



CITY OF SURPRISE
Veteran, Disability and Human Service Commission
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374
 Wednesday, May 13, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- A. Call To Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Current Events and Reports
- E. Staff Reports
- F. Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

INSTRUCTIONS: In order to address the Board\Commission, you will need to fill out a Call to the Public Form available at the front counter, and then turn it in to the Secretary before the meeting begins.

Note: A.R.S. 38-431.01(H) - During this time members of the public may address the Board\Commission only on issues within the jurisdiction of the Board\Commission which are not an item on the agenda. At the conclusion of the open call, the Board\Commission may respond to criticism, may ask staff to review the matter or may ask that the matter be put on a future agenda. No discussion or action shall take place on any item raised.

CONSENT AGENDA:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC HEARING:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

- | | | | |
|----|----------|--|------------------------------|
| 1. | Citywide | Consideration and action pertaining to the April 8, 2026 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
| 2. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion pertaining to Not My Kid. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
| 3. | Citywide | Discussion pertaining to the details and results of Vet Fest 2026. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
- G. Other Business and Future Agenda Items
 - H. Adjournment

KRISTI PASSARELLI, CITY CLERK

POSTED: Friday, May 8th, 2026 @ 9:30 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
Veteran, Disability and Human Service
Commission

Council Meeting Date: May 13, 2026 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Human Svcs and Comm District: Citywide
Vitality
Staff Recommendations:

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

Agenda Wording:

Consideration and action pertaining to the April 8, 2026 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Motion:

I move to approve the April 8, 2026 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Background:

N/A

Objective Analysis:

N/A

Policy Compliant:

This item is compliant with city and council policies.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Impact:

N/A

FTE Impact:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 4.8.26 VDHS Commission Minutes - DRAFT
-

**CITY OF SURPRISE
VETERANS, DISABILITY, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**April 8, 2026 | 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Tree called the Veterans, Disability, and Human Services Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at Surprise City Hall, 16000 North Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, Arizona 85374, on April 8, 2026.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were Chair Michael Tree, Vice-Chair Julie Kent-Partridge, Commissioners John Billcheck, Dr. Gwen Maxfield, and Allison Wisniewski.

Absences: Commissioners Olivia Fryer (excused) and Charles Manuel (unexcused).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

Community Initiatives Supervisor, Kara Poling, and Administrative Specialist, Victoria Simmons.

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Tree reported on the following:

- In an effort to support and grow the quality of life in Surprise, the Mayor and City Council offer the Surprise Community Outreach Program (SCOP). The program provides financial assistance to qualified nonprofits that provide direct services to City of Surprise residents. The FY2027 application period is now open, and applications will be accepted through Friday, May 1, 2026. For more information, please email Deb Perry at deborah.perry@surpriseaz.gov or call 623.222.1623.
- Surprise's Vet Fest is a fun-filled evening offering those who have served, are currently serving, or are looking to serve in the military a chance to connect with and learn about the support and resources available to veterans. Military families, supporters and the entire community are encouraged to take and show their support for our veterans! This family-friendly event is free for the community and will feature live music, food trucks with food for purchase, vendor booths, information from veteran service providers, a job fair, kids' zone, sensory tents, static displays of military vehicles and more!

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Wisniewski

- Participated in the Founder's Day Parade on March 28.
 - Carried America's 250th Anniversary banner with Commissioner Billcheck
- Attended Mayor's Boards and Commissions Dinner
- Participated in the escort for The Wall that Heals on April 8, along with Commissioner Maxfield
 - 77 riders, including the wall and other vehicles
 - Wall is ready to open tomorrow from April 9 – 12, open 24 hours a day
- Commissioner Billcheck
 - Attended Founder's Day on March 28, carried 250th Anniversary banner
 - Attended Mayor's Boards and Commissions Appreciation Dinner
 - Welcomed The Wall that Heals as it entered the City of Surprise complex
- Vice-Chair Kent-Partridge
 - Attended a VA Mental Health Advocacy Council meeting
 - It is interesting to learn about the different wait times within the VA health administration
 - Attended America's Mighty Warriors fundraiser event on March 19
 - Attended Out of the Park Country Music Festival on March 19
 - Attended Rattlers game where VFW Post 285 on the field participating in National Anthem Ceremony
 - Attended Founder's Day event on March 28
 - Attended Mayor's Board and Commissions Dinner on March 30
 - Attended Mayor's Roundtable on Disabilities today
 - April is Autism Awareness month, along with Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month and Parkinson's Awareness month
- Commissioner Maxfield
 - Attended Mayor's Boards and Commissions Dinner
 - Participated in the escort for The Wall That Heals
 - Attended event with Fountains of Living Water
- Chair Tree
 - Attended Mayor's Boards and Commissions Dinner
 - Welcomed The Wall that Heals yesterday
 - Welcome Home Ceremony on Thursday, April 9, at 6 p.m.
 - Candlelight Ceremony on Friday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m.
 - Taps at Sunset on Saturday, April 11
 - Closing Ceremony on Sunday, April 12, at 1:30 p.m., followed by final Taps at 1:58 p.m.
 - Wall closure at 2 p.m.

STAFF REPORT

None.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 1 - Consideration and action pertaining to the March 11, 2026 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Vice-chair Kent-Partridge moved to approve the March 11, 2026, Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Billcheck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 5 Yes votes and 2 absences (Fryer and Manuel).

