



United Way of Tucson
and Southern Arizona

For Immediate Release

**Mackenzie Scott Donates \$10 Million to
United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
*Gift to support organization's work in promoting equity***

Tucson, Ariz. (December 15, 2020) – United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona announced today that it has received a \$10 million gift from MacKenzie Scott, American novelist, billionaire, and venture philanthropist. While the gift is unrestricted, a strategic plan is in place to use the funds to fight racial and economic disparities, address COVID-19 relief, and meet other pressing community needs throughout the region.

Scott tweeted the announcement about her support of United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona earlier today as part of her public commitment to give away most of her wealth in her lifetime, with United Way of Tucson included on a list of 384 non-profit organizations that will benefit from her philanthropy in this latest round of contributions. These organizations are among the nearly 6,500 groups that Scott and her team reviewed. The announcement was made six months after her most recent round of gifts, totaling \$1.67 billion, that supported organizations focusing on racial and gender equity, economic mobility, climate change, and other issues. This week's \$10 million gift is the single largest donation received by the organization in its nearly 100-year history.

"We're honored by Ms. Scott's generosity, and are encouraged that the transformative work we're already doing right here in Southern Arizona aligns with her interests and desire to drive change," said Tony Penn, president and CEO of United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona. "Over the next three years we plan to effectively double our impact in creating equity in our community through this investment. Today one in eight individuals in our community that we are currently able to reach will be one in four as we approach our 100th anniversary in 2022," he concluded.

Edmund Marquez, board chair of United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, added, "The need is great, and this gift could not have come at a better time," he said. "Funds will start going out into the community immediately, through designated community partners who've joined us in the fight for racial equity and other pressing needs, and we'll continue to work aggressively to raise additional funds to show Ms. Scott how the magnitude of her investment can be multiplied."

About United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona is building a thriving community by uniting people, ideas and resources. We transform individual lives and bring long-lasting, systemic change to our community by focusing on the key, underlying issues. We fight for the education, financial stability and health of every person in our community. Our role as community convener enables us to form strategic partnerships, mobilize the best resources and be the conduit for needed change. Learn more at www.unitedwaytucson.org

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