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HONORING OUR
LIVES

COVID-19 - LET'S TALK

New RESET Program Offers a Fresh Start

The experience of poverty is one that permeates all areas of an individual's life: from decision-making to crisis management to the everyday reality of what is and what isn't available to you. Studies show that individuals are more likely to experience poverty if they are already

disadvantaged in another area(s) (health, immigration status, race, mental illness) which means the layers of that experience

compound in a way that make it difficult to climb out of poverty.

For a long time, Interfaith Community Services (ICS) has displayed strength in the area of crisis aversion, helping those that may be on the edge of calamity with financial support and guidance. We have also seen numerous cases where the compounding factors of childcare costs, employment limitations, increasing rent and utility bills, healthcare debt, send someone into the abyss of poverty for the first time.

Growing out of the Steps to



“Helping people in need achieve stable, healthy and independent lives.”



A Word from Tom

Dear Friends of ICS!

Many times we only honor a life when it has reached its end. Memorializing a life is incredibly important, but I also believe there are many ways to show honor to a life while it is still being lived. In that vein, offering a person the opportunity of a second chance is a great way to honor someone's life. Our RESET Program is a prime example of this. It is a great way to let individuals know that no matter their life circumstances, they are deserving of the tools, connections, and resources to help them to become stable. That is how we at ICS show honor to a life. If you are willing to work at a better life, then we are with you every step of the way.

After all we have been through this last year, isn't there a great need to honor lives, not just ours, but everyone's? Are we not all in a situation where we all need to RESET? If we have learned anything this past year, it is the need for each other, it is the need for compassion and it is the need for everyone's lives to feel honored.



Tom McKinney
Chief Executive Officer

RESET

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Stability Program, which sought to engage individuals over several months in order to prevent homelessness, ICS is now providing a clear pathway out of poverty for those individuals that find themselves facing these challenges. The RESET Program, launched in February 2021, is a full, wrap-around program for resource building, human capacity development and long-term stability.

The RESET Program is a long-term support program with the goal of providing individuals and their families with guidance, crucial life skills, and support over a 12-24-month period. Designed for individuals and families that are ready to navigate out of poverty and establish a life of self-sufficiency and stability, the program seeks to help participants establish challenging but reachable goals and then ensure that supports are available and accessed along the way.

By the end of their time in this program, participants will have pressed a figurative “reset” button, equipped with tools, connections and resources to keep them on the path to long-term stability.

Components of the RESET Program include consistent follow-up, self-esteem building and visioning support, skills building, a wholistic approach to the family and financial empowerment. Distinguishing characteristics of the RESET program include transitioning Getting Ahead graduates directly into the program (strong internal referrals), Financial Management courses based on the Bridges out of Poverty model, and the incorporation of the Grief Recovery Method which recognizes that loss plays a role in the cyclical effects of poverty.

Starting with the first few participants in February of this year, the year-long pilot of the RESET Program will build a solid foundation for the success of not only the participants, but for future interested families. RESET will be accepting applications on a rolling basis, please reach out to Lauryn Valladarez at 520-526-9288.



Email: info@icstucson.org **Website:** www.icstucson.org

Northwest Office:

2820 W. Ina Road
Tucson, AZ 85741
campus of Christ the King Episcopal
Ph: 520-297-6049

Central Office:

122 N. Craycroft Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85711
campus of Rincon Congregational UCC
Ph: 520-731-3076

Eastside Office:

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85710
campus of New Spirit Lutheran
Ph: 520-731-3076

Southside Office:

101 W. Irvington Rd. Building 2A
Tucson, AZ 85714
El Pueblo Neighborhood Center
Ph: 520-297-6049

Change a Life and Get a Tax Credit



Many of you support ICS by taking the dollar-for-dollar Arizona Charitable Tax Credit when you make a donation. **The law allows an individual to take a \$400 tax credit and married couples to contribute up to \$800 in addition to any foster care, school or Veterans' tax credits you may be claiming.**

Your donation helps families who turn to the ICS Food Bank, people in crisis who need emergency help with rent or utilities, and seniors who depend on nutritious Mobile Meals delivered to their home, among many others.

