

ANYTOWN

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



Developing Leaders
Embracing Diversity

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

ABOUT ANYTOWN

Anytown Leadership Camp is the premier diversity, leadership and social-justice program in Arizona – empowering youth to become change-agents in their schools and in their communities.

Anytown is a nationally recognized, award winning leadership and social justice program for youth ages 14-19 that brings together a diverse group of students from high schools across the region for a weeklong residential experience

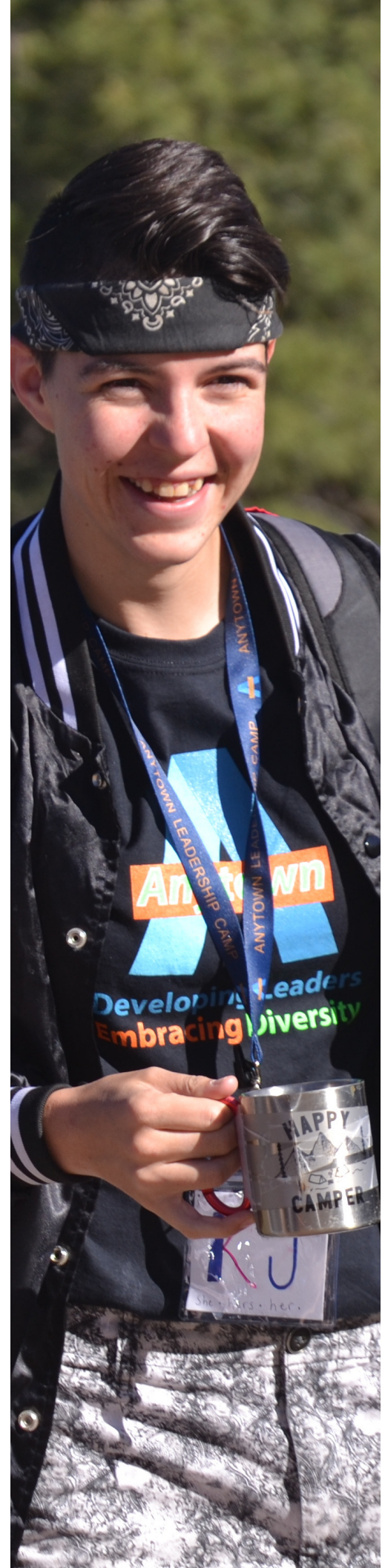
Through interactive workshops, discussions and games delegates explore topics like prejudice, discrimination, and bias. Delegates create a model for an ideal community based on respect, understanding, and inclusivity, in which members not just tolerate, but celebrate each other's differences.

Students learn about issues related to racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, and other injustices that affect their lives and learn appropriate and effective methods of discussing difficult topics, such as differences of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, orientation, socio-economic status, and other social identifiers.

Teens who experience Anytown Leadership Camp leave the program equipped with the tools to increase their ability to foster inclusion and respect among all members of society.

MISSION AND VISION

As a leading catalyst and facilitator of community change, Anytown Leadership Camp provides youth leadership development while embracing and celebrating a diverse society.



ROOTED IN HISTORY

In 1927, leaders from different faiths refused to be bystanders in the face of hatred, intolerance, bigotry, fear and deeply embedded prejudice. At this time, the Ku Klux Klan was active in most areas across the country, directing vicious bigotry towards Catholics, Jews, blacks and “foreigners.”

Acknowledging the need for action, leaders including Teddy Roosevelt, Benjamin Cardozo, Jane Addams, and U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, created The National Conference for Christians and Jews – NCCJ. They mobilized citizens against the forces of violence, ignorance and exclusion, and contributed significantly to an expanded definition of “who is an American.”



These leaders dedicated the organization to bringing diverse people together to address interfaith divisions. In the 1950s, the NCCJ began its award-winning residential youth leadership institute, the ANYTOWN program and Anytown was born in Arizona.

Several years later (1990's) NCCJ changed their name to the National Conference for Community & Justice and expanded its work to include all issues of social justice, including race, class, gender equity, sexual orientation and the rights of people with different abilities.

As Arizona's oldest human relations organization, Anytown Leadership Camp was born out of the belief that respectful dialogue between people from different backgrounds can bring about positive changes in our communities.



Anytown was an irreplaceable and life-changing experience that I will always treasure. It's a safe place for people of all backgrounds to express how they feel and how they have perceived the world we live in. It gives teens an opportunity to talk about problems in society in a place that's free of judgement and ridicule from others. It's a place of growth, healing, and inspiration.