Item 2 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to the final planning details of Vet Fest 2026.

The commissioners discussed final details of planning for Vet Fest 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Battle Belles, non-profit organization

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Chair Kent-Partridge moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on April 8, 2026, at 6:21 p.m. Commissioner Wisniewski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 5 Yes votes and 2 absences (Fryer and Manuel).

Kara Poling
Community Initiatives Supervisor

Michael Tree
Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Chair

The foregoing instrument is a full, true, and correct copy of the original document on file in the office of the City Clerk, City of Surprise, Arizona.

ATTEST BY:

Victoria Simmons
Administrative Specialist

DATE:

DRAFT



CITY OF SURPRISE
Veteran, Disability and Human Service
Commission

Council Meeting Date: May 13, 2026 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Human Svcs and Comm District: Citywide
Vitality
Staff Recommendations: None

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

Agenda Wording:

Presentation and discussion pertaining to Not My Kid.

Motion:

Presentation and discussion only.

Background:

Not My Kid will give a presentation on the different programs and services offered through their organization.

Objective Analysis:

To promote quality of life, accessibility and equity for all residents of Surprise, including those who are veterans or who experience disabilities, through cooperation with Surprise residents and any veterans, disability and human service organizations that serve the residents of Surprise.

Policy Compliant:

This item is compliant with City and Council policies.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Impact:

N/A

FTE Impact:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Welcome Intro Slide
2. Meet NMK 2025.2026 Surprise
3. Meet NMK 2025.2026 Surprise

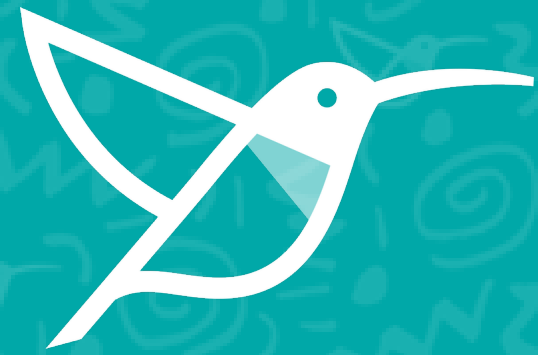


WELCOME

“The views expressed herein are those of **Not My Kid** and do not necessarily represent the views of the City of Surprise. The information provided herein has not been verified, and the City of Surprise assumes no responsibility for the policies or positions presented.”



SURPRISE
ARIZONA



An Introduction To

notMYkid

A Partner for Communities

Name



Position Title



Fun Fact



Let's Talk About It

Who are we?

Why are we needed?

How do we make a difference?

What is our impact?

How to Partner with notMYkid

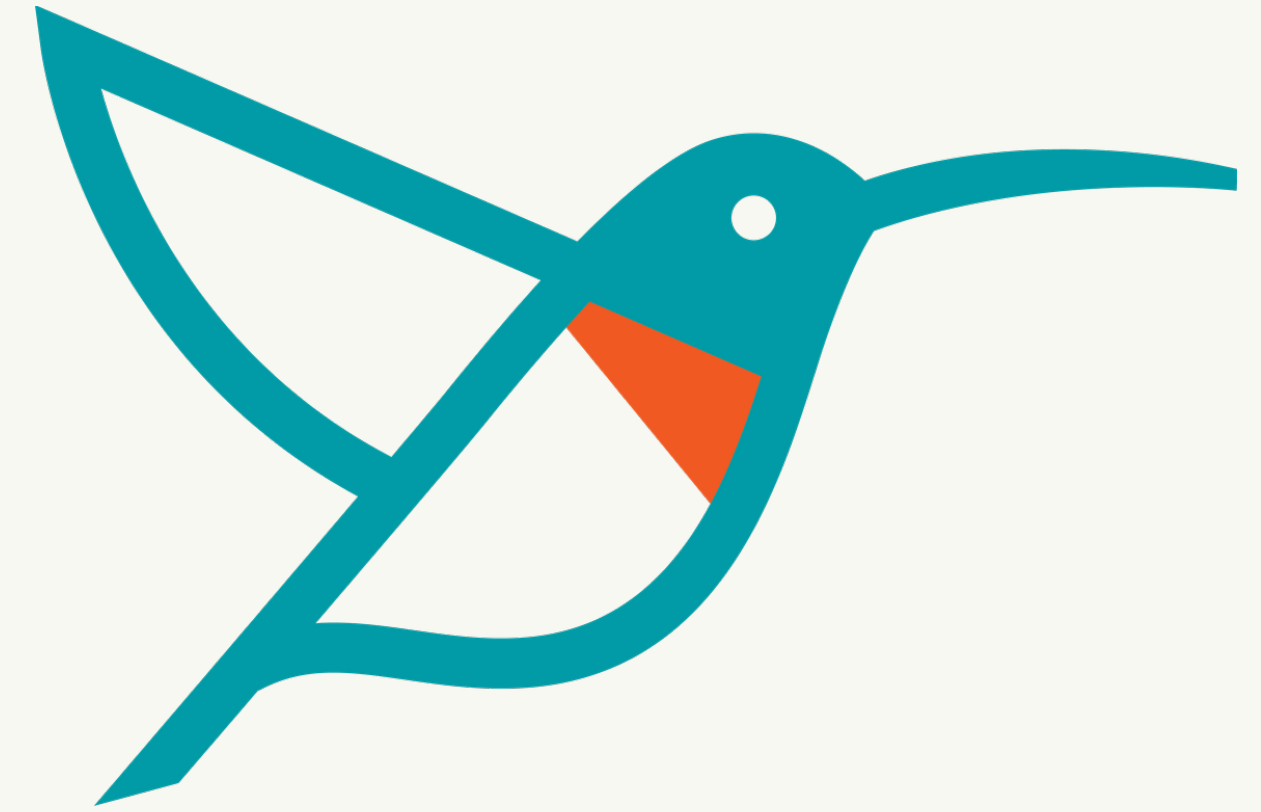
Who Are We?



