



Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.



2022 – 2023 Annual Report

Our Vision

A compassionate and just community that upholds the God-given worth and dignity of every human being.

Our Mission

We strengthen children, adults, families and communities by providing help, creating hope and serving all.





Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your support of Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona and our work of providing help, creating hope, and serving all. For 90 years we have helped those in need across Southern Arizona, and your support has made it all possible.

Earlier this year, when I took on the role of chief executive officer at CCS, I was immediately impressed by the number of services we provide and the number of people we serve each year—some 100,000! Every day, our dedicated and talented staff members help those in need, from the children at Pio Decimo Center and in our foster care programs, to seniors in our Daybreak Adult Day Health Program and Senior Nutrition Programs, to our friends in the Deaf community, to those we care for in our Community Living Program, to migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who are seeking better lives, and so many more. We have a lot to be proud of and to be thankful for.

This year, we have new reasons to celebrate with the completion of Casa de Respiro, our new medical respite center, and the construction of several new properties for families fleeing domestic violence in Yuma, Tucson, Sierra Vista, and Douglas, supported by a major grant from the Day 1 Families Fund.

After 20 years of working in and leading social services agencies, helping children with community-based care and mental health treatment and many other services, I am honored to be leading Catholic Community Services. And I am excited to see our work grow as we continue to build a compassionate and just community that upholds the God-given worth and dignity of every human being.

I hope you will enjoy reviewing this annual report and seeing how together we have helped, inspired, and served so many. I also hope you will join us over the course of this next year as we celebrate 90 years and the impact we've had across Southern Arizona since 1933.

Best wishes always and thank you for all your help and support!

Elena R. Dwyre, DSW, MSW
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona



Photo by Shelley Weander



early childhood education · after-school and youth programs · adoption and foster care services · substance abuse treatment for parents · in-home services to preserve families parenting aid · supervised visitation for children in foster care

Children and Youth



187,469 hours of enrichment and tutoring
for children, youth, and teens afterschool

129 foster children
and 67 foster families supported

558 visits to families
to reduce abuse or neglect

380 supervised visits for parents
for 49 families with children in foster care

373 individuals supported
in addiction treatment

This year, Pio Decimo Center installed a new playground, augmenting its five-star preschool program and enhancing playtime for its youngest students. The playground improvements were made possible through the generosity of many donors, including a matching gift from the Barrio Brewing Company Foundation with the support of Dennis and Tauna Arnold (Dennis' parents volunteered at Pio Decimo Center when the Eucharistic Missionaries of St. Dominic from New Orleans first started the Center). Their matching gift helped CCS raise more than \$50,000 to install new playground equipment, a shade structure, and new turf. The new playground will be a fun and safe place for children for years to come.

behavioral health counseling · financial education and asset building
tax preparation · housing counseling · transitional housing with case management and
life skills development · low-income taxpayer clinic

Individuals and Families



12,186 hours of individual and group counseling

**335 individuals enrolled in financial education
and asset building workshops**

**1,281 individuals assisted
in securing or retaining stable and affordable housing**

**86 adults and children
provided with transitional housing**

**16,614 federal and state tax returns filed,
resulting in more than \$20.3 million in refunds and tax credits
returned to individuals in our communities**

Catholic Community Services increased its efforts this year to support foster families by joining with A Place to Call Home to organize “Fostering Hope,” the first Southern Arizona foster care conference, in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Child Safety and other child welfare partners. The aim of the conference was to boost the number and success rate of foster families and to provide information and resources of care for caregivers.

domestic violence services, lay legal advocacy and emergency shelter
STEPS rapid re-housing program • emergency food and clothing
prison ministry and re-entry program

People in Crisis



14,824 shelter nights for 428 adults and children

4,134 hours of community-based
domestic violence services provided to 878 youth and adults

3,253 hours of lay legal advocacy

1,643 individuals and families
kept in their homes through rental assistance

131 individuals from 29 families rapidly re-housed

10,332 individuals strengthened
with emergency food and clothing

At its Volunteer Appreciation and Awards banquet in May, the Arizona State Prison - Tucson Complex recognized Deacon Mike Gutierrez as its 2023 Religious Volunteer of the Year. Deacon Mike has served in the St. Maximilian Kolbe Prison Ministry for ten years, not just as a volunteer in the prison, but also as the ministry's director. Several other ministers from the Kolbe Prison Ministry were also recognized, including Sr. Esther Calderon and Fr. Charlie Knapp. Deacon Mike also thanked all the ministry's volunteers who minister in prisons, jails, and detention centers in Tucson, Marana, Yuma, Douglas, Safford, Eloy, Florence, and Globe.



