

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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St. Vincent de Paul opens second clinic



The St. Vincent de Paul clinic is staffed largely with volunteers to provide free health care for uninsured and underinsured patients of all ages. MEGAN MENDOZA/THE REPUBLIC

Nonprofit offers free care to the uninsured with help of donations, volunteers

"We're keeping patients out of emergency departments. It's no-barrier care. There's no money, there's no insurance."

Shannon Clancy
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix CEO

Stephanie Innes Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

Arising number Arizona patients without health insurance and the money to pay for their medical care has inspired the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to open its second free clinic in metro Phoenix. • The new 10,100-square-foot health clinic, which opened its doors Oct. 7, is in a renovated St. Vincent de Paul thrift store at 2352 W. Main St. in Mesa near Dobson Road and close to Tempe. • The eventual vision is to have four free clinics situated throughout the Valley, CEO Shannon Clancy said during a recent walk-through of the space.

The Mesa clinic has support from several community partners: Mayo Clinic, Arizona State University, Banner Health and Creighton University. The first clinic's primary partnership is with Dignity St. Joseph's Medical Center in Phoenix, which is expected to work with the second clinic, too.

As an independent clinic that provides care for free, nonprofit St. Vincent de Paul does not get federal funding for its operational costs and does not bill insurers, which is what makes it different from federally qualified health centers.

Instead, it relies on donations, health provider volunteers and partnerships, including academic liaisons to help staff the clinic with medical stu-

dents. The \$5 million clinic renovation was paid for by an anonymous donor, Clancy said.

Without the constraints of insurance billing, providers at the free clinic can spend a longer time with patients when they need it, leaders said.

One of the key pieces of the model is the clinic's connection to more than 30 Valley specialists who do pro bono work. The clinic, which will treat both adults and children, does not treat patients indefinitely. The aim is to get them well, get them health coverage if they qualify, and "launch" them to other providers. The clinic helps with food and shelter, too, which are also

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Election denier urged allies to apply for jobs in Heap's office

Stephanie Murray

Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

An activist with ties to a central player in President Donald Trump's attempt to overturn the 2020 election encouraged her followers to flood a Maricopa County elections office with job applications.

Now a liberal voting rights group is calling for an investigation.

Living United for Change in Arizona, known as LUCHA, is raising the alarm after activist Merissa Caldwell used a Telegram chat to encourage her EZAZ followers to apply for jobs in Maricopa County Recorder Justin Heap's office.

Heap oversees voter registration and mail-in voting in one of the nation's biggest swing counties. The Republican recorder is a Trump ally who has dodged questions about whether the 2020 election was fair.

"Call that what it is: Election interference," said Alejandra Gomez, LUCHA's executive director. "He is working with far-right groups like EZAZ to now erode the integrity process of who gets to work inside of the elections administration building and tabulating votes."

According to a Telegram post, Caldwell promoted permanent, full-time job openings in Heap's office. The jobs included early voting center supervisor, logistics coordinator and IT project manager, among others.

"This is your chance to help restore integrity to Arizona's elections and save the Republic," the post read.

Caldwell is an activist who leads the Arizona chapter of the Election Integrity Network, a nonprofit helmed by Trump lawyer and election-denier Cleta Mitchell.

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Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who spent years questioning vaccine safety and founded an anti-vaccine group before taking office, has taken steps to reshape federal immunization policy. KYLIE COOPER/REUTERS FILE

Kennedy launches new push to study vaccine injuries

Ahmed Aboulenein

REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. last week launched an agencywide effort to study and document any health problems reported after vaccination, the Department of Health and Human Services said on Oct. 8.

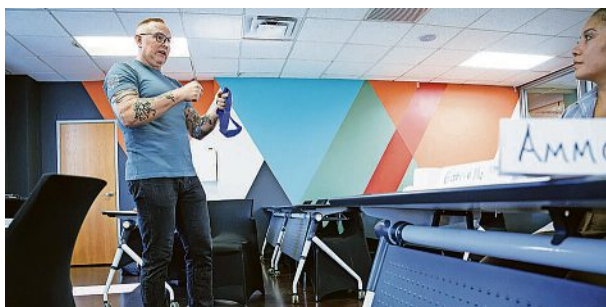
The initiative is the latest step by Kennedy, who spent years questioning vaccine safety and founded an anti-vaccine group before taking office, to reshape federal immunization policy.

The American Academy of Pediatrics says childhood vaccines are studied in placebo-controlled and comparison-group trials and monitored for safety after approval.

The federal Vaccine Injury Table lists 14 compensable injuries across 16 vaccine types under the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, a no-fault system in which claimants file against the government,

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NONPROFIT LGBTQ+ GUN CLASSES 3A



Jonathan Elliot teaches a firearms course Oct. 5 at CO+HOOTS in Phoenix. MEGAN MENDOZA/THE REPUBLIC

Ex-Guthrie suspect held

A man briefly detained in connection with the Nancy Guthrie investigation in February was arrested by Pima County Sheriff's Department deputies on unrelated firearm misconduct and narcotic possession charges, according to court records. **4A**

GOP TV ad botches photo

A GOP PAC aligned with President Donald Trump uses photos of the wrong man in a TV ad attacking Navajo congressional candidate Jonathan Nez. **4A**

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