



CITY OF SURPRISE
Regular City Council Work Session
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 @ 5:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

A. Call To Order

B. Roll Call

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Regular City Council Work Session Agenda

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Citywide Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Fiscal Year 2025 Surprise Community Outreach Program and Neighborhood Grant awards. Deb Perry
Human Svcs and
Comm Vitality

E. Adjournment

KRISTI PASSARELLI, CITY CLERK

POSTED: Friday, January 16th, 2026 @ 11:30 AM

SPECIAL NOTE: PERSONS WITH SPECIAL ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS, INCLUDING LARGE PRINT MATERIALS OR INTERPRETER, SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE @ 623.222.1200 OR CLERK@SURPRISEAZ.GOV, BY NO LATER THAN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING TIME.



CITY OF SURPRISE
Regular City Council Work Session

Council Meeting Date: January 20, 2026 Contact Person: Deb Perry
Submitting Department: Human Svcs and Comm District: Citywide
Vitality
Staff Recommendations:

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Fiscal Year 2025 Surprise Community Outreach Program and Neighborhood Grant awards.

Motion:

Discussion only

Background:

The City Council designated \$160,000 from the FY2024 budget for community outreach programs. \$150,000 has been allocated for the Surprise Community Outreach Program (SCOP) and \$10,000 for the Neighborhood Grant Program. There were a total of 23 local non-profits that were supported through the SCOP program and two (2) neighborhoods through the Neighborhood Grant program.

Objective Analysis:

Discussion only

Policy Compliant:

This item is compliant with city and council policies.

Financial Impact:

\$149,909 was reimbursed to grantees through the FY2025 SCOP Program and \$10,000 was awarded to Neighborhood Grant applicants.

Budget Impact:

The FY2025 adopted budget included \$160,000 in appropriations for the SCOP and Neighborhood Grant Programs.

FTE Impact:

This item does not have an impact on current staff levels.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. SCOP Council Presentation

Community Outreach Grant Program Update

December 2025



SURPRISE
ARIZONA

PURPOSE

Surprise Community Outreach Program FY25 (\$150,000)

Provide funding assistance to organizations that serve Surprise residents through programs, events and activities that enhance the overall lifestyle of the community



Community Outreach Program Guidelines

- Must provide verification of 501(c)3 status
- Must submit a new application with every program cycle
- Events, programs, activities, etc. must take place in the City of Surprise
- Must include a proposed budget for use of funds
- Reporting is required
- Recipients will acknowledge grant award in marketing of event/program
- Funds are provided on an invoice or reimbursement basis
- Maximum award is \$10,000



Arizona Burn Foundation



- ABF's community smoke alarm installation event held on April 11, 2025 welcomed 68 volunteers who installed **34** Deaf and Hard of Hearing smoke alarms in Surprise residents' homes.
- This was made possible with funding from the City of Surprise, and partnership from Jamie Michler from Surprise Fire-Medical Department, along with the Arizona Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing who provided amazing ASL interpreters who helped us communicate with Deaf residents.
- Since 2007, ABF has installed 274 Deaf and Hard of Hearing alarms, 40 of which have been installed in Surprise residents' homes between 2024-2025!
- Thank you for your enduring support as we continue to provide these life-saving devices at no charge to residents and giving our Deaf and hard of hearing neighbors the tools to avoid tragedy and create a safer community.



Autism Life and Living (ALL)



- Photo is from one of the many Social Circle events ALL hosted utilizing the Community Outreach grant funds. Some of the outings included bowling, movies, crafting, visit to a horse rescue and field day in Surprise.
- Total attendance for all events combined: 350
- Performance Measurements
 - ALL exceeded the number of total persons expected to serve
 - Participants and their caregivers reported a decreased level of isolation and improved socialization and community engagement
 - Participants reported an increase sense of self-confidence in social situations
- Young adults in this community often face social exclusion or misunderstanding in typical settings. The Social Circle program provides a safe, affirming space where they can be authentically themselves without the pressure to “mask” or conform to neurotypical norms.