Fr. Emilio Chapa, from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Yuma and a CCS Yuma advisory board member, blessed CCS' new transitional housing for families recovering from domestic violence.



\$5 Million Grant from Day 1 Families Fund Expands CCS Housing Programs

Earlier this year, CCS received a \$5 million leadership award from the Day 1 Families First Fund, which was launched in 2018 by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. The fund gives out annual leadership awards to leading organizations employing compassionate, needle-moving work to help families overcome homelessness.

With the award money, CCS is acquiring or constructing homes across Southern Arizona to help families fleeing domestic violence. In Yuma, for example, CCS just built two new homes to establish a transitional housing program for mothers needing to establish

new homes and safer and healthier lives for themselves and their children.

“To be able to provide a new place for families to heal and regain control of their lives is truly a blessing,” says Evita Mendez-Counts, executive director of CCS in Yuma.

CCS also plans to use the Day 1 Families First award money to expand wraparound programs, ranging from financial assistance and advising to childcare and after-school programming, and to conduct more outreach and services in rural and native communities in Arizona where the need is great and community resources are currently lacking.



“Peace Is All I Wanted”

For 12 years, Adriana lived with verbal, physical, and psychological abuse, too afraid to leave her husband. He trafficked in guns and used drugs and said he had his guys watching her. But finally, she had to act, especially for her children. She moved with them to a new place and got protection orders against her husband, but that didn't stop him. He found them and destroyed their home, leaving them homeless.

Desperate for help, she went to a walk-in clinic, and they referred her to Safe House. Advocates there assisted her with legal issues and safety planning and helped her get into Safe House's transitional housing program. The new home has given Adriana and her family safety and stability. Adriana is still scared at times, but she's looking to the future—taking English classes and studying to become a U.S. citizen. “Thank God I found this program. Peace is all I wanted. I am forever thankful.”

“I Found Love”

Pamela had long lived at Apache ASL Trails, a housing community for Deaf individuals in Tempe, Arizona. But as she aged, it grew harder for her to live on her own, and finally she moved into an assisted living facility. It was a nice facility, but there was no one she could communicate with, and over several years, she became isolated, and her health declined. Her family reached out to Valley Center of the Deaf to see what other options there were and learned that a small group of Deaf clients from VCD were living at a particular assisted living facility and forming a supportive Deaf community there, while also participating in activities with other residents like game nights, themed holiday parties, shopping trips, and other outings. Pamela moved in and found friends and even a boyfriend. “I found love,” she says. Her health has improved, and she couldn't be happier!



case management · meals for low-income seniors
affordable housing · adult day health program
St. Jeanne Jugan Ministry with Elders · socialization activities

Seniors



304,395 nutritious meals served or delivered
to 2,069 individual seniors

122 seniors housed
in safe, affordable housing

1,224 weekly well-check visits for clients

912 seniors brought together for hot meals, socialization and activities
at congregate meal sites in the Tucson and Yuma areas

25,350 hours
of adult day health care

This year, the Lalo Guerrero Barrio Viejo Elder Housing program celebrated 20 years of safe, decent, and affordable housing for low-income seniors. Ruben Reyes of Congressman Raul Grijalva's office and Genesis Cubillas of Mayor Regina Romero's office attended the celebration, as did Tucson Councilwoman Lane Santa Cruz. Lalo Guerrero's son, Mark Guerrero, a well-known musician himself, spoke about his father and performed some of his famous songs.

legal immigration and citizenship services · refugee resettlement
social services for settled and older refugees · case management
welcome center for migrants

Refugees and Migrants



229 legal services consultations provided

129 people assisted
in gaining permanent legal residency

17 legal residents assisted in becoming U.S. citizens,
and another 26 in being granted asylum

16 settled refugees
assisted in finding new employment

80,120 migrants welcomed at Casa Alitas
from August 2022 to August 2023

In February, Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs visited Casa Alitas. It was the governor's first visit to CCS' migrant shelter and an opportunity for her to see firsthand the organization's daily efforts and to learn about its systems, challenges, partnerships, needs, and goals. During the governor's tour, volunteers shared their experiences of ministering to migrants and the reasons why they chose to collaborate with Casa Alitas.

