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 there, an inspiring and enriching environment for those who work and learn there, and peace of mind for family and friends who come and go.

Three Primary Components of First Place–Phoenix

**First Place Apartments**

With 55 studio, one-, two- and four-bedroom units for 79 residents, our apartments provide access to suite of supports and amenities with all the benefits of community-connected, independent living.

**First Place Transition Academy**

Operated by the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC), the Transition Academy offers a two-year, 32-course life skills program—the Learn4Independence® Curriculum—to empower residents to find employment and live more independently.

**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 is not a group home or a licensed, congregate care or assisted-living facility and is not reliant on government resources."
Amenities & Features

- Transit-Oriented Midtown Location
- LEGO Lounge
- Game Room
- 24/7 Concierge & Maintenance
- Building Security
- Fitness Room
- Culinary Teaching Kitchen
- Zen Room
- Pool, Patio, BBQ & Organic Garden
- Health & Wellness Center

Support Team
Coordinators and trained support specialists are available daily to provide individualized support ranging from life skills and employment to community life and health and wellness.

Community Connections
We work with the community to connect residents to recreation, employment, volunteering, education, transportation and social opportunities.

Community Life
We build a diverse community of pride, purpose and potential through daily planned activities, the ongoing celebration of firsts and spontaneous fun.

Collaboration
We provide support programs for families, friends, service providers and the medical community.

Vocational Support
The vocational staff at First Place works one-on-one with residents to identify their interests and specific skill sets to help them chart a course for lasting employment.

First Place for Independent Living
Supports & Community Life

Suites of Supports
First Place offers 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. Supports are designed to be flexible and individualized based on the unique needs, strengths and interests of each resident.

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

Community Life
Robust community life at First Place is guided by the individuals who live here. They interface with the CORE (Council of Resident Engagement) of First Place and staff to plan activities, events and outings, while also helping to shape residential policies and procedures. We are proud to have cultivated an extended network of supportive partners beyond the First Place Apartments. This encourages residents to venture out into the community, thanks to our urban location and easy access to mass transit.

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
Floor Plans

1-Bedroom Suite  744 sq. ft.

2-Bedroom Suite  1,080 sq. ft.

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

“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
Transition Academy

Moving Toward Independent Living Takes Practice

The First Place Transition Academy, operated by the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC), 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 and individualized supports designed for adults with autism.

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 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.

Learn4Independence® Curriculum

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 or “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

“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
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.

**Tour Guide**

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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!

5. **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.

6. **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.

7. **Transition Academy Suites**
   - The two-year residential Transition Academy program is operated by the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC) and 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.

8. **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.

9. **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.

10. **Jaburg Wilk Property Management Office**
    - Questions and leasing referrals are always welcome!

11. **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.

12. **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.

13. **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.

14. **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!

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

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

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

18. **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.

19. **Media Lounge**
    - In this relaxing lounge, view your favorite—and new—films with friends.
Downtown Phoenix Map

LEGEND
- Valley Metro Bus Line
- Valley Metro Purple Line
- Phoenix Valley Metro Rail Station
- Light Rail Station
- Point of Interest
- SARRC Locations
- First Place Locations

Heartfelt thanks to our donors, sponsors and community members who make First Place possible!

Follow us on social media: @FirstPlaceAZ

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"The most autism-friendly city in the world."
- PBS NewsHour

04.21.21
Now Leasing!

Amenities & Features and Support included in rent; Unit options based on availability

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, adapting support services to each resident’s strengths, interests and needs.

A robust community life at First Place includes daily activities and events that create a fun, diverse community of pride, purpose and endless possibilities.

First Place’s on-site vocational coordinator helps residents identify their interests and specific skill sets while providing individual career-search guidance.

2021 Leasing Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1-Bedroom</th>
<th>2-Bedroom (single occupancy)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$4,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,300</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>1 Full Bathroom</td>
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Team Approach

- **Vocational Skills**
- **Community Life**
- **Support**
- **Mental Health**

Areas of Support

- **Shopping**
- **Budgeting**
- **Daily Living Skills**
- **Transportation Training & Navigation**
- **Culinary Skills**
- **Household Management**

Amenities & Features

- **Building Security**
- **Health & Wellness Center**
- **24/7 Concierge & Maintenance**
- **Pool, Patio, BBQ & Organic Garden**
- **Transit-Oriented Midtown Location**
- **Fitness Room**
- **LEGO Lounge**
- **Culinary Teaching Kitchen**
- **Game Room**
- **Zen Room**

Amenities & Features and Support included in rent; Unit options based on availability

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Now Enrolling!

About the Transition Academy
The First Place Transition Academy, operated by our sister nonprofit and clinical operating partner the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC), 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 and individualized supports developed for adults with autism and other neurodiversities.

2021-22 Rent & Tuition

$5,500 per month
Annual tuition of $66,000 (includes annual fees; tax not included.)


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