Deadline to claim the tax credit on your state of Arizona 2020 taxes is April 15, 2021. Learn more at icstucson.org

Celebrating Our Volunteer Family

Connect

Venture

HELP

Community Support
Grow

ENGAGE

Learn

GIVE

Service

Volunteer



Volunteers helping to get our seniors vaccinated!

ICS volunteers have stepped up to be part of our newest program to call and schedule vaccine appointments for our seniors who may not otherwise be able to get one.

Scheduling is becoming easier as more vaccines and sites are available. ICS volunteers are calling nearly 1000 participants! Please share this with others, too!

If you can help with either Vaccine Scheduling or Vaccine Driving, contact **Tori Carlson**, tcarlson@icstucson.org or 520-526-9308, learn more about volunteering at ICS at icstucson.org

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS ARE NOW ONLINE!

Sign up on our website at icstucson.org

All orientation times are 10:00 am

April 15th

May 6th

May 20th

June 3rd

June 17th



ICS Wholistic End of Life Program Revamps Into Honoring Our Lives

After many years of development, the Wholistic End of Life Program at Interfaith Community Services (ICS) has been re-branded "Honoring Our Lives." The name change more accurately reflects the program's credo of adequately preparing people of all life stages and cultures transitioning through life stages and their departure from this life.

While the name has changed, the purpose and focus of the program remains the same: advance care planning. Honoring Our Lives provides the workshops and tools that individuals and their families need in order to maintain control over what can often be an arduous journey. Our goal is to provide the space and tools for individuals and families to assess their lives, anticipate challenging circumstances that might arise, and begin making plans to adapt to new and potentially complex situations.

Often we find our daily experience so busy that we do not feel comfortable taking the time to reflect on it alone or with others that may be a part of the journey in transitioning through life or departure from it. When something happens to us or to someone we care about, we are caught off guard and puzzled by how to proceed.

Participants in ICS's free workshops will learn: how to discern and share what you value in life, why deciding the type of healthcare you want is so important, including, how to talk to loved ones and healthcare professionals about transitioning through various stages of life independently or with a loved one, what your desires are, how to document your decisions, how to revise and update any advance care plans that you may already have, and how to enhance your present by planning your future.

ICS recognizes that, despite our finitude and other limitations, we are capable of taking control of many areas of our lives and insuring that we handle them in the best way possible. While we cannot avoid events or conditions that cause us stress or pain, we can strategize means of addressing and even transcending them.

"Individuals whom we have assisted with advance care planning tell us that addressing this issue has given them peace of mind and confidence that their healthcare wishes will be respected by those who care for them, whether at home or in a medical setting," says ICS Honoring Our Lives Program Manager Suzanne Morrison. Additionally, Honoring Our Lives offers one-to-one coaching on the completion of the appropriate legal forms for end-of-life healthcare and leadership training for other organizations to be able to offer workshops of their own.

For information on these free workshops, individuals are encouraged to contact Honoring Our Lives Program Manager Suzanne Morrison at 520-526-9296 or smorrison@icstucson.org or Honoring Our Lives Lead Trainer Karen MacDonald at 520-526-9309 or kmacdonald@icstucson.org.



Faith Community Engagement News

Our 119 Faith Community Partners have been hard at work during this pandemic to help the people in our community who are in need. Through food drives, monetary donations, allowing ICS programs to take place on faith community properties, and fundraisers our partners have helped expand ICS's offerings to our community.



We would like to highlight a few faith communities that have done some pretty amazing things in the last few months:

- Through **The Village Church's** ministry, "Spaces to Learn" 25 children of our current Single Mom Scholars cohort were able to receive new furnishings for their "at-home" learning environment.
- Four congregations have allowed us to use their parking lots monthly for Mobile Produce Giveaways, in partnership with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. A special thanks to **Desert Dove Christian Church, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Unleashed Christian**

Church, and Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

- **Oro Valley Church of the Nazarene** raised over 1700 pounds of food on Super Bowl Sunday for the Souper Bowl of Caring.

- **Oro Valley United Church of Christ** held a Diaper Drive

- **St. Odilia Catholic Community** has held a monthly food drive raising over 2300 pounds of food in 2021 already!

- **The Baha'i Community of Oro Valley** donated the proceeds from their annual pancake breakfast to ICS.

