



Verde Valley Sanctuary

# Newsletter

Issue No. 5 | Winter 2023

## Thank You from Verde Valley Sanctuary!

We at the Verde Valley Sanctuary (VVS) are honored and deeply moved by your efforts to help us raise funds for our mission to provide safety, services, and comfort to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Your generosity enables us to make a beautiful and meaningful difference for the many individuals and families we support.

This time of year is a reminder of the overwhelming compassion of our community to ensure that the survivors and children we serve receive not only the gift of safety, but gifts from strangers who care about their wellbeing.

You have made a difference in the lives of the families we serve and are a partner in our ongoing work to provide safety, services, and comfort to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

On behalf of myself, our entire staff, board, and the hundreds of survivors we serve, we **THANK YOU** for your donations and generosity.

Your donations help support:

- Year-round, 24-hour operation of our shelter & crisis hotline
- Safety planning & case management support
- Lay legal & community based advocacy services for survivors
- Violence prevention education & awareness
- Transitional housing
- A new VVS campus (More information on this in the coming months!)

Your gifts are directly helping survivors of domestic and sexual violence open a door to a new life. We could not do it without people like you!

With Gratitude,

Jessye Johnson, MPA  
Executive Director

## Featured Articles

### Giving Stories



### Margie's Story



### Donate Using the Arizona Tax Credit



## Vin de Filles Raises \$40,000 for the Sanctuary!

'Vin de Filles' (VDF), an Arizona wine grown, produced, and bottled by women, released their 2nd vintage during its second Fund-Raising Dinner in mid-October on the Vineyard Deck at Page Springs Cellars, Cornville, Arizona.

The group of female volunteers ranging in age between 11 and 68 years of age, started the VDF wine label in 2020. Thanks to the support of Page Springs Cellars, the community and a successful wine release event in 2021, the women rolled into caring for the same grape vines destined to become 2021's VDF's vintage.

The wine is composed mostly of a Syrah clone grown in the Page Springs area combined with a small percentage of Malvasia Bianca also grown in Page Springs. This French method of combining a red grape with a white grape pre fermentation is from the Côte-Rôtie appellation of southern France, although the Arizona winemakers used Malvasia Bianca rather than the traditional Viognier grape utilized in that region for the white addition.



The VDF project educates and encourages the passions of women beyond the wine industry. A five-course pairing dinner was prepared by female chefs, winemakers, a meadmaker, and a female musician playing live acoustic guitar in the background. The event included a silent auction with wine donated by women winemakers from across the world including Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and California, plus a raffle for a special bottle of Vueve Clicquot, in honor of the woman who revolutionized Champagne.

All the silent auction, raffle proceeds, net profits of ticket sales, wine sales and t-shirt sales were donated to VVS totaling \$40,000. The inaugural Vin de Filles event in 2021 yielded \$25,000 also benefitting VVS.

# Vin de Filles Raises \$40,000 for the Sanctuary!

VVS's mission is to provide safety, services, and comfort to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. VVS, approaching its 30th year, provided an array of direct services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence including pet friendly emergency shelter and transitional housing, community-based advocacy, lay legal advocacy, case management, and safety planning. VVS also provides healthy relationship and prevention education to children in elementary and junior high in schools across the Verde Valley region.

*"The significance of this event cannot be understated, and for Verde Valley Sanctuary to have been chosen as the beneficiary of this event is truly special"* says Jessye Johnson, Executive Director of Verde Valley Sanctuary. *"We are beyond grateful for the generosity of the Vin De Filles winemakers, volunteers, chefs, attendees, and Page Spring Cellars who help us in our mission to serve survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the Verde Valley."*

The 2021 vintage is available for purchase at the Page Springs Cellars tasting room and the net profits from those bottle sales will continue to be donated to VVS. For more information, check out <https://pagespringscellars.com/vin-de-filles>.



(From left to right: Page Springs Cellars Bree Nation, Gayle Glomski, Lauren Maldonado, and Verde Valley Sanctuary Tracey McConnell)

*Thank You, Page Springs Cellars!*

## Margie's Story

**The Verde Valley Sanctuary literally saved my life!** My gratitude quotient is off the charts. You see, I didn't realize I was being domestically abused. I lived with an alcoholic who was increasingly violent. It wasn't until I was eight years into this violence that a female sheriff encouraged me to get domestic violence counseling.

