





# ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

**The Sunnyside Foundation (SF)** is a 30+ year education and community foundation built by BIPOC graduates of Sunnyside Unified School District (SUSD). Our founders dreamt of a foundation that could work alongside teachers, students, and southside families to support their college, career, and community dreams.

## OUR MISSION

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Sunnyside Foundation advances an intergenerational culture of learning by investing in projects rooted in courage, community, equity and imagination in Tucson's southside.

## OUR VISION

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We envision a community where every southside family has the capacity to cultivate their own learning opportunities throughout their lifetime. We focus on enriching our community by making resources year round that can bring knowledge, opportunities, and insight to those who volunteer, donate, or receive any type of assistance.

# A WORD FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

## **Nuestra Comunidad,**

As I began my tenure as President of the SUSD Foundation board of directors, I made a commitment to advance the mission and work that we do in the community to improve the lives of students, teachers, and Tucson southside families. We finished incredibly strong in FY 2024 and we have much to be proud of. The impact that we made in the community was only possible because of our donors, volunteers, and the partnerships that we have developed and strengthened over the years.

Together we contributed to the dreams and aspirations of our SUSD students by awarding \$123,800 in college/post-secondary scholarships to 51 graduating seniors from Desert View, Sunnyside and STAR Academic high schools. The legacy mini-grant program continued to enrich student's learning experiences through interactive and innovative projects made possible by essential supplies, materials and resources. Our Community Investment and Emergency Relief Funds offered hope and continues to uplift the spirits of everyone who lives, works, and plays in the place we all call home.

Our Barrios and our Gente are why we, the SUSD Foundation, DO WHAT WE DO! Together we rise up to the challenge; we engage in activities and projects that preserves our cultural heritage; we innovate to grow; we cultivate to learn; and we empower one another to support future generations to come.

We will continue in our efforts to raise more funds to reach more students, teachers, and families. With each passing quarter, we become more united in essence and determination. I am continually inspired by the levels of collaboration, engagement, and openness among our partners and trusted networks toward achieving the same outcomes across our southside Tucson community...to flourish!

We look forward to embarking on this new year, remember you are part of a team on a journey to reimagine the way the SUSD Foundation advances an intergenerational culture of learning.

I want to thank my fellow board members for their passion and dedication to strengthening Tucson's southside. And on behalf of the board of directors, I want to thank SUSD District and Foundation staff and leadership for their outstanding work in building a healthier, more prosperous and empowered Tucson southside community.

With heartfelt gratitude,



***Dr. Brenda Granillo, Sunnyside Foundation Board President***



# HOW YOU HELPED THE COMUNIDAD IN FY 2024

In FY24 the Sunnyside Foundation served more than **20,500 children, families and educators** in the Sunnyside Unified School District and throughout Tucson's southside through our three priority funds: Excellence in Education, Emergency Relief and Community Investment.

"Our partnership with the Sunnyside Foundation continues to be a cornerstone in our efforts to empower and uplift students, educators, and families across our district. Through their support and community-driven initiatives, we are not only building brighter futures but also fostering resilience, hope, and opportunity, not only for our students but for every member of our community."