Limited Edition

SENSORY TOOLKITS

Thank you to the City of Surprise Community Outreach Program Grant for helping us fund this project!

FREE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST



Each toolkit features a clear, stadium approved bag with green trim and a zipper, noise reducing earmuffs, sunglasses, chain fidget, putty, poptube & stress ball.

Plenty of room for other belongings!
*Sensory items may vary in color.

Toolkits are for neurodiverse individuals and those with sensory challenges, including veterans. The toolkits are free and will be first come, first served!

For grant purposes, some personal information is required to receive a bag.

Our goal is to offer these kits to individuals to enhance their community lifestyle through inclusion and increased self esteem. To help them feel a sense of belonging & connect to their community.

Connect with Us

 info@PHXautism.org

 www.PHXautism.org

Thank You



CITY OF SURPRISE

Community Outreach Program Grant



200

Limited Edition
Autism Society
of Greater Phoenix

SENSORY TOOLKITS DISTRIBUTED!

Distribution Events

- Surprise Adaptive Recreation
- Dysart SEPTSA Fall Festival
- Surprise GAIN Night
- West Valley Trunk or Treat in partnership with TEAM 4 Kids at their Surprise location
- Yes Day for Autism

Community is Belonging

Benevilla



- Located in Surprise, *Benefitness* is the only adaptive gym in the West Valley offering personalized fitness programs and accessible equipment for adults living with physical, cognitive, and developmental disabilities, including those with chronic health conditions or limited mobility
- 186 members were served during the grant period of which 50 were City of Surprise residents
- 5 low-income City of Surprise residents' membership to *Benefitness* was supported through grant funding

Best Buddies in Arizona

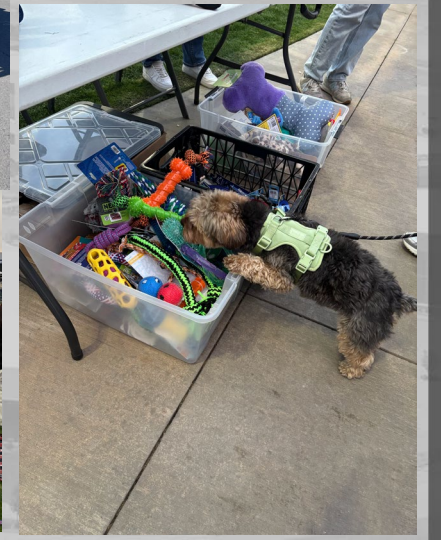
2024-2025 Best Buddies Inclusion Project



Best Buddies members in Surprise celebrate Homecoming together

- Created positive school climates for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at Shadow Ridge and Willow Canyon High Schools
- 160 Total students served
- 126 Surprise residents
- 29 One-to-one friendships
- 37 Inclusive group activities
- 9 Student leaders trained

Chance Shelter



DYSART EDUCATION FOUNDATION



- Funded mini-grants for 12 teachers: \$16,556.86 total!
- Impacted learning for 1700 students with more in future years!
- We appreciate your generosity. Thank you!