5310



5310



STRENGTH **HOPE** RESILIENCE

The Hummingbird

Our History



25+ years of prevention leadership in Arizona, expanding nationally.

120,000 students, parents, and educators reached annually.

Known for credible expertise + relatable lived experience, creating programs that resonate with youth.

Founded to ***ensure every kid thrives by inspiring positive life choices***



We do not
believe in scare
tactics

Strength-Based Approach
Focus on Health & Safety
Creating Connection

We go UPSTREAM
for prevention



Why We Exist

Data Sources

Partnership to End Addiction

National Institute on Drug Abuse

SAMHSA

Arizona Department of Public Health

Arizona Youth Survey

Arizona Youth Risk Behavior Study

Center for Disease Control



The Teen Brain

Planning

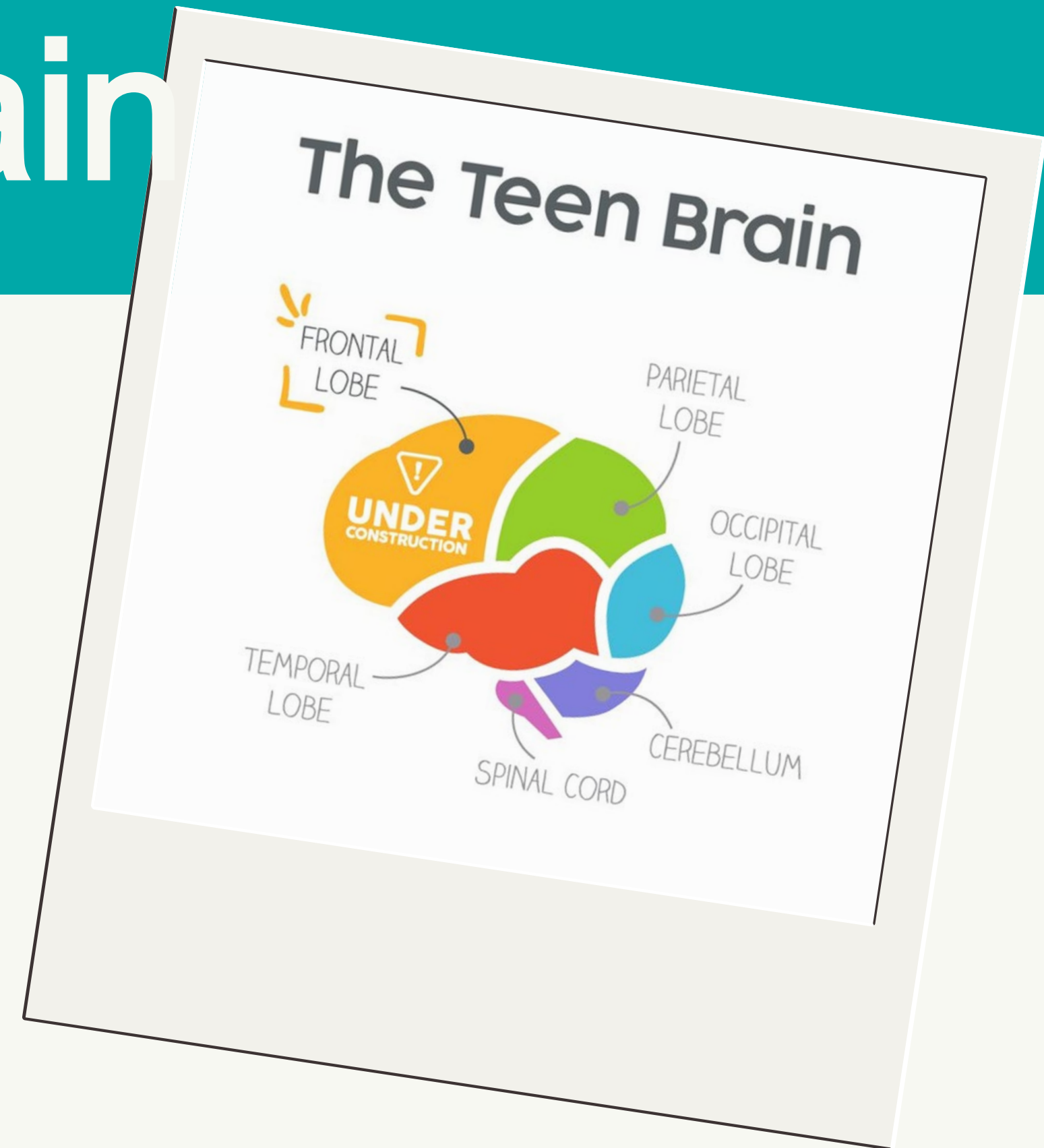
Decision Making

Anticipating Risk

Problem Solving

Regulating Emotions

Memory



RISK FACTORS

Trauma & Abuse

Mental Health Challenges

Family History of Substance Use

Favorable Attitude Towards Substances

Lack of Family Involvement

Lack of Connection



Protective Factors

Parental Disapproval

Monitoring Behavior on Social Media

Family Engagement

Spirituality

Connection to Positive Caring Adult

School Involvement

How Do We Make a Difference?