*-SUSD Superintendent, Jose Gastelum*

## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



### EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

**\$243,879** INVESTED IN  
PROGRAMS AND  
PROJECTS IMPACTING  
**MORE THAN 14,000**  
SUSD STUDENTS



### EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

**\$25,230** IN CASH,  
UTILITY AND FOOD  
ASSISTANCE  
PROVIDED TO **1,269**  
**SOUTHSIDE**  
**HOUSEHOLDS**



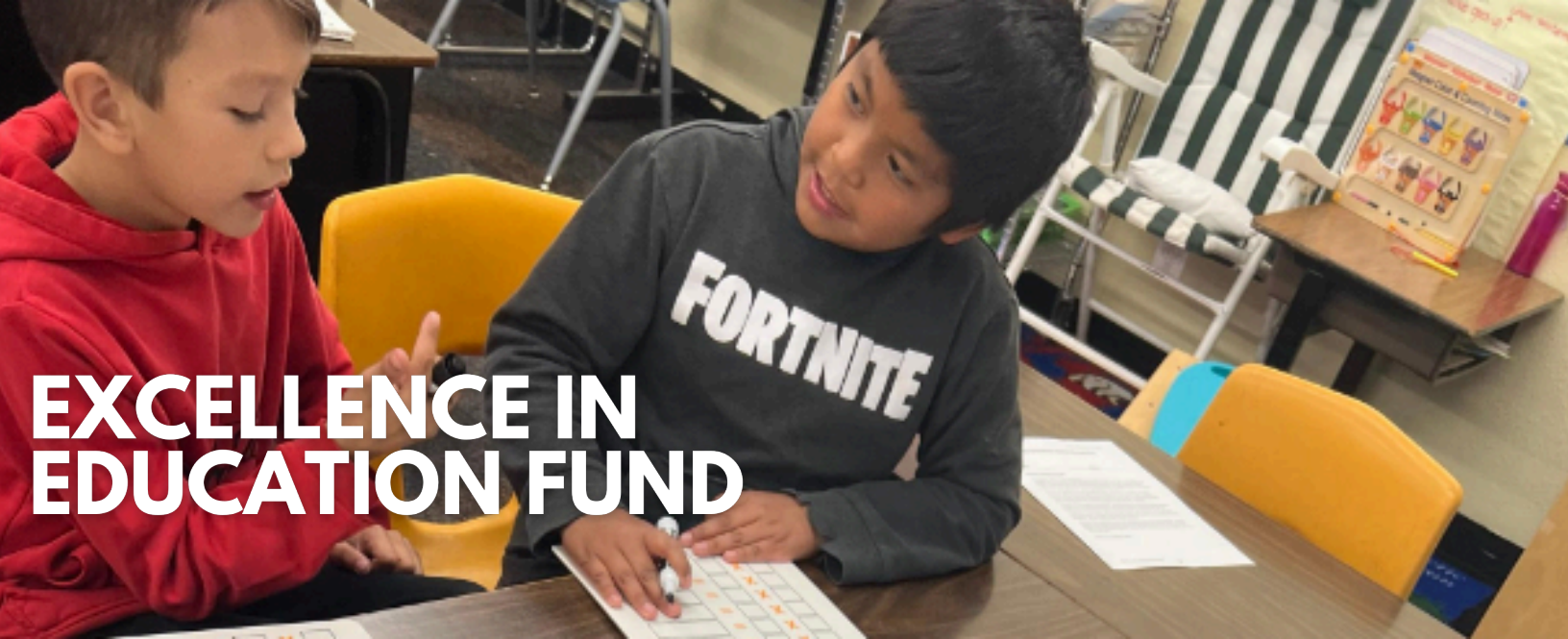
### COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

PARTNERSHIPS  
BETWEEN SF AND  
LOCAL ORGS TO  
ADVANCE EQUITY IN  
TUCSON'S SOUTHSIDE  
BY INVESTING IN  
PEOPLE AND  
PHYSICAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE.



### VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

**339 VOLUNTEERS**  
CONTRIBUTED A TOTAL  
OF **1,157 SERVICE**  
**HOURS** AT OUR FOOD  
DISTRIBUTIONS AND  
GIVES WEEK EVENTS



# EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FUND

The Excellence in Education Fund provides funding for classroom projects and supplies, CTE programs, scholarships and professional development. This year more than **14,000 students** were served through this fund.



**\$123,800** in college/post-secondary **scholarships** awarded to **51 graduating seniors** from Desert View, Sunnyside and STAR Academic high schools



**33 Classroom Mini-Grants** awarded to PreK-12th grade educators at **20 SUSD schools** funding critical instructional materials and engaging learning opportunities for more than **8,000 students**



**\$35,839** invested in curriculum and equipment for **SUSD Career & Technical Education programs**, including Desert View HS Precision Machinery Program and Sunnyside HS Automotive Technology program



**18** project grants and stipends for **CommunityShare Teacher Fellows** supporting project-based learning in SUSD classrooms



**17** BIPOC students awarded **dual enrollment scholarships** for University of Arizona Biotech course



**\$17,540** invested in student health and wellness and learning in areas such as fine arts and literacy



**"This project significantly enriched my students' learning experience in class by providing them with hands-on, interactive, and engaging activities that catered to their individual learning needs. The block and math centers resources introduced a new dimension to our classroom, allowing students to explore mathematical concepts and literacy skills in a dynamic and stimulating way."**



# EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

The Emergency Relief Fund helps families meet their basic needs ensuring students come to school prepared to learn and thrive.



