We’re the Place for That.

Independence | Education | Friends | Job Opportunities | Support | Community | Peace of Mind
Located in the heart of the fifth-largest city in the U.S., First Place–Phoenix is an innovative residential property for individuals with autism and other neuro-diversities. Led by market principles, First Place aspires to be a replicable model promoting collaboration among the private, public, philanthropic and nonprofit sectors while serving as a catalyst for advancing public policy focused on housing solutions for special populations.*

A transit-oriented development, First Place offers the benefits of a supportive urban location, connecting residents to jobs, friends, education, arts and culture, recreation and community. The property is supported by an extensive smart-home technology platform to align with a resident’s personal schedule, as well as building security, apartment management and communication with family and friends.

First Place–Phoenix represents home for individuals who live here, an inspiring and enriching environment for those who work and learn here, and peace of mind for family and friends who come and go.

*First Place is not a group home or a licensed, congregate care or assisted-living facility and is not reliant on government resources.
Our vision is ensuring that housing and community options are as bountiful for adults with autism and other neuro-diversities as they are for everyone else.

Three Primary Components of First Place—Phoenix

First Place Apartments
With 55 studio, one-, two- and four-bedroom units for 75 residents, our apartments provide access to suite of supports and amenities with all the benefits of community-connected, independent living.

First Place Transition Academy
The Transition Academy offers a two-year, 32-course life skills program—the Learn4Independence® curriculum taught by the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC)—to empower residents to find employment and live more independently. SARRC also provides clinical services.

First Place Global Leadership Institute
The Global Leadership Institute represents a faculty of experts from across the country and is focused on pressing concerns for accessibility to more housing and independent living options for individuals with special needs. It serves as an international education and training center for professionals, support staff and medical personnel, as well as a robust site for research and public-policy advancements.
First Place for Independent Living

First Place offers a diverse suite of supports and skill-building opportunities included in the monthly rent to help residents thrive as they chart their individual paths to more independent living. Supports are designed to be flexible and individualized based on each resident’s unique needs, strengths and interests.

First Place—Phoenix sits in the heart of a thriving urban area acknowledged by PBS NewsHour as “the most autism-friendly city in the world.” We work closely with the community to connect residents to recreation, employment, volunteerism, education, transportation and social opportunities.

First Place continues to build and expand our diverse community of pride, purpose and endless possibilities through daily activities here and in the broader community.

Community Life & Amenities

Vibrant community life activities provide opportunities for residents to engage, explore, and enjoy arts and cultural events, recreation programs, food and culinary events, entertainment, education workshops, volunteer activities and so much more.

The unique and ever-popular AZ Cardinals Game Room, LEGO Lounge, Zen Room and Space to Create Lounge offer residents a place to socialize, explore, create, relax, meditate and connect with friends and neighbors. The GoodLife Fitness Room and Thunderbirds Sports Pool are the perfect places to focus on fitness—solo, with friends and through various classes. The First Place Reading Lounges on each floor provide warm and comfortable environments for residents to enjoy their favorite books, find new ones, join the First Place book club or socialize with other book lovers.
“As a parent, you can breathe easier and relax knowing the support staff at First Place understands each resident and works hard to meet their unique needs.”

Donna, Jenny’s mom

Support & Skill Building for Residents

Our supportive team includes coordinators focused on in-home supports, community life, vocational opportunities and health and wellness, along with trained support specialists. They work one-on-one with residents to help them identify interests and specific skill sets as they plan their days and chart their life course at First Place–Phoenix and in the broader community.

The First Place vocational coordinator provides hands-on career-search support and guidance to help residents on their paths to independence and engages local organizations to develop internship, volunteer and paid employment opportunities.

- Time Management
- Personal Care
- Self-Determination
- Money Management
- Grocery Shopping
- Basic Culinary Skills
- Vocation
- Transportation & Navigation
- Household Management
- Health & Wellness
- Recreation

24/7 Concierge & Maintenance
Building Security
Fitness Room
Culinary Teaching Kitchen
Zen Room
Pool, Patio, BBQ & Organic Garden
Health & Wellness Center
Floor Plans

1-Bedroom Suite  744 sq. ft.

2-Bedroom Suite  1,080 sq. ft.
“I’ve lived with my parents all my life... But once I got here, that changed. I am living on my own and I’m doing the things I know how to do. I am empowered and feel like an adult.”

Lauren, First Place—Phoenix Resident

Features

• Spacious, shared kitchen, living and dining areas
• Full bathrooms with floor drainage
• Advanced stovetop motion-sensor technology
• In-home washer and dryer unit
• Designated “grab & go” areas for important personal items
• Utilities included (cable, internet, phone, electricity, water, trash valet)

Transition Academy 4-Bedroom Suite*  1,575 sq. ft.

