
[TEST] The Homing Project Newsletter for May 2026

The Homing Project <newsletter@thehomingproject.org>

Tue, May 19, 2026 at 9:07 PM

Reply-To: newsletter@thehomingproject.org

To: josephvaughan9@gmail.com



**Here is your May 2026 THP Newsletter.
Please share it with a friend.**

*Inside this newsletter you can find status, recent progress,
and volunteer opportunities.*

Project Status as of end of May, 2026

Notes from Kris Olson-Garewal, M.D.

Work at Esperanza on fencing: Diego is preparing to lead volunteers in repairing, painting and installing donated fence sections (6'H x 7'L) along the northern property line chain link fence, to improve privacy for our neighbor Barbara, whom KOG met with, and who chose a paint color that we will try to match.

Pathways: Board Member Brian Alterowitz is working to order the materials, and to lead volunteers in installing the village's 4 ft wide pathways. He has obtained

satisfactory estimates for the materials and is researching site preparation and laying the decomposed stabilized granite.

Permitting status: KOG met with Mike Sheehan, our structural engineer to see and see what work remains. The tie down requirements are understood and achievable. Mike has finished his calculations for the canopy. Next are his calculations for the kitchen and laundry. Once Mike can finish those, we should be able to submit the complete the permit package, perhaps sometime next week.

Site plan: Corey Thompson, the civil engineer who is leading on the site plan, is identifying all the changes to the site plan since the Tucson planning Dept approved our original plan, for resubmission.

Wiring: The electrical work is nearly done. One more electrical panel needs to be installed after the kitchen is sited in the village, and that cannot happen until we have an approved permit. See above for permit resubmission.

Security: KOG is writing a contract amendment with our security contractor, to resume the live on-site security service once we have the air conditioners installed.

Other updates: The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) team, chaired by Board Member Teresa Cavendish, is meeting with KOG weekly on Monday mornings. This week's meeting was preceded by a meeting with Julie.

Lastly: KOG did not renew her medical license, which will expire in June. KOG had kept it active, in part because of TPH possibly needing a medical director. But that has not ended up being a need.

Looking ahead: Hopefully we will be able to open with residents on Aug 1st, if work is completed and we can raise 200K for 6 months of operation. Two weeks

before we open we will install the air conditioners, and then we will need to protect them with on-site security. About the same time we will also hire a site manager, preferably a woman since we will have only women residents due to a stipulation in a grant we received last year.

See below where THP is asking for volunteers!

Anchors in a Storm -- by Carol Evans

Simple as it sounds, creating a village of micro-houses really isn't. As Esperanza Village nears opening this summer, we are amazed at the many types of expert knowledge we have needed.

Most recently, Mike Sheehan, a structural engineer, has been working on the issue of anchoring the 64 sq ft micro-shelter units and other buildings—kitchen, laundry and hygiene trailer, so that they will stay put in high winds. These tiny units have at each corner in the bottom of their frame a 5" long, thick steel rod that can be pulled out and slid through a hole in an anchor, such as a cement block a helical screw. You can see two of the rods in photo #1. Those allow the homes to be tied down securely. THP planners decided to anchor the homes directly into the soil using helical screws. They have spiral projections for traction (see photo #2)—think fusilli pasta. They can resist being pulled out by hundreds of pounds of force depending on the length of the screw. Mike began by drilling a hole using a drill that operates like a jack hammer, required because of the subsurface layer of caliche, before sinking a helical screw in the ground. Concrete was then poured around the screw and allowed to set before Mike tried to pull it. Mike secured the screw eye to a board which was used as a lever; then he exerted increasing amounts of force by piling cement pavers on the other end of the lever. (See Photo #3) The good news was that it didn't move even with 800 pounds of pressure. The bad news was how hard it was to drill through a caliche shelf. But once in, the helical screws all held even against 800 lbs of force. But only 350 pounds of resistance was needed. Mike discovered at last that a 12- inch eyebolt screw with a washer between two bolts on

the end to create the same fusilli effect can hold against 750 lbs of pressure. And it doesn't require a drill that only Popeye could handle to bore the over 60 holes we'll need for stabilize the buildings.

Now Mike has developed a very manageable process for tying down the houses.

