How You Can Make an Impact

• **Talk about end of life** with the people you care about and with your healthcare provider and complete your Advance Care Plan. **What matters to you?**

• **Promote an Advance Care Planning Workplace Initiative** in your workplace or community utilizing resources provided by the Arizona End of Life Care Partnership.

• **Invest in the Arizona End of Life Care Partnership** so that we can continue to harness the passion and expertise of our Partners to create a community in which people plan ahead for their final moments to ensure that their wishes are honored.

A Message from Our Partnership

Six years ago, our Partnership brought together community leaders with a shared mission: to enhance the way we live by fundamentally changing the way we talk about death. This was no small undertaking, and we understood that this nuanced challenge needed to be met with an innovative and inclusive approach.

Our Partnership spans healthcare, legal, and social services, with a strong emphasis on diverse communities, and cultural and spiritual traditions. Death is the great equalizer, but it’s crucial that we acknowledge that cultural traditions, access to end-of-life care, and systemic barriers all differ depending on race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. That’s why it is key to our Partnership’s work that we empower the voices of people from these communities so we can better serve them.

We have made major strides toward achieving our mission. Since 2017, our Partnership has distributed over 36,000 advance directives in our community, and we have provided education and outreach to more than 33,000 individuals and professionals across Southern Arizona. We are only getting started.

This vital work cannot be done without the support of our community. We invite you to join us and be a part of a national movement to improve quality of life for everyone.

We have revolutionized the way Arizonans think about death and dying, and the revolution is only beginning.

Our 2022 Grantee Partners

- Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association
- Arizona State Museum
- Banner Alzheimer’s Institute
- Catholic Community Services
- Contexture
- Dunbar Coalition
- Goodwill of Southern Arizona
- Interfaith Community Services
- Pima Council on Aging

- Roots and Roads
- Southeastern Arizona Governments Association
- Southern Arizona Senior Pride
- Southwest Folklife Alliance
- Step Up To Justice
- Tu Nidito
- Tucson Medical Center (TMC)
- United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
- University of Arizona Health Sciences
About the Arizona End of Life Care Partnership

The Arizona End of Life Care Partnership (EOLCP), anchored at United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, is the largest funded end-of-life community-based partnership of its kind in the United States thanks to the David and Lura Lovell Foundation and Community Foundation for Southern AZ. Since its inception in 2017, nearly $8,000,000 has been awarded across the Partnership. Our Partners span healthcare, legal and social services, with a strong emphasis on diverse communities, and cultural and religious traditions.

Our Partners provide education, resources, services, and support to people of all ages in our community, helping them to navigate the challenging issues of serious illness, death, and dying. A major part of our growth has been our ability to identify the gaps that exist in our community and fill those needs.

The goal is to normalize conversations about death in our community. As of 2019, 75% of people in our community believed it’s important to discuss their end-of-life care wishes with family and loved ones, but 53% said they rarely or never discuss death and dying with anyone. Our goal is to promote and normalize conversations about death and dying in our community, which significantly reduces healthcare costs, brings peace of mind for the individual, and reduces burden for loved ones.

Community Impact

Our Partnership serves our community by providing education, resources, and support through our outreach efforts. These efforts look different for every Partner, including in-person workshops, professional trainings, workplace initiatives, and one-on-one assistance.

In 2022, the Arizona End of Life Care Partnership provided end-of-life education and free community workshops to:

8,173 Community Members

2,934 Professional Education Participants

Workplace Initiatives

In 2022, the Arizona End of Life Care Partnership piloted our first Advance Care Planning Workplace Initiative with the staff of United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona. The EOLCP team guided small group sessions with staff to teach them about the process, provide helpful tips for completing their advance directives, and provided each participant with a free copy of the Five Wishes advance directive. The curriculum developed during this workplace initiative pilot will be rolled out to additional community partners in 2023 and beyond.

To learn more about the Five Wishes advance directives, visit our website: azendolifecare.org/five-wishes

Empowering Voices from Underserved Communities

The Arizona End of Life Care Partnership and United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona funded two initiatives aimed at better understanding the needs of underserved communities here in Southern Arizona. The first was a series of listening sessions conducted with members of the following communities: African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Paid and Professional Caregivers, Unhoused Native Americans, Faith Communities, and Unpaid/Family Caregivers. The second initiative funded CCHS Foundation to conduct a needs assessment on the end-of-life needs of those experiencing homelessness in Tucson. The findings from each of these initiatives helped our Partnership identify gaps in our community and will inform future work.

Read the complete findings here: azendolifecare.org/reports
Our 2022 Partners

Since our Partnership began in 2017, our Partners have provided services, education, and resources to individuals and organizations throughout our community in our mission to enhance the way we live by fundamentally changing the way we talk about death.

Goodwill of Southern Arizona
Tu Nidito
Pima County Juvenile Court Center

Death affects all of us in different ways, and that includes the experience of losing loved ones. Through work funded by Vitalyst Health Foundation, Goodwill of Southern Arizona, Tu Nidito, and the Pima County Juvenile Court Center collaborated to provide bereavement support to Opportunity Youth in our community who had identified unresolved grief as a significant adverse event in their lives. The program served 112 youth and trained more than 304 staff across the three organizations.