Prevention

Classroom & Assembly Presentations for Students

Parent Presentations (English & Spanish)

Faculty Training & Professional Development

Botvin LifeSkills Training Evidenced-Based

Catch My Breath Evidenced-Based

Resiliency Groups



Early Intervention

Project REWIND

Peer Support

Third Space



Project REWIND

Project REWIND is a *5 hour virtual program* dedicated to helping families navigate the complexities of early teen drug and alcohol use.

Strengthen Bonds

Family Focused

No Direct Cost to Families

Become a partner school and refer students to Project REWIND for vital support in substance use prevention and early intervention.

Rediscover Empowering Ways to Inspire New Direction

Third Space

First



Second



Third spaces are important because they give kids a safe place to be themselves and connect with others outside of home or school.

Behavioral Health



Individual & Family Counseling

Intensive Out Patient - *3 Hours x 3 Days a Week*

High School & Middle School Support Groups

Virtual Parent Support Group

Family Navigation

In-Person & Virtual Options Available

Project CONNECT



*We offer parenting classes based on proven approaches to help you better **connect** with and **support** your child*

Dr. Bruce Perry's 3 Rs

Learn how to help your child feel calm (Regulate), build a strong connection (Relate), and think through challenges together (Reason).

Trust-Based Relational Interventions (TBRI)

Practical tools to create a trusting and positive relationship with your child, especially if they've experienced challenges or trauma.

Circle of Security

Understand your child's emotional needs and learn how to provide them with a sense of security and support.

What is our Impact?

Our Impact



88% of youth reported they would not vape because of information they learned from notMYkid.

12,960 hours back in the classroom through our suspension reduction program.

"I feel like I'll be able to better communicate with my son after this reset."

– Mom

"It was an eyeopening experiences, made me view my daughter in a different light."

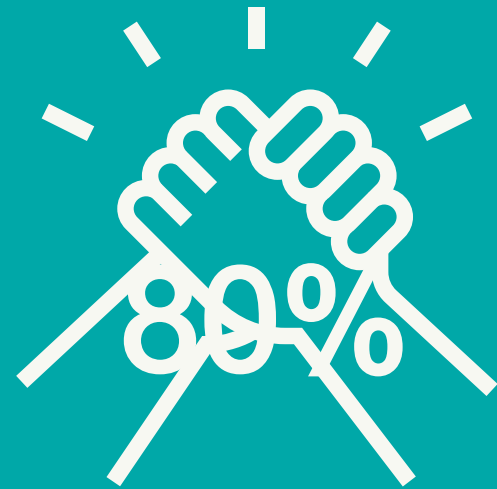
- Dad

"I feel like me and my mom can have a serious convo after this."

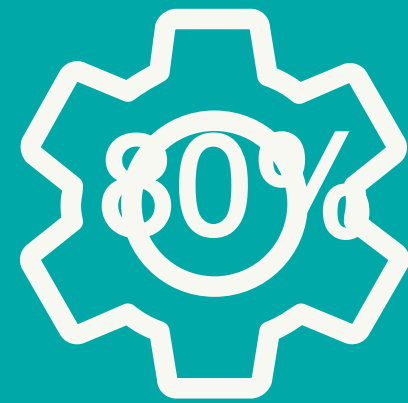
- Teen, 17

134,926

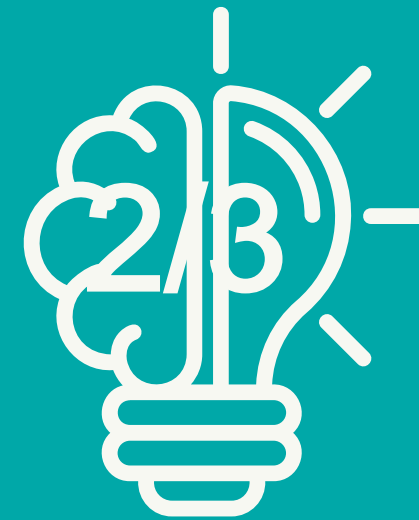
Lives impacted in 2024 -2025



of youth were able to identify at least one trusted adult in their life after a notMYkid program.



of youth reported they learned at least one resource they can use if they need help.



youth intend to use new coping skills they learned in the next two weeks.



of parents and teachers learned about how to best support youth.

