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Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation Awards First Place AZ with Grant for its Healthy Harvest Growers Program

PHOENIX (April 6, 2018) — [Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation](#) has awarded [First Place® AZ](#) with a \$10,000 grant for its Healthy Harvest Growers Program.

The Healthy Harvest Growers Program will use the funding to build raised, boxed community garden beds in the courtyard of First Place-Phoenix, a \$15.3 million, 81,000-square-foot property now under construction and opening to residents this summer at 3001 N. Third Street in Phoenix. First Place AZ is a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit working hard to ensure that housing options for people with autism and neuro-diversities are as bountiful as they are for everyone else.

The funding also will enable First Place to purchase soil, seeds, starter plants, fertilizer and garden tools.

Residents will help build the gardens, as well as cultivate herbs, vegetables and other plants for use in First Place's culinary teaching kitchens and for preparing their own meals in the property's 55 private apartments.

"Gardening will provide residents with many benefits such as physical activity, stress relief and a sense of accomplishment while developing social skills," said Denise D. Resnik, First Place founder, president and CEO. "First Place AZ is grateful to the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation for their grant which will help residents maintain healthy lifestyles while building self-confidence, self-esteem and friendships."

This is the second grant Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation has awarded First Place. The 2016 grant provided seed funding for the Sprouts Kitchen Network's "First to the Table" video series of cooking courses for adults with autism and other neuro-diversities to help them learn independent living skills. The videos will be viewed in the First Place culinary teaching kitchens and in individual apartments.

Participants will experience step-by-step sensory learning experiences from gardening all the way to food preparation through easy-to-follow demonstrations and recipes, and tips and techniques for safe cooking.

“We’re delighted to recognize the innovative work of First Place and value how our contributions will impact its residents and model programming for others,” said Lyndsey Waugh, executive director at Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation.

For more information about leasing activity now underway or to become involved, email info@firstplaceaz.org or visit firstplaceaz.org.

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About First Place AZ

First Place® AZ is a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit organization advancing innovative residential options for adults with autism and other neuro-diversities. Led by market principles, First Place is creating replicable, residential and post-secondary education models that promote collaboration among the private/public/philanthropic/nonprofit sectors, serving as a catalyst for advancing public policy focused on housing solutions for special populations. Recipient of the 2016 HeroX [Autism Speaks House to Home Prize](#) for its “belief-busting breakthrough” idea in housing and residential supports, First Place celebrates neuro-diversity, independent living and its belief that housing options for people with autism and other special abilities should be as bountiful as they are for everyone else. To learn more, visit firstplaceaz.org and view these 2016 PBS NewsHour segments: [“Giving Adults with Autism the Skills to Build Independent Lives”](#) and [“How Phoenix Became the Most Autism-Friendly City in the World.”](#)