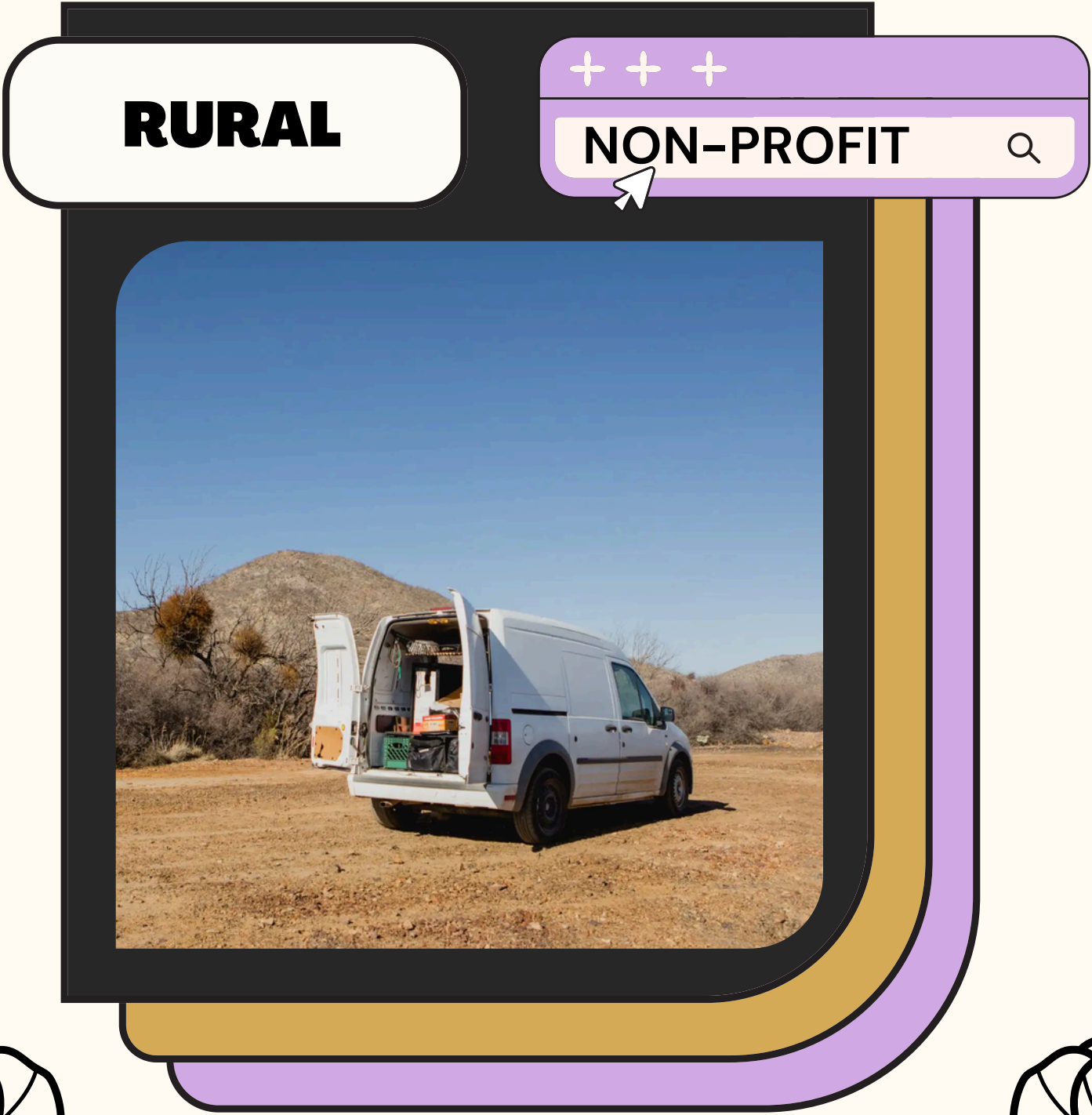


# NATIONAL NON-PROFIT DAY

Highlight



COCHISE HARM REDUCTION

# MEET LU FUNK

Founder and Executive Director of  
Cochise Harm Reduction (CHR)



## STORY BEHIND THE CREATION OF CHR

“A friend of mine passed away in the desert – in the summer in Arizona. It was unclear if it was an overdose or heat exposure. At the time, I was volunteering at the free lunch in Old Bisbee – this individual knew where to find me for support, but I hadn't seen him in awhile.

*His death forced me to reckon with the fact that **the more someone is struggling, the less likely they are to seek help and support.***

I knew at that moment that **we needed a mobile harm reduction program in Cochise County – a program that went and visited people where they are at and didn't put the impetus on individuals struggling to find services.** A program that just showed up, checked in on you and brought the services directly to you.”



## LU'S INSPIRATION TO DO THE WORK

“

I'm constantly inspired by the care and compassion people who have so little show for their communities.

Stigma makes people who use drugs look like "thieves," "morally bad" etc., but it's literally the opposite: **people who use drugs are so isolated and ostracized** so there's actually so much care and support I see on a daily basis in the using community.

We are all we have.

”





## CHR IMPACTS LU IS MOST PROUD OF

One of the objectives of CHR is to **equip people with better tools to support themselves and their communities**. I'm constantly humbled by the care I witness.

Another impact of CHR that I am most proud of is our **"low barrier employment program"**: anyone can walk up to our organization, regardless of their housing status, level of chaos from their substance use, and find a place at our organization.

We create low barrier positions that allow people who are the most impacted, and often have less capacity for employment, to **make money, find purpose, and be a part of our community** at CHR.



## WHAT ARE THE GREATEST NEEDS AT THE MOMENT?

“ In the summer monsoon season, **we always need more camping supplies** (tents, tarps etc). The oscillation between 100 degree hot days and torrential rainstorms creates so much chaos in folks' lives: folks are constantly having to launder their clothing, find new **clothing** because their clothes got mildewy in the rain etc.

Cash donations support more of these purchases but we also encourage the community to **donate lightly used camping supplies and clothing that we can directly hand out to our neighbors outside.** ”





## HOW CAN SOMEONE GET INVOLVED WITH CHR?

“

We are so grateful for each and every person who supports our efforts — we have such a remarkable community.

If you'd like to get involved with CHR, there are many opportunities — **volunteer your time in the kitchen or office, donate in-kind items, gift funds, lead the future of harm reduction as a member of our Board of Directors.**

Every act of support makes a difference.

Learn more at  
[cochiseharmreduction.org/get-involved](https://cochiseharmreduction.org/get-involved).

”



SCAN ME