



Old Pueblo Community Services History Timeline

1996

- June 1, 1996 Casa Santa Clara for Men was founded by Nick Jones and Pastor Mark Harris of The Oasis Church as a “passion project” to provide safe, sober housing for men being released from prison.
- It began with a small group of volunteers from the Oasis Church.
- With \$1,100 and a lease for ½ duplex at 12th & Valencia, CSC provided transitional beds for 6 men in transition
- By December, CSC had leased the entire 2800 ft. duplex on 3.8 acres, adding another 6 beds.

1997

- Old Pueblo Community Foundation (OPCF) received it’s IRS 501(c)3 designation.

1999

- A second facility, Pantano House, was leased, adding transitional beds for 12 additional men.
- OPCF received its first grant award of \$35,000 from the Mustard Seed Foundation to purchase the duplex and land on Casa Santa Clara Road.
- The land was sold later that year to a private developer and became the first affordable housing project, Mission Vista Estates. The project would eventually provide 22 homes to first-time, low-income homeowners.
- OPCF moved into a small office building at 8230 E. Broadway Blvd. with the help of the Oasis Church.

2000

- March, 2000, Nick Jones became the first Executive Director and first paid employee of OPCF.
- OPCF leased a third house on Richey Blvd., adding transitional beds for 12 more men. .
- OPCF began offering supportive services to clients in transitional housing.

2001

- OPCF opened Oasis House for Women in a fourth leased facility on Treat, providing transitional beds for 12 women.
- The second employee was hired in 2001, a part-time Administrative/Accounting Assistant, Acey Hoof.

2002

- OPCF received the first HUD grant for the New Chance Program. This program was the first collaborative program with Primavera Foundation and Sullivan Jackson Employment.
- OPCF leased a third property, a 4-unit apartment complex at 2443 Sparkman, adding 7 transitional beds for men who were moved from the original CSC property on 12th and Valencia.
- The Administrative/Accounting Assistant was increased to full-time employment.
- Leah Jones, a third staff member was hired, and joined the staff as the women’s housing coordinator.
- OPCF utilized Contract Counseling and Consulting Services to provide counseling to all clients, funded by State of Arizona funding called the COOL Program for offenders.

2003

- OPCF received a second HUD grant for the Oasis Project to support and house 18 individuals and 8 families as the first program through which OPCF would serve families.
- Greg Pike was hired as the fourth employee as the men's housing coordinator.
- OPCF leased a fourth facility, a 5-unit apartment complex on Isabel, adding another 20 beds for men in transition.
- OPCF leased a fifth facility on Swan and opened the Oasis House, adding transitional beds for 24 women.
- OPCF completed the first of hundreds of affordable homes for first-time home buyers.
- OPCF hired its first part-time counselor, Raquel Ramirez.

2004

- Terry Galligan joined the staff as the Director of Housing Development.
- Under his direction, OPCF acquired the Community Housing Development Organization certification with Pima County.
- OPCF became a HUD-Certified Housing Counseling agency through affiliation with the Rural Communities Assistance Corporation (RCAC).
- OPCF received the first Department of Labor Grant, offering life skills to the women at the Southern Arizona Correctional Release Center (SACRC) while incarcerated.
- OPCF received a third HUD grant, the Men in Transition Program, to support and house and 12 additional men.
- In collaboration with the Center for Applied Behavior Health Policy (CABHP), OPCF received a five-year grant award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the Casa Santa Clara Project which would add transitional beds and services for 21 men.
- With initial help from CABHP and SAMHSA, OPCF was able to turn an archaic data collection system into a highly effective, web-based client management system, known as "Client Manager." It would now capture much needed data to create reports, manage waiting lists, and functions that allow better customer service.
- OPCF purchased a new administration building at 4501 E. 5th St.

2005

- The Casa Santa Clara Project rolled out in partnership with Dr. Michael Shafer of the CABHP. The CSC Project was the spark needed to propel OPCF to the next level and was a breakthrough for growth.
- Through the CSC Project, OPCF established new evidence-based counseling practices combined with a trauma recovery component.
- OPCF began the Mentoring Program for criminal justice clients.
- A Housing Specialist and a Housing Rehabilitation Specialist joined the Housing Development staff.
- OPCF joined the Predatory Lending Solutions Coalition.
- OPCF began revitalization & rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes.
- Housing Development built 16 new homes for first-time home buyers. The families included 25 children.
- The staff continued to grow as four Case Managers & an Intake Manager joined the staff.
- A second receptionist & Executive Assistant joined the staff.
- Martha Lugo joined the staff as Finance Manager.
- OPCF provided home-buyer seminars to members of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.
- OPCF became a State of Arizona certified Community Housing Development Organization

2006

- OPCF Housing Development completed renovation of eight owner-occupied homes in Marana and built 30 new homes for first-time home buyers.
- OPCF became a member of the Tucson Rehabilitation Collaborative.
- OPCF became a member of the “Don’t Borrow Trouble” campaign.
- OPCF co-founded a new Homeownership Collaborative with Habitat for Humanity.
- A sixth facility was leased on Glenn. Though it was originally leased to support a general population, Glenn would become one of the primary Veteran properties.
- OPCF received a second renewal of a Department of Labor Grant, for the Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) opening our first funded mentoring program for newly-released offenders. This was a collaborative effort with Primavera Foundation.
- OPCF celebrated its Ten-Year Anniversary.

