research



Mulzet Center for Expression



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for Applied Research

Health starts at home

Research the challenges and opportunities to ensure high-quality, compassionate medical care is accessible to adults with A/I/DD.



Advancing statewide collaborations with health and medical institutions focused on education, training and practice, along with CommonSpirit and Creighton School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy & Health Professions, just three blocks away.



Colonel Harland Sanders Center
for Applied Research

Applied research

Pursue solutions through studies that demonstrate outcomes and the impact of creating community developments designed for adults with A/I/DD.



Expanding collaborations with several ASU colleges – including ASU Health, focused on education, housing and health – exploring technology applications and assessing outcomes on home and community models.





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Ideate

Turn powerful creative expression into a key that opens new doors for the Global Leadership Institute, including a future site for incubating solutions.



Amplify

Elevating local/regional/national awareness, positioning and value of First Place through our models, leadership and collaborative spirit.



Maricopa County IDA Center
for Education, Training & Employment



Make Waves Center
for Community Development



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Create systems change

Establish the Global Leadership Institute as a leading source for public policy initiatives in housing, healthcare funding, legal rights and employment for adults with A/I/DD.



Health & wellness

Proposing improvements to increase access to high-quality, compassionate medical care for adults with A/I/DD.

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Health Starts at Home

firstplaceaz.org

Health Starts at Home



Teaching Kitchen



Exercise



Yoga & Meditation



Community Life Activities



What's Needed

A healthcare equity model and better treatment approach where no one goes untreated or is medically misunderstood because of autism and other neurodiversities in Arizona...and beyond.

A background image showing two healthcare workers, likely nurses, wearing face masks and scrubs. They are looking down, possibly at a patient or a piece of equipment. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Virginia G. Piper Health Spot

A unique clinic demonstrating a healthcare equity model
where health begins at home.

Health Spot

Access

Four hours of protected physician time weekly, where established patients can make an appointment or just stop by.

Education

Patients and medical students benefit from education.

Learning

The business of healthcare presents challenges for everyone involved.





MED 459

Minding the Gap

Creighton
UNIVERSITY

Clinical

observing, interviewing,
charting a treatment plan

Community-Based

observing & experiencing
school/intervention programs

Medical Elective Adults with Autism

Partnering

learning from people directly
affected through shared
activities

Reflection

using current/past research &
elective experiences to reflect,
chart future course

Collaborators





360

health &
wellness

Curriculum



Staying Healthy
for Individuals with
Autism and Related
Disorders



Staying Healthy
for Individuals with
Autism and Related
Disorders



*Supporting
Independence*
for Families and
Support Providers



Staying Healthy
for Individuals with
Autism and Related
Disorders



*Supporting
Independence*
for Families and
Support Providers



Implementing Care
for Physicians and
Other Healthcare
Providers

Statewide Listening Sessions



What does high-quality healthcare for people with A/I/DD look like?



Identification

of adults with high support needs—screening, diagnosis & treatment



Prevention

Annual exams, care planning, individual & parent education



Emergency/Crisis

System navigation & care coordination



Stabilization

of services, support, employment, community, housing

Three Participating Groups



Adults with autism and/or intellectual/developmental disabilities (A/I/DD), their families and advocates



Healthcare and home- and community-based service providers



Systems professionals: DDD, managed care organizations, administrators

Session Locations

Flagstaff



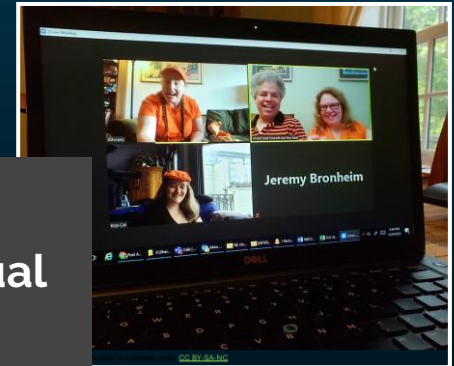
Tucson



Phoenix



Virtual



first place PHOENIX

BRIDGING THE HEALTHCARE GAP



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



TRANSITION ACADEMY



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

PERSON-CENTERED FUTURE



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the narbha institute

NINA & PHIL FRANCIS FAM. FOUNDATION

MAIN FOCUS AREAS

no duplicate tests/meds
NATIONAL EHR DATABASE

no need to repeat oneself

use preferred comm. style
dr's talking to members
EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

update charts with special instructions for patient's comfort
accessible environments

certification
PROVIDER EDUCATION + TRAINING

direct inter-action during trainings

POLICY

• Mandatory Cert./training
• Elec. Health Rec.
• Insurance Cov. chgs
• Soc. Sec. + income

FUNDING

• Grants
• Gov't help
• Easier access for family services

9/27/2023

in the future...