*For Transition Academy participants only
Moving Toward Independent Living Takes Practice

The First Place Transition Academy, is a two-year, on-site residential and community-based program designed to help build crucial independent living and career-readiness skills. Participants can maximize their capacity to live more independently through our Learn4Independence® curriculum—taught by the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC)—and individualized supports designed for adults with autism. SARRC also provides clinical services.

During the Transition Academy’s two-year program, participants live in their own private bedroom in a four-bedroom suite on the first floor of First Place–Phoenix. They benefit from career services ranging from volunteer work and internships to paid employment. Living at First Place, participants can enjoy a wide range of property amenities, the convenience of a midtown location and walking distance to public transportation.

In year one, the syllabus includes 16 of 32 Learn4Independence courses enabling individuals to build more independent life and work skills. In year two, participants complete the remaining 16 courses, continue transition planning and, upon completion of the program, receive a certificate in life skills at the GateWay Community College graduation ceremony.
First Place and SARRC have partnered to develop a state-of-the-art, educational transition program for 32 participants each year as they develop more independent living skills within a supportive, connected community. Participants take part in Learn4Independence®, a two-year curriculum of 32 semester-length courses (17 weeks each) taught on-site at GateWay Community College in Phoenix. They can also apply what they learn every day through community-based experiences and in their apartments, also known as their “independent living classrooms.”

“Calvin has learned to clean his room, shop for groceries and use public transportation. He even takes Uber to the community college for Transition Academy classes.”

Youngchun, Calvin’s mom
Global Leadership Institute

Impacting Housing, Education, Business, Healthcare and Public Policy

The mission of the Global Leadership Institute is to increase housing options for individuals with autism and other neuro-diversities and to develop a field of leaders advancing promising best practices. The First Place Global Leadership Institute collaborates with international experts and industry leaders through its five centers:

- Maricopa County IDA Center for Education, Training & Employment
- Center for Real Estate & Community Development
- Colonel Harland Sanders Center for Applied Research
- Mulzet Center for Expression/Communication
- Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation Center for Public Policy

The Global Leadership Institute’s annual spring and fall symposia attract attendees from North America and beyond. Pioneering organizations and families gather in Phoenix to share ideas with the First Place team and continue moving forward with models for public, private, nonprofit and charitable collaboration.
The First Place Global Leadership Institute Addresses 10 Priority Issues:

1. Quality of Life
   Compromised

2. Isolation
   "Handicapped," dependency mindset

3. Housing Crisis
   Limited options, high cost/demand and dwindling government resources

4. Business Models
   Scarcity of proven outcomes, replicable programs and private capital

5. Support Staff
   Low wages, limited training and high turnover

6. Public Policy
   Dated; limited innovation and integration

7. Research
   Need for large-scale initiatives defining best practices

8. Adult Medical Care
   Too few practitioners on the cutting edge of autism services and patient support

9. Technology Platforms
   Too varied and ever-changing; need to leverage and maximize

10. Heterogeneity
    Broad range of diversity; lack of segmentation

Learn4Independence® Curriculum Licensing

Organizations can license the use of this interactive curriculum to promote independence and increase opportunities for employment. There are 32 courses, each with 17 modules that include an instructor’s manual and syllabus. Each module contains specific learning outcomes, PowerPoint presentations, reading notes for students and supplemental materials like handouts, worksheets and projects. An implementation manual provides a curriculum overview and summarizes best practices for instruction.

Faculty and Staff

Developed by distinguished leaders in this highly specialized field, the Global Leadership Institute focuses on autism research and professional development, as well as multidisciplinary study and research for educators and medical professionals. The emphasis is on fostering the creation of more residential options that support greater independence, as well as offering hands-on training and development to professionals seeking a career in working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Global Leadership Institute’s nationally respected faculty includes experts in the field of autism and other special abilities who are also thought leaders in adult services and supports.
Tour our community and see first-hand how First Place–Phoenix helps residents achieve independent living.

**Entrance – Welcome Home!**
First Place–Phoenix aims to ensure that housing and community options are as bountiful for people with autism and other special abilities as they are for everyone else.

**Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation Landmark**
The Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation was one of the very first supporters to embrace our vision. This landmark provides a comfy spot for residents to meet up or just hang out with friends.

**Stardust Gardens and Lobby**
Filled with natural light and spectacular views of our growing garden, this area is the central hub of activity, complete with an information center.

**Sonia’s Culinary Teaching Kitchen**
Sonia’s Culinary Teaching Kitchen includes four fully stocked kitchen stations perfect for creating healthy and delicious cuisine, as well as a TV and camera to film recipes in action. Guest chefs are welcome!

