Stories of Our COMMUNITIES
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ENRICHING COMMUNITY LIFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ANIMAL WELFARE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>NINA SCHOLARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>NATURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>FOSTER CARE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>THE LEGACY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cover: Adrian Ruiz and family, photo by Bruce Racine
Right: Brown Mountain Arizona, photo by Osha Gray Davidson
A LOVE OF LEARNING WAS PART OF HER CHARACTER. A COMMITMENT TO SERVE BECAME PART OF HER LIFE.

Nina Mason Pulliam knew about storytelling...that stories educate and connect people. They address causes and needs. They reflect goodness and success. They strengthen communities.

She witnessed this daily through stories published in Arizona and Indiana's largest newspapers.

Please join us as we share stories of success and inspiration about people and organizations supported by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust in 2016. A few highlights...

**Enriching Community Life:** Bridging two cultures at her beloved Heard Museum was the essence of a transformational grant that enabled construction of the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust Crosswalk and a much-needed update of a touchstone exhibit at the internationally-recognized Museum.

**Protecting Animals and Nature:** The Trust's commitment to advocacy through education was demonstrated by our influential and very public leadership stance in helping protect the present and future of the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center.
Our Animal Welfare Initiatives, Fix.Adopt.Save. in Arizona and Love Me. Fix Me. in Indiana, experienced unprecedented decreases in euthanasia (71 and 65 percent, respectively, over four years) and ongoing, upward trends in spay/neuter surgeries.

Following a two-year review of our giving areas, the Trust will be taking a more focused approach to environmental grantmaking in 2017 and beyond as outlined in our priority areas for Arizona and Indiana. This strategy is reflected in the Indiana Water Project which the Trust supported through the Conservation Law Center.

Helping People in Need: Heartwarming stories of inspiration surround our Nina Scholars program, now in its 17th year. An impressive 66 percent of Nina Scholars graduate or continue to progress to a degree, dramatically surpassing the rate of their peers.

In a very visible way, Nina’s legacy as a humanitarian continues to impact the communities in which she dedicated her life.
Tom Torlino, Navajo, as he entered
Carlisle Indian Industrial School, 1882.
Cumberland County Historical Society,
Carlisle, PA.
The Heard Museum was a simple Spanish adobe building surrounding a lovely courtyard with a relatively modest display of artifacts when Nina Mason Pulliam moved to Phoenix in the late 1940s.

The Native cultures of the Southwest fascinated her, and she would not only fall in love with the Heard’s collection but also become instrumental in the growth and development of this community treasure. She ultimately became a Trustee emerita. The Trust honors her commitment to the Heard through ongoing support, most recently for Remembering Our Indian School Days: The Boarding School Experience exhibit.

Boarding School is a touchstone of the internationally recognized Museum. It is profoundly important, taking visitors back to the late 1800s when American Indian children were forcibly removed from their parents and tribal culture and placed in distant government-run boarding schools. Until now, the exhibit was tucked away in a display area, off the beaten path and very difficult for guests to locate. The Trust is supporting the extensive renovation and updating of the exhibit while also funding a crosswalk connecting the 1929 structure housing the exhibit with a newer building offering premiere access to this all-important part of American and Native American history.
YOUNG ACTORS THEATRE

Jarred Kilgore

Photo by Amelia Morris
In the heart of the Indianapolis cultural district, the city’s largest youth theatre is busy changing the lives of teenagers, both actors and audience members.

Young Actors Theater (YAT) involves 1,600 young people in 65 annual performances with power-packed messages about bullying, drugs and other headline-grabbing societal issues. The Trust’s grant in 2016 supported performances specifically targeting the heroin epidemic in Indianapolis.

Jarred Kilgore personifies the mission of empowerment set forth by YAT. The Broad Ripple Magnet High School junior lives in an underserved, at-risk neighborhood and has defied what society often labels impossible odds.

Jarred carries a 3.5 GPA, works in a grocery store, relies on his bike and the city bus for transportation, and “never had a Starbucks before YAT.”