**JASMINE GUERRERO, Foothills High School
CLASS OF 2019**

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

96%

Of participants **Agree** or **Strongly Agree** that "the Anytown program has increased my confidence as a leader."

98%

Of participants **Agree** or **Strongly Agree** that "When I return home I will be a leader among my peers."

100%

Of participants **Agree** or **Strongly Agree** that "Anytown has increased my acceptance and tolerance of people who are different than me."

100%

Of participants **Agree** or **Strongly Agree** that "When I return home I will educate my family & friends about the importance of respecting others who are different."

DEMOGRAPHICS

THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOLS WERE REPRESENTED AT ANYTOWN LEADERSHIP CAMP IN SUMMER 2019

Arizona College Prep Erie
Basis Phoenix
Boulder Creek
Central High School
Centennial High School
Chandler High School
Chaparral High School
Desert Vista High School
Empire HS / VDLP
Flowing Wells
Foothill High School
Hamilton High School
Highland High School
Hope High School
Liberty High School
Marcos De Niza
Maryvale High School
McCallum High School
Millennium High School
Metro Tech High School
North Canyon High School
Perry High School
Pinnacle High School
Primavera Online High School
Pueblo High School
Sandra Day O'Connor
Sierra Linda High School
Sun valley High School
University High School
Valley Lutheran High School
Westwood High School

THE FOLLOWING STAFF PROFESSIONS WERE REPRESENTED IN 2019

Adult Trainer/ Educators
College Professor
College Students
Consultant/ Facilitators
Crisis Support Professional
Elementary School Teachers
Elementary School Principal
Healthcare Professionals
High School Teachers
Medical EMT
Nonprofit Leadership
Professionals
Police Officer
Social Workers

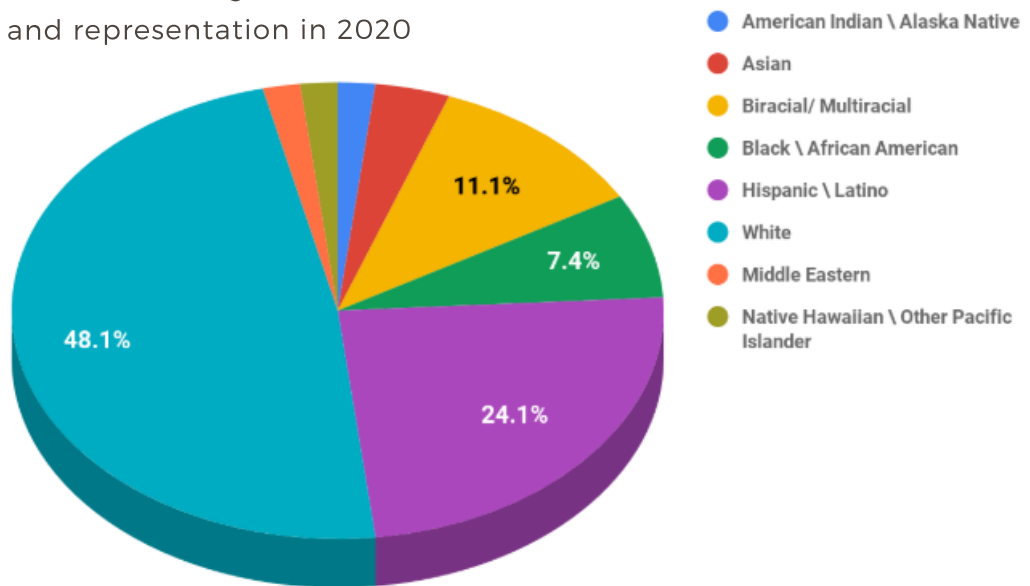


67% of Anytown staff in 2019 were alumni of the Anytown program, some having attended over 20 years ago!