How to Partner with notmykid

notMYkid

Family Navigation Services

Reach out to us!

notMYkid.org

602.652.0163

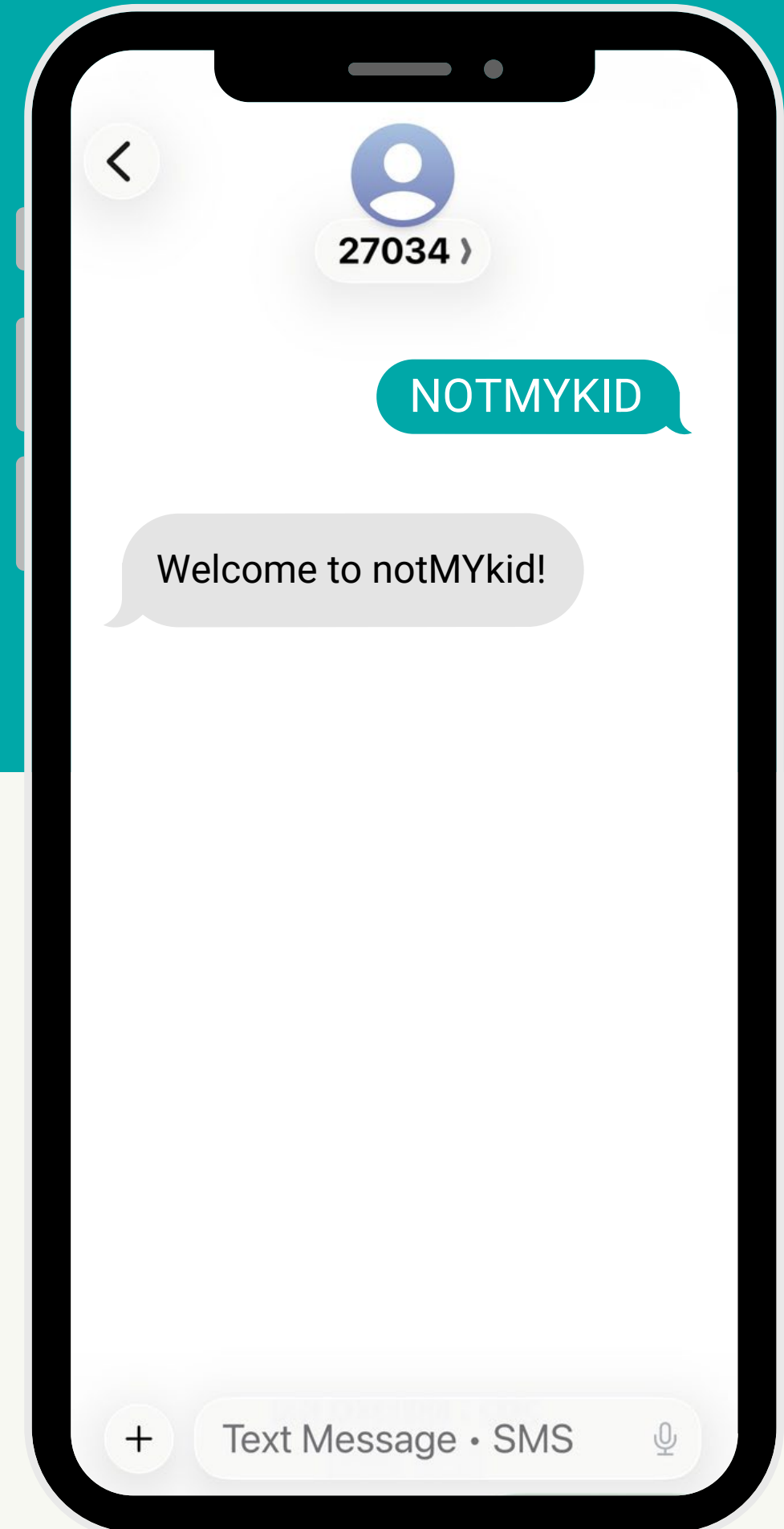
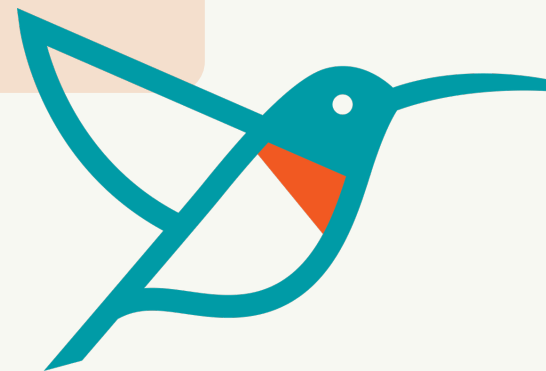
programs@notmykid.org



notMYkid

Join our Text Line

Text 'NOTMYKID' to 27034



notMYkid

Connect With Us!



notMYkid.org
602.652.0163
info@notmykid.org

Find Us On





An Introduction To

notMYkid

A Partner for

Communities

Name



Position Title



Fun Fact



Let's Talk About It

Who are we?

Why are we needed?

How do we make a difference?

What is our impact?