We are deeply grateful for the contributions of our 119 partner faith communities! Together we're impacting many lives for the better.

To schedule a visit at one of our offices, or to have an ICS staff member or board member to visit your congregation, or to explore your congregation joining us in the good work described in this newsletter, call our **Faith and Community Outreach Coordinator, Jay Deskins** at 520-297-6049.

ICS Staff Updates

Congratulations

Cindy Galas, Social Service Manager

Cindy was recognized with as a recipient for the 31st FBI/LULAC Community Service Awards.

Jorge Ruiz, Program Outreach Coordinator

Jorge was also recently recognized for his outstanding work as a recipient for the 31st FBI/LULAC Community Service Awards.

The award honors those who work in our community, giving their all to help those in need. Each year, between 50 to 75 people are recognized for their work, nominated by people in the Tucson community.



Interfaith Community Services was founded in 1985 by six faith communities and is proud to work with 119 partnering faith communities today.

Abiding in Christ Fellowship · Abiding Savior Free Lutheran · Agape Christian Church International · Aldea Spiritual Community · Alive Church · Alive in Christ Lutheran · Arizona Yage Spiritual Assembly · Ascension Lutheran · Baha'i Faith - Oro Valley · Beautiful Savior Lutheran · Canyon del Oro Baptist · Capilla del Sol Christian · Casas Adobes Congregational UCC · Casas Church · Catalina United Methodist · Christ Church United Methodist · Christ Presbyterian · Christ the King Episcopal · Church of the Apostles Episcopal · Church of the Everlasting Gospel · Church of the Painted Hills UCC · Community Christian Church Marana · Congregation Anshei Israel · Congregation Bet Shalom · Congregation Chaverim · Congregation Or Chadash · Congregation M'kor Hayim · ConnectionPointe Church · Connections Vineyard · C.O.R.E. Life Ministries · Cortaro Vista Community Church · Country Club at La Cholla Chapel · Desert Dove Christian Church · Desert Skies United Methodist · Desert Valley Adventist Church · Dove of Peace Lutheran · Ebenezer All Nations Seventh Day Adventist · Faith Christian Fellowship of Tucson · First Christian Church · First United Methodist Church · Fountain of Life Lutheran · Grace St. Paul's Episcopal · Grace Temple Missionary Baptist Church · Grace to the Nations Church · Greater Faith Word Church International · Hope City Church · Immanuel Presbyterian · Islamic Center of Tucson · Living Grace Ekklesia · Lord of Grace Lutheran · LifeBridge Church · Lutheran Church of the Foothills · Maranatha Seventh Day Adventist · Ministerios Manantial De Amor · Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church · Mountain Shadows Presbyterian · Mountain View Baptist · Mountain Vista U.U. Congregation · New Hope/Nueva Esperanza United Methodist Church · New Life Bible Fellowship · New Life Community Church of the Nazarene · New Spirit Lutheran · Northminster Presbyterian · North Tucson Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints · Northwest Baptist · Northwest Community Church · Northwest Community Friends Church · Oro Valley Church of the Nazarene · Oro Valley United Church of Christ · Our Lady of the Desert Catholic Church · Our Saviour's Lutheran · Pantano Christian Church · Resurrection Lutheran · Baptist Church · Congregational UCC · Rising Star Baptist Church · Saguaro Christian Church · Sanctuary United Methodist · Santa Catalina Catholic · Shalom Mennonite · Southside Presbyterian · St. Alban's Episcopal Church · St. Andrew's Episcopal Church · St. Andrew's Presbyterian · St. Christopher Catholic Parish · St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic · St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist · St. James United Methodist · St John's United Methodist Church · St. John on the Desert Presbyterian · St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic · St. Mark's Presbyterian · St. Mark's United Methodist · St. Matthew's Episcopal · St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal · St. Odilia Catholic · St. Paul's United Methodist Church · St. Philip's In The Hills Episcopal · Streams in the Desert Lutheran · Tanque Verde Lutheran · Temple Emanu-El · Templo La Uncion · The Good News Community Church · The Holy Way Presbyterian · The Journey Church · Third Church of Christ, Scientist · Tortolita Presbyterian · Trinity Presbyterian Church · Tucson Central Church of the Nazarenne · Tucson Church International · Tucson Community of Christ · Tucson Midvale Park SDA Church · Unity of Tucson · Unity Spiritual Center of Peace · Unleashed Church · U.U. Church of Tucson · Vida Nueva/New Life Church of God · The Village Church · Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church

