

SARAH C. GONZALEZ, MSW
PRACTICE LEADER, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Sarah works to build healthy communities where all members can thrive. Sarah brings her lived experience as a resident and community leader to her projects, enabling an authentic connection to those she serves.

Some of Sarah's work includes stepping into leadership of a failing community center and transforming it into a thriving community hub serving 8,000- 10,000 children, youth and families annually in the Maryvale area. As the Executive Director, Sarah led 40 employees through the challenging transition while directing six programs. She was able to reduce the annual budget deficit from \$1.8 million to \$115,000 in a four-year timeframe by securing multiple new lines of funding and revenue opportunities for the center.

Utilizing a community-led approach, she then facilitated the creation of The Heart of Isaac Community Center through a partnership of the Isaac School District with parents, school staff, residents, community partners, and public officials. It is the first resident driven Family Resource Center implemented within an education setting in Arizona. This was a project that initially had no budget but with the support of the community and Sarah's relentless efforts, it now serves as a point of pride for the Isaac community and model for other school districts.

In addition to her Professional Interim Executive practice, Sarah serves as the start-up Executive Director for the Isaac Educational Foundation. She is leading board recruitment, program and fund development, partnership building, community engagement and awareness. Sarah has also worked with new nonprofits and those reinventing themselves, in leadership development, organizational structure, program development, collaborations, and funding projects.

Sarah is bilingual and bicultural. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Studies and Human Development from the University of Arizona. She also holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Arizona State University. She is a member of the Latina Giving Circle, is a Valley Leadership Alumni-Class 38, and is currently in the Hispanic Leadership Institute through Valle Del Sol. She serves on the board of Dignity Health Hospital, Trellis and on the Maryvale Village Planning Committee. Most importantly, she is a wife and a mother of a 6-year old daughter and 2-year old son.



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