

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Valley Leadership Raises \$1 Million for Its Innovative Pivot Toward Impact *Five Philanthropic Partners Invest Multi-Year Support in the Pivot*

November 28, 2018 (Phoenix, AZ) – Today, Valley Leadership (VL) announces the next milestone in its 40-year history. Five local philanthropic partners have collectively agreed to invest in the organization's Pivot Toward Impact, a strategic change that shifts the focus from a leadership program that individuals start and finish, to developing a leadership culture within Arizona that seeks to impact long-term issues. The five partners include Arizona Community Foundation, Helios Education Foundation, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and Vitalyst Health Foundation.

In a move to develop and build the organization for the future, VL staff and board of directors developed the Pivot Toward Impact with the intention of creating a leadership pipeline committed to meaningful results on the most pressing issues facing Arizona. The Pivot includes a comprehensive change in the organization's programming; deeper engagement of alumni and partners; an increase in intentional partnerships and collaborations; and the creation of Impact Maker Teams that will ultimately exact real change for Arizona's most vital concerns.

"We are honored that these long-respected Arizona institutions have collectively invested in our vision for the Pivot," says David Brown, Valley Leadership CEO. "A critical part of this shift is cultivating leadership in a way that will bring about lasting interest and meaningful impact. Their combined investment in our big idea personifies the type of leadership and impact that is possible."

The three-year, \$1 million investment will provide funding to ramp up for the capacity needed to reach the goals of the Pivot and create sustainability for the future. Valley Leadership's board of directors also committed funds toward the goal.

The collective philanthropic investment will:

- Enhance Valley Leadership's programming to empower Arizona leaders to have meaningful impact on the most pressing issues facing Arizona.
- Implement the Valley Impact Maker vehicle and create Impact Teams, which will connect, leverage and mobilize Arizona leaders and enable new ways to accelerate impact. Impact Teams for each issue are composed of VL leaders, partner organizations and other key stakeholders who come together to identify solutions, set goals and develop action plans through a facilitated process.

"Valley Leadership's innovative approach to empowering and mobilizing a new generation of leaders inspired our collective organizations to invest in their pivot toward impact," said Gene D'Adamo, Nina Mason Pulliam Trust president & CEO. "The Impact Maker model provides a much needed vehicle for the citizens of our community to get involved and create solutions around the issues that matter most to them."

This type of collaborative philanthropy happening nationally has proven to be an effective approach for funders to sustain efforts, deepen impact and create profound changes for the communities they serve.

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About Valley Leadership

Valley Leadership empowers, leverages and mobilizes leaders to meaningfully impact the most pressing issues facing Arizona. Our vision is a broad spectrum of Arizonans working together to impact the issues that matter most, setting the example on leadership. As the Valley's premier leadership organization, Valley Leadership boasts a proven and long-standing track record of making deep impacts on the community. Our roots date back to the late 1970s, when a group of Valley visionaries recognized the need to identify and develop the next generation of leadership. Our founders imagined an annual succession of educated change agents dedicated to the best possible future for our region. Almost 40 years later, this vision has produced nearly 3,000 alumni. Through high-quality education, unprecedented access and an innovative network, Valley Leadership goes beyond traditional leadership programs by empowering leaders to advance their passions and accelerate their pursuits.

<http://www.valleyleadership.org/>

About Arizona Community Foundation

Established in 1978, the Arizona Community Foundation is a statewide family of charitable funds supported by thousands of Arizonans. With five regional offices serving communities across Arizona, ACF is among the top 20 community foundations in the nation with more than \$961 million in trust and endowment assets, and is certified under the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. Since inception, ACF and its affiliates have awarded more than \$719 million in grants, scholarships, and loans to nonprofit organizations, schools, and government agencies. More information is available at www.azfoundation.org.

About Helios Education Foundation

Helios Education Foundation is dedicated to creating opportunities for individuals in Arizona and Florida to achieve a postsecondary education. The Foundation's work is driven by four fundamental beliefs in Community, Investment, Equity, and Partnership. Helios invests in programs and initiatives across the full education continuum – from early grade success through postsecondary education. In Arizona, where Latino students comprise the largest percentage of the K-12 public school population, the Foundation is implementing its Arizona Latino Student Success initiative focused on preparing all students - especially students in high poverty, underserved Latino communities - for success. Through Helios' Florida Regional Student Success Initiative, the Foundation is helping underserved, minority, first-generation students from the state's large population centers in of Miami, Orlando and Tampa achieve a postsecondary education. Since 2006, the Foundation has invested more than \$200 million in education programs and initiatives in both states. To learn more about Helios, visit www.helios.org.

About Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust

The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust seeks to help people in need, especially women, children and families; to protect animals and nature; and to enrich community life primarily in metropolitan Phoenix and Indianapolis. The Trust has awarded more than \$304 million in grants and student scholarships since its inception in 1997. For more information, visit www.ninapulliamtrust.org.

About Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust supports organizations that enrich health, well-being, and opportunity for the people of Maricopa County, Arizona. Since it began awarding grants in 2000, Piper Trust has invested more than \$400 million in local nonprofits and programs. Piper Trust grantmaking areas are healthcare and medical research, children, older adults, arts and culture, education, and religious organizations. For more information: visit pipertrust.org | [@PiperTrust](https://www.facebook.com/PiperTrust) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/PiperTrust).

About Vitalyst Health Foundation

Vitalyst Health Foundation is on a mission to connect, support and inform efforts to improve the health of individuals and communities in Arizona. Over its history, the foundation has invested more than \$100 million and established itself as a key thought leader, convener and catalyst of key initiatives – ranging from statewide health policy and systems to development of local community gardens. More information is available at <http://vitalysthealth.org/>.