



# VALLEYLIFE

Annual Report | FY 2022

# Greetings friends,

VALLEYLIFE will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2022. The journey has been a long one.

It started with a dream of Bernice Kussell in 1947. She imagined a better life for children with developmental disabilities.

Having outgrown her home in 1949, Mrs. Kussell founded Valley of the Sun School, which later became Valley of the Sun School and Habilitation Center. The organization was rebranded as VALLEYLIFE in 2009.

Now, 75 years later, her legacy continues despite the challenges created by a worldwide pandemic that has entered a second year.

This is a very difficult time for our nation, state, and nonprofits. Living with COVID-19 constraints have become our new way of life. In spite of these challenges, VALLEYLIFE continues to provide quality services to our Members.

We hope this report is enlightening. On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, Members and their families, we would like to thank you for your continued support.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve McKamey'.

Steve McKamey  
Chair, Board of Directors



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cletus A. Thiebeau'.

Cletus A. Thiebeau  
President/CEO

# Fast Facts



**595**

Members  
Served



**\$220,780**

Grants and  
Donations Received  
*(Federal COVID funds not included)*



**114**

Community Job  
Placements

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*This report provides information for a 12-month period from  
October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.*

## Stay Connected!



We welcome your feedback! Please submit comments, questions, or suggestions to Margaret Stephens-Reed, Director of Donor Relations, at (602) 331-2414 or via email at [mreed@valleylifeaz.org](mailto:mreed@valleylifeaz.org)



# Our Mission:

*To enhance the quality  
of life of people with  
disabilities.*



VALLEYLIFE

Changing Lives. Creating Community.

# Our Values

## Respect

Provide a healthy environment and treat each other with respect and dignity.

## Integrity

Use integrity as the cornerstone of our business practices.

## Honesty

Build and maintain an honest relationship with each of our stakeholders.

## Responsibility

Recognize that good stewardship is essential for our future success and a responsibility to our Members and funding sources.

## Innovation

Acknowledge and respond to change as an opportunity to innovate and learn.

## Impact

Contribute positively to our community and environment.

## Diversity

Embrace diversity as an essential component in the way we do business.

# Board of Directors

**Steve McKamey**, Chair

**Heather Winters Bull**, Vice Chair

**Peter C. Connolly**, Treasurer (Thru 5/22)

**Amy Coblentz**, Secretary

**Katy White**, Director

**Clifford L. Mattice**, Director

**James Wuensche**, Director/Treasurer (6/22)

**Cletus Thiebeau**, President/CEO

**Donna Cordova**, CFO

# Leadership Team

**Cletus Thiebeau**  
President & CEO

**Donna Cordova**  
CFO

**Kimberly Salyers**  
CAO

**Margaret Stephens-Reed**  
Director of  
Donor Relations

**Jennifer Baier**  
Director of Vocational and  
Employment Services

**Mary Brannoch**  
Senior Program Manager  
Day Services

**Jim Anderson**  
Senior Program Manager  
Residential Services

**Pam Schneider**  
Assistant Director of  
Quality Assurance  
Residential Services

## Financial Information

Administration and fundraising, which provide vital support to each program area, account for 11% of VALLEYLIFE's expenses.

This means 89 cents of every dollar goes directly to the programs serving VALLEYLIFE Members.

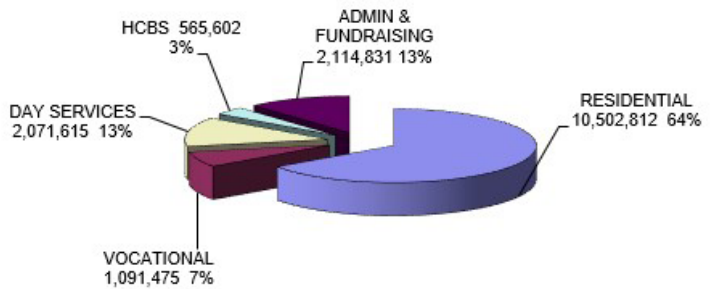
With an operating budget of more than \$15.8 million, VALLEYLIFE continues to have lower overhead costs than most similar agencies in Arizona. VALLEYLIFE strives to maximize the Member benefits of each and every donation.