**6,195** total individuals served



**47** immigrant and refugee families provided with **cash assistance**



**25 households** received **utility support**



**1,187 households** provided with fresh produce and shelf-stable **food** through monthly food distributions



**253 households** provided with **turkeys, hams** and **holiday gifts** during December food distribution



**10 SUSD students** provided with **new winter coats and shoes**



**"Thank you sooo much for the help. God bless everyone part of the Sunnyside Foundation. Me and my kids are extremely thankful to you. I appreciate the help from the bottom of my heart. I can't thank you enough. I can finally rest my mind for a bit and not feel so stressed, depressed and with my anxiety over the roof."**



# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

Through our CIF we collaborate with partners to provide responsive community improvement initiatives & programming in the southside of Tucson to connect neighbors, and catalyze growth and community investment.

## Sunnyside Foundation + University of Arizona Southside Engagements 2023-Current

Beginning in 2023, Sunnyside Foundation and partners began engaging in activities to reactivate and preserve the cultural heritage of El Pueblo Neighborhood Center and fostering community engagement for future generations.

Together with stakeholders, the collaboration resulted in an ongoing portfolio of exchanges, including site-specific courses, community storytelling, arts-research projects, exhibitions and more, working to bring the Southside’s cultural, historical and speculative imaginaries into the public eye. Drawing from a blended “urban humanities” research toolkit from urban planning, design and the humanities, these projects build on: case studies, visual literacy, archival research, mapping/site plans, site visits, community storytelling, spatial ethnography, pin-ups, community photo-shoots, image co-creation, co-curation, modeling, to name a few methods. A digital hub documenting this work is forthcoming in 2024.

Lead partners include:

- o Office of Congressman Raúl Grijalva
- o UA College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture
- o UA Center for Creative Photography
- o UA College of Humanities

## Gabe Gallegos Memorial Foundation



The Gabe Gallegos Memorial Foundation, founded in 2021, honors the memory of Gabe Gallegos by supporting the development of Tucson’s youth, particularly in sports. This foundation provides resources to help young people grow and nurture their natural talents.

In 2024, the foundation extended its support to several young local athletes and programs; from soccer, pop warner football, wrestling and Little League baseball!

## Familias Unidas Ganando Accesibilidad (FUGA)



FUGA had a dynamic year full of community building and advocacy. Through its bike programs & community outreach, FUGA has continued to invest with authenticity in our events and engagements geared toward uplifting the voices of the community in the intersections of mobility and accessibility. This is made possible through local partners Ward 1, Council Member Lane Santa Cruz, TUGO Bike Share and Saguaro National Park. This year, FUGA was awarded national grants to continue its mission and work in the areas of mobility justice. FUGA hosted bike clubs in 3 SUSD schools, working with more than 90 students and organized 24 community rides with more than 1,000 riders.



# FY 2024 GIVES WEEK RE-CAP

Each year during Sunnyside Gives Week our comunidad comes together to raise funds to invest in the work of the Sunnyside Foundation with a series of events bringing community together to celebrate giving back and being #Sunnyside Strong!

Thank you to our presenting sponsor Banner Plans & Networks, sponsors, partners, volunteers and donors for making our FY 2024 Gives Week, held in September 2023, one for the books!

## BY THE NUMBERS

<b>201</b> <b>BURRITO RUN PARTICIPANTS</b> 	 <b>500</b> <b>HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR ATTENDEES</b>	<b>200</b> <b>FAMILIES FED THROUGH FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION</b> 	 <b>31</b> <b>COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED AT HEALTH &amp; WELLNESS FAIR</b>	<b>300</b> <b>GUESTS AT GIVES DAY BLOCK PARTY</b> 
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# \$111,021

**INVESTED IN TUCSON'S SOUTHSIDE!**

*Thank you partners!*



[Sunnysidefoundation.org/Gives-Week](https://Sunnysidefoundation.org/Gives-Week)



