

When Lori Shepherd was offered the position of Planned Giving Officer at Arizona Humane Society, she had held just about every position a development professional could hold within a nonprofit...except Planned Giving.

She began her career almost 20 years ago at United Way of the Bluegrass as the Director of Workplace Giving and went on to serve several different nonprofits in a variety of roles including; Major Gifts Officer, Grant Writer, Director of Development, and Executive Director. Before relocating to Phoenix in 2018, Lori served as the Executive Director of El Paso Holocaust Museum & Study Center for six years. Again, in this role she focused on every growing aspect of the organization, except creating or managing a planned giving program!

Luckily for Lori, she began her adventures in Planned Giving with a nonprofit that knows a lot about Planned Giving and working with a mentor, Joyce Melter, who knew exactly how to run a planned giving program. Arizona Humane Society's Legacy Circle has more than 2,000 members and raises more than \$7.5 million dollars annually. AHS's Legacy Circle accounts for more than 25% of the organization's overall operating budget of \$25 million. With a Continuing Care component that helps re-home companion animals whose owners have predeceased them, AHS has created a thriving and growing planned giving program, which Lori is honored to now lead.

Lori's current position at Arizona Humane Society is that of Senior Manager of Planned and Annual Giving. She earned her Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy^(R) in 2020 and is currently working toward completing her CFRE. She is honored to serve on the Board of Directors for Planned Giving Roundtable of Arizona and to also serve on the organization's membership committee. She also lends her time as a member of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee for Stanford Online High School, where her son Zachary goes to school.

When she is not working you will find her outside, even in the summer, either hiking or cycling with her family.