### Revenue Sources

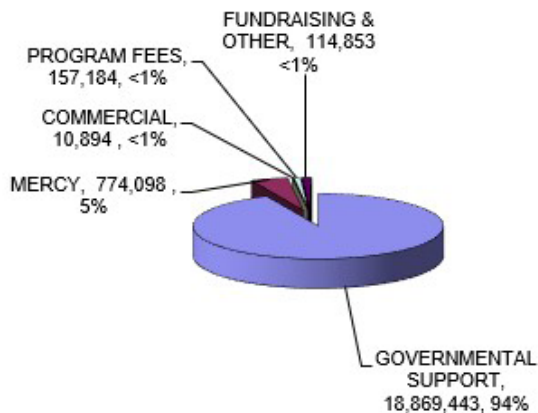
The majority of VALLEYLIFE's revenue (94%) comes from state and federal funding sources.

Mercy Care accounts for 5% of our annual revenues. Program fees, commercial contracts and fundraising comprise other sources of revenue.

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES 2022



REVENUE SOURCES 2022



# Residential Services

VALLEYLIFE group homes provide a safe and healthy home environment for our Members.

These homes function like traditional family homes, with three to six adult residents who, along with staff, prepare and enjoy meals together, go on outings, attend events, host engagements and support each other. Our caring and dedicated staff assists residents with all activities of daily living, such as transporting them to medical appointments and other vital services, habilitation, community involvement, training and achieving personal goals.

VALLEYLIFE operates 27 licensed group homes located in communities throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area. In Fiscal Year 2021, we served 97 Members.

Our homes offer varying levels of independence and skill levels from intensive, highly structured programs to programs promoting increased independence. VALLEYLIFE housing is licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) and is monitored by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

Our homes are staffed 24/7 with professional, highly trained employees who support the organization's ongoing effort to encourage independence, improve social interactions and monitor complex medical needs.

# Day Services

VALLEYLIFE offers multiple Day Services locations with 11 adult day programs based on varying independence and skill levels. Members are assigned to program sites based on physical, sensory, cognitive impairment and intellectual challenges, mental illness and/or various types of chronic disease. The program will be chosen based on what best meets the needs and interests of the Member.

Day programs are designed to improve independent living, social and recreational skills. They encourage intellectual and social growth as well as increased opportunities for community involvement. The core areas of the program include independent living and continuing education, communication and socialization, recreation and leisure, and community integration.

Typical volunteer activities by Day Services Members at the Sun Valley Animal Shelter, Red Cross, Desert Mission Food Bank, and Salvation Army were postponed due to the pandemic.

VALLEYLIFE Members participate in Zumba classes, Dance Troupe, nutrition, music and art classes virtually as a result of the pandemic. In addition, physical therapy and speech classes are held.



# Home and Community Based Services

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) provide valuable support to children and adults with disabilities in the convenience, safety, and comfort of their own home. Services give much needed relief for the primary caregivers and are essential in ensuring that Members are able to remain in the home setting in lieu of being moved to a long-term care facility.

Employees delivering care receive extensive classroom instruction and hands-on training in a living situation, in addition to Member specific training prior to placement in the family home. The customized services are determined by the Member's needs and include habilitation, attendant care, and respite care.

## Vocational Services

Vocational Services works to maximize independence and job opportunities for individuals with disabilities. This program supports those who are seeking employment. Services include job search and placement, short and long-term job coaching and support, work adjustment/paid work training, ongoing job readiness training, resume building, interviewing skills, and benefits counseling.

VALLEYLIFE offers Members the support and training needed to gain employment in the community and the ongoing support to ensure continued successful employment. We are committed to assisting individuals with disabilities in our community by providing comprehensive, on-the-job support services to employees and employers. This creates a successful and productive employment relationship.

In Fiscal Year 2021, our Job Development and Placement program served 314 Members. Of those served, 141 were placed into community employment. The average starting wage was \$14.01 per hour. Our paid work training programs provided supported work opportunities for over 50 Members in community-based settings. Individuals in paid work training have an opportunity to acquire soft and hard work skills in a supported setting while also receiving structured job readiness training to promote progressive moves toward integrated employment in the community.

VALLEYLIFE continued its partnership with Quality Connections where Members deliver office supplies in the Phoenix metro area. VALLEYLIFE remains committed to partnering with community employers to provide real-world work experiences for our Members through mutually beneficial partnership relationships.

VALLEYLIFE continued as an Employment Network through Social Security's Ticket to Work program, providing job development and placement services to individuals on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) who want to return to work and eliminate their Social Security benefits.





