



Hello!

Newsletter for September 2025

*Hey, do you know someone concerned about homelessness?
Or someone who should know about The Homing Project?
Please forward this newsletter to them!*



Message from CEO Kris Olson-Garewal, M.D.

And the winner is.....

The Homing Project Board of Directors considered several names suggested for its first village, to be opened this year, and chose *Esperanza* -- Spanish for hope -- as the name.

Ribbon Cutting and Grand Tour of the Esperanza Village:

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to please join us for the ribbon cutting for The Homing Project's first village: Esperanza Village, a village of hope. Without your help, and that of so many others, this would not have happened. Thank you for all of your support to make this possible! It is in the very essence of who we are as Tucson that so many people, organizations, and groups have come together to show what is possible. The ribbon-cutting invitation poster shown above was designed by SaVannaH, an artist who is currently unhoused here in Tucson.

What: Ribbon Cutting for Esperanza Village Where: 2934 N. Estrella Avenue
When: Saturday, October 18, 2025 Time: 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Speakers:

- Council Member Kevin Dahl: *Who are the Unhoused?*
- Lawyer and Developer Pat DeConcini: *What Can Be Done Today to End Homelessness?*
- Keith Bentele (analyst on Tucson's annual unhoused citizens census): *What We Know About the Epidemic of Homelessness in Tucson.*

Completing the village:

• As we complete the first village, THP needs everyone's help to pay the final bills which are considerable. If you have been thinking of donating to The Homing Project, think no more. *Please just do it: donate now!* Any amount is greatly appreciated.

• We've received much needed advice about permits and zoning in meetings with Matthew Carlton, Assistant Building Official, and Elisa Hamblin, Zoning Administrator, at the City of Tucson Planning Department Services, as well as from Council Member Kevin Dahl. We have received the electrical permit from the City and have submitted it to TEP. After TEP completes their work, we can begin the work of completing the village.

• Completing Esperanza Village includes laying pavers in the dining patio, putting in trees (bring a shovel), laying crushed granite pathways, putting up a privacy fence, putting up the dining area canopy, getting the micro-shelters ready for residents. If you have a pickup truck, you could help with delivering "things" for the village. Volunteers are building the laundry onsite, led by retired Contractor David Tonsing. ACE Hardware on E. 22nd St. has donated \$1,000 for construction materials.

To pitch in, please contact Yolanda Sethi (volunteer coordinator) at yolanda.sethi@thehomingproject.org.

Once the village opens:

• There will be two onsite personnel:

- Case worker (part-time) from Catholic Community Services, who will set up appointments for services at offsite providers (e.g. El Rio Clinic).
- On-site manager responsible for the day-to-day village operation. We are currently recruiting for this position. Candidates with 'lived experience' are preferred. Anyone interested in the position should contact me via email: jk.olsongarewal@thehomingproject.org.
- Leisure Time Activities available for the residents may include book discussions, volleyball, movie night, etc. Volunteers interested in working on this should register a a volunteer on our website.
- New board member Janin Struminger is arranging job training options for Esperanza Village residents. Having a job that pays a living wage is important for decreasing the risk of future eviction.
- Culinary program: professional chef Mardi Burden has volunteered to teach the residents to cook and prepare monthly menus. She will start by finding out what residents want to eat and want to learn to prepare. The kitchen will be set up in a prototype micro-home built locally for THP.
- Currently our security service, Arizona Crime Prevention Unit, patrols the village nightly. By October 18, an electrician needs to finish setting up all the micro-shelters. Once A/C and other amenities are installed, ACPU will increase their scheduled time onsite.

Hope to see you at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!

Thank you for your continuing support!



FIVE UPCOMING EVENTS!



Please join The Homing Project team for the Community Food Bank's Hunger Walk on September 27. Our team can walk together or you can be there in spirit by registering as a virtual walker.

The Community Food Bank has supported us and now it's our chance to support them!

Share this with friends and family!

[Register Here!](#)

Thank you!



Cactus/Plant Sale!



OCTOBER 4th 8:00-2:00 pm
OCTOBER 5th 8:00-12:00 pm
 2800 Block of E. 10th Street



SAVE THE DATE



OCTOBER 18, 2025

10am - Noon

2934 N. ESTRELLA AVENUE
 TUCSON, AZ. 85705



www.thehomingproject.org

Save the date for the Ribbon Cutting & Village Tour!

Join Us for the ribbon-cutting and a tour of the village, celebrating an important milestone in our collective effort to end homelessness.