Would you like to help with this?

See below where THP is asking for volunteers!



Photo #1, Showing steel rods for securing Pallet-64 micro-shelter against wind.



S-shot

Photo #2, Helical anchor



Photo #3, Showing Mike conducting test loading of helical anchor.

EVENTS UPCOMING

We have an Art Sale coming up -- see flyer below.
Consider donating some art to The Homing Project.
Contact Leslie Pike at ldpikeaz@gmail.com.

WHAT IF YOUR ARTWORK COULD HELP GIVE SOMEONE A HOME?

Make a tax deductible donation to **the Homing Project** and it will.

You are invited to make a donation to our Arts and Vintage Market and Silent Auction

on July 25 at the Made in Tucson Coalition Space. Paintings, sculpture, pottery, fabric art, anything hand made or vintage is welcome and appreciated.



All proceeds will help fund our first **Micro-home Village** near Glenn and Stone. This village will offer people experiencing homelessness a safe transitional home and a ladder to autonomy over their own lives. Visit our website to learn more.

Donations due by July 18
(but the sooner the better).
Email: ldpikeaz@gmail.com
Text or VM: 520.977.1374

For details about donating or to schedule a pickup please email, text or call Leslie Pike, a Homing Project volunteer.

We will be **immensely thankful** and you will know that **your artwork is helping to create a way forward** for some of the 6000 people currently unhoused in Tucson.



Learn more about how micro-home villages can help combat homelessness at: TheHomingProject.com

Village Tours: Come see the village!

The next village tours are being scheduled. To join a tour, just you or with your group, email Elizabeth Day at elizabeth.day@thehomingproject.org



Three Tickets — and a Car?! By Beth Heinrich

I've never won any big prizes, but that hasn't stopped me from trying. Over the past few years, I've made it a tradition to buy five Jim Click raffle tickets each for my two kids—three in their names and two in their spouses' names.

Last year, while sitting at home during the drawing, I got a text from my son in California.

He was on the phone with Jim Click himself!

Naturally, we both assumed he'd won the \$5,000 cash or maybe (with a little luck) the airline tickets—but no... he won the car!

At the time, both of their vehicles were barely hanging on, so it couldn't have come at a better moment. And the kicker? Just three tickets out of thousands. What were the odds?

It just goes to show—you really never know.

So why not take a chance? Good luck could be yours this year!

But you can't win if you don't play. Buy a raffle ticket, or ten! Get in the game!

Millions for Tucson Raffle Tickets are now on sale - buy one, buy ten, buy fifty and use them as birthday presents during the year! Contact Julie Gunther to get yours - julie.gunther@thehomingproject.org

THP's newest board members are Brian Alterowitz and Teresa Cavendish. Welcome aboard!

Brian Alterowitz, Board Assistant Treasurer

Mr. Alterowitz is a recently retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Four (CW4) with more than 20 years of service in intelligence operations, program management, and diplomatic coordination. His military career included postings in Panama, Mozambique, Taiwan, and Hawaii, as well as three deployments to Afghanistan and one to Iraq. He managed multimillion-dollar budgets, led cross-functional teams, and coordinated with the Department of State, Department of Defense, and allied nation partners. He is a recipient of the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, and the Knowlton Award, among numerous other military honors. Since retiring from the Army, Mr. Alterowitz has been pursuing a career in project management. He completed a Project Management Professional boot camp

through Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families Onward to Opportunity program in 2026 and is currently pursuing PMP certification.

Mr. Alterowitz serves as secretary of the Iron Horse Neighborhood Association, where he organizes monthly meetings and manages community correspondence. He volunteers with Irreverent Warriors, supporting veteran mental health through community events. He became interested in The Homing Project in part because veterans experience homelessness at a disproportionately higher rate than the general population, with an estimated 32,882 veterans homeless on a single night in 2024. As a combat veteran himself, addressing this crisis is personal. He brings experience in strategic planning, network fundraising, and operational coordination to his board service.

Mr. Alterowitz holds a Master of Science in International Relations with a focus on East Asia, a Bachelor of Arts in Print Journalism, and an Associate of Science in Intelligence Operations. He speaks Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Teresa Cavendish, Board Secretary

Ms. Cavendish is a native Tucsonan, and a graduate from the University of Arizona with a degree in Business Administration and Information Technology. She served almost the entirety of her 38-year career with Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona, lastly as its Chief Operating Officer.