*With your support we were able to:*

- *Provide Speech Therapy, Nutrition Courses and Glee Club activities.*
- *Provide necessary dental services above Members' dental insurance coverage.*

# Thank you for your support!

## Businesses and Foundations

*Aetna Foundation*

*A & M Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc.*

*A & M Futures*

*AmeriCapital*

*AmeriFirst Financial, Inc.*

*Association for Entrepreneurship*

*ATOS Employee Community Fund*

*August Building Company*

*Best Funeral Services*

*Body Beautiful Spa*

*Boeing Employee Community Fund*

*Brown & Brown Insurance*

*Cardinals Charities*

*Caterpillar Foundation*

*City of Glendale CDBG*

*City of Phoenix CDBG*

*CKKO Foundation*

*Clipped Wings*

*Digital Business Systems*

*Eide Bailly*

*Forefront Development*

*John F. Long Foundation*

*Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation*

*Matson Foundation*

*Miles C. Hauter Foundation*

*Dr. & Mrs. Michael Lawson*

*Maricopa County Assistance Program*

*Mutual of America*

*North Phoenix Kiwanis*

*OneAZ Credit Union*

*Season for Sharing*

*Sonora Quest*

*Stumpy's Pizza & Subs*

*Teamster Retirees*

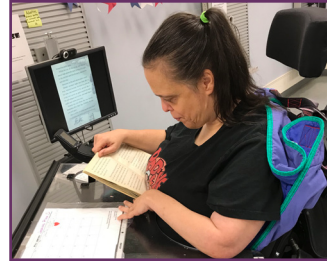
*Thunderbirds Charities*

*Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust*

*Walmart Foundation*

*Williams Express*

*Zelenda Foundation*



While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our database, occasionally a name may be misspelled in our system, or regrettably, a donor may have been overlooked. Each and every donation to VALLEYLIFE is so important. If your name should be included in this list and is not, we sincerely apologize for the omission. Corrections to entries can be submitted to Margaret Stephens-Reed, Director of Donor Relations, via email to [mreed@valleylifeaz.org](mailto:mreed@valleylifeaz.org), or by phone at (602) 331-2414.



