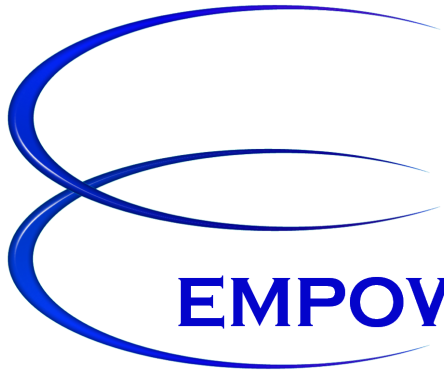


**Empowerment Systems,
Inc.
Fiscal Year 2016
Annual Report**



EMPOWERMENT SYSTEMS, INC.

"Empowering People to Improve Lives"

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Empowerment Systems, Inc. is a non-profit family of health education and wellness programs.

Who We Are

Empowerment Systems, Inc. completed its 26th year as a private, non-profit Arizona corporation on June 30, 2016. Originally established in 1990 as Pinal Gila Behavioral Health Association, we functioned as the Regional Behavioral Health Authority for Gila and Pinal counties for fifteen years. In 2006 we restructured and renamed the organization Empowerment Systems, Inc. As reflected in our amended articles of incorporation and bylaws, our broader scope is to support health and human services in communities throughout the state and nation. For the past ten years we have used our resources wisely to support our nonprofit family of health education and wellness programs. Still governed by a citizen board of directors, we remain a community based 501(c)3 tax exempt charitable corporation eligible for grants, contracts and tax deductible donations. This report accompanies our annual independent audit to inform our board of directors, stakeholders and other readers about our activities during Empowerment Systems' tenth year of operation.

Our Mission

“Empowering People To Improve Lives”

Our Vision

“Empowerment Systems Aspires To Be A Recognized Leader And Advocate For Helping Individuals, Families and Communities Achieve Optimal Health, Prosperity and Wellbeing.”



Accomplishments

We have accomplished much since our inception as Empowerment Systems in 2006. Beginning with the Greater Valley Area Health Education (GVAHEC), we created a non-profit family of health education and wellness programs that have considerable reach and community impact. Through continued lottery funding from the AHEC Program office at the University of Arizona, GVAHEC has provided student internship opportunities in a variety of health professions. This fiscal year our student interns designed and presented wellness classes in local communities. We provided travel support to clinical students to help them complete rotations in rural and underserved communities. We provided information and promoted healthcare careers for K-12 students and supported Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) programs. GVAHEC also provided Continuing Education Unit certificates for numerous professional development events. GVAHEC also assumed responsibility for the Community Outreach & Resource Connection programs at the CENTER and Lifebridge, where trained, licensed Navigators provide benefit and enrollment assistance..

With financial support from AZ Dept of Health Services, we operate the AZ Living Well Institute (AZLWI) to promote and support evidence-based Healthy Living Chronic Disease Self Management Education programs. In its six years of operation hundreds of CDSME workshop Lay Leaders and Master Trainers have been trained across 5 self-management programs. Thousands of Arizonans throughout all 15 counties and 5 tribal communities have participated, including in the Healthy Living (Chronic Disease Self Management Program) (CDSMP), Tomando Control de su Salud (Spanish CDSMP), Chronic Pain Self-Management Program (CPSMP), Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP) and Tomando Manejo de la Diabetes (Spanish DSMP). We support a statewide network of providers in aging,, community and faith based organizations, tribal programs, veterans administration and many others. We helped behavioral health providers employ peer support specialists and gain AHCCCS coverage and payment for CDSME workshops.



We continued to serve as fiscal agent for the AZ Coalition for Military Families (ACMF). However, the Coalition decided to terminate the arrangement and move to TAP-AZ as its fiscal agent, effective at the end of the fiscal year. This resulted in a significant loss of administrative revenue, pass through funding and elimination of five Empowerment Systems employees. However, we will continue to partner programmatically with the Coalition in the provision of financial and other assistance for military families to navigate various systems of care and employment.

Our Community Outreach and Resource Connection (CORC) program helps people navigate various systems of care. With support through Children's Action Alliance's Dentaquest Foundation grant and Alliance For Community Health Centers Navigator programs, our mobile navigators help people apply for benefits such as Medicaid, KidsCare, Unemployment, Temporary Assistance For Needy Families and Affordable Care Act Healthcare. We operate *the* CENTER in Apache Junction, which serves as a Workforce Connection One Stop Access Point for job training and employment assistance. We also partner and receive support from the AZ Community Action Association to offer Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), assistance, United Food Bank to distribute fresh produce and A.T. Still's Dental Outreach for Rural AZ (DORA) program for affordable dental care. Our satellite office at Lifebridge in NW Phoenix enables us to serve students and provide assistance in the central part of the Valley. As a result, we reached out and provided assistance for thousands of people. We also had dozens of volunteers provide us thousands of hours of community service through Experience Matters and other partners.

We held our sixth annual Power of Wellness luncheon, statewide and regional AZLWI Healthy Living Partner meetings, ACMF Symposium for military families, Embracing Change and Health Equity conferences and monthly meetings of *the* NETWORK of health and human service providers in our region. Although we are updating them, our website at www.empowermentsystems.org links people to the websites and newsletters of our major programs: GVAHEC, AZLWI, ACMF, and *the* CENTER. We partner and collaborate with like minded organizations such as Children's Action Alliance, Council of Human Service Providers, AZ Public and Rural Health Associations, Mental Health America, Alliance for Community Health Centers, Vitalyst CoverAz, Pinal Partnership, Pinal Workforce Development Board, AJ Chamber of Commerce and others to actively advocate for sound public health policy. We work closely with Protecting Az Families Coalition (PAFCO) and the Get Out The Vote program to help people register and vote. We also supported the successful effort on Medicaid expansion and restoration of KidsCare, against considerable odds. We continue to support and work toward successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the Health Insurance Exchange in Arizona .

Financial Position

As shown on our audited Statements of Financial Position and Activities, our finances remain very sound. Our fund balance far exceeds the minimum six months' operating reserves recommended for non-profit organizations. Although our unrealized investment gains were almost double the previous year, we also carried over sizeable receivables. This was mostly the result of payment delays from ACMF contracts, negatively impacting our cashflow and financial position. We experienced a decrease in net assets of \$160,065 due to income reductions from lost lease income due to vacancies, lease remodeling startup expense, unanticipated building maintenance expense and reduced interest and dividend income. Although we experienced significant increases in revenue from fees for service and donations, sponsorships, and contributions, it was not sufficient to fully offset the net expense over revenue. This made it necessary to continue to spend some of our reserves to sustain operations and program development. We anticipate that full implementation of our Synergistic Sustainability Plan will lead to greater efficiency, savings and generation of fee for service revenue.. The outlook for sustainability is promising as we are already experiencing increased funding for various program services, as well as improved earnings from new leases.



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Wendy O'Donnell, AZLWI Director
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