How to Partner with notMYkid

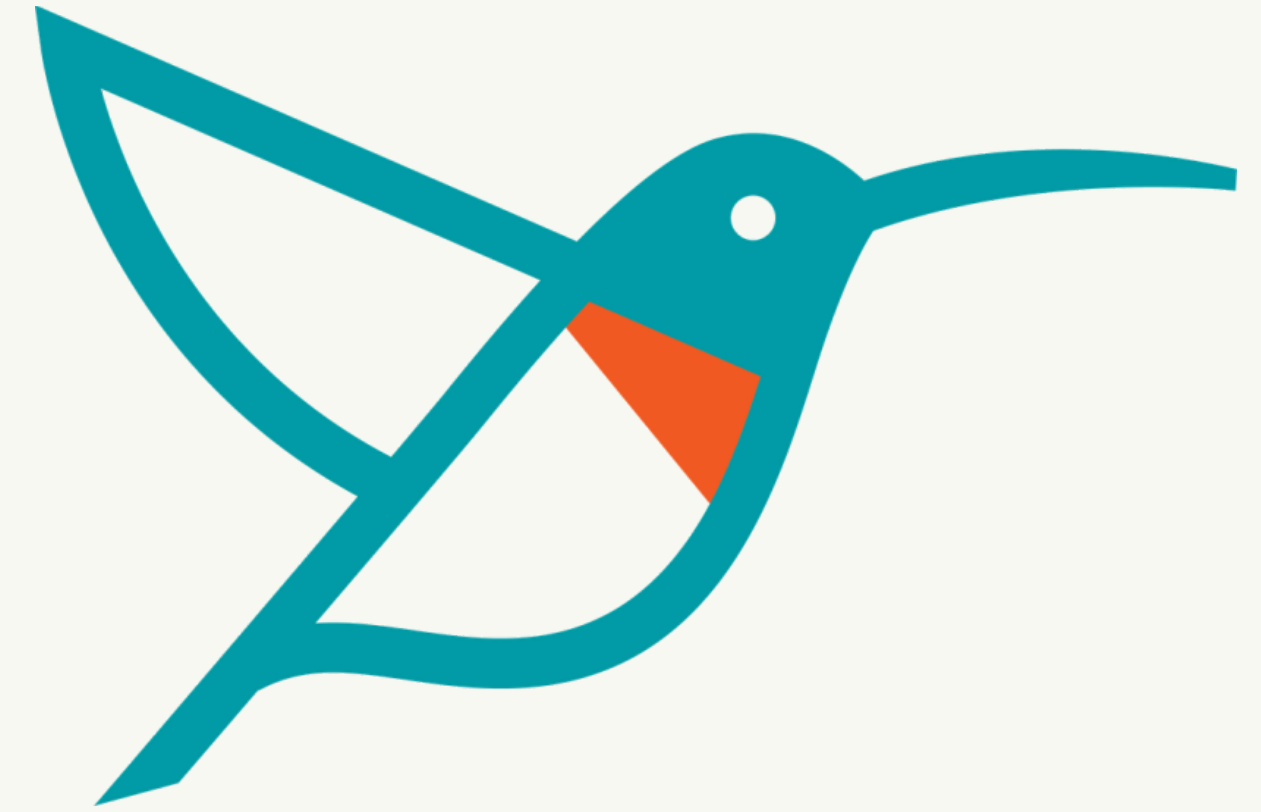
Who Are We?



5310



5310



STRENGTH
H

HOPE

RESILIENCE

The Hummingbird

Our History



25+ years of prevention leadership in Arizona, expanding nationally.

120,000 students, parents, and educators reached annually.

Known for credible expertise + relatable lived experience, creating programs that resonate with youth.