# Thank you for your support!

## Individuals \$100 or more

### *Anonymous*

*Mr. George Applebaum*

*Mr. Bill Barber*

*Ms. Linda Barnett*

*Ms. Donna Bates*

*Ms. Cynthia Bennett*

*Mr. and Mrs. Steve W. Bisel*

*Ms. Brenda Baxter*

*Ms. Lynn Booth*

*Ms. Heather Winters Bull*

*Ms. Elaine Cherney*

*Mr. & Mrs. David Coblentz*

*Ms. Donna Cordova*

*Ms. Brenda Compton*

*Mr. Peter Connolly &  
Dr. Suzanne Connolly*

*Ms. Mary Contreras*

*Ms. Bridget Costello*

*Mr. John Daley*

*Ms. Debbie Davis*

*Ms. Ima J. Day*

*Ms. Irma DeTour*

*Mrs. Marjorie Dougherty*

*Ms. Ruby Farias*

*Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fickes*

*Ms. B. Charlene Fisher*

*Mr. and Mrs. James Ford*

*Ms. Marquita Porter & Mr. Elliot  
Freireich*

*Mr. Robert Graham*

*Mrs. Eva Gregg*

*Ms. Dianne Guidry*

*Mr. and Mrs. Albert Halle*

*Mr. David Hanner*

*Ms. Mary Hannon*

*Mr. Ronald H. Harten*

*Ms. Karla Hartline*

*Mrs. Roberta Jackson*

*Ms. Carol James*

*Ms. Andrea Jefferson*

*Dr. & Mrs. Robert Johnson*

*Ms. Mary Hannon*

*Mr. Ronald (Ron) H. Harten*

*Mrs. Mary Hoban*

*Mr. & Mrs. Tim Holland*

*Mr. Ken Holec*

*Mrs. Roberta Jackson*

*Ms. Diane Jezek-Powell*

*Dr. & Mrs. Bob Johnson*

*Ms. Pauline Johnson*

*Mrs. Julie Jones*

*Ms. Lisa Jones*

*Mr. Michael Kelly*

*Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Kidney*

*Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Kinnard*

*Dr. Carolyn Kinney*

*Mr. & Mrs. Janusz L Komorowski*

*Mr. & Mrs. John Krell*

*Ms. Marlena Krueger*

*Mr. Joseph Langlois*

*Ms. Pinky Kubiak*

*Mr. & Mrs. David Laupp*

*Mr. Scott Leon*

*Ms. Donna Lindly*

*Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Lomax*

*Ms. Nicole Macko-Ranallo*



# Thank you for your support!

*Ms. Maria Marsh*

*Ms. Pauline Marshall*

*Mr. Charles Martinet*

*Mr. & Mrs. Phil Mastores*

*Mr. Steve McKamey*

*Ms. Patsy Miller*

*Ms. Linda Miller-Szyjko*

*Mr. & Mrs. D.E. Moosa*

*Mr. & Mrs. William T. Moroney*

*Mr. Todd Morrow*

*Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Mullany*

*Mr. & Mrs. John D. Neilson*

*Mr. Les Nesmith, CPA*

*Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Noll*

*Ms. Deb Oberhamer*

*Ms. Anna O'Hara*

*Mrs. Juanice Oldham*

*Mr. Jones Osborn*

*Ms. Patricia Pavlosky*

*Ms. Betty Pecha*

*Ms. Ann Polunsky*

*Mr. & Mrs. William Poorten*

*Ms. Marquita Porter*

*Mr. John W. Prenzno*

*Ms. Carol Promberger*

*Mrs. Cindy Quenneville*

*Ms. Ted Rarrick*

*Mr. Michael Ringer*

*Mr. Dennis Robertson*

*Ms. Marilee Robertson*

*Mr. Robert A. Decker*

*Ms. N. W. Rollo*

*Mr. & Mrs. David Rosen*

*Cliff H. Running, D.D.S.*

*Ms. Cheryl Scheidell*

*Mr. Al Schillinger*

*Mr. James Schnur*

*Dr. & Mrs. Paul Schnur*

*Ms. Erica Schwartz*

*Ms. Michelle Schwimmer*

*Ms. Stephanie Shink*

*Ms. Rowena Simberg*

*Mr. & Mrs. Roger L. Smalley*

*Ms. Carol Smith*

*Ms. Sandra Stanley*

*Ms. Claire Steigerwald*

*Mr. & Mrs. Norman Steinberg*

*Ms. Nancy Stephens*

*Mrs. Margaret S. Stephens-Reed*

*Mr. Phillip Reed*

*Mr. & Mrs. Cleon Streitmatter*

*Mr. & Mrs. Timothy W. Sullivan*

*Ms. Sandra Tarr*

*Mr. & Mrs. Richard Teeters*

*Mr. & Mrs. Cletus A. Thiebeau*

*Mr. Matthew Todd*

*Ms. LeAnne Torzala*

*Mr. Donald Watkins*

*Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. White*

*Ms. Katy White*

*Ms. Susan I. White*

*Mr. Dean Wieber*

*Mr. Edward H. Williams*

*Ms. Michelle Wright*

*Ms. Susan Wright*

*Mr. James N. Wuensche*

*Mr. Steve Young*

*Mrs. Carrie Zoladz*



# VALLEYLIFE Foundation

VALLEYLIFE Foundation is the sole recipient of funds generated by VALLEYLIFE events and undesignated donations.

Funding from VALLEYLIFE Foundation is used to provide unfunded needs for VALLEYLIFE Members.

While these unfunded needs may not be essential for life, they are essential for ensuring the enhanced quality of life our VALLEYLIFE Members deserve.

The VALLEYLIFE Foundation Board works closely with the specific VALLEYLIFE programs to understand the unique and individual needs of the Members. These needs are funded on an annual basis.

Foundation Board Members participate directly in the process to ensure they have a thorough understanding of Member needs and to develop clear goals and policies to meet those needs.

The VALLEYLIFE Foundation's purpose is to ensure there are funds available for the long term needs of VALLEYLIFE Members.

Members are primarily funded by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), but these funds have very specific parameters.

Some costs to VALLEYLIFE do not fall into these parameters, but are necessary for the care and well-being of our Members.

## Unfunded Needs

At VALLEYLIFE, unfunded needs vary depending on the programs and locations. Funds from grants and community donations are used to supplement these expenses.

The Vocational Program used grant funds to support Members in their job search and continued successful employment.

Some items that are not covered but are essential for successful job hunting and performance are hygiene supplies, clothing for interviews, and bus passes.

Grant funds are used by the Day Services Program to offer classes that may not otherwise be available to our Members, such as music or Glee Club.

The Residential Program utilized donations from the community for daily living supplies. Some of these items may need to be replaced more often than the funding sources allow to ensure the comfort and safety of our Members in their homes. Some of these items include kitchen supplies, and furniture.

# Give Your Time

Volunteers are a big part of VALLEYLIFE. Volunteer projects include beautification projects, reading, helping at special events, and working on special office projects. Sharing your time, talents, and resources enables us to further our goals, and our Members and staff really love visitors! If you are interested in corporate volunteer projects, we are happy to have your group

out to help us! We are able to accommodate small to medium sized groups in a variety of locations.

To inquire about volunteering please call Ann Polunsky, Volunteer Coordinator, at (602) 216-6385, or via email at [apolunsky@valleylifeaz.org](mailto:apolunsky@valleylifeaz.org).