**Cox Community Room**
Our all-purpose gathering place is perfect for hosting meetings, workshops, trainings and themed events by day and enjoying movies, karaoke, bingo and talent shows by night.

**Outdoor Courtyard**
Our outdoor courtyard is a popular spot for an obvious reason: the Thunderbirds Charities sports pool! This outdoor space also includes Joey’s BBQ Grill and a lounge for hanging out with friends.

**Transition Academy Suites**
The two-year residential Transition Academy program builds independent living and career-readiness skills. Two of the four Transition Academy suites are sponsored by the Phoenix IDA and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona.

**Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Health Spot**
The Health Spot is an ongoing development in collaboration with Barrow Neurological Institute & Dignity Health/St. Joseph’s Hospital and is home to our health & wellness center and staff.

**Global Leadership Institute**
At the Global Leadership Institute, a faculty of experts from across the country comes together to focus on opening doors to more housing and community options for adults with autism.

**Jaburg Wilk Property Management Office**
Questions and leasing referrals are always welcome!
**2nd Floor**

- **GoodLife Fitness Room**
  Our fitness room has all of the essentials necessary for maintaining an active lifestyle, including treadmills, elliptical machines, free weights, workout accessories and various exercise classes.

- **Cox Entrepreneurial Spot**
  This is where residents can get assistance with creating their resumes and searching for jobs. By 2025, our goal is to generate 1,000 local jobs for people with autism and other special abilities and those who support them.

- **LEGO Lounge**
  Check out our LEGO Lounge, featuring thousands of colorful LEGO’s of every size! Thanks to Artful Giving, this is one of our residents’ favorite spots to meet up, build and chill.

- **Arizona Cardinals Game Room**
  Mirrored after State Farm Stadium itself, this popular spot on the third floor is complete with video games, TVs and comfy furniture to wind down after a long day or meet up on game day. Go Cards!

- **SRPMIC Community Life Spot**
  Here is where the CORE of First Place comes together with staff to plan activities and events, policies and procedures.

- **Space to Create**
  The Artists Lounge is an art studio for residents to pursue creative expression.

- **Zen Room**
  Get some much-needed rest and relaxation in our Zen Room. Do yoga, meditate or simply find some peace and quiet.

- **Arizona Community Foundation A to Z Spot**
  The A to Z spot is a place for CORE. Transition Academy participants, support specialists and others to gather.

- **Sensory Lounge**
  This interactive and engaging space is designed to promote relaxation, self-regulation and fun.

- **Reading Lounges (Floors 2, 3 & 4)**
  Cozy spots for reading, checking out books, book club and one-on-ones with residents and support providers/counselors.
“The most autism-friendly city in the world.”
- PBS NewsHour
Heartfelt thanks to our donors, sponsors and community members who make First Place possible!
Now Leasing!

About the Apartments
The First Place Apartments offer a diverse suite of supports, amenities and community life options included in the monthly rate to help residents thrive as they chart their individual paths to more independent living.

- Support specialists assist residents in developing life skills and adapting supports to each resident’s strengths, interests and needs.
- The community life coordinator leads a dynamic schedule of fun activities and special events.
- The vocational coordinator helps residents identify their skill sets and job interests.
- The health & wellness coordinator supports residents in making healthy nutrition, exercise and lifestyle choices.

A diverse community of pride, purpose and endless possibilities.

2022 Leasing Options

1-Bedroom

$4,200
per month • tax

1 Bedroom
1 Full Bathroom
Appliances
Refrigerator, range, washer, dryer, dishwasher
Utilities
Cable, internet, phone, electricity, water, trash valet

2-Bedroom
(single occupancy)

$4,400
per month • tax

2 Bedrooms
2 Full Bathrooms
Appliances
Refrigerator, range, washer, dryer, dishwasher
Utilities
Cable, internet, phone, electricity, water, trash valet

Amenities & Features and support specialist assistance are included in rent. Unit options are based on availability.
The First Place Transition Academy is a two-year, on-site residential program at First Place–Phoenix designed to help build crucial independent living and career-readiness skills. Participants can maximize their capacity to live more independently through the Learn4Independence® curriculum—taught by our sister nonprofit the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC)—and individualized supports developed for adults with autism and other neurodiversities. SARRC also provides clinical services.

Learn to live more independently

2023-24 Rent & Tuition

Pricing Available Fall 2022

Learn4Independence® Curriculum
Private Bedroom (in shared apartment)
Utilities & Appliances
Clinical Services
Employment Services
Amenities & Features


Visit firstplaceaz.org for more information and complete the Contact Us form to start your journey.

Now Enrolling!