Southwest Folklife Alliance
Arizona State Museum

Southwest Folklife Alliance (SFA) shares cultural knowledge about traditions, expressions, and practices associated with end of life, grief, mourning and death in Southern Arizona’s folk, ethnic, occupational, faith-based, and alternative communities. SFA and the AZ State Museum worked together to curate the Walking Each Other Home: Cultural Practices at End of Life Exhibit this past year, showcasing work done in partnership with EOLCP. The exhibit shared stories and traditions that were documented as part of our End of Life: Continuum project and celebrated both private and public practices and traditions of caregiving, grieving, memorializing, and preparing and planning for end of life through the use of videos, images, stories, installations, and interactions. The installation invited viewers to contemplate their own relationship with and communal practices around death and dying. The success of this exhibition is showcased and encapsulated into this booklet to memorialize the stories and traditions of End-of-Life practices in Southern Arizona and the Southwest cultures.

Catholic Community Services

Faith communities play an important role in end-of-life practices, and Catholic Community Services (CCS) St. Jeanne Jugan Ministry with Elders provides Pastoral Care of the Sick to individuals living in long-term nursing facilities while also engaging in the broader spirituality of aging and end-of-life preparation. CCS provides “Prepare for the Journey” workshops with information on Advance Care Planning and Advance Directives.

Dunbar Coalition

Cultural- and community-specific outreach has been the cornerstone of our Partnership’s work, and the Dunbar Coalition exemplifies those efforts. The Coalition for African American Wellness provides outreach and education to Black and African American residents in Southern Arizona, helping them complete their end-of-life care planning.

AzHHA

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA) recognized worsening health disparities and the need for accessible health information. In partnership with the Arizona Center for Rural Health (AzCRH), AzHHA aimed to enhance the accessibility of its Advance Care Planning (ACP) educational documents. Community representatives were engaged to identify gaps in education and accessibility, leading to updates in the AzHHA documents. The efforts included voice recordings, braille translations, educational videos in American Sign Language (ASL), Spanish versions of the documents, and integrated accessibility features on the AzHHA website. These collective endeavors sought to improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of the ACP documents, ensuring that vital health information reaches diverse communities in Arizona.

Contexture

Contexture operates the Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry, our state’s Health Information Exchange, helping to ensure that advance directives can be easily accessed by healthcare professionals across Arizona. Their outreach has helped thousands of Arizonans better understand end-of-life care planning, and their work is only just beginning.

To access the Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry, visit azhdr.org.

Read the full report at: https://uwt.onl/cultural-practices.
Our 2022 Partners

Interfaith Community Services
A key component of our Partnership’s work is robust community education around advance care planning. To provide the space and the tools for individuals and families to assess their lives, anticipate challenging circumstances that might arise, and begin making plans to adapt to potentially complex situations, Interfaith Community Services offers “Honoring Our Lives”. This Advance Care Planning program is presented in free workshops with the goal of preparing people for challenging circumstances such as serious illness, aging, and death.

Pima Council on Aging
The goal of our Partnership was to bring together experts and organizations in this field to amplify their work. As the leading experts on aging well in Pima County, PCOA provides advocacy and unbiased information to older people and their families so that they can make informed choices and find appropriate solutions. They offer a robust list of end-of-life resources on their website and via their helpline as well as one-on-one coaching, end-of-life family conversation facilitation, bilingual community education, and end-of-life presentations, all at no cost.

Roots & Roads Community Hospice
Expanding knowledge of and access to hospice care has been an important piece of our work. With support from the United Way and others, Roots & Roads developed a new online resource called The Crosswalk to empower community members with the tools necessary to ask important questions, locate needed resources, and connect to supportive organizations. View the list of resources here: azendolifecare.org/resources

Southern Arizona Senior Pride
Southern Arizona Senior Pride recognizes and responds to the unique concerns of LGBTQI+ older adults who are 55+ and their younger allies. Senior Pride offers free “Honoring a Life” community workshops that provide education and insight about advance healthcare topics and documents, including documentation to ensure gender identity is honored at the end of life.

Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO)
The vision for SEAGO is for residents of Southeastern Arizona (Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties) to engage in ongoing Advance Healthcare Planning so that their wishes are communicated and honored. Through collaboration and education, resources are provided to prepare individuals to make informed advance healthcare planning choices that are consistent with their values and beliefs.

Step Up To Justice
Obtaining legal services for end-of-life planning can pose a significant barrier for people in our community. Step Up to Justice (SU2J) is a free civil legal center serving low-income individuals and families in Pima County utilizing the talents of volunteer attorneys. SU2J provides end-of-life planning that generates accurate and individualized documents for low-income community members.
Tucson Medical Center

Tucson Medical Center strives to provide patient-directed care that is informed by best evidence of clinical benefit, also referred to as Goal Concordant Care. They also provide education for their providers and staff focused on the importance of honoring advance care planning, the role of skilled goals-of-care discussions in urgent clinical situations, and the benefit of comfort care as a treatment option.

University of Arizona Health Sciences

Our Partnership is committed to developing the next generation of healthcare professionals to understand and encourage advance care planning among their patients. Through an initiative supported by the Partnership, University of Arizona Health Sciences is focused on developing an end-of-life curriculum for University of Arizona healthcare professionals to expand understanding of end-of-life care and promotion and normalization of these conversations.

Banner Alzheimer’s Institute

With a focus on improving patients’ and families’ quality of life from diagnosis through the years of caregiving, Banner Alzheimer’s Institute (BAI) offers multidisciplinary care, peer-to-peer tele-mentoring, education, and outreach. Advance Care Planning is encouraged in the early stages of the disease process and all BAI staff receive professional education so that they are able to support this effort.

Arizona End of Life Care Partnership

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