THE PERFECT SYSTEM FOR HIGH-QUALITY HEALTH CARE

LESS STRESSFUL WAITING ROOM EXPERIENCES

BETTER POLICIES

EASIER ACCESS TO BENEFITS THRU D.D.

HAVE AN EASIER TIME GETTING CARE

"I want to feel more a part of society."

"You don't look like you have a disability."

← THIS NEEDS MORE DISCUSSION

EASIER ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE THAT EXTENDS PAST 25yo

THE WORD DISABILITY ISN'T STIGMATIZED

There's a lot of info on TikTok BUT BE CAREFUL STS NOT ALL GOOD

PROVIDER AWARENESS OF SENSITIVITY TRIGGERS

INFO NEEDS:
• Peer-to-Peer Forums
• Dr. to Patient Generational Connect.
• more info in charts
• use AI to tailor H.C.

EDUCATION
• Certifications
• university training
• mandatory training

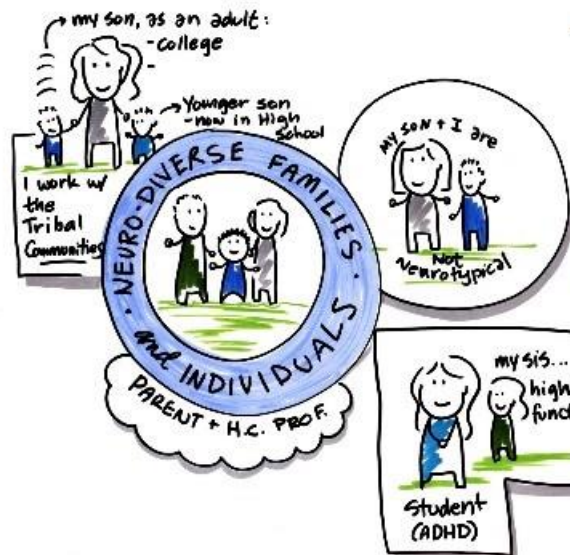
CONNECTIONS

• Universal database for records
• easy-to-search medical charts
• More ppl in the industry w/ cognitive differences

"I'm tired of repeating myself"

SERVICES

• Follow-through after diagnosis
• P.C.s have a social worker
• Health educator on staff / interpreters
• EMT/trauma training



SIGNS OF A TRULY EXCELLENT SYSTEM OF CARE

PROACTIVE (NOT REACTIVE)


ROBUST EDUCATION FOR PROVIDERS

SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD

Bridging the Healthcare GAP

1. 
Bust Silos with access to flexible funding to spend on healthcare services when needed.

2. 
Training for staff and family caregivers including insurance and healthcare providers.


Access to consistent on-ramps as A/I/DD individuals age.


Since you're not failing, you don't need help anymore
ELOPING

In-place services ready when I am
healthcare for those who can't advocate for themselves


There is a financial barrier
laundry pop
cleaning services

FUNDING

- Provider training and education
- Provider support to get training
- Living wage for direct support providers
- Funding for more places for higher needs
- Housing and community innovations
- Support for the entire family


EASY ACCESS TO SERVICES

TIMELY TRANSPORTATION
WAYMO

LIVING INDEPENDENTLY
School and Real Life

ONRAMP TO SERVICES

family advocacy group
primary physician


911
211
AGGREGATOR...
Closedloop Referral System
(CONTEXTURE AND AHCCOS)
CommunityCare

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO GET US THERE? a safe space to be myself
health and fitness programs
places to be silly and have fun.

FACILITATE COMMUNICATION:
Be with people who get us
what if I have more to say?