The Casa Alitas executive team hopes to have regular engagement with the governor's office and to secure more support for migrants to Arizona border shelters.

interpreting · behavioral health counseling · case management
residential support services · vocational services
communication technology assistance

People with Disabilities



23,000 interpreting hours to
Deaf and Deaf-Blind clients in AZ and NM

200,200 hours of residential support
to 34 people with disabilities

760 hours of counseling provided to 50 clients
at Community Outreach Program for the Deaf

3,290 Support Service hours to 27 Deaf-Blind clients
at Valley Center of the Deaf

2,275 hours of case management
for 275 unduplicated clients at COPD and VCD

This year, **Community Outreach Program for the Deaf (COPD)** celebrated **50 years** of service to the Tucson community. COPD was founded in 1973, bringing together services that CCS had been providing to Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing individuals across the community for years, and giving them a home where Deaf culture could thrive. The program's early partners at the University of Arizona, and especially at the Arizona School for the Deaf and the Blind, helped COPD grow into a model for Deaf services.

Vocational Services Expands Across CCS Programs

Vocational Services has long been a valuable and vital service offered by Community Outreach Program for the Deaf for its Deaf clients. But now Vocational Services is expanding within CCS, helping people across its many programs find and keep jobs, whether it's someone coming out of prison, starting over after fleeing domestic violence, or trying to improve their family's financial situation.

Over the years, Vocational Services has successfully placed thousands of jobseekers with companies large and small by staying focused on finding the right employee for each employer. Staff members work diligently to develop job goals with jobseekers, who come with different experience and levels of education. Then they screen them for different job opportunities.

Vocational Services also works with employers, identifying their needs and workflow problems and placing people with them who can fill those needs or help resolve the problems. Further, staff members provide initial supports to the employer by providing a job coach, if one is needed, along with the person hired. This is a free service and can be provided as often as needed to help individuals transition into their new positions. Vocational Services can also help employers identify and take advantage of tax credits and benefits available for employers who hire their pre-screened job seekers.

The expansion of Vocational Services across CCS' many programs means that more people will find jobs, keep them, and achieve the goals they have for themselves and their families.



“I’m Very Independent”

When Josh finished school at the Arizona School for the Deaf and the Blind, he turned to Community Outreach Program for the Deaf for needed assistance, particularly in finding and keeping a job. And that’s exactly what COPD’s Vocational Services provided. They first helped him get a job as a grocery store courtesy clerk, where he worked for ten years alongside Deaf co-workers. Then they helped him move on to a job at a hotel, where he stayed for four years.

Today, Josh works in the mailroom at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, where he’s been for six years. He enjoys the work, his COPD job coach, and the people at the base, and hopes that someday he can work for the U.S. Postal Service, delivering mail right to people’s houses. COPD has been there for all 20 years, supporting Josh and helping him live a meaningful life—in his own apartment, taking care of himself, and helping others. “I’m very independent.”

And he knows that COPD has made it possible.



“A Better Life”

Maurio arrived at Casa Alitas weary and in pain. He had fled Venezuela to escape gang violence and hoped for a better life in the United States. On the journey north, he broke his leg and hobbled on crutches from Nicaragua to the U.S. border, where he requested asylum—and something, anything, to ease his pain and help his leg heal. Border Patrol medics tried to help, but Maurio’s leg needed specialty care.