ICS Staff Updates

Welcome



Elise Smith, Single Mom Scholars Youth Specialist Elise is a Tucson native and University of Arizona alum. She most recently worked for the Catalina Foothills School District as a Program Coordinator where she coordinated afterschool enrichment programming for kids as well as coordinated and managed the district wide summer program, Camp Foothills. She also served on the board of directors with a nonprofit preschool/kindergarten, Tucson Community School.

Fun fact: Elise loves to bake healthy treats and has two little guys who make great taste testers!



Daniel Geffre, Registration and Information Assistant

Daniel fed his undying love of literature while achieving a Bachelor of Arts in English at the University of Arizona. His desire to help others in the community brought him to the nonprofit world and he looks forward to changing lives for the better.

Fun fact: to confront his fear of heights, he went skydiving one week before turning 30. He's still afraid of heights.



Maryanne Moulinet, RESET Program Coordinator

Maryann has spent the last 15 years working as a Social Worker, primarily in the areas of mental health, substance abuse and homelessness. She has worked in various settings including community mental health centers, hospitals and primary care clinics. Maryann brings a lot of clinical experience to the table, as well as skills including attention to detail, problem solving, time management and organization. Maryann is a fairly new Tucson transplant. She moved from Denver, CO about a year and a half ago. She is learning to love the desert and the unique Arizona climate.

Fun Fact: Maryann grew up in a military family. She lived in various places across the US and in other countries. She lived in Germany when the Berlin wall came down.

COVID-19 - Let's Talk



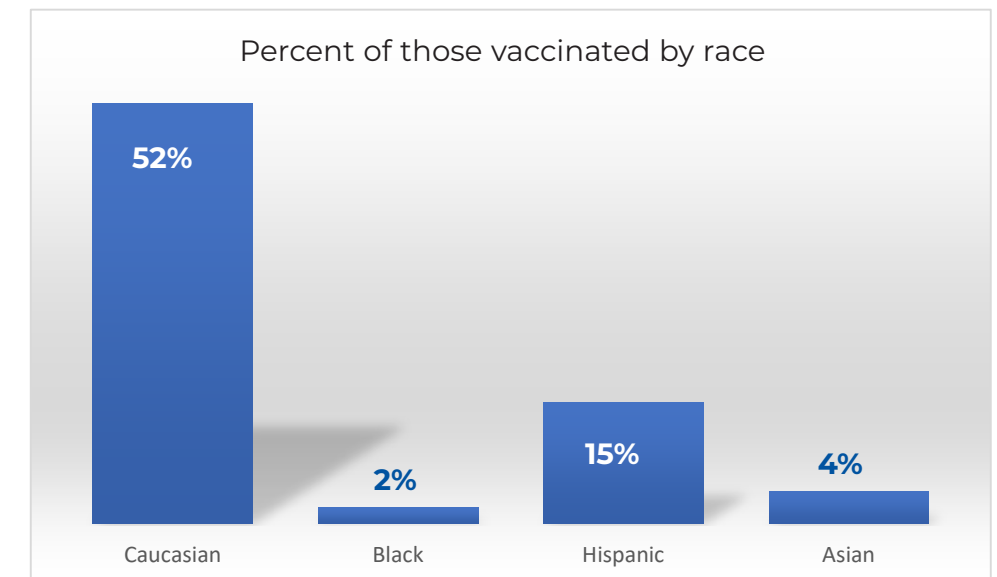
After learning of the concerns with lack of access and presence of minorities with regard to receiving the vaccine, **Kristen Vann, Health and Senior Services Director at Interfaith Community Services**, was moved to research. She learned that Black people made up only 2% of those vaccinated in the state of Arizona alone. Ongoing mistrust in the healthcare system that contributed to the reason for hesitancy and concern in the Black community with receiving the vaccine was understandable. Hesitancy and mistrust in the Black community dates back to 1932 with a Public Health Service Study and the Tuskegee Institute, which included hundreds of Black men

where medical treatment was withheld from them in the study.

