



Phoenix Zones Initiative Fast Facts

About Phoenix Zones Initiative

Phoenix Zones Initiative is a nonprofit organization on a mission to advance rights, health, and wellbeing. Led by physicians and a diverse cross-sectoral team, Phoenix Zones Initiative recognizes the inextricable links between the welfare of people, animals, and the planet in the search for social and environmental justice through a Just One Health approach. Phoenix Zones Initiative focuses on widespread ethical and structural change to improve the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized. Its programs center on the connections between human, animal, and planetary wellbeing.

Just One Health

A Just One Health approach places primary prevention and justice at the heart of global and local policy and research. Just One Health strives to create a foundation on which public policies, institutions, and practices become socially, environmentally, and economically equitable, and uplift the most vulnerable. The Just One Health approach recognizes that people and animals have a right to be free

- from abuse and exploitation;
- to meet their self-determined physiological, physical, and mental needs; and
- to thrive as individuals, families, or communities in natural, safe, and healthy environments.

What are Phoenix Zones?

Phoenix Zones are physical and virtual spaces that recognize and advance the rights, health, and wellbeing of people and animals, allowing individuals, communities, and society to live well, rise, and thrive. Phoenix Zones foster what's known in medical circles as the **Phoenix Effect**: conditions that allow individuals to ascend from the proverbial ashes. Through respect for liberty and sovereignty; a commitment to compassion, tolerance, justice, and opportunity; and a belief that each individual possesses dignity, the Phoenix Effect and Phoenix Zones are also metaphors for how we as a society can rise up and move beyond our collective history of violence.

Key Program Areas

Food

Phoenix Zones Initiative works toward a global food system that is healthy, compassionate, sustainable, and just.

Fiber

Phoenix Zones Initiative advocates for clothing and textile production that is free of abuse and exploitation of people, animals, and the planet.

Knowledge

Phoenix Zones Initiative shows how research, education, and training can be more ethical and innovative.

Community

Phoenix Zones Initiative delivers free educational resources and technical expertise to serve the needs of vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Service

Phoenix Zones Initiative leads and offers community and public service opportunities that advance rights, health, and wellbeing.

Key Principals

Dr. Hope Ferdowsian President, CEO, and Co-founder

For more than two decades, as a double board-certified internal medicine and preventive medicine physician, Dr. Ferdowsian has cared for individuals who have experienced displacement and violence, while she has also worked on public policies to address structural inequities and abuse and exploitation. Her work across six continents has included collaboration with the Office of the Surgeon General of the United States and the development of medical, public health, and educational resources for nongovernmental organizations, national governments, and intergovernmental organizations. Dr. Ferdowsian was named a Humanitarian of the Year in the American College of Physicians in 2017. She is also an associate professor at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, a co-director of the Society for Asylum Medicine, and a medical expert for Physicians for Human Rights. She authored the book *Phoenix Zones Initiative: Where Strength is Born and Resilience Lives*.

Dr. Nik Kulkarni
Vice President & Co-founder

Dr. Kulkarni is a board-certified anesthesiologist. He has served on several hospital committees throughout his career and has led anesthesiology teams for Operation Walk, a charitable organization that provides joint replacement surgeries for patients in the United States and abroad. He has staffed free back-to-school clinics for children in the northern Virginia area, and he has also funded and volunteered with a national organization that helps military veterans and animals. Over the years, Dr. Kulkarni has provided philanthropic support to a number of organizations focused on the promotion of human rights, animal protection, and compassionate conservation. As a result, he has become increasingly interested in the combination of grassroots action, systems-level change, and measurable impact.