Dysart Special Education PTSA



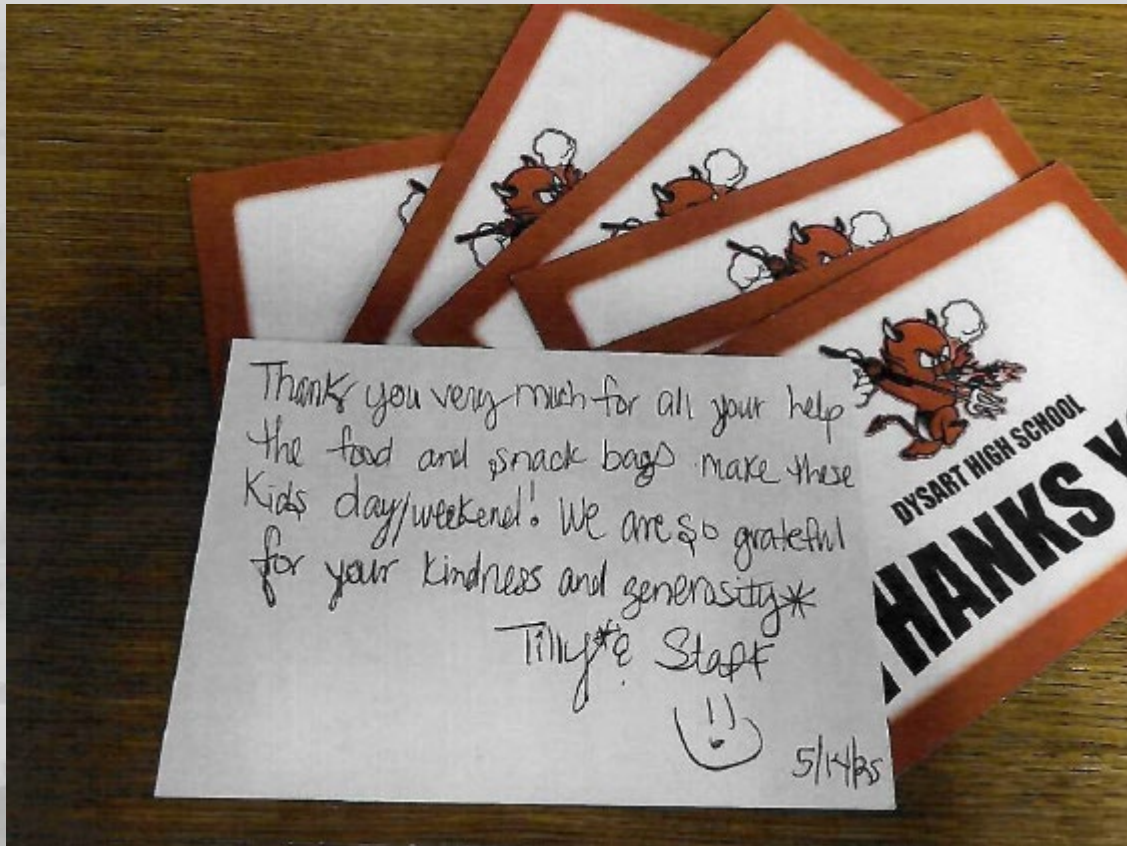
- Walk n' Roll for Inclusion 2025
- Free family-friendly activities, education, awareness walk and opportunity to build connections
- Community celebration promoting accessibility, universal design, and inclusion
- 250+ attendees from around the Phoenix Valley plus disability resource vendors

Employed and Overjoyed



- Spencer's Place Intern Program: Provide job skills and valuable training to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who would otherwise not have opportunities in the work force.
- 41 Interns completed the course
- Interns were trained in soft business skills, hygiene, and social appropriateness.
- 7 Interns hired at other places - One intern, struggled to secure an interview with any company, before starting the internship but was offered a position immediately, after their first interview, following the completion of the internship.

HART Pantry



- Serving 5 Dysart High Schools
- Serving Dysart Community Center
- Providing 18 item shelf stable single serve foods per week
- Provided 1-4 supper type bags to any student taking weekend bag
- BICYCLES, TOILETRIES, FEMININE PRODUCTS, SOCKS, PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

Hope Community Services



- Hope Community Services (HCS) provides services to children and families in the west valley, including Surprise.
- HCS served 79 children with Surprise grant funds
- 90% of children reported increase in self esteem, healthy coping skills and effective communication.
- HCs is grateful to the city of Surprise for partnering to service children and families!

