

Presented By



Arizona
Department
of Housing



BUILDING UP

PEOPLE. HOMES. COMMUNITIES.

2019 Arizona Housing Forum

Brian Mickelsen

HOUSING HERO AWARD



INNOVATIVE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING 2019

FIRST PLACE® AZ

First Place® AZ is a charitable nonprofit positioned for transformational impact on how society approaches housing and community development for individuals with autism and other neuro-diversities. After evaluating residential programs across the U.S. and conducting focus groups involving individuals with special needs and their families, the first new property—First Place–Phoenix broke ground in December 2016 and opened doors to residents in July 2018 with the support of a \$21.8 million comprehensive capital campaign comprised of public, private, philanthropic and nonprofit sources.

First Place–Phoenix, a \$15.4 million mixed-use development in the heart of the urban region, is comprised of First Place Apartments, First Place Transition Academy and the First Place Global Leadership Institute. First Place Apartments consists of 55 units for approximately 80 residents, providing access to various services and amenities with all the benefits of community-connected, independent living.

First Place AZ exemplifies a pioneering approach to residential models and lasting social impact on a global scale through a visionary goal to ensure that housing options are as bountiful for people with autism and other neuro-diversities as they are for everyone else. Successful outcomes are the result of collective perseverance and engaged state-agency leaders, creating the social capital that helps us innovate, learn, redirect as needed and ultimately succeed.