DEMOGRAPHICS

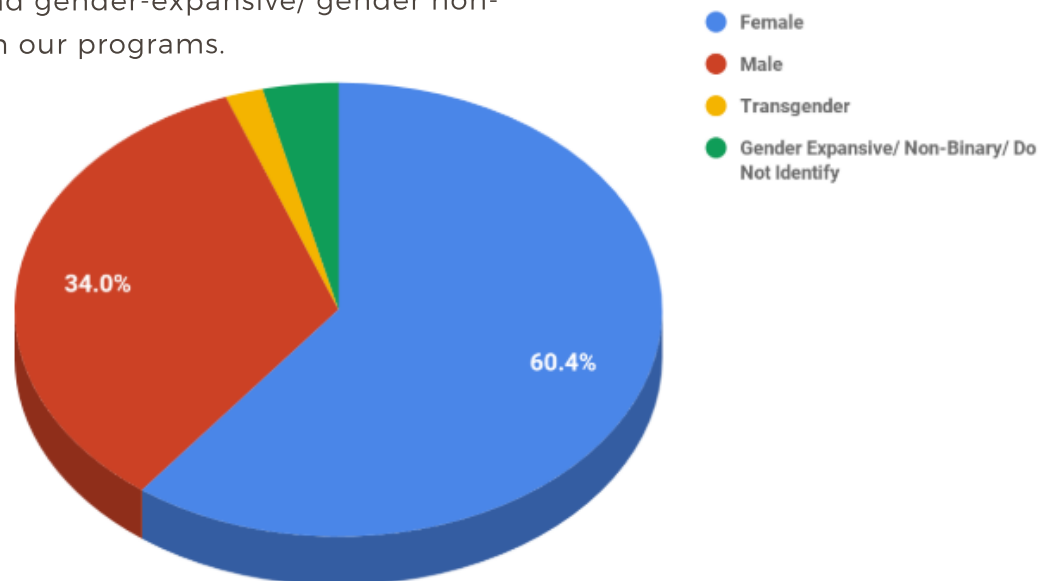
RACE

Anytown Leadership Program 2019 was a fairly diverse group; about 50% of delegates identified as white with significant representation of Hispanic/Latino students. We are working to further increase diversity and representation in 2020



GENDER

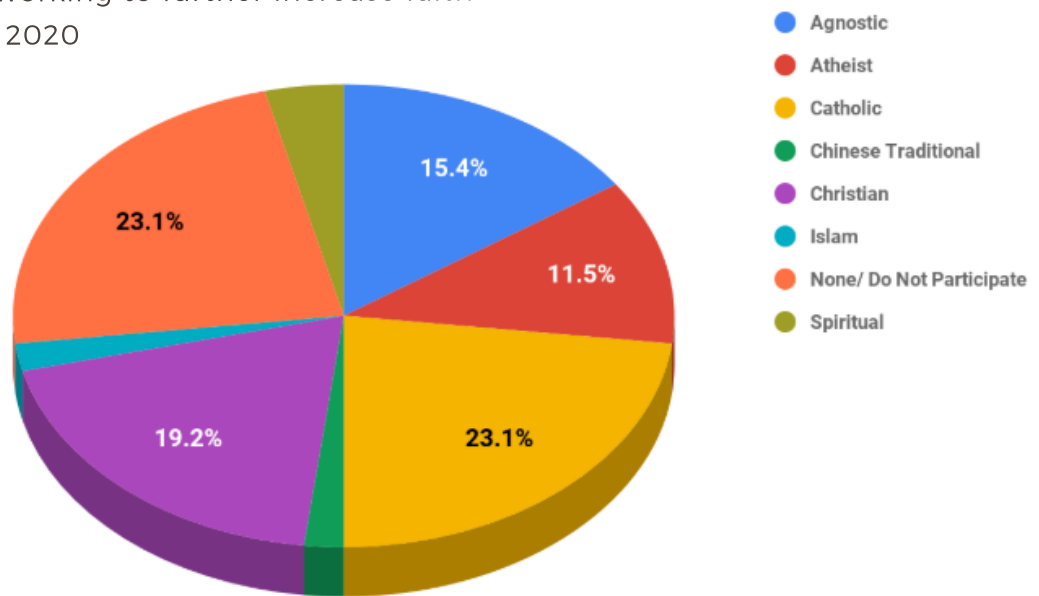
98% of participants self-identified as either male or female, with over half of the participant identifying as female. We are also seeing significant increases in transgender and gender-expansive/ gender non-binary students in our programs.



DEMOGRAPHICS

FAITH/ RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Anytown Leadership Program 2019 had 8 faith groups represented this year. No students self-identified as Hindu, Sikh, Jewish, Buddhist or Pagan this year. We are working to further increase faith representation in 2020



SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The Anytown delegate application did not ask students to self-report on sexual orientation in 2019, however, we are also seeing significant increases in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer+ students in our programs, allowing for rich conversations about sexual orientation.

DISABILITY (PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND/OR LEARNING)

Self-reported disabilities included: ADHD, Anxiety, Depression, Learning Disabilities, PTSD and various physical abilities. Anytown Leadership camp is ADA accessible. Anytown recognizes mental health stigma exists “and may deter” students from self-reporting. Anytown staffs Mental Health Professionals at each camp available 24/7 to students to check-in with and a Medical Professional who distributes medication and handles medical needs confidentially.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID

About Anytown Leadership Program 2019

My entire life changed after experiencing Anytown. Thanks to the program I know that social justice is the path I want to follow in college and there is no doubt about it. I know how to embrace the world around me and to spread a light that not everyone gets the chance to experience.

Clara Bass, Westwood High School

This group of people showed me what the world could look like and reminded me that kind people do exist and that they are all around us. It taught me that we can't be all the good that the world needs, but the world needs all the good we can do.

Ezra Glenn, Chandler High School

With Anytown, she has found a safe and empowering space to articulate her fears and frustrations, find her voice, action her ideas and be herself. Anytown gave her allies and advocacy skills to change the world.

Geraldine del Prado, Parent



Anytown gave me the courage to live my truth and allow myself to truly feel powerful. I was also in a position to learn from and help a younger generation of humans realize they are bigger than society's labels and boxes... I see the world in a more compassionate lens and operate more patiently and honestly.

Gwen Mclemore, Anytown Mental Health Staff



MCKENZIE'S STORY

When I left Anytown, my family noticed a considerable shift in my confidence and happiness.

Mckenzie Farinacci
North Canyon High School



Before Anytown, I struggled a lot with anxiety.

Before Anytown I struggled a lot with anxiety. In ninth grade, I didn't make a single new friend the entire school year because I was so consumed with the fear of being judged and fear - in general. I spent most of the time sitting in the back of the class or alone in the hallways at lunch. That is, until Frankie* came.

I first met Frankie in seventh grade but because Frankie was in foster care, we didn't go to the same eighth or ninth grade. My mom decided to fill out the necessary forms and paperwork to become a foster parent and foster Frankie herself. This all happened in

March of 2018. The rest of ninth grade was spent with Frankie and only Frankie. I think a part of me thought that having Frankie as my friend meant I was somehow cured of my anxiety when in actuality - she was my crutch. Tenth grade was almost a remake of ninth grade until enrolled in my 7th period "Foundations of Leadership" class. Much like Anytown, the class creates a safe environment to feel vulnerable and validated in that vulnerability. The class was a family for me.

I first heard about Anytown from the class; which was inevitable when the teacher was also a Director at camp. A few people in the class had gone to Anytown Leadership Camp as student delegates and encouraged me daily to apply. The way they described Anytown sounded too-good-to-be-true. But I applied nonetheless, right before the

deadline. However, just because I applied during the beginning of summer, didn't mean I didn't have the excitement of going to Anytown stuck in my brain early-on in the .year.

In March of 2019, my family got evicted from our apartment and sudden stress and displacement might have been too much for Frankie because she was moved into a relatives house around April. The move only heightened my anxiety and the first time I actually felt excited for something wasn't until a week before Anytown.



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Anytown was everything I hoped and dreamed of. The programs helped to create further understanding of concepts I knew little about. I learned about allyship and what it really means to be an ally. I strengthened bonds with friends I had lost touch with in April and May. I even gained a lot more self-esteem. When I left Anytown, my family noticed a considerable shift in my confidence and happiness.

I started hanging out with friends, many of whom also went to Anytown. When school started, I had a different outlook on myself and others. Anytown created a support system so strong that after two years, I finally felt comfortable coming out to my dad. **Anytown showed me that trying to make a difference isn't always as daunting as it may seem.** Going to Ambassador meetings and discussing ways to spread what we know makes me feel like changing the world is possible.

I guess it's not a surprise when I say I recommend Anytown to everyone I know. Anytown isn't a camp for specific people and you don't need to know anything about social justice to attend. The only tools anyone really needs for Anytown is an open mind... and also a water bottle (hydrate or diedrate!). I will continue to support and fight for the ideals I learned up the mountain, and I thank everyone who encouraged me to go to Anytown, I don't know who I'd be without it.

-Mckenzie Farinacci

*Some names and identifying details have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

We are continuing to serve as a catalyst for change!
Congratulations to everyone!


Anytown Leadership Program 2019 was a success! We have once again received positive feedback about the impact that this experience provides not only to the student delegates but to the community at large. Delegates, staff and parents reported visible changes in attitudes about people and identities who are different from them, gaining confidence and learning skills on how to advocate for themselves and others.

Anytown Leadership Program continues to transform youth, by providing them with the knowledge and skills to question the world around them in a positive manner.