One Step Beyond Inc



- On March 29, One Step Beyond Inc. hosted its annual Fine Arts Showcase in Surprise, highlighting participant growth across OSBI's five recreational branches: dance, fine arts, music, health and fitness, and social activities—all of which support mental health and social connection. 350 people in attendance.
- The event encouraged OSBI's 75 Surprise individuals with intellectual disabilities to express themselves artistically and connect with peers and staff, helping improve social skills and emotional well-being.
- Funding from the City of Surprise Community Outreach Program supported essential event needs, including rental of tables, chairs, tents, stages, and carnival games, enabling a successful and inclusive community celebration.

Radiant Church Night to Shine



- Unforgettable prom night experience for individuals with special needs and their families
- Over 325 Kings & Queens, 500 parents/caregivers, and 450 volunteers in attendance
- *REACH: continued existing partnerships and added 4 new sponsors*
- *RESPITE: provided separate space for parents and caregivers to enjoy a catered dinner and make connections*
- *RESOURCE: community support services information made available to families*

Seeds of Hope International Ministries

8th Annual “Bean Bag” Day & “MLK Celebration” Events

With \$6000 in funding, we were able to cover the expenses of purchasing 7,000 lbs. of bulk pinto beans for our 8th Annual "Bean Bag" day event, and the remaining funds were allocated towards the purchase of pasta for the Martin Luther King Celebration Service event as planned. Overall, our collaborative efforts made a significant impact on the Valley View Community Food Bank through the successful execution of both events.

- 1) Approximately 58,500 individuals will be assisted with their basic food needs as a result of our 2025 Bean Bag Day / 2025 MLK Celebration Service events.
- 2) Over 426 volunteers joined and participated in the 2025 Bean Bag Day / 2025 MLK Celebration events.
- 3) Numerous organizations in addition to SOHIM participated (i.e., City of Surprise, Dysart Unified School District, Arizona Charter Academy, Rotary Club of Surprise & Sun City West, Known Church, as well as local home school groups).



The Vista Sponsorship Project

All \$4,000 from the Vista Sponsorship Project was spent to support the Vista Center for the Arts Foundation, the West Valley Symphony’s 2024–2025 season, and the City of Surprise’s Vista theater feasibility study. A significant portion of the funding was directed toward the AudienceView season subscription, which allowed the West Valley Symphony to retain access to historical patron data and provided key information for the City’s TheaterDNA study.

- 1) All six of the West Valley Symphony performances were covered for the 24/25 Season by “The Vista Sponsorship Project” program.
- 2) Over 5,100 West Valley Symphony attendees were served under “The Vista Sponsorship Project” program.
- 3) More than 35 individual line-item costs were covered under “The Vista Sponsorship Project” program, including the sponsorship of the Audience View ticketing platform.

Project Connect-Spencer’s Place

The allocated funding of \$4000 for Project Connect was used to cover all of the yearly Century Link internet service costs of Spencer’s Place along with additional funding to help support employee sponsorships.

- 1) 12 months of Century Link internet expenditures were covered.
- 2) This project helped sponsor one employee scholarship.
- 3) Over 161 employee hours were offset because of this grant project.

SOHIM Community Enhancement Project was Granted \$7,000

2025 Bean Bag Day & MLK Celebration event (\$3,000)
 Project Connect–Spencer’s Place (\$2,000)
 The Vista Sponsorship Project (\$2,000)
\$7,000 was matched, for a project total of \$14,000!



Sounds of Autism – Unified Responder Community Initiatives



1/4ly
pop-up
event



2025
Sounds of Autism's
Including others
living At-Risk

Director Responders
Unite

Marcy Johnson
Residence of
Surprise, Mom of
Autism, also Lives
Life on the Autism
Spectrum
Representing
Outreach and Crisis
Support
within the City of
Surprise alongside
Victims Advocate Ms.
Fawn supporting
those living in Crisis.