Jarred says, “They taught me to see the world through a creative lens, how to be successful in life.” Using YAT’s program model, he started his own youth theatre production company. With his impressive business acumen, the remarkable, well-spoken entrepreneur and talented actor is on his way to a highly successful future . . . a testament to the power of creative investment in our youth.

Left: Photo provided by Young Actors Theatre
Right: Photo by Amelia Morris

$60,000 GRANT TO YOUNG ACTORS THEATRE
SHELTERS AND RESCUE GROUPS

Cats Haven
Behind the doors of the Victorian-style house in central Indianapolis is Cats Haven, a sanctuary for older cats and those in need of special care.

Their conditions range from being blind and deaf to missing a leg or suffering with heart disease and other ailments. Volunteers nurse some of the kittens and cats back to health and put them up for adoption, but place most as permanent residents in the house to live out their lives while receiving compassionate long-term, hospice-type care.

Now in its 27th year, Cats Haven is the city’s oldest nonprofit, no-kill feline sanctuary. At any given time, there are more than 100 cats roaming throughout the house, a scenario that Mrs. Pulliam would have applauded for the love and care bestowed upon its residents.

In the spirit of her passion for the well-being of animals, the Trust in 2016 invited Indianapolis serving small- to mid-size animal shelters and rescue groups to request up to $25,000 each for general operating support, project expansion or capital expenditures. Cats Haven, one of the 12 organizations that received a combined total of $250,000, applied its grant toward food, supplies, medication and veterinarian bills.

Photos provided by Cats Haven

A SCENARIO THAT MRS. PULLIAM WOULD HAVE APPLAUDED FOR THE LOVE AND CARE BESTOWED UPON ITS RESIDENTS.
Southwest Wildlife
CONSERVATION CENTER

Photo provided by Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center
The Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center (SWCC), renown as a facility in the Southwest capable of serving animals that would not survive in the wild, was threatened with its own extinction in 2016. After operating for 20 years in the same location, a new, disgruntled neighbor filed legal complaints about animal noise, dust from center visitors’ use of an unpaved road and overall center operations.

The neighbor’s actions crippled the center’s ability to function. In spite of a temporary special-use permit, the funding sources for the center were seriously impacted with restrictions over revenue-generating tours and other fundraising opportunities.

The Trust has long recognized and supported the work done at SWCC, a mission that mirrors the interest and passion Mrs. Pulliam had for animals and nature. The Trust took an influential and very public leadership role in enlightening the general public about the plight of the center by publishing an “Our Turn” opinion column in The Arizona Republic, dedicating advertising space to the issue and granting $100,000 in emergency operating funds. Ultimately, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors granted a 20-year permit for the nonprofit sanctuary assuring its ability to continue serving wildlife through rescue, repair, release or transfer to other homes.

$100,000 GRANT

Photos provided by Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

Annual Report 2016 / NINA MASON PULLIAM CHARITABLE TRUST
The Trust is one of the major supporters of Fix.Adopt.Save. in Phoenix and LoveMe.FixMe. in Indianapolis. By working with animal welfare agencies in both communities, the Initiatives are reducing animal homelessness and euthanasia through increased spay/neuter surgeries, adoptions and public education.

$1,758,610 grants awarded in 2016 to agencies serving animal welfare

21 organizations

Arizona

- Fix.Adopt.Save.
- 38% Decrease in intake
- 71% Decrease in euthanasia
- 15% Increase in spay / neuter surgeries

Indiana

- Love me. Fix me.
- 53% Increase in adoptions
- 65% Decrease in euthanasia
- 17% Increase in spay / neuter surgeries
Adrian Ruiz
His Nina Scholar story is all about a father’s love for his daughter. Adrian Ruiz was stationed with the U.S. Army in Alaska when his first child was born. Adrian and his wife prayed for the best but braced for the worst; the doctor confirmed their fears.

Anahi was born without kidney function, a cleft palate and cleft lip. The military accommodated and supported Adrian’s request for temporary transfer so that his daughter could get treatment at Phoenix Children’s Hospital (PCH).

