

How I LIVE UNITED: Karin Uhlich

Karin Uhlich is the Council Member representing Ward III in the City of Tucson. She is passionate about treating everyone fairly and believes that giving back to the community makes Tucson a better place for all of us to live.

Karin has volunteered for a range of causes over the past seventeen years, primarily with groups addressing domestic violence and poverty. “When I was a child I asked my parents to give my weekly allowance to the local orphanage. My father may have seen it as a symptom of poor money management, but I just knew I was lucky compared to many other children.”



Since moving to Tucson in 1993, Karin has volunteered for a range of causes and organizations, primarily with groups addressing domestic violence and poverty. Karin has served on the Boards of the Community Food Bank, the Brewster Center and the North American Alliance for Fair Employment.

Karin is also concerned about education and jobs. “It’s a foundational value in our country that people should have the opportunity to support themselves, advance and succeed.” In 2002, Karin founded the Southwest Center for Economic Integrity where she serves as the Executive Director. This nonprofit research, education and advocacy organization focuses on strengthening local economies by protecting and mobilizing working people, holding corporations and industries accountable to the community and cultivating support for good business practices.

Since being elected to represent Ward 3 on the Tucson City Council in 2005, serving on the City Council has become Karin’s primary means of offering public and community service. That work is clearly influenced by her years of volunteer work on important social issues. “We need to give a voice to the needs of those whose voices are often quiet and go unheard,” said Karin.

One of her most vivid memories is of an evening she spent in the Primavera shelter, holding a veteran who was experiencing severe anxiety due to Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. “I couldn’t believe that after all of the sacrifices he made for his country, he was alone and living on the streets. I felt glad to have the chance to offer him comfort and gratitude” she noted.

Karin is committed to improving the future for individuals, families and businesses in Tucson. Her goal is to ensure that Tucson remains a thriving community. “We live in an interdependent society and I believe that we all need

each other make our community better, one life at a time,” she said. “To quote Muhammad Ali, ‘service to others is the payment you make for your space here on Earth.’”

What does it mean to LIVE UNITED?

“To me, LIVE UNITED means approaching people who have different backgrounds or perspectives with curiosity rather than fear or disrespect. Diversity offers us the chance to learn and creates a more interesting community.”

Karin Uhlich