"I felt as though I had an opportunity and obligation to share my vaccine experience as a black woman with 20+ years of healthcare experience in addition to my mother's vaccine experience, a Hospice Nurse Manager of 38 years." Vann said. She created a platform called **"COVID-19 Let's Talk"** held via zoom at Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. "This was a safe space for me to share my experience from start to finish along with side effects in addition to participants being able to safely and candidly voice their concerns and causes for "pause" with receiving the vaccination." she noted. **Pastor Hugley at Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church**, reports there has been a positive number of attendees that found the "COVID-19 Let's Talk" beneficial and a contributor to proceeding with getting vaccinated.



Kristen Vann, Health and Senior Services Director



Dig into the data at <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/latest-data-on-covid-19-vaccinations-race-ethnicity/>

Memorials and Tributes: 1/1/21-3/31/21

Memorials and gifts of honor are a special way to remember friends and loved ones, as well as make a tax-deductible donation to ICS. An acknowledgment is sent to both donor and honoree. Thank you!

In Memory Of: Given By

My son, John Hugh Almond, Mr. John Almond

Bill Amspaugh who entered the Church Triumphant

January 20, 2021, Anonymous

Carol Backus, Richard Backus

Dawn Beckley, Jim and Barbara Hansen

Charles Brickley, Thomas Clark, Stacy Gibson, Walter Hill,
Bonnie Kampa, Robert and Joyce Lyons, Debbie Murray,
Dorothy Neale, Nancy Vanderlinden, Ed & Donna Visconti

Betty Hall Crawford, Dale Crawford

My Dad, Kathleen Kirk

My Dad, Carol A Schulte

My Pap who would give anyone the shirt off his back.

Sara Wolfe Vaughan

Family and Friends, Anthony and Mayme Beauto, St. Odilia
Catholic Church

Ruth Ganeles, Paul and Ruth Ganeles

Dick Goeman, Carol Goeman

Alice Teugh Greenhouse, Mr. Richard Teugh

Jim Hamill, Larry and Nancy Schooley

Betty Huitsing, Leighton and Judith Bennett, Patsy A

Cutsinger, Wayne and Carol Dawson, Nancy Enzweiler,
Carol Goeman, Craig and Jan Littlefield, Roger and Ruth
Westrate, David and Ellen Vellenga, Ms. Carla Williams

Edmund L. Jenkin, AmerisourceBergen, Anonymous, John
Brice, Financial Accounting Foundation, Mitchell and
Rhonda Fure, Janet R. Grace, Ben Jenkins, Herb and Judy
Patriarche, Steve and Ruth Pollyea, Curt and Diane Stowell,
David and Ellen Vellenga

Geoff Jenkins, Paul and Nancy Montgomery

Dick Kampa, Larry and Susan Allen, Betsy Bolding, Betty
Casties, Terry and Shirley Coleman, Maura Grogan Cornell
and Stephen E. Cornell, Carol T des Cognets, Andrea
Dillenburg, Kimberly Engle, Isabel A Fastiggi, Marlyne
Freedman, Janet Grace, Breck Grumbles, Jim and Barbara
Hansen, Kathy Hebb and David Anderson, Kathleen Jenkins,
Jerry and Marianne Jones, Cheryl Kilgore, Diane Kirkpatrick,
Craig and Jan Littlefield, Robert and Joyce Lyons, Karen
and Sue MacDonald, Bruce and Estelle McDoniel. Tom
McKinney and Dee Dee Connel, Michael and Elise Weber,
Mike and Gwen Parr, Robert and Janet Poullette, Steve
and Ruth Pollyea, Lucy Read, John and April Ritchie, Barry
and Patti Robinson, William and Lu Salisbury, David Samer,
April and Barry Schiller, Freeman and Rebecca Taber, David
and Maura Terman, Wendell and Rose Tyson, Roberta
Vanderslice, David and Ellen Vellenga, Mr. Stephen Weber,
Lawrence Wippman