After enduring countless surgeries including a father-to-daughter kidney transplant, Adrian’s passion and life goal turned to becoming a nurse at PCH where doctors and nurses saved his daughter’s life. The young father acknowledges the transition from military to civilian to student life hinged on his acceptance into the Nina Mason Pulliam Legacy Scholars program. His dream came true in 2015. After receiving an honorable discharge from the Army after 12 years of service, he began pursuing his new mission in life.

Anahi is now a resilient nine year old. Adrian works at PCH while pursuing an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree at Chandler Gilbert Community College. He has been accepted into the Nina Scholar Passport Program and will attend Arizona State University in the fall to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Photos by Bruce Racine
While enrolled in Ivy Tech, Erika Leary was a 24-year-old single mother feeling “way behind in life.” She recognized she had no real support systems to help her pursue higher education and that she was about to incur significant debt. However, during freshman radiology prerequisites, she learned of the Trust’s Nina Mason Pulliam Legacy Scholars program.

Mrs. Pulliam’s personal story became Erika’s inspiration and her acceptance into the program became “the biggest blessing of my life.” The first-generation college student takes pride in her selection as a Nina Scholar, noting a tremendous boost in her confidence and determination to succeed. Erika is flourishing with the invaluable support from the program’s tutors, mentors and development workshops. Furthermore, professional networking opportunities outside the classroom are enhancing her career search and hiring potential.

Erika’s proudest accomplishment is being one of 15 students selected from a field of 100 applicants for Ivy Tech’s radiology program. She will receive her Associate of Applied Science in Radiology degree in May 2017 and then plans to transfer to IUPUI to continue her journey toward a bachelor’s degree.
The Trust opens doors of opportunity for nontraditional students, those who face barriers to obtaining higher education. Nina Scholar applicants fall within three targeted populations: adults with dependents in their family unit; college-age youth and adults with physical disabilities; and young adults, 18-25, who have experienced foster care or been disconnected from their parents or primary caregiver and are responsible for their own financial support. Partnering schools provide special outreach and support, strengthening the opportunities for success.

**WHO ARE THE SCHOLARS?**

- **49** Adults with dependents
- **40** Youth raised in the child welfare system
- **13** Adults with physical disabilities

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- **630** Number of scholarships awarded since 2001
- **$22.2 MILLION** Amount invested in the Nina Scholars program since 2001
- **66%** Scholars graduating or continuing to progress to a degree, dramatically surpassing the rate of their peers

**OUR PARTNERS**

- Arizona State University
- Maricopa County Community College District
- Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis
- Ivy Tech Community College-Central Indiana

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Annual Report 2016 / NINA MASON PULLIAM CHARITABLE TRUST
Food Rescue
It happens daily in school cafeterias across America. Children finish their lunch and head toward a line to dispose of uneaten food and drop off trays and utensils. However, that practice began changing in some Indiana schools in 2014 thanks to Food Rescue, a food salvage program assisting agencies that serve those less fortunate.

Today, the Trust helps fund the growth of the school programs as Food Rescue trains staff and students to collect unused food and drink from school lunch trays and get it to those who are food insecure. In many cases, students take total ownership to gather, count, organize and package food, and often accompany the delivery to the pantry where they take charge of unloading and stocking shelves and refrigerators.

Some school programs are led by special needs students who develop motor and social skills along with the leadership and organizational experience. The beneficiaries are heartened in the bonding and enthusiasm of “kids helping kids” and other people in need.

In 2016, more than 470 schools participated, rescuing 1,271,700 pounds of food that equated to 1,059,750 meals.

Photos provided by Food Rescue
St. Joseph the Worker

HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED ARIZONA
Rachel knew she had to escape her marriage if she and her two young daughters were ever to have a life. The physical and emotional abuse was extreme. She made the break with basically nothing. Safely established at a domestic violence shelter, Rachel’s case manager recommended meeting with St. Joseph the Worker (SJW), a Phoenix nonprofit that provides resources for employment. Staff met her with dignity, reassurance and hope at the agency’s Mobile Success Unit.