After a warm welcome at Casa Alitas and with donor support, Maurio was seen by a specialist, who reset his leg and applied a cast. He then remained at Casa Alitas while his leg healed, but he didn’t just sit around. He joined in welcoming people, helping them connect with family members, assisting with paperwork, serving meals, cleaning, and more. Over that time, he decided to make Tucson his home. He completed his asylum paperwork, got a work permit and a job, and moved into his own place. Now he’s back at Casa Alitas as a regular volunteer, thankful that he can help people just like himself in search of a better life.



A House of Rest – at Last

CASA DE RESPIRO MEDICAL RESPITE CENTER
TO WELCOME GUESTS IN EARLY 2024

Can you believe it? After many long years of advocating, planning, fundraising, and constructing, CCS is thrilled that Casa de Respiro Medical Respite Center for people experiencing homelessness is nearly complete. Construction is wrapping up, and soon the new center will be welcoming its first guests.

CCS has been leading “hard hat” tours at the center for the last several months, giving donors, board members, and community leaders an opportunity to see the center’s progress and gain an understanding of how the center will function.

Scott Kim has been leading those tours. He joined CCS in April 2023 as the program administrator for Casa de Respiro and has been monitoring construction while also overseeing the significant administrative work of starting up an in-patient health care facility. This is where his experience working in a variety of health care settings is coming into play, and he’s eager to see the center open.

“We’re already getting calls from hospitals asking about it.”

“It’s really exciting to contemplate the impact this center will have—and the lives it will save and change starting in just a few short months,” said Kim. “We’re already getting calls from hospitals asking about it.”

CCS held a ribbon cutting and dedication program for Casa de Respiro on December 5th, with many in attendance to celebrate this new house of rest for Tucson’s unsheltered and medically-vulnerable men and women.

YOU CAN STILL HELP

CCS has nearly met its \$7.9 million construction fundraising goal, so fundraising has now expanded to include donations for critical start-up needs, particularly sturdy and safe furniture, as well as bridge funding that will cover several months of operating costs until reimbursements from Medicaid, Medicare, AHCCCS, the VA, and other funding partners are received.

If you would like to help in this way, please contact Joe Leisz at 520-670-0809.

90 *Providing Help.
Creating Hope.
Serving All.*
years

Catholic Community Services Kicks-Off 90th Anniversary Celebrations

It's official! Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona is 90—and the party has started!

Catholic Community Services kicked off its 90th anniversary celebrations on August 10, with an open house at Pio Decimo Center for the dedication of a new playground. This was followed by events in September and October at Community Outreach Program for the Deaf and the Community Living Program.

In November, the fall's anniversary events culminated in a 90th Anniversary Mass held at St. Augustine Cathedral, followed by a celebration reception at the Bishop Kicanas Pastoral Center.

Serving Since 1933

Catholic Community Services was founded in 1933 at the height of the Great Depression. It was part of a national movement, responding to the call from church leaders to alleviate suffering. CCS put its first efforts into providing emergency food and clothing to families, and from there CCS has grown by identifying and responding to community needs. Today, CCS is a powerful force in building a compassionate and just community.

More Events to Come

CCS expects to host more open houses through the spring of 2024 to showcase more of its programs and to bring together staff, donors, clients, alumni, family, and friends to meet and mingle and celebrate all the good that CCS has done and will continue to do in Southern Arizona. We hope you'll join us!



We could not fulfill our mission without the support of wonderful people who give of their time and substance.

That's you!

Volunteers, Donors and Supporters



“Honored and Privileged”

Sr. Irma Odabashian

Sr. Irma Odabashian has been a committed member of the Catholic Community Services Board of Directors since 2017,

advocating for those who are struggling with health issues, homelessness, poverty, and displacement.

Sr. Irma was an early and persistent advocate for a medical respite center for the homeless in Tucson and was instrumental in helping convince community leaders to support the idea. She also helped secure a major leadership gift from her order, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, for the center. She continues to serve on the planning committee for CCS' new Casa de Respiro Medical Respite Center.

Sr. Irma doesn't just volunteer in the boardroom. She is a long-time volunteer at Casa Alitas, always helping in whatever way she can, even doing laundry! As an immigrant to the United States herself, she has a special calling to serve immigrants and refugees. She feels honored and privileged to be part of the compassionate ministry of CCS.

