THE NEED

We are currently facing a public health crisis that is claiming the lives of over 150,000 people per year in the US.\(^1\) With over 40 million people currently living with substance use disorder, it is critical that we work to find support for those individuals.\(^2\) While professional treatment is helping many start their recovery journey, supportive social networks also play a critical role in addressing their needs in seeking and maintaining sobriety. No matter the means of getting and staying sober, one critical component for success is finding a support network through which individuals encourage one another.\(^3\)

Unfortunately, societal stigmatization makes it challenging for some to easily find this community, meaning that they may either return to the original groups they previously associated with during their substance use or remain socially isolated, both options increasing the risk of relapse. This is where The Phoenix comes in, where we work to meet that need by creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive community where our members can flourish.

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2. SAMHSA, 2021.
The Phoenix is an innovative nonprofit organization that helps anyone impacted by substance use heal by leveraging the intrinsic transformative power of social connection and activity.

Through group fitness, meditation, running, climbing, hiking, music, book club, and other meaningful activities, The Phoenix combats the isolation, shame, and hopelessness that often surrounds substance use and perpetuates relapse.

Events at The Phoenix are FREE to anyone with at least 48 hours of continuous sobriety. By meeting each person where they are and believing in them until they can believe in themselves, we create an environment where healing happens and recovery flourishes. We help thousands of individuals rise every day from the ashes of addiction and find the hope and support they need to thrive.

Over the past 15 years, The Phoenix has grown from a small community serving a few dozen people in Boulder, to a growing national movement.
While 2021 was a yet another trying year for our community and for our world, I am both honored and proud to say that The Phoenix organization as a whole and as individuals embodied one of my favorite quotes: 

*Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom.*

Viktor E. Frankl

Despite the incredible challenges faced through the various surges of COVID-19, we find ourselves on the precipice of rapid, hockey-stick growth. The Phoenix served 27,668 new members in 2021—our most impactful year yet from a new member perspective.

In 2021 alone, we served more new members than we did in the first 10 years of The Phoenix.

This is happening, it’s happening fast, and we are ready.

The lasting effects of the pandemic—iso, disconnection, loss—have undoubtedly and horrifically accelerated the substance use epidemic in our country and abroad, and it is all our responsibility to fight it together. As this urgent need for recovery support in today’s environment builds, we too are growing in size and impact, braced to take on this challenge, not alone, but with our community, allies, supporters, and partners.

Volunteers are core to our mission and the path we are taking to drive this rapid yet sustainable growth. We intentionally launched our volunteer engagement strategy this year, hiring dedicated staff and building out a thoughtful process for intake, onboarding, and supporting Phoenix volunteers. Our volunteers now have the tools and support necessary to seamlessly bring their talents and passions to their communities—not only to drive impact for The Phoenix, but perhaps more importantly, to provide a supportive space for them to self-actualize. Through this strategy, 532 new volunteers were activated and trained in 2021, impacting 7,471 community members and leading 6,320 Phoenix events around the country. With an acute focus on training, support, and instilling our core values, we continue to drive confidently towards our 2022 goal of 2,000 volunteers activated.

We also launched our mobile app this October—a technological and community-driving advancement that we are extremely proud of and that is rapidly driving impact, with 6,272 downloads in 2021, ~50% being net new members to our community. The Phoenix app brings to life in a meaningful way our core value propositions, connection, meaningful activities, and community, to members anywhere, at any time. We launched with a core set of functionalities: a class finder, a sobriety tracker, groups based on location and shared interests, and CONNECT, which allows community members to connect 1-1 to provide mutual support. We will be expanding this functionality in 2022 as well as partnering with other apps in our space, with the vision of becoming a leader in recovery technology.

2021 has been a year of hardship, but in that hardship, we have been further empowered to drive deeper toward our mission of impacting one million people in recovery. We have made tremendous strides and we have big goals for 2022.

We could not and cannot do this alone. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being a part of this movement—we are stronger together.

Scott Strode
Founder and Executive Director
We serve individuals at all stages of recovery. Our national community includes individuals from all backgrounds and lived experiences, including high-risk populations such as:

- U.S. Veterans
- Incarcerated Individuals
- Treatment Centers
- Individuals Experiencing Homelessness
- And Many More
- Justice system involvement
- Living in poverty
- Identity as a member of the LGBTQ+ community
- Women
- Active military or veterans

Our community primarily faces substance use associated with: Alcohol, street and prescription opioids, and methamphetamine.
“Pride in my recovery was the most important muscle that I strengthened in those first classes, and connection with the Phoenix community is how I grew stronger”

Liz
Tampa, FL
For those new to recovery*

3 months after starting The Phoenix program

- 71% Felt increased connectedness
- 78% Felt more hopeful
- 67% Felt a stonger sense of self-identity
- 72% Felt increased meaning in life
- 72% Felt more empowered

After three months of participation in The Phoenix, members are asked to report retrospectively on their sense of CHIME (when joining The Phoenix versus now). The figures reported here are the percentage of individuals new to recovery, who report positive change across CHIME.

As The Phoenix membership base has diversified, the CHIME analysis is now categorized into four subgroups, depending on how members self-identify upon joining The Phoenix. It is likely that due to this change in data collection procedures, the analysis of data is affected.

To see more of our 2021 Member Outcomes report, click here.
Our Programs

In-person Local Programming
Local classes held in communities around the US and Canada

Community Challenges
Online community events that allow individuals to complete activities separately but together with The Phoenix community, such as virtual 5Ks or photography challenges

Live Stream
Virtual classes held daily with over 60 events held each week

NEW CrossFit Community Centers
We’ve partnered with CrossFit to inspire hope and strength through safe, accessible, and inclusive communities focused on fitness and other meaningful activities. Started in July 2021

Edovo Partnership
Our on-demand content used in prison and jail systems on tablets, expanding the reach of The Phoenix

324 Classes per week

Yoga  Group Fitness  CrossFit  Biking
Boxing  Running  Music  Meditation
Dancing  Rock Climbing  Hiking  And more
The Phoenix App distills the most essential aspects of our movement—community, shared activities, multiple pathways, and stigma reduction, and delivers them in new and exciting ways to anyone, anywhere.

Sense of community is what makes the Phoenix special. The Phoenix App fosters an ecosystem for members to connect, support, and inspire one-another.

Since the launch of The Phoenix App in October 2021, we’ve seen:

- 6,272 Downloads in 2021
- 3,003 New members from the app
- Avg. review rating 4.9
- 50 Groups
Volunteers are central to our mission and movement.

We’re building a vibrant community of people in recovery with support, hope, and resilience.

In 2021, we launched our volunteer engagement strategy.

Volunteers are central to our mission and movement.

532 Volunteers Trained and Activated

7,471 People Impacted by Phoenix Volunteers

To see more of the amazing impact by our volunteers in 2021, scan the QR code.
WHERE WE ARE LOCALLY

Connected by more than a zip code.

Our 1st Canadian Volunteer Location began programming in October 2021.

36 States

108 Counties

Our virtual programs served members in all 50 states and abroad.
In 2021, our generous supporters contributed $15.6 million, a new record for the organization. These resources helped fund critical programs, creating life-changing impact for our members.
The Phoenix community could not have survived and thrived in the way we did without our amazing partners. Thank you to all those that have contributed to positively impacting the lives of so many individuals. Together, we will shatter the stigma around recovery.