When asked about her skill set, Rachel shared she really had not done anything except raise two daughters. Cue the SJW job developer who outlined the skills represented in that role, from overseeing a budget to hands-on skills running the home, and the drive and determination necessary to leave the abusive situation. Rachel left her meeting with a resume, job leads, a few daily bus passes, clothing for interviews and, most importantly, confidence.

Within days Rachel accepted a job as a caretaker for an elderly woman who lived near the shelter where Rachel stayed. She enjoyed continued support from SJW as she turned a page and began a new chapter of life.

*Top Right: Photo provided by St. Joseph the Worker*
Conservation Law Center

Photo by John Schonlau
Water governance has taken center stage in the Hoosier state. As a result of the Trust’s two-year planning process to establish more focus in its environmental grantmaking, the Conservation Law Center brought together a bipartisan steering committee of Indiana leaders in 2016 to pursue a vital research project funded by the Trust.

This came in response to a groundbreaking 2014 statewide water management report by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce outlining the importance of water in the state’s economy and future economic development. The report emphasized the need to manage this source prudently to ensure adequate fresh water for citizens and businesses. In spite of Indiana’s billion-dollar water recreation industry, more than 60 percent of Indiana’s streams, rivers and lakes are polluted.

The Conservation Law Center designed the Indiana Water Project to complement the Chamber’s findings and focus on the environmental aspects of water as a natural resource. Until this time, many believed the water supply was inexhaustible and thus taken for granted. The diverse, all-volunteer, blue-ribbon steering committee recruited for this project consists of civic, corporate, environmental, scientific and academic leaders charged with developing a set of recommendations on water governance. They also will assist in implementing the report’s recommendations in the coming years. This was the first report of its kind for Indiana and will help guide the state’s water policy for generations to come.

Photos provided by Indiana Department of Natural Resources

MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF INDIANA’S STREAMS, RIVERS AND LAKES ARE POLLUTED.

$250,000 GRANT
Central Arizona Conservation Alliance
Among its many enviable distinctions, Phoenix is embraced by more than 200,000 acres of spectacular mountains and desert. The Phoenix Mountain Preserves system is the largest set of nature preserves in an American urban setting.

The Trust was presented a unique opportunity to reflect Mrs. Pulliam’s passion for conservation and preservation of nature when the Desert Botanical Garden became the catalyst for the Central Arizona Conservation Alliance (CAZCA), an initial partnership among seven nonprofit and governmental agencies to determine how best to protect and promote these precious assets.

In 2012, the Trust made the first investment to support CAZCA with a $300,000 grant and continues to fund the unprecedented effort. In a few short years, the Alliance has blossomed to include more than 50 partners … nonprofits, land managers, scientists, educators, marketers and other professionals. Demonstrating community collaboration at its finest, CAZCA pledges to assure the protection of the cherished park preserves which serve as a refuge for wildlife and places of recreation for all who live in and visit the Phoenix area.

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Top and Middle: Photos by Osha Gray Photography
Bottom: Photo by Stacie Beute
The Trust has long supported programs that assist youth in the foster care system. Opportunity Passport is one such program within the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, a nationally lauded model of financial resourcefulness for those transitioning out of foster care. The Initiative is implementing the program in 18 sites throughout the country, including Fostering Advocates Arizona and Indiana Connected by 25. The Trust supports both efforts.

Unique in its structure, Opportunity Passport is a matched savings program that teaches financial literacy—earning, spending and saving money wisely. Foster youth are encouraged to save for big-ticket items while given the tools to be financially stable.
FOSTERING ADVOCATES ARIZONA (FAAz)

Children’s Action Alliance partners with the International Rescue Committee to manage FAAz’s Opportunity Passport program, which was established in 2012, and is guided by young adults who have experienced foster care. To date the program has leveraged Trust funds to secure $149,500 in matching funds, provided financial literacy workshops, and hosted specific training sessions on savings, housing, education and credit. The program has helped 59 participants purchase an asset, such as a vehicle, cover educational costs, repair credit reports or pay housing expenses. Nina Scholar Desaray Klimenko is a member of the FAAz Young Adult Leadership Board, advocating for others in the foster care system. She loves art and hopes to implement an art therapy program for troubled youth. While working and pursuing her master’s degree in social work at Arizona State University, she purchased a VW Jetta through the Opportunity Passport program.

