



# Bread & Roses Opens Its Doors



SAAF is thrilled to announce that Bread and Roses, the first crisis transitional shelter in Pima County for homeless LGBTQ+ youth, has opened its doors! Bread and Roses offers a safe, inclusive, and affirming space for LGBTQ+ youth, ages 18 to 24, providing youth with the support needed at every step of

the way. Bread & Roses aims to empower youth to permanently leave the streets, secure stable housing, and build self-sufficient, fulfilling lives. [OPCS \(Old Pueblo Community Services\)](#) and SAAF (Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation) are collaborative partners in this project.

The Bread & Roses site can house up to 8 youth at a time and will aim to serve 24+ participants in securing permanent housing each year. Youth will be supported from entry to exit by a case manager, counselor, housing navigator, health specialist, employment coach, and substance abuse therapist. The program will also offer group activities designed to facilitate connection, provide pro-social opportunities, and build skills, community, and culture. This is a low-barrier project based on Housing First principles, and as such welcomes couples and service animals.

Youth can apply to this program through TPCH's Coordinated Entry Homeless Assistance Access Points. The shelter takes its name after "Bread and Roses"— a poem by James Oppenheim inspired by a slogan from a 1912 textile worker's strike. It is now considered an anthem in support of the labor movement and for others seeking justice, dignity, and equality. A verse of the poem, which reads: ***Hearts starve as well as bodies, give us bread, but give us roses*** reflects the mission of Bread and Roses in providing more than a shelter for LGBTQ+ youth, but also a place for them to flourish.

This project is made possible by a grant from TPCH (Tucson Pima Collaboration to end Homelessness) funded through HUD. OPCS will take the lead in managing the transitional housing facility and providing navigation into voucher-supported housing in Pima County. SAAF will take the lead in

providing case management and supportive services designed to elevate the voice of youth participants. Both organizations are united in their support of the project.

*Tom Litwicki, CEO at OPCS, asserts, “We are thrilled to announce our partnership with SAAF to implement Tucson’s first youth LGBTQ+ affirmative crisis transitional housing program. No one should be denied shelter because of their sexual orientation or gender expression, kindness and care for homeless households must be universal.”*

*SAAF’s CEO, Ravi Grivois-Shah, states, “Because of this important collaboration resulting in the first LGBTQ+ affirming emergency shelter in our community, we’re better able to meet the needs of homelessness amongst LGBTQ+ identifying youth, some of the most vulnerable individuals in our region.”*

**All are welcome to attend the Bread & Roses Virtual Groundbreaking and Site Tour on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00PM.**

**Please visit <https://fb.me/e/ZVoG4VCm> to RSVP and watch the virtual event. Media are welcome to attend the event in-person, provided they are masked and observe social distancing.**

**To learn more about the Bread & Roses Program, please visit <https://www.saaf.org/hiv-prevention-and-testing/bread-and-roses/>.**