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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARIZONA HOUSING COALITION TO HOLD 29TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN MESA

PHOENIX, ARIZONA (February 13, 2024) - The Arizona Housing Coalition is set to host its 29th Annual Conference on February 27-28 at the Mesa Convention Center. The theme of this year's conference is *Bring It Home*, with a focus on action in programs, communications, and advocacy to meet the goal of safe, affordable homes for all Arizonans.

This annual conference is the premier education and networking event for hundreds of housing and supportive service providers, developers, and others with an interest in housing and homelessness across Arizona. This year's event will feature speakers like Social Entrepreneur with Gather EDU, Precious Price; City of Mesa Mayor, John Giles; Arte del Amor artist, Tawny Gamboa; and CEO of Willeford Communications, Angela Willeford.

The 2023 Point in Time (PIT) Count found over 14,200 people experiencing homelessness in Arizona, a 5% increase from 2022 and a 30% increase since the last pre-COVID 2020 PIT Count. Additionally, the Arizona Department of Housing estimated a statewide affordable housing shortage of 270,000 units in December 2022, limiting housing options for low- and medium-income renters and home buyers across the state. This conference is imperative in addressing these increasing issues, exploring innovative solutions, and creating lifelong partnerships that advocate for safe, affordable homes for all.

Conference sponsors include Arizona Department of Economic Security, Wells Fargo, PNC Bank, Arizona Department of Housing, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation, Garcia Family Foundation, Cloudbreak Communities, HOM, Foundation for Senior Living, Solari Crisis & Human Services, Comfort Pedic, and NewWest Community Capital.

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The Arizona Housing Coalition is a 501(c)3 collaborative association leading statewide efforts to end homelessness and advocate for safe, affordable homes. The Coalition's membership includes more than 350 nonprofit organizations, affordable housing developers, government entities, and others that share its vision of stable homes for all. To learn more about the Arizona Housing Coalition, visit www.azhousingcoalition.org or call (602) 340-9393.