“With Enthusiasm and Energy”

Joseph Waterford

Joe Waterford has served on the CCS Yuma Advisory Board since March of 2016 and as board chair since 2018, bringing enthusiasm and energy to the board's mission-driven activities.



Joe has supported CCS Yuma through numerous projects, from repainting the bedrooms at Safe House, to building furniture, to installing TVs, to being on the final inspection team for building renovations, to building relationships with donors.

Joe has also led the Advisory Board in developing resources for critical programs. For example, Joe found a Knights of Columbus group to adopt the playroom at Safe House and buy new furnishings and toys. He also led and supported the annual Toast to Hope gala that brought in almost \$200,000, and spearheaded a Christmas ornament drive to bring in more funds.

Joe is a man of faith, and his actions align with the principles of Catholic Social teaching. He leads through his actions, knowing the impact our mission has for the most vulnerable people in the community.

THANK YOU

Circle of Light

IRREVOCABLE PLANNED GIFTS

Antisco “Buzz” Baker
Robert and Sylvia Gergen
John J. Kronner†

Circle of Faith

REVOCABLE PLANNED GIFTS

David Fraser
Tom and Karen Hall
Chris and Marguerite Harmon
Ted and Jeanne Hasbrook†
Maryann Hockstad
Rev. Joseph A. Lombardo
Tom and Liz McMahan
Norman and Rebecca Rebenstorf
Eugene and Louise Sander
Regina Sasseen and Reece McNeil
William Supplee
Joan Tarke† and Daniel Sweet

Circle of Angels

REALIZED PLANNED GIFTS

Paulann Andrews
Rebecca S. Barnard
Genevieve Baxter
Brian P. Bentley
Consuelo Bentley
Therese Velasco Berg
Camilla Ruth Cox Browne
Lee E. and Alma R. Ecke
Donald and Patricia Ennis
John Damien Hoek
Charles Jeffords
Mildred A. Jennings
Exine M. Kirchner
John and Joanne Lasalvia
Charles and Lucille Lennon
Edwin Z. Malacha
Roxann P. Mallon
Edward L. Racketa
Edward M. Wavers
Sylvia G. Woodfin

Circle of Love

CUMULATIVE GIVING OF \$100,000 AND ABOVE

Allende Foundation
Charles A. Anderson Trust
Angel Charity for Children, Inc.
Arizona Community Foundation
Estate of Elizabeth Brault
Estate of Nancy Brua
Calistri Family Foundation
Catholic Foundation for the
Diocese of Tucson
Michael and Susan Cavender
Gerald and Patricia† Chouinard
Jim and Vicki Click
David J. Clopine Trust
Cochise County Senior Meal
Fundraising Group
Frederick Gardner Cottrell Foundation
COVID-19 Community Support
Fund held at the Community
Foundation for Southern Arizona
Terry and Peggy DeWald
Eaglet Fund held at the
Community Foundation
for Southern Arizona
eegee’s
Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation
Frank Higney and Anita Claney
Connie Hillman Family Foundation
Ed and Suzanne Irving
Estate of Lawrence B. Kaiser
KCTC/Forgach Tennis Tournament
Koch Foundation, Inc.
Frank† and Janet Marcus
Estate of Richard O. Martin
Margaret E. Mooney Foundation
Estate of Claude Nagle

Marjorie O’Connell†
O’Rielly Family Foundation
ORFA Foundation
Elizabeth Ann Parkman Foundation
Deacon Gary and Barbara Pasquinelli
The Pocono Foundation
Peter P. and Kathryn L. Popernack
Family Trust
Raskob Foundation
Quilt for a Cause
Tom and Ginny Rogers
William and Mary Ross Foundation
Schuettinger Charitable Trust II
Edmund and Beatriz Schweitzer
Shamrock Foundation
Shea Family Charitable Fund
May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
Southwest Catholic Health Network
St. Joseph Catholic Healthcare
Endowment Fund
Mary Pat Sullivan
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Tohono O’odham Gaming Enterprise
Daniel and Patricia Torrington
Tucson Electric Power
Philanthropic Fund
Del E. Webb Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
Ted and Elaine Welp†
Estate of Father
Norman M. Whalen, Ph.D.
Mary Josephine Williams†
Witz-Mallinger Charitable Foundation
Robert and Mary Wolk
Grace M. Zeirhut and John W. Oare†

