

2026 IMPACT REPORT



Dear Donors, Partners, and Friends -

As I reflect on another remarkable year at New Life Center, I am filled with gratitude for the people who make our mission possible. Every day, survivors of violence arrive at our doors seeking safety, stability, and hope. Because of the generosity of our community, they find so much more than shelter - they find a place where healing begins and new futures are created.

This past year, we continued investing in the spaces where children can simply be children and families can reconnect after experiencing unimaginable trauma. We celebrated the completion of our new BounceBack Court, a beautifully renovated basketball court that has quickly become a place of laughter, friendly competition, and renewed confidence. We also added vibrant murals around the campus, creating more beautiful, joyful spaces for survivors, their children, and pets to enjoy.

These projects reflect our belief that healing happens not only through counseling and individualized services, but also through moments of play, connection, and community. Every improvement we make to our campus is thoughtfully designed to help survivors feel safe, valued, and empowered as they rebuild their lives.

While we are proud of all we have achieved this year, we are even more excited about what lies ahead. Behind the scenes, our team and Board of Directors have been working on a transformational initiative that will expand the ways we serve survivors and strengthen our impact across the West Valley for generations to come. We look forward to sharing more in the near future and cannot wait to bring our community along on this exciting journey.

As you read this year's Impact Report, I hope you see more than statistics - you see lives changed, children finding joy again, families discovering hope, and a community that refuses to let survivors walk their journey alone. Every milestone highlighted in these pages is possible because of compassionate supporters like you.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for standing beside New Life Center. Together, we are making safety, healing, and brighter futures possible for survivors.



With gratitude,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Kate Thoene
CEO

Learn more about New Life Center and how you can get involved by visiting www.newlifectr.org

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Michelle's Journey

When Michelle arrived at our shelter with her two young daughters, ages 3 and 1, she was terrified. She had fled an escalating situation in which her boyfriend - the father of her children - had strangled her. Having grown up in foster care, Michelle was no stranger to instability, but this was different. She arrived with nothing and was unsure of what would come next.

At first, Michelle rarely left her shelter casita. Staff gave her space while gently reminding her that she was safe and that they were there for her; bringing meals and snacks and offering to watch her daughters so she could rest, shower, or simply have some alone time.

Slowly, Michelle began to create friendships with other residents, participated in Mother's Day celebrations, and began exploring the community beyond our shelter walls. Most importantly, she began discovering something she had rarely experienced: choice.

The thought of leaving shelter and starting again felt impossible. Michelle had never worked and didn't have a high school diploma. With the support of her case manager, Belle, she secured her Social Security card, birth certificate, healthcare coverage, and food assistance - and even created her first résumé. And sure enough, Michelle found her first job!

Then came another milestone: Michelle secured an apartment. New Life Center helped with application fees, first month's rent, and initial childcare costs. Michelle also selected furnishings and household essentials at New Life Center's thrift store, Hope's Closet, and was especially excited about the pots and pans - she couldn't wait to make meals in her own kitchen.

With each achievement, Michelle's confidence grew. Soon, she was planning beyond the next day: pursuing her GED and ultimately a career in the medical field.

Belle reflected about Michelle's journey, "She was in such survival mode when she arrived and I'm in awe of her strength and perseverance."

Today, Michelle is working toward her GED, building her career, and creating something she once couldn't imagine: a safe, stable future for herself and her children.

Safety, Stability, and a Path Forward

From its humble origins as an emergency refuge for West Valley survivors of violence, New Life Center has intentionally evolved into a statewide leader in emergency shelter and outreach support. In fact, three decades later, we have grown into one of Arizona's largest residential shelters - providing approximately 25% of all domestic violence shelter beds in Maricopa County - all while remaining rooted in our mission of preventing and responding to domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. Through this impactful work, New Life Center ensures safe, stable communities so that all have a safe place to call home.



A Year of Impact

4,508

Individuals supported
across all programs

3,848

Hours of direct support
to survivors

1,361

Volunteers supported
our mission

78

Pet companions
welcomed into shelter

98%

Survivors feel prepared to
plan for their safety

7,319

Hours donated by
caring volunteers

22,289

Peaceful, safe nights
in shelter

66,867

Nutritious meals served

\$44,098

Value of household goods
and clothing provided