

NATIONAL NON-PROFIT DAY

Highlight



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.

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LU'S INSPIRATION TO DO THE WORK

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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.

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CHR IMPACTS LU IS MOST PROUD OF

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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.

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WHAT ARE THE GREATEST NEEDS AT THE MOMENT?

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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.**

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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.