# Make a Donation

## Monetary Donations to VALLEYLIFE Foundation

The VALLEYLIFE Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that was formed in 1992 to “solely expand, improve and maintain VALLEYLIFE.” The Foundation was started with modest donations from individuals with the purpose of providing long-term financial stability for VALLEYLIFE.

## Monetary Donations to VALLEYLIFE

VALLEYLIFE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that qualifies for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit as a charitable organization supporting those in need. Donations can be made for up to \$400 for an individual, or up to \$800 for a couple filing a joint return. If you would like your donation to qualify for the Credit for Donations Made to a Qualifying Charity tax credit, please be sure to note “Charitable Tax Credit” on your payment. Your tax credit donation can provide you with a dollar-for-dollar credit toward your Arizona state tax bill!

You can also donate to a specific program or function of VALLEYLIFE. If you would like your donation used for a specific purpose, you can donate directly to VALLEYLIFE. Be sure to designate where you would like your donation to be applied.

## Tribute, Memorial and Legacy Gifts

Send a tribute gift for a special birthday, holiday or congratulations. Make a gift of \$10 or more to VALLEYLIFE Foundation

or VALLEYLIFE in the honor of someone special and VALLEYLIFE will send a beautiful personalized card to the recipient on your behalf.

A memorial gift to VALLEYLIFE Foundation or VALLEYLIFE allows you to express your sympathy and condolences in a unique way. Your gift will ensure that a Member of our community will receive the support and care needed. With your donation of \$10 or more, we’ll mail the recipient a personalized greeting card, acknowledging your thoughtful gift in memory of their loved one.

You may also elect to create a legacy by making a bequest to VALLEYLIFE Foundation or VALLEYLIFE in your will. Legacy gifts may include a bequest, charitable lead trust, charitable gift annuity, life insurance policy, retirement plan assets, or a gift of property with a retained life estate.

## How to Make Your Donation

VALLEYLIFE Foundation and VALLEYLIFE accept cash, checks, all major credit cards, and stock and bond gifts. Monetary donations can be made in person, over the phone at (602) 371-0806, or on our website at [www.valleylifeaz.org](http://www.valleylifeaz.org). To make a tribute, memorial, or legacy gift, or to alert us of future planned gifts, please contact Margaret Stephens-Reed, Director of Donor Relations, at (602) 331-2414 or via email at [mreed@valleylifeaz.org](mailto:mreed@valleylifeaz.org).

# Join the Bernice Kussell Society

The Bernice Kussell Society is part of the VALLEYLIFE Foundation, which supports VALLEYLIFE by funding Member needs that are not covered by traditional funding sources.

Annual membership contributions provide undesignated funds to meet unexpected Member needs which are not covered by the organization's budget or by a specific fund. Membership includes invitations to special donor events where Society members have the opportunity to meet with keynote speakers, celebrities and researchers in the field of physical, developmental and mental disabilities.

Join the Bernice Kussell Society today and become a part of this special group of individuals who recognize the urgent need to provide the resources necessary to support community Members with disabilities.

You can make an outright gift of \$1,000 or more, or sign a pledge commitment to make a gift of \$1,000 or more within the fiscal year. Gifts can be made by cash, credit card, corporate matching gifts, and/or securities. Payment plans can also be arranged. Membership gifts, which are exclusive of other gifts made in support of special events or capital campaigns, are active for one year and are renewable annually.

In addition, a contributor and spouse whose combined annual gift equals \$1,000 or more will be eligible for a joint membership. An individual, living or deceased, may be recognized as a Society member through a qualifying gift made in his or her honor. Corporate contributions qualify for membership.

Join today! Contact Margaret Stephens-Reed at (602) 331-2414 or [mreed@valleylifeaz.org](mailto:mreed@valleylifeaz.org)

## Show Your Support

### **Tell a friend about VALLEYLIFE**

Tell a friend about us. Bring them by to take a tour of our campus, or show them our website and social media pages.

### **Shop at Amazon and Support VALLEYLIFE**

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to VALLEYLIFE. Bookmark the link below and support VALLEYLIFE every time you shop at Amazon! <https://smile.amazon.com/>

### **Register your Fry's VIP Card**

You can support VALLEYLIFE while you shop at Fry's! To get started, visit our website at: [valleylifeaz.org/howtohelp](http://valleylifeaz.org/howtohelp) and click the Fry's link. It is that easy!

### **Events**

Many events held to support VALLEYLIFE may be postponed, canceled or held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Dates of upcoming events will be posted on the events page of our website as soon as they are available. [www.valleylifeaz.org/events](http://www.valleylifeaz.org/events)*





Changing Lives. Creating Community.

An Arizona 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

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TTY 7-1-1