Within two months of living together, he strangled me until I passed out. I knew three to six months before I left that I would die in this home if I didn't get help. I'd come home from work, and he would be inebriated and raging. He would throw my possessions against the wall and out the door. There was horrifying name calling, degradation, and financial abuse.



He alienated me from friends and family. There was a withholding of affection, and he would tell me that I was repulsive. There were guns in the house. I lived in a very rural area and had no support system.

I learned about the VVS when I called a national hotline. One of the Advocates, Lisa, provided me with weekly education and therapy for nearly a year. VVS bought wood to keep my home heated. My oven broke down and VVS acquired a donation to replace it. It was the weekly therapy that saved my life.

There is help. It is scary and challenging to leave and walk into the unknown. Yet, there is nothing worse than staying in the abuse in your own home.

This is an equal opportunity problem; it breaks all stereotypes, and it crosses all demographic boundaries. This can happen to anyone.

The VVS Outreach Advocate counseled and educated me about domestic violence. I remember Lisa telling me to anticipate that he would seek me out again within three months. And that is what he did. He pulled at my heart strings; however, my intellect and the education about domestic violence helped me combat it.

My home is peaceful now; it is my sanctuary. I will not allow people who exhibit unhealthy behaviors to remain in my life. I no longer feel shame. I am back on my feet. Now I am very vocal about my story. This was not my fault. This is my truth.

[This story is true in events and spirit, however identifying markers have been changed to protect the client.]

# Donor Story, Renee and Doug Leuthold



Renee and Doug Leuthold met with Community Development Director Tracey McConnell on November 14th to learn more about the Verde Valley Sanctuary (VVS). They asked a lot of great questions! Who knew they would propose giving \$50,000 to help us raise more funds for our important work? What an extraordinary gift for us to receive! So we asked them to share their giving story with you, our friends of the VVS.

**How did you first hear about our organization?** An event at Mary D. Fisher Theater.

**What made you decide to give your first gift?** We initially started considering giving to VVS because we believe in their mission, but our commitment to give came after meeting with Tracey McConnell and learning more about the organization including the services offered, the number of people helped, and the strategic plan for continuous improvement and growth to benefit their clients.

**Why do you enjoy giving to Verde Valley Sanctuary?** Renee was a volunteer for abused children for almost 20 years, plus we have a family member who experienced spousal abuse, so we have a special place in our hearts for domestic violence victims. We appreciate organizations such as VVS who not only offer a safe harbor but help victims change their lives to be able to be safe, healthy & self-sufficient.

**What do you hope to accomplish through your philanthropy?** God has blessed us in many ways, so we want to share our blessings with our community and hopefully help others change their lives and move forward in a positive direction.

**If you were talking to someone else about giving to the Sanctuary, what would you tell them?** We are telling our friends about VVS and encouraging them to get involved whether it is through donations or volunteering. First and foremost because we believe every domestic violence victim deserves the right to be safe, healthy, and happy, secondly because VVS has a very thoughtful strategic plan utilizing all donations wisely.

*Thank You, Renee & Doug!*

# Christmas Gifts from Donors to Clients

Hideaway House, Sisterhood Connection Foundation, Quail Country Quilters Guild, Sedona Elks Lodge, Hilton Sedona Resort at Bell Rock, Corina Taylor & daughter Kaitlynn Schabatka, Cottonwood Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots, Oak Creek Club Niners, White Light Crystal, Books, and Angels, St. John Vianney Church, Walker Marshal, Michelle & Frank Barry (and many anonymous donors) all have something in common - bringing joy and holiday relief to clients of the VVS.



"We really want to be a part of our community and give back, that is something that we really stand by. This organization is doing so many amazing things, we hope we can be a small part in what you are doing and help to change lives. Your VVS team goes above and beyond to help these families and it couldn't be more special. Getting involved is the best way to show your appreciation!!!" (Hideaway House)

"Operation St. Nick volunteers work directly with the staff of VVS to determine what gifts are needed and desired by the residents. Next, volunteers raise the funds and purchase gifts and stocking stuffers, which are delivered on Christmas Eve. A few of the residents get "adopted" by locals, and Operation St. Nick does massive fundraising to provide the majority of the brand-new clothing and gifts."