*If we have inadvertently omitted your name or listed you incorrectly,
please accept our sincere apology and notify Sandy Erickson at (520) 670-0854.*

†denotes deceased

Administration and Agency Leadership

CCS CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

Chief Executive Officer

Elena R. Dwyre, DSW, MSW

Chief Financial Officer

Jesus Fernandez, CPA

Chief Operations Officer

Teresa Cavendish

Quality and Corporate Compliance

Executive Director

Evita Mendez-Counts

Human Resources Corporate

Executive Director

Catherine Coulter, SPHR, SHRM-SCP

Corporate Information and Technology

Executive Director

Clay Cummings

Development Corporate

Executive Director

Joe Leisz, CFRE

AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS & DIRECTORS

Executive Director, Deaf, Residential

& Social Services

L'Don Sawyer

Executive Director, Pio Decimo Center

George Rushing II

Executive Director, Sierra Vista & Yuma

Evita Mendez-Counts

Agency Director, Casa Alitas

Diego Peña Lopez

Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona, Inc.

Board of Directors, 2023-2024

Officers

Anthony Fonze, *president*

Sharon Walk, *vice-president*

William Marra, *treasurer*

Donna Zazworsky, *secretary*

Howard Richard,
director at large

Susan Cordts,
director at large

Maryann Hockstad,
past president

Directors

Christopher Ahearn

Kim Anderson

Bridgett Bell

Elena Bellizzi d'Autremont

George Bradbury, M.D.

Thomas DuPlain

Charles Geoffrion

Patricia Harms

Alex Horvath

Felicia Johnson

Richard Koo

Anne Terry Morales

Sr. Irma Odabashian

Kimberly O'Hagan

Cicely Parseghian

Susan Snedaker

Agency Representatives

CCS – Sierra Vista

Maryann Hockstad

CCS – Yuma

Joseph Waterford

Community Outreach

Program for the Deaf

Frank Oroszco

Valley Center of the Deaf

Annette Reichman

Pio Decimo Center

Richard Montano

Catholic Community Services Foundation, Inc.

Board of Directors, 2023-2024

Charles Geoffrion, *president*

Anne Terry Morales, *vice-president*

Samantha Sanchez, *secretary/treasurer*

Brian Connelly, *past-president*

Kim Anderson

Elena Dwyre

Anthony Fonze

Lisa Jamison

Felicia Johnson

Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona, Inc.
 Consolidated Statement of Activities | Year Ended June 30, 2023



REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT:

Government Fees and Grants	\$25,629,465
Program Service Fees	\$2,916,160
Indirect Public Support	\$3,936,659
Contributions	\$5,888,999
In-Kind Contributions	\$599,340
Annual Catholic Appeal	\$415,000
Investments and Other Income	\$3,593,535
Total Revenue	\$42,979,158

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$27,533,528
Fund Raising	\$351,352
Administration	\$4,214,448
Total Expenses	\$32,099,328

**Funds Available (Used)
 for Program Services and
 Capital Needs**

\$10,879,830

PROGRAM SERVICES

Services for the Disabled	\$9,337,459
Family and Children's Services	\$6,448,859
Casa Alitas	\$6,842,169
Aging and Nutrition	\$3,810,039
Medical Services	\$87,739
Other Programs	\$1,007,263
Total Program Services	\$27,533,528

These figures have not yet been audited. The final audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, will be completed and available in January 2024. Please contact Joe Leisz at (520) 670-0809 with any questions or to obtain a copy of the report.



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(520) 623-0344 | Outside Tucson: 800-234-0344 | website: www.ccs-soaz.org

This annual report meets the reporting requirements of numerous grantors in a cost-effective manner.

Thank you to those whose talents and generosity have made its production possible:

Ruth Liljenquist Pagán for writing and editing

Theresa Reindl Bingham for graphic design

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Arizona Lithographers for printing

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