- **(Training) Surprise Fire and Police Departments Crisis and Briefing Sessions** – Preparing First Responders to respond to the needs of the Autism Population through Crisis Training conducted by the Autism Population. (Serving multiple First Responders training includes Awareness, Crisis Training and Crisis Tool Support Attendees **156 Unduplicated**)
- **(Awareness Training) Surprise Residence** – Preparing Community Leaders and Residence of Surprise about SOA's Unified Initiatives, Resources and Support Solutions, available to Respond to the needs of At-Risk and Autism Populations especially during Crisis. (Surprise Leaders and Resident Attendees **517 Unduplicated**)
- **(Training) Dysart School District Educators** – Preparing for the next School Year including the SOA Unified Initiative (serving Educational Leaders and Families of Surprise **Attendees 55**)
- **Responding to Autism (Event)** – Crisis Intervention Outreach, Resources, and Support Solutions for Families Prenatal Until the End of Life (serving Families in Need alongside Surprise First Responders, Victims Advocates including Surprise Courts supporting Crisis Response and Intervention **Attendees 122**)
- **City of Surprise (Calls Service)** – Annually Supported Calls for Service with Support Needs for the Autism and At-Risk Populations, provided multiple Resources and Support Solutions to families in Crisis or going through the Surprise Court System, Provided Supplies for Families and Community Leaders/First Responders within 24 to 48 hours and immediately provided multiple tools and support solutions for the upper level leaders and First Responders on the streets when responding to calls for service related to Autism and other At-Risk critical issues within the City of Surprise.
- **Arizona Law Training (Consultant)** – Sounds of Autism is partnering with one of Arizona's largest Law Firms, DMMG and members of the AZ Supreme Court to develop ongoing training curriculum with a solution-based response for City and County Attorney's and Judges through CLE (Lawyers) and CJE (Judges) when representing the Autism Population facing legal Issues, incarceration and other issues that require legal representation. This first (4hr) training session will begin June 2025. (**Anticipated Attendance 100+ Lawyers/Judges from all over Arizona**)
- **A few of many supplies and tools we have given to Surprise Educators and Responders.** 75 Hygiene Bags for DV Victims, Lightbulb Cameras, 25 Backpacks stuffed with Supplies for Surprise Residence and were living in Crisis, 125 Homeless Food and Supply Drawstring Bags, 100 Drawstring bags for the Fire Department after Grant Funding was not secured in time for the Mothers Day Event. Supplies for a family in need within the Fire Department and a Family Pass for the Zoo for a Family who lost dad to cancer and has left behind a child with a disability.

Stepping Up for Seniors



- **Financial advice, counseling, and assistance for low-income seniors**
- Assisted 116 Surprise residents in FY 2024-25
- Total of \$6,500 paid on behalf of seniors for:
 - Utility bills
 - Medical bills
 - Eviction relief

Surprise Original Townsite Stakeholders Committee



- Preserving Our History
- Continuing our Legacy
- Community Involvement
- Forming Ever-Lasting Partnerships



Surprise Young Life



Hours Served

We served over 6,000 hours this year! We plan to serve even more with a growing team of adults and donors who serve and share faithfully.

We Gave

- Over 2000 Slices of pizza
- Over 3300 Cookies and Donuts
- Over 600 School Spirit cheering items
- Over 400 Diapers and wipes, 2 cribs
- Over 150 Pieces Clothing and backpacks
- Served several hundred, free cups of coffee to educators in Surprise and multiple schools

New relationships built

OVER 200 KIDS KNOWN BY NAME, these are established relationships. Meet more than 50 new kids a week over 1500 kids can recognize a leader.

We have connected more kids to other community groups. We have been able to help prevent more kids from hurting themselves or being hurt. We have been a valuable resource to schools and have been a more than welcome resource. We help where schools no longer have resources for. We are expanding into more schools in Surprise.

This was what kids said this year when they come to Young Life events and when we spent time with them.

“Thank you for being there to listen and hear me”

“Thank you for finding me and doing life with me and mentoring me”

“I have never felt so seen and welcomed”

“I can be myself and I still feel like I belong, I never had that”

“Bet, I cannot believe you want to spend your time with me, so thank you!”