(Operation St. Nick, Walker Marshal)



Sisterhood  
Connection  
Foundation

"We understand and are very aware of the needs of women and children in shelters. Christmas and holidays are not always joyful to those in struggling life situations and if the Sisterhood can provide a smile, even momentarily, with a gift to remind them that they are important and precious then a small gesture has been rewarded." (Sisterhood Connection Foundation)

"We enjoy giving to VVS because the folks in the situation they have found themselves did not ask to be dependent on others, but sometimes it is a necessity. Our membership has the desire to help others." (Sedona Elks Lodge)



"With the goal of providing quilts to local charities, we expanded the special interest group within our guild to gather donations of fabric and make more quilts; it's called "scrap rats." We enjoy being a part of bringing warmth and comfort to those women and families, and we hope our quilts help them through the trauma being experienced." (Quail Country Quilters Guild)

*Thank You for creating a joyful Christmas for our clients!*

# Page Springs Cellars Donor Story

Community Development Director Tracey McConnell had an opportunity to interview Gayle Glomski, Founder Vin de Filles, An Arizona Women's Wine Project, which raised \$25,000 October 2021 and \$40,000 October 2022 to directly benefit survivors of domestic and sexual violence served by the Verde Valley Sanctuary (VVS).

**How did you first hear about our organization?** I have been donating to the Twice Nice Thriftique for several years.

**What made you decide to give your first gift?** We were following up on our mission statement and the purpose of the Vin de Filles (VDF) project is to empower women not only in the wine world, but also in the local community.

**Why do you enjoy giving to this organization?** After doing our due diligence, and talking to many members of the community who have interacted in different ways with VVS, we feel that VVS is a nonprofit that will follow through on using our donation for the purpose intended rather than helping with administrative and business costs. We believe our money will be directly used for the people coming to VVS for support.

**What do you hope to accomplish through your philanthropy?** Our thoughts are to not only provide money to support people seeking refuge with VVS, but to eventually use our vineyard work as a way to support (specifically) women in the program. To many of us, working in the vineyard is meditative and being together in an outdoor environment, connecting with mother nature, is healing.

**If you were talking to someone else about giving to our organization, what would you tell them?** Domestic abuse and assault are big issues in Arizona and the stresses of COVID have escalated these situations. It's time for our community to stand up and help families break these cycles of abuse so that no one should have to deal with or accept violence as normalcy.



# Donate Using Arizona State Tax Credit

You've probably heard of the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit, but don't know all the details about it. That's okay! You're not alone. Let's break it down to its simplest steps.

The state of Arizona provides a variety of individual tax credits, including the AZ Charitable Tax Credit. This tax credit allows taxpayers to make charitable contributions and receive dollar-for-dollar reductions in your Arizona state tax liabilities.

The maximum allowable credit for contributions to Certified Charitable Organizations (QCOs) is \$800 for married filing jointly filers or \$400 for single, married filing separately, and heads of household filers. These tax credits provide dollar-for-dollar tax benefits, allowing taxpayers to reduce their state tax liabilities for each dollar donated to charities.

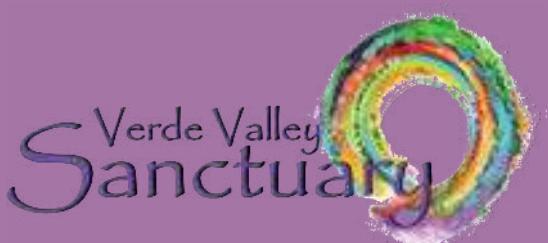
For example, if a single individual owes \$2,000 in taxes but donates \$400 to a qualifying charitable tax organization, their tax liability is reduced to \$1,600.

Contrary to popular belief, Arizona taxpayers do not need to make their charitable contributions to QCOs before December 31 of a given year in order to be eligible for state tax credits for that tax year. The state of Arizona allows taxpayers to claim tax credits for gifts into April of the current year for the prior tax year. In 2023, the deadline for making a charitable contribution for the 2022 tax year under the AZ Charitable Tax Credit is April 17, 2023. The standard date is April 15, but that date falls on a weekend in 2023. Thus, the date extends to the following Monday.



The state of Arizona requires donations from different calendar years to be listed separately on Arizona Form 321. For the 2022 tax year, cash contributions that were made between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, are required to be listed on Part 1, section A of Arizona Form 321. Cash contributions that were made between January 1, 2023, and April 17, 2023, are required to be listed on Part 1, section B of Arizona Form 321.

**Verde Valley Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and qualifying charitable organization (QCO) for the Arizona Tax Credit. Federal Tax ID: #86-0741314. Qualifying Charitable Organization (QCO) Code #20041**



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