



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Finally, the Good News.**

And St. Luke's Health Initiatives is leading the way.

PHOENIX, AZ— You've heard the bad news: drug abuse, cancer and broken communities are risks to our future. Now, finally, comes the good news.

Inside each situation lies the community's own strengths for reversing the downward trends. And St. Luke's Health Initiatives (SLHI) is leading the way.

It's called Health in a New Key. "This is all about building strength by starting with what we have, not what we lack" says Roger Hughes, SLHI Executive Director.

"That's the best way to go from what is to what ought to be."

We face many issues together. Pick one: drug abuse, infant mortality, community health, cancer, neighborhoods declining toward decay, the choices of young girls, foster care, mental illness or elder care. SLHI picked all nine. Beginning November 16, SLHI is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by committing \$1.2 million and continued staff support to work on improving each situation using a strength-based approach.

Four-year partnerships are announced today with:

- CARE Partnership (Mesa)
- Promotoras de Bienestar/Promoters of Well-Being (Golden Gate Community Center)
- The Family Health Partnerships Program (South Phoenix and Maryvale)
- Enlace por los Ninos/Unite for the Children (Central Phoenix)

One-year partnerships are announced today with:

- The Wellness Community (Maricopa County)
- West Yavapai Guidance Clinic (West Yavapai County)
- Sanders Clinic (North Apache County)
- The Community Connections Initiative (Tempe)
- The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (Surprise)

SLHI and these nine partners are not alone. Northwestern University's John Kretzmann has been making a compelling case for what he termed asset-based community development since at least 1993. Arizona State University's Resilience Solutions Group has been in operation for three years. Resilience Solutions Group co-founder John Hall: "With the help of SLHI, Health in a New Key becomes a movement in Arizona—one that gives all of us stronger communities in which to live."

SLHI is putting its cards on the table. "We've learned much that we can share and talk about," says SLHI Associate Director Jane Pearson. "But we're even more focused on being a catalyst for action. And that's why we're committing our investment and our resources today."

The entire SLHI team agrees. The song sheet for improving our community health is being written in a new key. That new key uses what we have to make connections and strengthen the fabric of our communities. "Health in a New Key is a three-part harmony," notes Hughes. "Mind, body and spirit—together they make beautiful music."

#### *About SLHI*

*St. Luke's Health Initiatives (SLHI) has focused on being a catalyst for community health in Arizona, with emphasis on Maricopa County, since 1995. As a public foundation, SLHI convenes available resources, advocates on issues, models successful organizational practices and provides program funding. Initiatives include a breadth of bottom-up and top-down efforts: Health in a New Key, Arizona Health Futures, the Technical Assistance Program, Arizona CAN, the Medical Assistance Program and more. For additional information, please visit [www.slhi.org](http://www.slhi.org).*