Left: Photo by Emmery Rose

ININDIANA CONNECTED BY 25 (ICB25)

ICB25 seeks to ensure housing, education, employment and financial stability by age 25 for youth in foster care. Opportunity Passport is the agency’s flagship program, and Tyler Morrow personifies its mission. Tyler, 21, is on the Dean’s List at Vincennes University working on his Bachelor of Science in Information Technology degree. In 2016, he helped get his siblings and himself out of foster care and into their own home – all while working as an active program participant. Through it, he leveraged matching dollars to purchase a Jeep Renegade. ICB25 used the Trust’s grant to recruit and enroll 25 new Opportunity Passport participants, seed new accounts, and help implement a microloan program to assist Marion County foster youth establish and build credit. With a current roster of 109 participants, 222 foster youth have participated in the program since its launch in 2009.

Right: Photo by Amelia Morris

$237,000 GRANT TO ICB25

$339,000 GRANT TO CHILDREN’S ACTION ALLIANCE

THE PROGRAM HAS HELPED 59 PARTICIPANTS PURCHASE AN ASSET, SUCH AS A VEHICLE, COVER EDUCATIONAL COSTS, REPAIR CREDIT REPORTS OR PAY HOUSING EXPENSES.

$339,000 GRANT TO CHILDREN’S ACTION ALLIANCE
The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust is rich with stories from the many organizations whose missions and contributions reflect Mrs. Pulliam’s genuine passion for and commitment to the communities she loved. These figures represent a summary of the Trust’s grantmaking in 2016.

- **Over the 19 years of grantmaking, the Trust has awarded**
  - **$269,022,873** to **945** different organizations.
  - Estimated endowment as of December 31, 2016. The Trust’s audited financial statements will be available on the website after June 30, 2017.

- **The Trust awarded 192 grants in 2016 totaling** **$16,118,186**

- **4%** Enriching Community Life
- **23%** Protecting Animals and Nature
- **73%** Helping People In Need

Click here for the list of 2016 Grantees
NINA MASON PULLIAM

1906 - 1997. Writer, Businesswoman and Humanitarian

Nina Mason Pulliam was born in 1906 in rural Martinsville, Indiana, one of seven children. As a high school sophomore, she received her first compensation for a literary essay. She went on to study journalism at Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana, and later attended Indiana University and the University of New Mexico.

After college, she took a full-time job at Farm Life, a national magazine published in Spencer, Indiana. When the magazine folded during the Depression, she went to work in Lebanon, Indiana, for a newspaper publisher named Eugene C. Pulliam. They were married in 1941.

During their marriage, the Pullioms traveled abroad extensively as a husband and wife writing team. They were among the first Americans to visit and write about post-World War II conditions in Europe. Over 11 years, Nina Pulliam was published in newspapers throughout North America and her articles were compiled into seven books.

Nina Pulliam was the founding secretary-treasurer and a director of Central Newspapers, Inc., which Mr. Pulliam had established in 1934. Upon his death in 1975, she served as president of CNI until 1979 and was publisher of The Arizona Republic and The Phoenix Gazette until 1978. Gannett Newspapers, Inc. purchased CNI in 2000.

She was a member of the first cohort of women admitted to Sigma Delta Chi, now the Society of Professional Journalists. Mrs. Pulliam also loved flying and was the first woman in Indiana to earn a private pilot’s license. She was known for her lifelong love of animals and for her nature conservancy efforts.

When Mrs. Pulliam died at age 91 in 1997, she left a charitable trust to benefit the causes she cared about during her life: helping people in need, protecting animals and nature, and enriching community life.

“Nina said to me many times that you need to give back to your community in a big way. She practiced that because she deeply believed it,” said her niece, Carol Peden Schilling, now chair of the Trust.
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Kankakee River, Indiana, Photo provided by Indiana Department of Natural Resources