Founded to **ensure every kid thrives by inspiring positive life choices**



**We do not
believe in scare
tactics**

Strength-Based Approach
Focus on Health & Safety
Creating Connection

**We go
UPSTREAM for
prevention**



Why We Exist

Data Sources

Partnership to End Addiction

National Institute on Drug Abuse

SAMHSA

Arizona Department of Public Health

Arizona Youth Survey

Arizona Youth Risk Behavior Study

Center for Disease Control



The Teen Brain

Planning

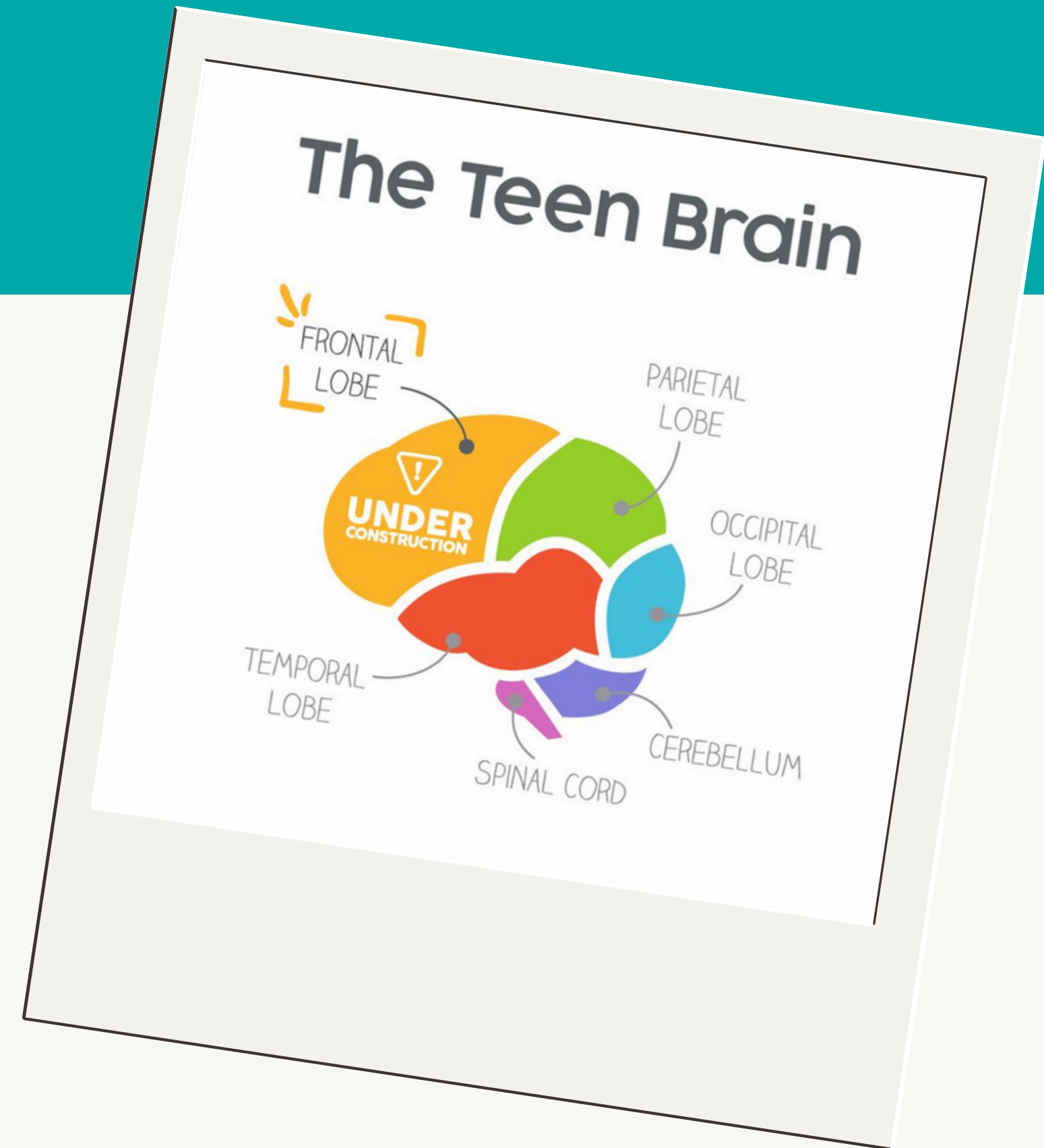
Decision Making

Anticipating Risk

Problem Solving

Regulating Emotions

Memory



RISK FACTORS

Trauma & Abuse

Mental Health Challenges

Family History of Substance Use

Favorable Attitude Towards
Substances

Lack of Family Involvement

Lack of Connection



Protective Factors

Parental Disapproval

Monitoring Behavior on Social Media

Family Engagement

Spirituality

Connection to Positive Caring Adult

School Involvement

How Do We Make a Difference?

Prevention

Classroom & Assembly Presentations for Students

Parent Presentations (English & Spanish)

Faculty Training & Professional Development

Botvin LifeSkills Training Evidenced-Based

Catch My Breath Evidenced-Based

Resiliency Groups



Early Intervention

Project REWIND

Peer Support

Third Space



Project REWIND

Project REWIND is a **5 hour virtual program** dedicated to helping families navigate the complexities of early teen drug and alcohol use.

Strengthen Bonds

Family Focused

No Direct Cost to Families

Become a partner school and refer students to Project REWIND for vital support in substance use prevention and early intervention.

Rediscover Empowering Ways to Inspire New

Third Space

First



Second



Third spaces are important because they give kids a safe place to be themselves and connect with others outside of home or school.

Behavioral Health



Individual & Family Counseling

Intensive Out Patient - *3 Hours x 3 Days a Week*

High School & Middle School Support Groups

Virtual Parent Support Group

Family Navigation

In-Person & Virtual Options Available

Project



*Make effective parenting classes based on proven approaches to help you better **connect** with and **support** your child*

Dr. Bruce Perry's 3 Rs

Learn how to help your child feel calm (Regulate), build a strong connection (Relate), and think through challenges together (Reason).

Trust-Based Relational Interventions (TBRI)

Practical tools to create a trusting and positive relationship with your child, especially if they've experienced challenges or trauma.

Circle of Security

Understand your child's emotional needs and learn how to provide them with a sense of security and support.

What is our Impact?

Our Impact



88% of youth reported they would not vape because of information they learned from notMYkid.

12,960 hours back in the classroom through our suspension reduction program.

"I feel like I'll be able to better communicate with my son after this reset."

Mom

"It was an eye-opening experiences, made me view my daughter in a different light."

- Dad

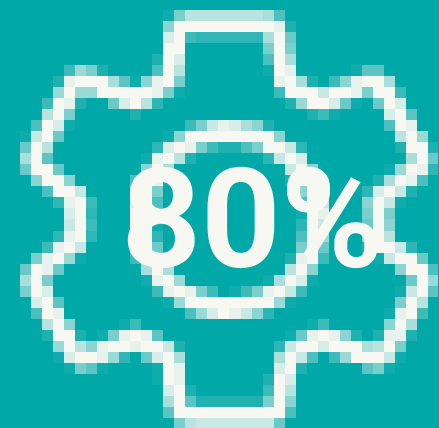
"I feel like me and my mom can have a serious convo after this."

134,926

Lives impacted in 2024-2025



of youth were able to identify at least one trusted adult in their life after a notMYkid program.



of youth reported they learned at least one resource they can use if they need help.



youth intend to use new coping skills they learned in the next two weeks.



of parents and teachers learned about how to best support youth.