2007

- Tom Litwicki joined the OPCF staff as Director of Programs. He would later become the first Clinical Director of the OPCF Clinical Programs.
- OPCF received a first GPD Capital Grant and purchased the Sparkman facility, converting it to the first official Veteran property serving 12 homeless Veterans.
- OPCF leased an seventh facility for the Oasis House, located just south of the first property on Swan, adding transitional beds for eight women who were victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual trauma, and stalking. Known as the Casa Mariposa Project, this program was in partnership with SACASA, funded by a grant from the Department of Justice (DOJ).
- Housing Development completed renovations on eight owner-occupied homes in Marana, built 6 new houses (total of 36 to date) and broke ground on eleven additional homes.
- René Myers joined the OPCF staff as the first Director of Development.
- Mary Dreher was hired as the first Director of Finance. Her title was later changed to Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
- Maintenance Department grew with hiring of a second maintenance person.

2008

- In March, 2008, OPCF changed its name to Old Pueblo Community Services (OPCS) and, accordingly, executed new Articles of Incorporation.
- OPCS completed the State Behavioral Health Licensure requirements.
- An eighth property opened at Bell and Seneca. This would be the second property to be purchased with a second GPD Capital Grant for the GPD program for Veterans.
- A ninth property on Water was leased as the transitional living programs for Veterans continued to grow.

2009

- Steps For Vets, a program to serve Chronically Mentally Ill Veterans, was launched with funding from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- The Casa Santa Clara Project was completed
- The Arizona Recovery Housing Association was founded. Nick Jones served as chairman and a founding member. The state-wide organization was founded to set and maintain standards for quality and safety in recovery housing in Arizona.

2010

- OPCS continued to expand with the addition of a tenth property on Bellevue. This would be the largest property to date with a capacity of 70 people.

- The expansion of transitional housing properties and subsequent increase in staff of 25% staff resulted in the hiring of three Program Managers: Angela Wilson, Cynthia Anderson-Green and Michael Melby.
- Leah Jones became the Director of Programs.
- Housing Development moved their offices to 4007 E. Paradise Falls.
- OPCS received funding from the Department of Justice for the One Step At a Time (OSAT) Mentoring Program, a 2-year program.
- The Veterans Court was started in cooperation with the University of Arizona School of Law and the Tucson City Court . Nick Jones worked in collaboration with Judge Pollard and the VA on this volunteer directed project.
- The Substance Abuse Treatment (SATP) program for stabilization services opened at OPCS in collaboration with the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS).
- The Rapid Emergent Housing (REH) program opened in collaboration with SAVAHCS.
- Katy Scoblink was hired as Clinical Manager as the Clinical staff continued to grow.

2011

- The Treat House was closed and the women moved to the Pantano House.
- OPCS Clinical Services became certified by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities (CARF) International. This first certification is a three-year certification.
- SATP Aftercare was added as a new program in collaboration with SAVAHCS.
- Funding was received from the Department of Justice for the “Inside Out Recovery Partnership” with the Pima County Mission Jail. This program provides substance abuse counseling and support for men and women while incarcerated in the County Jail with a continuation of services, and housing as needed, upon release.
- OPCS launched the Community Recovery Program, a 12-week intensive outpatient substance abuse recovery program. This program allows for insurance reimbursement and self-pay on a sliding scale.
- With the opening of these new programs, there was an additional increase in staff of 25%. By the end of 2011, OPCS would employ about 60 full-time staff.
- Nancy Jones was hired as the second Director of Development.

2012

- The Kleindale property was leased and become the new “tenth” property to be opened for OPCS programs, primarily utilized for Veteran programs.
- Administrative offices moved to 4007 E. Paradise Falls Dr. to accommodate growth and Transitional Housing and Clinical staff needs at 4501 E. 5th Street.
- Tom Litwicki “retired” and Katy Scoblink became Clinical Director. Chris Ledyard was hired as Clinical Supervisor.
- Mary Dreher was appointed the first Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Ellyn Langer became the Director of Finance.
- The Old Pueblo Group, Inc. was formed as the umbrella over two 501(c)3 entities, Old Pueblo Community Services (transitional living and addiction counseling) and Old Pueblo Housing Development.