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Philanthropy & Nonprofits

Valley nonprofit execs say inflation has taken a toll on their organizations – and those they help




Valley nonprofits are feeling the pinch from inflation.

HUANG EVAN/GETTY IMAGES



By [Dale Brown](#) – Research Director, Phoenix Business Journal

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Inflation may have slowed in recent weeks, but for some organizations, it's akin to noting that the winds have quieted down after a tornado levels a town. Phoenix-area nonprofits are noticing an increase in demand for their services and a reduction in donations to fund those services.

In putting together the Business Journal's 2023 lists of the Valley's largest nonprofit organizations, we posed a few optional questions for the top executives. One question, "How has the sudden spike in inflation over the last couple of years affected your organization? What are you doing to maximize donor dollars?" caught their attention and generated the greatest number of answers. Here is what they said:

"Inflation has significantly affected the nonprofit sector. While the demand for many services has risen, especially health and human services, the cost of providing those services has also risen dramatically. In other areas of the sector, like arts and culture organizations, they can struggle to get people to attend their venues when people's financial resources become scarcer to subscribe or even attend theatre, arts, museums and more. For our organization, we see organizations who can no longer afford membership even though their organization benefits from it in the long run. We have been working with our donors to provide membership scholarships for those who are experiencing hardship in an attempt to keep them connected with these resources." - Maria Mejia, senior marketing manager, Arizona Alliance of Nonprofits.



David Richardson, Take Charge America CEO

TAKE CHARGE AMERICA

"The federal government's response to Covid (stimulus money, increased unemployment, and moratoriums on student loan debt repayments) resulted in fewer people seeking help from us. Increased inflation has resulted in more Arizonans seeking help, and we are looking to automate more processes to reduce costs, and maximize donor dollars." - David Richardson, president and CEO, Take Charge America.



Nancy Padberg, CEO of Catholic Education Arizona.

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"We have launched a new division to increase revenue and meet the increased need experienced by families as a result of the economic changes and spike in inflation." - Nancy Padberg, president and CEO, Catholic Education Arizona.

"Inflation is really affecting our special events and how we host fundraising events. Venues have raised their prices significantly and we are being priced out of many places." - Taryn Norley, president and CEO, The ALS Association Arizona Chapter.

"While we have not felt an immediate crunch, as the year matures and next year as new teacher contracts are signed, we anticipate at least a 6% increase in overall expenses." - Cynthia Gattorna, executive director (retired), A Stepping Stone Foundation.



Ginger Clayton, founder of Diaper Bank of Central Arizona

GIDGET CLAYTON

"The inflation spike certainly has created additional challenges. We do our best to maximize donations by negotiating bulk, nonprofit purchases, utilizing our many wonderful volunteers and seeking in-kind donations." - Ginger Clayton, founder, Diaper Bank of Central Arizona.



Aimee Runyon, CEO of Assistance League of Phoenix

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"We have seen a decline in the dollar amount that donors give. Our donors are still giving, many of them adjusted their donations this year." - Aimee Runyon, CEO, Assistance League of Phoenix.



Image: Arizona Autism United

Aaron Blocher-Rubin, CEO of Arizona Autism United

ARIZONA AUTISM UNITED

"Staff wages! Cost of living, especially for renters and long commutes, has been a struggle. We've been fortunate to get extra funding through American Rescue Plan Act to help." Aaron Blocher-Rubin, CEO, Arizona Autism United.

T H E L I S T

Largest Phoenix-Area Nonprofit Organizations - Cultural/Educational

2022-2023 budget

Rank	Prior Rank	Organization / 2022 Rank
1	1	Southwest Human Development
2	2	Arizona's Children Association
3	3	Arizona Center for Nature Conservation / Phoenix Zoo

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T H E L I S T

Largest Phoenix-Area Nonprofit Organizations - Health/Medical

2022-2023 budget

Rank	Prior Rank	Organization / 2022 Rank
1	1	Community Bridges Inc.
2	2	Southwest Behavioral & Health Services
3	3	Terros Health

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T H E L I S T

Largest Phoenix-Area Nonprofit Organizations - Service/Assistance

2022-2023 budget

Rank	Prior Rank	Organization / 2022 Rank
1	1	St. Mary's Food Bank
2	2	Chicanos Por La Causa Inc.
3	3	Food for the Hungry

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