During her tenure, Ms. Cavendish was involved in all areas of the organization to include organizational administration, information technology, facilities development and management, human resources, finance, immigration and refugee services, counseling and case management, low income housing, community nutrition services, child welfare, foster care and adoption, services for individuals with disabilities, domestic crisis services, and health services for the uninsured. Ms. Cavendish has broad experience working with property and insurance oversight, risk management, Board and community relations, program development and oversight, budget development and monitoring, grants compliance, and government relations. She was responsible for the redevelopment of two domestic

crisis shelters in Sierra Vista and Douglas, securing Arizona Department of Housing funding and managing both construction projects from concept to completion. She also established and oversaw the Casa Alitas program, which provided hospitality and humanitarian aid to asylum-seeking individuals.

Join our fundraising team and learn how to ask for money and help a great cause at the same time. Email kristin.davis@thehomingproject.org

Donate, sign up for the newsletter, sign up to volunteer, all at <http://www.thehomingproject.org>.

Volunteer Opportunities

- We need many strong volunteers to bore ~ 72 holes and install helical screws (12" to 18") to anchor the buildings. If you enjoyed assembling our micro-shelters, you'll love anchoring those very buildings.
- We need many strong volunteers to install the village pathways. First we'll dig a 4' wide by 2" deep bed for the pathways. Then decomposed granite will be shoveled in, leveled and packed, and then the granite will be bound in place using a gooey polymer that will be poured on top.
- We need volunteers to work with Diego Lopez on repairing and painting donated wooden fence panels that will provide privacy for the neighbors along the chain link fence situated on the north side of the site.

- **The Art Market & Silent Auction Committee needs volunteers in various capacities to make this fun event a success! We have opportunities in:**
 - **Marketing**
 - **Community Communications**
 - **Event set-up and tear-down**

Volunteer for any of the above by contacting Yolanda.sethi@thehomingproject.org.

Request: On-Line VOLUNTEER HOURS REPORTING

Volunteer are respectfully asked to Report, Online, Their Hours.

To support our grant applications, it is important that we correctly represent the level of volunteer support that THP receives from you all! To make that easy, Kiarra Celaya and Jody Mallie have updated THP's method of collecting volunteer hours. You can now use the 'Volunteer Hours Form' at the link below to record your volunteer hours per month.

<https://form.jotform.com/260566883440160>

Questions: contact Jody Mallie at jodymallie@gmail.com.

[Volunteer Sign Up Site](#)

The Homing Project [Donation Page](#)

Important Tax Information

If you are age 70 1/2 or older and have an IRA, you may be obligated to take a Required Minimum Distribution, or RMD. You may be able to direct your RMD directly from your IRA to The Homing Project, and thereby save on your federal and Arizona taxes. If your custodian sends a payment directly from your IRA to The Homing Project, you may be able to deduct it as a Qualifying Charitable Distribution on your tax return, even if you claim the standard deduction. Consult your tax adviser for more information about how this may apply to you. To explore further, email the board at Board@thehomingproject.org.

The Homing Project Board Meeting and Volunteer Meeting Dates

– May 2026.

The board meetings will be on the last Wednesdays of the month starting in June.

Volunteers are welcome!

5:30 PM at Kris Olson's home, or Online.

Meeting Dates: 5/27, 6/24, 7/29, 8/26.

The volunteer meetings are held on the last Saturdays of the month,
in Tucson Ward 3 meeting room, 1510 E. Grant Rd.

Join us to plan new events and to review past ones.

9:30 AM for volunteer orientation, 10-11:30 AM for general meeting.

Next Meeting: Saturday May 30th.

Meeting Dates: 5/30, 6/27, 7/25, 8/29.

**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



Facebook

Visit us on the web at thehomingproject.org

Find us on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/thehomingproject.org>

Mail checks to THP's New Address:

THE HOMING PROJECT

3044 N Alvernon Way

Tucson AZ 85712

You are receiving this email because you signed up for our newsletters.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [Unsubscribe](#) or [Update your preferences](#)