Louis and Esther M. Katz, Ms. Diane Katz

Wayne LeQuieu, Mrs. Doris LeQuieu

Lynn Manis, Sara and Sean Lippitt

Robert Marion, Patricia Marion

Gaylord Milbrandt, Bruce and Estelle McDoniel

Charles "Chuck" Milhiser, Bruce and Estelle McDoniel

Our Mom and Grandma Sue Moomau, Steve and Debi
Kromer

Magdi Naren, Mr. Jacob Abram

Lloyd Quick Jr., Lester and Suzanne Hayt

Charles "Chuck" Rood, Friends of the Oro Valley Public
Library

Michael Rowe, Kathleen Brezina, Maggie Towers and Melodie
Koe, Daniel and Mariette Francis, Christine and Paul Dye,
Richard Enholm, Jane Henke, Nancy Hummel, John and
Eileen Lamse, Dennis H Noonan and Judith L Peters, Jill
O'Rourke, Lynn Ransford, David and Eleanore Robinson, Ms.
Carla Williams

Marjorie Sherman, Anonymous

Keith Thorson, Jean and Lynn Badeau, Henry and Kay Sheetz,
Keith Thorson, Margaret Thorson

Susan Troutman, Anonymous

Robert A. Wetterstrom, Sande and Robert Wetterstrom

In Honor Of: Given By

Barbara Sherman - an outstanding yoga instructor, David
and Gypsy Lyle

Carolyn Christian Cochran's Birthday, Carolyn and Thomas
Christian-Cochran, Gail W Garin, Madeleine Irell, Sandra D
Rutherford, June Webb Vignery, Kathleen Snow White

Catherine Benson, Anne Cooper

Celena Robles, Carol T des Cognets

Christine Thompson, Sam and Janet Riechers

Debra Hargis, Janis Richert

Diane Wilson, James W Springer

Elisabeth Zihembere, Rebecca Daniels

Ian Plumlee, Shari Tiedens

Jacqueline Anderson Ms. Anne B Sapp

Jim Marvel, Mary Louise Luna

Julie Reichman, Nancy and Christopher Myers

Laurie Melrood - for a speedy recovery and full healin,
Charles Feinberg

Leah Noreng, Carolyn and John Davis

Mollee Richey and Ann Garn, Celena N. Robles

Mother Anita and all the women served., Donna and Don
McArthur

**My husband, Khairy Abdel-Gawad, and to all at ICS for
improving our community**, Janet Abdel-Gawad

**My wonderful mother, who as a single parent put me
through college and gave me a life I only could have
dreamed of.**, Anonymous

Robena Reid, MaryAnn Ahrens

Rosemary U. Burns, Patricia Steinway

Fundraising Events

Rise



Thank you to all of you who helped make our 2021 **RISE: a Celebration of Empowered Women Fundraiser** a success and supporting our Single Mom Scholars program at Interfaith Community Services.

What a beautiful and moving celebration with inspiring stories and amazing, accomplished women and their children! And a very special thank you to **Crystal Stark** who made a special recording of 'Rise Up' to include in our virtual event. You were able to raise more than **\$50,000** to support Single Moms and their children in their pursuit of their dreams.

The 2021 Empty Bowls fundraiser like no other! While we had to re-imagine Empty Bowls this year we are humbled by the amazing support of artists, food vendors, volunteers, sponsors and donors alike. Even though we could not all be together you helped raise more than **\$110,000** for the ICS Food Banks and services. Your support makes it possible to feed more families in need.

We're grateful to sponsors, restaurant partners, potters, attendees, and the many hardworking volunteers including a dedicated event committee who made this year's event a tremendous success! A big thank you to presenting sponsors The Estate of Dorothy D. Vanek and Richard and Judy Weill.

Empty Bowls



a fundraiser
to fight hunger and feed hope



Thanks to our Corporate and Foundation Partners



**Connie Hillman
Family Foundation**



**David S. and Norma R.
Lewis Foundation**

**The Kautz
Family Foundation**



Elizabeth Read Taylor Foundation

Beaty Martinez Foundation

**J. William and Helen D.
Stuart Foundation**



Tucson Charity Bridge Club



Carl and Mabel Shurtz Foundation

**William and Ruth Pendleton
Memorial Fund**