How to Partner with notmykid

notMYkid

Family Navigation Services

Reach out to us!

notMYkid.org

602.652.0163

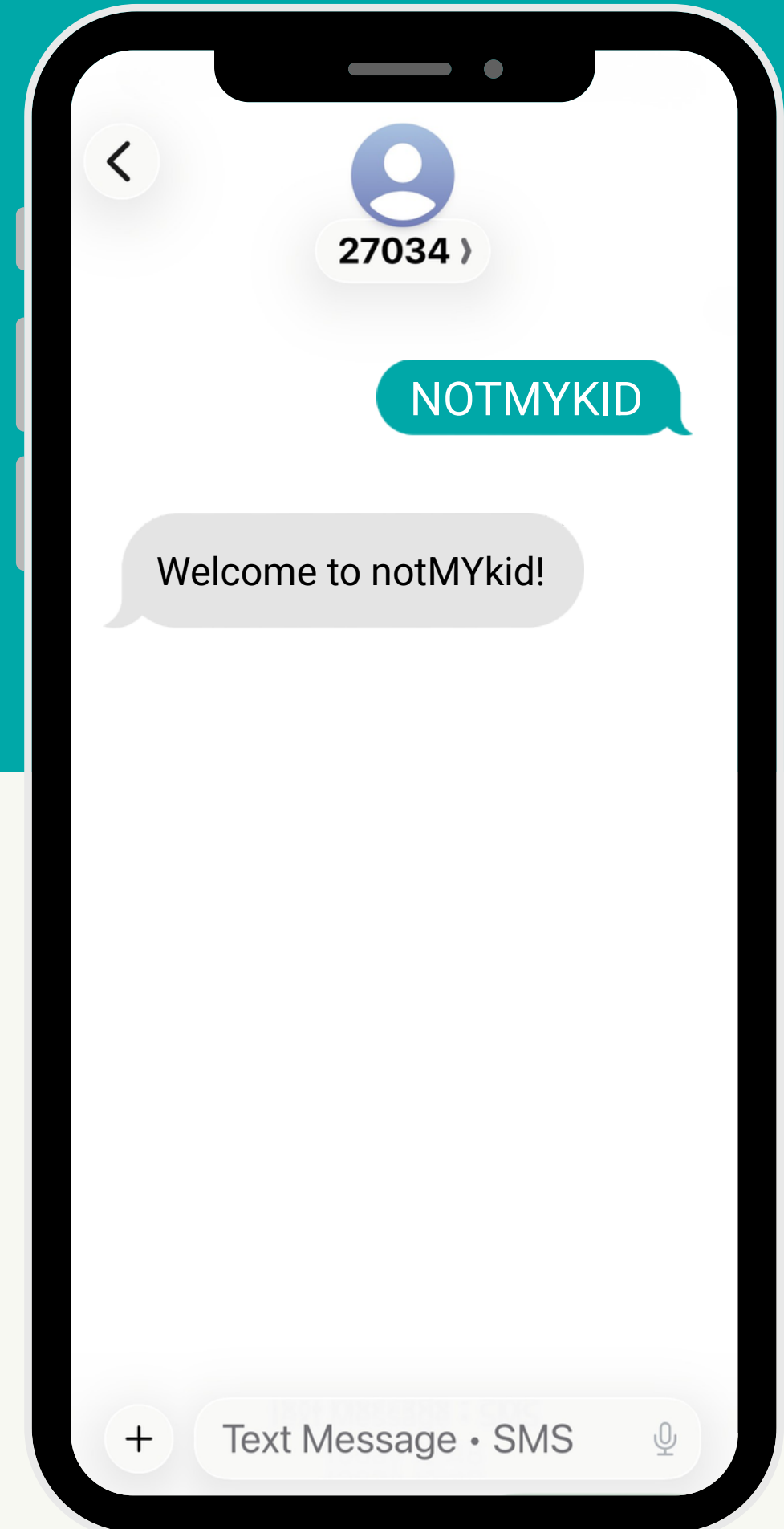
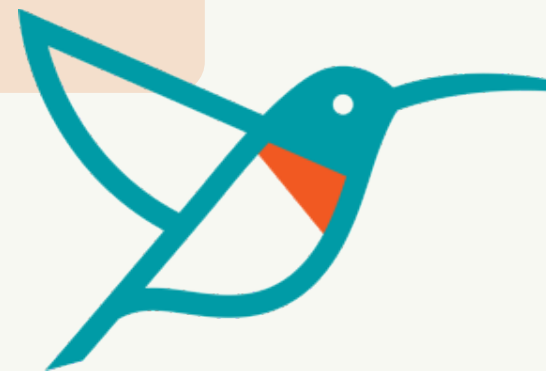
programs@notmykid.org



notMYkid

Join our Text Line

Text 'NOTMYKID' to 27034



notMYkid

Connect With Us!



notMYkid.org
602.652.0163
info@notmykid.org

Find Us On





CITY OF SURPRISE
Veteran, Disability and Human Service
Commission

Council Meeting Date: May 13, 2026 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Human Svcs and Comm District: Citywide
Vitality
Staff Recommendations: None

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

Agenda Wording:

Discussion pertaining to the details and results of Vet Fest 2026.

Motion:

Discussion only.

Background:

The commission will discuss final logistics surrounding the Surprise Vet Fest. The discussion will include details on the event planning in order to make the event a success.

Objective Analysis:

To promote quality of life, accessibility and equity for all residents of Surprise, including those who are veterans or who experience disabilities, through cooperation with Surprise residents and any veterans, disability and human service organizations that serve the residents of Surprise.

Policy Compliant:

This item is compliant with City and Council policies.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Impact:

N/A

FTE Impact:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:
