

## **FOOD CONSPIRACY ELECTIONS 2019 ROUND UP NOMINEES**

### **Certified Naturally Grown**

Certified Naturally Grown (CNG) offers peer-review certification to farmers and beekeepers producing food for their local community by working in harmony with nature, without relying on synthetic chemicals or GMOs. Our standards are based on the highest ideals of the organic movement. Our approach is based on transparency, direct relationships and a firm belief in our ability to create something uniquely valuable by working together. Our mission is to support our members by promoting sustainable agriculture through peer-review certification, grassroots networking, and advocacy.

### **Handi-Dogs Inc.**

Handi-Dogs is dedicated to helping older adults and people with disabilities gain independence and improve their quality of life through specialized training of dogs and to advocate about the important role of service dogs.

### **Lend a Hand Senior Assistance**

Lend a Hand offers support to help keep Seniors in their homes by training and coordinating neighborhood volunteers who provide free services, including transportation, friendly visits, and access to other resources, allowing older residents to continue to live independently in their own homes and remain a vital part of their community. We work with 13 neighborhoods in Ward 3. Food Conspiracy's Round Up will help provide nutritious food through our Produce Distribution Program. Produce is delivered by volunteers working in teams who donate their time and, in some cases, gas. Deliveries often include important flyers or newsletters that inform recipients of services or programs available to them. The person making the delivery can do a "wellness check" with the senior recipient to see if any urgent needs have arisen. We also provide an exercise group that provides healthy snacks at the end of classes. The goal is to maintain balance and improve range of motion and muscle tone. There are normally 12-15 seniors and volunteers meeting about 3 times per month. The class offers Kirtan Kriya, a brain/memory meditation specific to Alzheimer's, dementia, and other memory loss issues; various gentle stretching exercises; and information about natural ways to use food and supplements to support health and well-being.

### **Local First Arizona Foundation**

At the Local First Arizona Foundation, we create innovative programs to build a more diverse and resilient Arizona economy. We believe in leveraging our existing assets in order to build opportunity for all. In our work, we connect our small towns to opportunities, we improve success rates for under-served entrepreneurs so they can build self-reliance and community wealth, and we support food producers to increase connectivity between Arizona's farms and its residents. The Foundation works on broader economic development issues, implementing new tools and programs that redefine Arizona's assets and create sweeping changes that increase opportunities for all Arizonans. We know that Arizona's economy succeeds when everyone has opportunities to lead healthy and productive lives.

## **Tucson Cooperative Network**

The Tucson Cooperative Network is a low-income, immigrant, and POC-led collective that work to advance community self-determination through cooperative business development. The network represents 5 grassroots organizations and 2 larger non-profit institutions. The TCN formed to build capacity within the current membership to be able to create cooperative businesses and to support advance the existing cooperative ecosystem in Tucson and Southern Arizona. Current membership includes:

- Tierra y Libertad Organization (TYLO) (est. 2001)
- The Southside Worker Center (SSWC) (est. 2006)
- The Flowers and Bullets Collective (F&B) (est. 2012)
- Paisanos Unidos (est. 2009)
- BICAS (Bicycle Inter-Community Arts & Salvage) (est. 1989)
- The YWCA's Microbusiness Advancement Center (MAC) (est. 1917)
- The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona (CFB) (est. 1975)

## **Tucson CSA**

The Tucson CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) was born as a community initiative when 15 University of Arizona students asked a farmer to bring food to a central location in town. That was in 2004. Today, the Tucson CSA works with a dozen farms and ranches to provide fresh farm products to over 300 Tucson families. It offers local produce, bread, cheeses, grass-fed meats, eggs, honey and more, all organically and sustainably produced. At the Tucson CSA, you always know where your food comes from, who produces it and how. You know that it is naturally grown or humanely raised, with no chemical pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, fertilizers, hormones or antibiotics. And you know that neither people nor the environment is abused in the course of its production.

## **Tierra y Libertad**

Tierra y Libertad (TYLO) is a grassroots organization, based out of South Tucson, Arizona, that promotes the ideals of equity, justice, and self-determination. Members, supporters, and allies of the organization work for positive social change and for the respect of land, people, and culture. Since 2001 TYLO has focused on building multiple examples of positive social change and community transformation in the barrios where we live. Work of the organization is carried out through a multi-tier model of grassroots community organizing and popular education that consists of four key programs: Barrio Sustainability Project, TYLO Freedom School, MAIZ, and the Migrant Rights Organizing Campaign!

## **The Hermitage Cat Shelter and Sanctuary**

The Hermitage Cat Shelter and Sanctuary advocates for animal rights and ending needless euthanasia of at-risk felines through protection, adoption, and sanctuary. For over 50 years, the Hermitage has been dedicated to the shelter, protection, and care of homeless cats, especially those that are often not considered by other organizations. We are both an adoption facility and a long-term sanctuary.

## **Tucson 2030 Districts**

The Tucson 2030 District is a private-public collaborative working to create groundbreaking high performance building districts in Tucson that aim to dramatically reduce energy and water consumption as well as climate-changing emissions from transportation. By adopting these three performance targets set forth in Architecture 2030's nation Challenge for Planning, the Tucson Emerging 2030 District, like successful 2030 Districts in other cities, seeks to demonstrate that high performing buildings can be the most valuable and economical buildings in the region.