Ribbon Cutting & Village Tour

Saturday October 18, 10:00 AM – Noon

2934 N. Estrella Avenue, Tucson



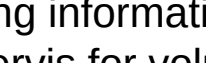
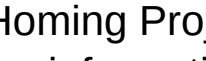
Presents | presenta

Cyclovía Tucson

LIVING STREETS ALLIANCE

You're Invited!
 Aman em nun uwa ¡Estás invitado!

with support from
 con el apoyo de



More info at
 Más información en
cycloviatucson.org
 520.261.8777
 @cycloviatucson



Welcomes you to | les da la bienvenida a

Thrive in the 05

Sunday | domingo

Oct 26th, 2025

9am – 3pm

Car-free streets for walking, biking,
 playing and all out fun!

¡Calles libres de carros para caminar,
 andar en bicicleta jugar, y divertirse!



ACTIVITY HUB
 CENTRO DE ACTIVIDAD

CYCLOVIA ROUTE
 RUTA DE CYCLOVIA

CAR CROSSING
 CRUCE DE CARROS

Save the Date! Volunteers are needed for Cyclovía on October 26 from 8-3. The Homing Project will be hosting tours of the demonstration micro-shelter and sharing information about the project. This volunteer opportunity will be posted on Cervis for volunteers to sign up to give tours of the micro-shelter and/or staff the information table.



Ride El Tour de Tucson for The Homing Project!

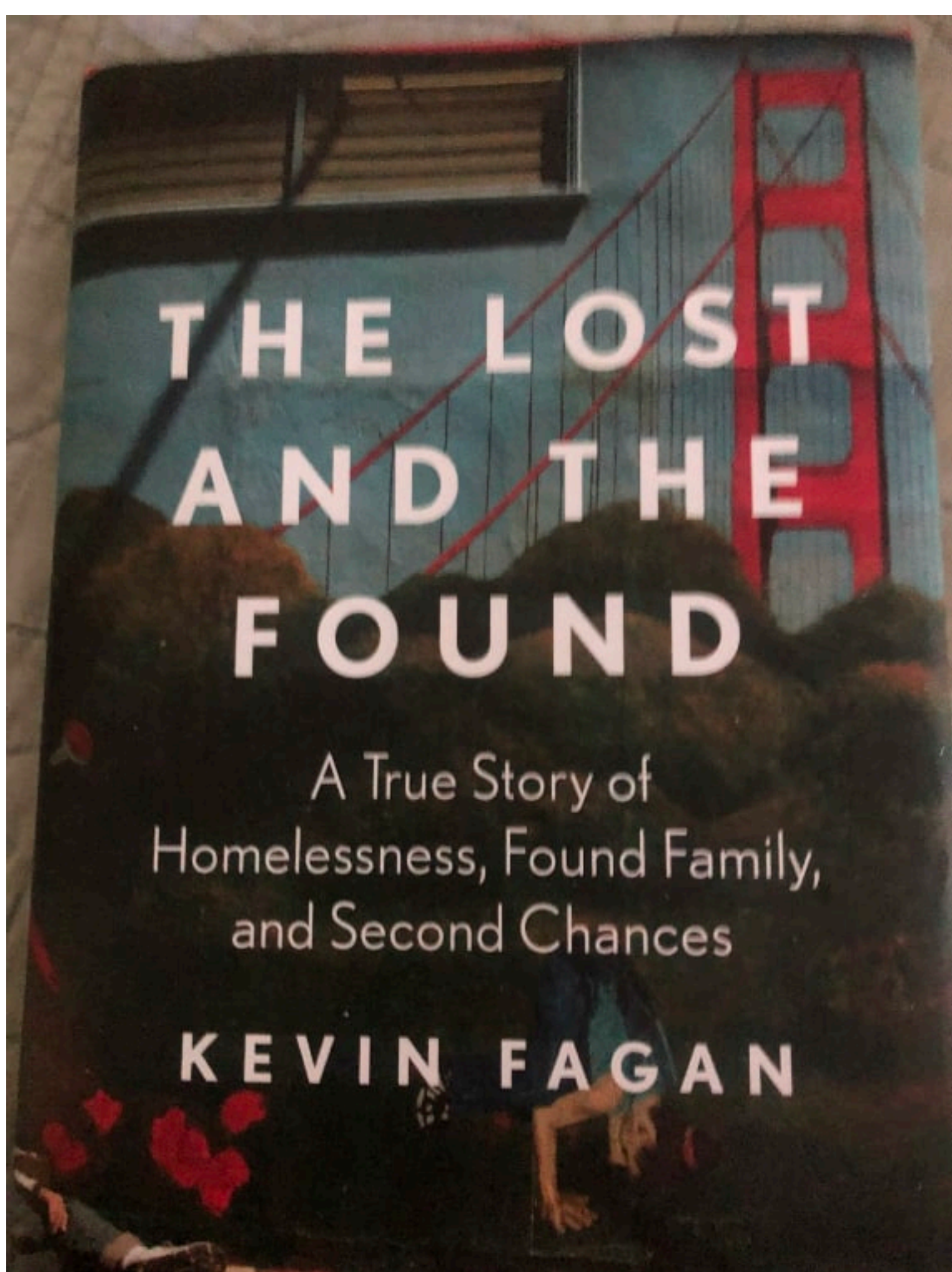
Join nearly 10,000 cyclists in one of the premier bicycling events in the USA, and help raise funds for The Homing Project. Participants can choose from a variety of levels for fundraising: 102 mile, 62 mile, 32 mile, family fun ride, and a 5k walk/run.