After spending a week at Anytown,

delegates now have a multitude of ideas about how to make changes in their communities. They are aware that they will not be able to tackle everything at the same time, so they are working in conjunction with Anytown at ongoing meetings, trainings & events that support their short- and long-term goals.

For them, Anytown is the catalyst for bringing new possibilities. The process begins with self-awareness and questioning own biases without judgement; from there students move to speaking up when witnessing oppression; to the final step when they start action groups, join clubs and continue their advocacy in the community.



We had **6,550** volunteer hours logged by Anytown Alumni and community members in 2019;

440 HOURS WERE LOGGED BY THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2019 POST-CAMP

WHERE WE ARE GOING

In summer 2020 we will host 2 residential camps with the support of 50 trained volunteer staff and graduate 150 student delegates

Our 2020 Goals & Objectives

- Participants in the Anytown Leadership Program will gain an understanding of inequality, the systems of oppression, socialization, privilege and the language used in this discourse.
- Participants in the Anytown Leadership Program will develop a deeper understanding of individuals across various backgrounds and with varying social identities including but not limited to ability, age, class, ethnicity, gender-identity, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation.
- Participants in Anytown Leadership Program will learn communication and listening skills necessary to engage in dialogue across differences.
- Participants in Anytown Leadership Program will cultivate critical thinking skills.
- Participants in Anytown Leadership Program will create an interdependent community.
- Participants in Anytown Leadership Program will be empowered to effect change on both a micro and macro level.

All of these objectives will be facilitated through interactive workshops, activities, and large and small group dialogues. And - be measured through pre-surveys, exit surveys, post-camp surveys, interviews and staff debriefing.



100% of participants graduated from the Anytown Leadership Program in 2019

EACH RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE FOR 50 HOURS OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING/ SERVICE

OUR SUPPORTERS

At Anytown Leadership Program, Inc., we believe change starts with a conversation. And, we believe that when people respect and know how to communicate with others who are different from them, everyone benefits. We partner with individuals and organizations across our community and our state. These partnerships allow us to collaborate with and deliver programs to diverse groups, sharing ideas and expertise to help move our community forward. Here are some of the individuals, businesses, donors and community groups who have helped make our work possible.

THANKS TO THESE 2019 DONORS

LEADER FOR CHANGE \$7,500+

David Frazer Endowment Fund

HUMANITARIAN PARTNER \$5,000+

Robert Cialdini & Bobette Gorden Family Foundation

Rob Jaimes

Sandy Fromm

COMMUNITY ALLY \$1,000+

David Gass

Fromm, Smith & Gadow, P.C.

Matt Case

FOUNDERS CIRCLE BENEFACTOR* \$500+ yearly/

50+ monthly

Bank of America

Brock Insurance Services

David Gale

Diane Geimer

Jennifer Gadow

John Boyle

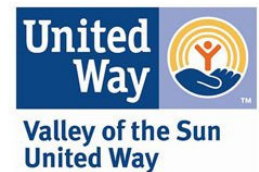
Leida and Greg Davis

Lisa Stone

Nancy Fromm 450

Phoenix Pediatrics

Spire Health Club



OUR PEOPLE

Our program relies on dedicated volunteers who serve on our Anytown Board of Directors and volunteer staff who come back year-after-year to make a profound difference on the lives of youth. Anytown Leadership Program, Inc., thanks these people for making Anytown 2019 possible!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amber Checky

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Fromm

2019 STAFF

Amanda Delphy

Amber Checky

Analicia Zamora Castro

Andrea Yates

Ariana Granger

Boston Morton

Brandon Hayes

Brenda Alvarez

Charlee Morton

Edward Lee

Elijah Butler

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Jillian Lopker

Jose Sanchez

Josephine Maxwell

Kareem Neal

Kevin Soto

KJ Williams

Kristina Erickson

Laila Galarsa

Libby Brauss

Maria Valencia

Matt Case

Monica Williams

Nadia Fontes

Reina Mora

Rowdy Duncan

Silvio Delgado

Von Bryant

Foster Relationships, Build Citizenship and Grow Leadership Skills

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UPCOMING **2020** SUMMER CAMPS

JUNE **14-20**

JULY **5-11**

Mingus Mountain Camp &
Retreat Center in
Prescott Valley

REGISTER TODAY
Ages 14-19

Every
attendee
will earn a
certificate
for 50 hours
of education &
training!



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Embracing Diversity





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Embracing Diversity

Join Our Movement!

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