# THANK YOU FY 2024 PARTNERS!

- **AJ Jumps**
- **Alignment Health**
- **Alliance Bank**
- **American Eat Co.**
- **APWA Southern Arizona**
- **Arizona Food Bank Network**
- **Aspirational Wealth Management**
- **AZ Health Zone - Cooperative Extension Nutritional Sciences**
- **Banner Plans & Networks**
- **Barrio Restoration**
- **Bustos Media**
  - **La Poderosa 105.3fm**
  - **Urbana 92.5 fm**
  - **The Groove 106.3 fm**
  - **The Voice 1030 am**
- **City of South Tucson**
- **City of Tucson**
  - Office of Mayor Regina Romero
  - Council Member Lane Santa Cruz, Ward 1
  - Council member Richard Fimbres, Ward 5
  - Parks and Recreation Department
  - Transportation & Mobility Department
  - Tucson Water
  - El Pueblo Neighborhood Center
- **Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona**
- **Community Foundation for Southern Arizona**
  - Hellene Henrikson Fund
  - Julian M. Babad Music Fund
  - Leonard L. White Educational Fund
  - William E. Hall Foundation
- **CommunityShare**
- **Connie Hillman Family Foundation**
- **Cox Communications**
- **DJ Chito**
- **DJ Walter the Don**
- **Dollars for Scholars Donors**
- **Dougherty Foundation**
- **Fría**
- **Familias Unidas Ganando Accesibilidad (FUGA)**
- **Gabe Gallegos Memorial Foundation**
- **HS Lopez Family Foundation**
- **Hughes Federal Credit Union**
- **Individual Contractors**
- **Individual Donors**
- **League of Women Voters**
- **LPKNC**
- **Los Jarritos**
- **Marguerite Casey Foundation**
- **Marshall Foundation**
- **Mestizo Studio**
- **Osa Foundation**
- **Office of Congressman Raúl Grijalva**
- **Phil and Carol Lyons Foundation**
- **Pima Community College Adult Education**
- **Pima County**
  - Pima County Public Library
  - Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, District 5
  - Health Department - REACH
  - Schools Superintendent's Office
- **Pima Federal Credit Union**
- **Raytheon Technologies Charity Custodial**
- **REA Media Group**
- **ScholarshipsAZ**
- **Southern New Hampshire University**
- **Southwest Gas, Corp.**
- **Stanley M Reinhaus Family Foundation**
- **Stocker Foundation**
- **Sunnyside Unified School District**
  - Opportunity Center
  - Desert View High School Junior ROTC
  - Sunnyside High School Student Council
- **Suvida Healthcare**
- **The Drawing Studio**
- **The Wilderness Society**
- **Tidy Up Yard Clean Up Service**
- **Tucson Airport Authority**
- **Tucson Electric Power**
- **Tucson Federal Credit Union**
- **Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**
- **Tucson Metro Chamber**
- **Tucson Unified School District**
- **UnitedHealthcare**
- **United Hearts of Arizona**
- **University of Arizona**
  - College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture
  - College of Fine Arts
  - College of Humanities
  - Center for Creative Photography
  - Hispanic Serving Institution
  - Lambdas
  - United Sorority & Fraternity Council
- **UPS**
- **Victoria Teresa Arias Memorial Foundation**
- **Western Alliance Bank**
- **Zane's Law**

# FY 2024 FINANCIALS

## FY 2024 Revenue - \$777,777\*

Donations + Grants	\$681,616
Net Investment Return	\$25,755
Fiscal Sponsored Projects	\$58,406
In-Kind	\$12,000



## FY 2024 Expenses - \$597,137

Program	\$377,340
Fundraising	\$36,556
General/Administration	\$183,241



## Program Expenses Breakdown - \$377,340

Excellence in Education	\$253,897
Emergency Relief	\$47,878
Fiscal Sponsorships	\$51,917
Other	\$23,648



**\*Note: The Sunnyside Foundation received significant contributions at the end of FY 2024, including multi-year gifts, which will be expensed in FY 2025 and 2026.**

# SUNNYSIDE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Dr. Brenda Granillo**  
*President*

**Patrick Robles**  
*President Elect*

**Celyna Cervantes**  
*Treasurer*

**Gilbert Garcia**  
*Secretary*

**Eddie Barrón**

**Cassandra Becerra**

**Michael Barton**

**Jennifer Overpeck**

**Louie Ramirez**

**Raúl Aguirre**  
*Emeritus*

# SUNNYSIDE FOUNDATION STAFF

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**Elizabeth 'Liz' Soltero**  
*CEO*

**Veronica Cruz-Mercado**  
*Director of Operations*

**Laura Corrales**  
*Program Manager*

**Mia Ruiz**  
*Program & Operations Coordinator*