

TCC CONNECTIONS

Celebrating the Impact of our TCC Volunteers

Welcome to the inaugural edition of TCC Connections, Tempe Community Council's newsletter dedicated to recognizing the contributions of the many volunteers who support the efforts of TCC. TCC was delighted to host our volunteers at a thank you celebration on April 29th at Garcia's restaurant. Over 200 volunteers were invited to attend this event. These amazing people dedicated their time to the following programs and services: TCC Board, Don Carlos, Agency Review, Threadz teen clothes closet, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Tempe Coalition and Care Fair. Over 50 volunteers were in attendance enjoying great company, food and fun gift card drawings. All volunteers were mailed a thank you magnet - you are the heart of TCC!



On behalf of the entire TCC Board of Directors and staff, we'd like to say Thank You for your time, your enthusiastic support of our efforts and your continued involvement in achieving the goals of TCC.

TCC is 218 volunteers strong and growing!
YOU ARE making a difference!



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Did you know...

April is National Volunteer month

The recognition of volunteers on a national level was first held in Canada in 1943. The purpose of that initial event was to recognize the contributions of women during World War II. National Volunteer Week began in 1974 in the United States and was instantly embraced by the public. In 1990 in response to a speech by President George H.W. Bush focused on the impact of volunteerism and calling upon the public to become, "a thousand points of light", the Points of Light Foundation was formed. This organization continues to recognize volunteers and promote National Volunteer Week. This year, National Volunteer Week was April 21-27 and TCC and other organizations honored these generous individuals.

Volunteers serve many purposes and have many roles. They fill the gaps in service at many nonprofits which allow these organizations to host events and run valuable programs and services. Americans volunteer approximately 8.8 billion hours annually at a current established value of \$33.49/hour. The impact of volunteerism and the visible differences they make also inspire others to volunteer.

Thank you!



for the
generous gift
of your **time**
and your
heart



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"The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size, but by the depth of commitment to make a difference in the lives of others."

-- DeAnn Hollis

Threadz

Supports students to "look good, feel good and do well in school"

The Teen Threadz program began at the former Evans Compadre campus in response to the need for clothing, school supplies, and personal care products among many students. Since its founding in 2009, the program has evolved and expanded over time. Threadz extended its reach to Tempe High School in 2013, Marcos de Niza in 2015, and Mountain Pointe in 2022.



During the 2022-2023 school year, 31 volunteers dedicated 770 hours to the Threadz program, contributing a remarkable value of \$24,694 in volunteer time. These dedicated individuals served 790 students across 2,414 visits at the three sites, distributing 16,687 items. By providing these essential services, Threadz helps boost attendance and graduation rates, while also enhancing the well-being of our teens.

Each day our sites are open during the school year, our amazing volunteers connect with teens, offering support and resources.

Threadz is a fun opportunity to assist teens in a boutique-like setting and is always looking for new volunteers to ensure all sites can operate during their scheduled hours. If you're interested in making a difference in the lives of teens, consider joining the Threadz team!

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It cannot be said enough that the work that TCC "gets done" is due in large part to our volunteers.

Without you, our dedicated volunteers, our programs and projects could not happen. This includes the programs we feature here as well as the Tempe VITA tax site, Agency Review, Tempe Coalition, special events, parenting classes and supporting youth with special circumstances to help them stay in school. TCC could not successfully keep the focus where it matters most - on the community.

Thank you for coming alongside the Board and staff to give your time. We are grateful for your unwavering support now and into the future.

~ Octavia

UPCOMING DATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Threadz
Back-to-School Shopping
July 22 & 23

Threadz
Opening Day for School Year
July 25

Threadz
VITA Tax Site
Agency Review
Volunteer Recruitment
Ongoing

Celebrating Champions for Youth
Fall 2024

Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards
November 18, 2024

Care Fair 2024

Tempe Health & Human Services Day

Tempe Community Council and the City of Tempe held their sixth annual Care Fair on April 15 at the Tempe Community Complex. This informative and fun filled event links together the Tempe community with a wide variety of service providers. The goal of Care Fair is to create a broader awareness of the many and varied services, supports and programs available to community members. Over 500 people attended Care Fair 2024 which featured 82 human services agencies, nonprofits and City of Tempe services that community members could speak to directly to get questions answered and take-home valuable materials for future use. Attendees were able to engage in a variety of fun activities, enter to win door prizes, listen to music, have a donut and a no-cost hot meal. This year's event also distributed over 100 bags of fresh produce. Attendees gained important information and left with bags stuffed with give away items and resources

Thank you to the **26 volunteers** who volunteered their time to ensure that this event was set up, cleaned up and ran smoothly. A special thank you to John Ishii and co-workers from ASU who group volunteered this year! Everyone's help at this event ensured that Care Fair 2024 was more successful than ever.

VITA Tax Program

Completes Another Successful Year

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program was implemented across the United States in 1969. TCC launched its first tax assistance program in 2002 to support the IRS's promotion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, which was not being claimed by many qualified taxpayers in Tempe. This program requires and depends on volunteers to offer free tax assistance to low- to moderate-income individuals, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. We have been continuing this outstanding free tax preparation service in Tempe for 22 years. This tax season, **37 IRS-certified volunteers dedicated over 1,500 hours** to preparing 1,052 tax returns for eligible taxpayers. Our tax site also offers the services of Asset Educators, who meet with clients to connect them with service providers that can help meet their current needs. VITA screens all clients to ensure they receive any available tax credits to which they are entitled. Additionally, tax education workshops are provided to 400+ ASU international students to help them file their unique taxes. Volunteering for this program is incredibly rewarding and brought over \$1.4 million in refunds to clients and our community. Call TCC to learn more about this program.



**CONGRATULATIONS
& THANK YOU**
Heather Zilles (left)
12-Year
Tempe IRS VITA Volunteer

Agency Review

A True Community Effort

For the past 39 years, TCC has played a prominent role in administering and managing the distribution of human services funds on behalf of the City of Tempe. This process, known as “Agency Review,” stands out from typical funding processes because decisions on fund allocation are made by community members who live or work in Tempe. These dedicated volunteers are trained to read and evaluate submitted proposals, ultimately making the final funding decisions for City Council approval. This year, 62 volunteers committed over 1,300 hours to this demanding, complex, and enlightening process. The Agency Review volunteers recommended funding for 41 programs from 34 agencies for Fiscal Year 2024-25. TCC will begin a targeted volunteer recruitment for the 2025 process in the fall of 2024. This is a rewarding volunteer opportunity for community members who want to be part of a decision-making process that positively impacts Tempe. Thank you to our Agency Review volunteers for all you do to ensure our citizens have access to essential services.

MISSION OF TEMPE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

To connect those in need with those who care. TCC does this by convening community, conducting research, determining priorities, implementing effective programs and exemplifying prudent stewardship of resources.

The Last Word

TCC is proud to have a devoted group of volunteers who are the heart of the nonprofit. These volunteers donate their time to make a difference in their community. TCC has a wide range of volunteer opportunities that can fit anyone's schedule. Here is some fun, impactful and interesting volunteer opportunities to be a part of:

- Agency Review
- TCC Board of Directors & Committees
- Threadz teen clothes closets
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program
- Tempe Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking & Substance Use
- Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards
- Care Fair Tempe
- Celebrating Champions for Youth

Stay connected with us through our social media channels, emails and this triannual newsletter for updates on upcoming events and volunteer needs. Together, let's create positive change in our beloved city!

Join our volunteer team today and be a part of something special in Tempe.



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**VOLUNTEER
TODAY!**