PARENTS FOR PARENTS-



ACCESS TO flexible FUNDING

calm moments
ENERGETIC MOMENTS

STANDARDIZED CONSENT FOR ADVOCACY

HAVE ALL SERVICE PERSONS IN ONE PLACE


IN PATIENT RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES
SCHOOLS

PEER TO PEER SUPPORT



NEEDS
PROVIDE DATA
off-label use of services

free UNIVERSAL PORTAL
POLICIES
access and ownership by patients

PULL BACK VIEW

case management restrictions

A.I. for solution models
- smart homes


APP TO HELP ALONG THE JOURNEY

Gap between DIAGNOSIS and ELIGIBILITY

Strategies for Competency
EDUCATIONAL needs

PATHWAYS TO NEEDS
Base foundation for understanding Autism and P.D. across the life span

Devices and Interpreters

exposure & interaction
FOCUS ON INCLUSION



LESS HOOPS

Why does stuff need to be in place to get stuff done?

first place

PHOENIX · 2-13-2024



Integrated Care



Allow for Choice and Relationship-based Therapy



FUNDING
Education
Loan Forgiveness
Incentives

BRIDGING THE HEALTHCARE GAP

LISTENING SESSION

A PERFECT SYSTEM
LIST TO ASK DR.S
ACCESS

Healthcare Advocate

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

less expensive

UNIVERSAL FORM

GAINS GAPS
ACCESSIBLE TO ALL WITH DEAF/BLIND S. OFFERS TELEHEALTH

I would love if doctors were familiar with my issues and knew how to navigate the system for me.

Doctor meet residents

HOW TO GET THERE

Low Cost

empathy

providers who truly understand

EDUCATION in and out of

LEGISLATION Access enforce policy

CHARACTERISTICS



MEDICAL SCHOOLS EQUIP TO PROVIDE THE BEST CARE TO A/I/DD INDIVIDUALS

ECOSYSTEM
community of care



A CONNECTOR TO SERVICES

An Integrated System to overcome Billing Barriers

NEEDED INFORMATION

Be mindful of what data and info is used to create legislation.

We don't want to be dismissed

EDUCATIONAL NEEDS



Align Messaging

EDUCATE POLICY MAKERS
INSURANCE PROVIDERS
ADVOCATES · GRP.HM.STAFF

CONNECTIONS
INSURANCE PROVIDERS
HEALTH PLANS
MEDICAL STAFF
POLICY MAKERS
SPECIALISTS
EXPERTS
VALLEY WISE
DMG

ECOSYSTEM

SERVICE NEEDS

Imagine your best life and we'll help you achieve it.

More providers who service Adults

heavy ABA therapy
NEED ALTERNATIVES

POLICY NEEDS

Clear billing + licensure issues

GUARDRAILS for Policy Creation

Train and then forgive loans
MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS TO UNDERSTAND A/I/DD

SYSTEM PROFESSIONALS AND CLINICIANS

INTEGRATE ALL SYSTEMS

Technology
Social Det. of Health
Transportation
Care Coordination

Path to Independence
Streamline Process
(DOCS AND INFORMATION)

16-25 YEARS

Warm Handoff

Advocates for needs

More grace for those requesting care

FUNDING

Value-based Purchasing

x people to treat
+ x improvement
BONUS FOR PROVIDER
Bonus for Positive Outcomes

This is Anti-Doctor and Anti-Patient

DRAWN BY
26-LETTERS.com
#26lettersAZ

BCBS Community of Practice

- Continuing Medical Education:
Series of courses to support
provision of care to ASD adults
- Case Management for transition-
aged youth with an ASD

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**Nita & Phil
Francis Family
Foundation**

Jonathan and Elisa Pinkus Charitable Fund



We the spectrum.

*In order to form a more perfect union,
adults with autism and intellectual
and/or developmental disabilities
(A/I/DD), along with their families,
are registering to vote so their voices
are heard.*

**Join the movement at
votethespectrum.org.**

A composite image featuring four individuals of diverse backgrounds and ages. From left to right: a woman with blonde hair, an older man with glasses, a woman with dark hair, and a man with a mustache and sunglasses. They are all holding signs that read 'vote the spectrum.org'. A large purple banner with the text 'Perfect Union' is centered over the image.

Perfect Union

Dimensions

Join us in Phoenix for the 13th First Place Global Symposium!

October 16–18, 2024

Be among fellow trailblazers and courageous leaders for three grounding, informative and fortifying days as we work together to fuel a new marketplace of housing, healthcare and community options for adults with autism and/or neurodevelopmental disabilities.



Register to Attend

In Person (\$1,950)

Online (\$449)

