



2024 Arizona Housing Coalition Award Winner

Darlene Newsom

Lifetime Achievement Award

For over 40 years, Darlene Newsom has been a stalwart figure in Arizona's nonprofit sector, leaving an indelible mark on the community through her unwavering dedication and tireless efforts. Her journey began as the Director of a shelter for homeless youth in Tucson, and she went on to establish a homeless shelter for families in Yuma, demonstrating her profound commitment to addressing the pressing issue of homelessness from its roots.

From 2002 to 2020, Darlene served as the esteemed Chief Executive Officer at UMOM New Day Centers, where her visionary leadership and compassionate approach transformed countless lives.

Darlene's lifelong dedication to serving the most vulnerable members of our community embodies the true spirit of altruism and compassion. Throughout her tenure at UMOM, Darlene Newsom's unwavering passion and commitment to serving at-risk youth and families blazed a trail of hope and transformation. She fearlessly took on the challenge of revitalizing struggling operations, ensuring vital services for vulnerable youth and young adults through the acquisition of Tumbleweed. Additionally, her bold leadership led to the establishment of the Halle Center, offering sanctuary and support to single women in need.

Darlene spearheaded innovative housing solutions like 19 West, a vibrant community of affordable apartments providing much-needed stability and community for low-income residents. This was just one of many initiatives under her guidance, as evidenced by the naming of Newsom Village in 2023 – a testament to her enduring legacy of compassion and advocacy. At the forefront of systemic change, Darlene's influence reached critical levels. Her invaluable contributions to committees like the Maricopa Association of Governments Continuum of Care Planning Committee and the City of Phoenix Mayor's Council on Homelessness solidified her reputation as a leading voice in the fight against homelessness.

Even after retiring from UMOM in 2020, Darlene's dedication to the cause never waned. As a consultant for Vitalyst, she continues to champion innovative housing solutions, tirelessly advocating for the most vulnerable among us. For over four decades, Darlene's unwavering spirit has fueled her mission to uplift and empower our community's most vulnerable members. In her own words, retirement is not an option – there's still work to be done.

Darlene, your lifetime of unwavering dedication and service is an inspiration for us all. We are profoundly grateful for your tireless efforts in supporting our communities and championing the cause to end homelessness, ensuring that every Arizonan has a place to call home. Your passion and advocacy have touched countless lives and transformed communities for the better. Thank you, Darlene, for your extraordinary leadership and unwavering commitment to creating a brighter future for all.