When you register to ride, choose The Homing Project as your charity.

Announcement: REPORTING VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteer Hours Worked Reporting:

To support our grant applications, it is important to represent the level of volunteer support THP enjoys. To this end, volunteer hours spent working on The Homing Project should be reported to our Treasurer (Jennifer.leinhos@thehomingproject.org) by the 10th of the following month. Hours volunteered should be reported by category: 1) Board hours, 2) Volunteer hours, and 3) Professional Services hours.



Book Review

The Lost and the Found by Kevin Fagan, reviewed by Rodney Quainton

This is a gritty examination of homelessness recounted through the lives of two persons, Rita and Tyson both of whom grew up in middle class families only to ultimately succumb to the lure of, then addiction to, serious drugs ending them up on the streets of San Francisco at a place called Homeless Island. Kevin is an award-winning journalist for the San Francisco Chronicle covering homelessness for more than 20 years. He traces the lives of these two persons from their comfortable idyllic suburban upbringing into addiction and homelessness and their struggles to pull themselves out of homeless into the embrace of families willing to accept them back into family. While Rita survives, Tyson reverts back to the street and an untimely death. Kevin's descriptions of addicted life on the streets are vivid and disturbing as he pulls no punches in describing street life in San Francisco. In the book he is focussed primarily on those street people who are mentally ill and addicted to hard drugs. Along with Kevin Adler, whose book *When We Walk By* we sponsored at our booth last spring at the Tucson Festival of Books, Kevin Fagan is advocating programs and outreach that try to connect the unsheltered back to families willing to rescue them. In Rita's and Tyson's stories he recounts the sacrifices these two families made to reconnect with their loved ones. The book transforms the reader from seeing homelessness as a statistic into realizing that each unsheltered person is a unique individual needing notice, love and respect as a child of God (my words -- not his). A fast read, a provocative read.

Furnishing the Micro-Shelters!



A 'Giftster' registry has been set up to allow supporters to buy furnishings for village residents' micro-shelters. Click on this [link to view the registry](#).

Help the Cause -- Buy some Raffle Tickets!



Jim Click Raffle 2025. Enter to win a 2025 Kia Carnival Hybrid SX Prestige. Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. Every dollar of our raffle ticket sales goes to The Homing Project! Purchase raffle tickets on the project [website](#).

The Homing Project Board Meeting and Volunteer Meeting Dates

Month	Board Mtg	Volunteers Mtg
September 2025	Wed. 24th	Sat. 27th
The 9/27/25 Volunteers' Meeting, will be held at Ward 6 office at 3202 E 1st Street		
October 2025	Wed. 22nd	Sat. 25th

Board Meetings convene at [Kris Olson's home](#) at 5:30 PM. Volunteers are welcome to attend.

Volunteer Meetings are now being held at 10 AM on last Saturdays, as shown above, at City of Tucson Ward 3 meeting room, 1510 E. Grant Rd. See the exception above for this month's Volunteer Meeting. Join us to plan new events and to discuss past ones.

The Board and Newsletter Staff of [The Homing Project](#) thank You for choosing to serve our community with us,

The Homing Project Newsletter
Joe Vaughan produced this month's newsletter.
Email suggestions of items for inclusion to: newsletter@thehomingproject.org



Visit us on the web at thehomingproject.org
The Homing Project, PO Box 68054, Tucson, AZ 85737

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