“My life was changed and my life was saved”

“Im outgoing now, I now I am meant for more”

“I cannot believe I did that, I didn't know I could”

The Foster Alliance



- West Valley Back-to-School pop-up event
- 213 Children (Surprise Residents) Served
- Over 500 total children served, distributed 17,447 items, including 1,228 pieces of clothing and 659 school supplies.

The FOSTER Alliance
Back to School Pop-Up
For Children in Foster Care
in Tolleson, AZ

What: A Back to School Pop-Up for children in foster care including a brand new backpack, school supplies, and more!

Where: Phillips Law Group Office |
2755 S 99th Ave, Suite 103, Tolleson, AZ 85353

When: July 8th from 3:00pm-6:00pm



Valley View Community Food Bank

With support from the \$2,500 SCOP Grant, Valley View Community Food Bank participated in the City of Surprise's MLK Day of Service on January 18, 2025. Over 250 volunteers repackaged bulk pasta for easier distribution, helping to feed an estimated 27,000 individuals facing food insecurity. The event not only provided essential food resources but also strengthened community engagement and raised awareness about local hunger issues.



- **Improve Nutritional Meals** - Repackaged pasta contributes to healthier meal options by providing a shelf-stable, versatile ingredient that can be easily incorporated into balanced, nutritious meals.
- **Increase Meal Variety** - Individually portioned pasta offers greater flexibility in food box assembly, allowing for more diverse meal options that cater to different dietary needs and family preferences.
- **Support Healthier Meals for Families with Children** - As a kid-friendly staple, pasta helps families prepare wholesome meals. Pre-measured portions make meal planning easier, reduce food waste, and ensure families receive practical, usable ingredients.

Women4Women



- Held 17 feminine hygiene bag packing events with over 400 volunteers
- 3,000 bags have been delivered to organizations which support Surprise residents



Valley of the Sun YMCA



- We provided financial assistance to over 25 low-income Surprise children.
- Our YMCA Programs included early learning, afterschool, and day camp experiences with strong academic and social-emotional focus.
- Activities emphasized STEM, nutrition, physical activity, art, global awareness, and college/career readiness.

“This [YMCA] program was a lifesaver for our family. We’re so thankful for the support.”-Surprise Parent

Neighborhood Grant Award Guidelines

- To receive support, projects must:
 - Provide a public benefit
 - Result in a product, which benefits a neighborhood or the larger Surprise Community
 - Be feasible for completion by June 15, 2024
 - Involve the benefiting neighborhood in project identification, planning and execution
 - Emphasize neighborhood self-help, or
 - Be educational, community-building, or a public physical improvement



Homestead at Marley Park



- Bingo (Jan), 2nd Annual Murder Mystery Dinner (Feb), 1st Carnival!(March)
- Average attendance for our larger events are 150-200
- As our community gets bigger, the Social Committee is focused on scaling back on the number of events to create a bigger and more involved event. Our residents have quite enjoyed the amount and level of events we've been hosting. We have events geared towards families as well as adults. Our community sincerely appreciates the events and City support!

Royal Ranch



- Royal Ranch's annual Holiday party was full of fun including bounce houses, a petting zoo and Santa!
- 550 people were involved which is about the same or more than previous years.

Thank you to the City and Committee for helping make this event one of the best Royal Ranch has had!

Summary

With the **\$160,000** investment, **23** local non-profit and neighborhood groups were supported, which led to over **35,600*** people served through the Surprise Community Outreach Program and Neighborhood Grant Program

*not counting the 58,500 served through Valley View Food Bank with the Bean Bag Day and MLK Day of Service events.

Thank You

Thanks to Jodi Tas, Donna Martin, Victoria Simmons, Deb Perry & Seth Dyson

Questions or Comments?



SURPRISE

ARIZONA