

AzCAnections

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES
OF ARIZONA'S CHILDREN ASSOCIATION
AND ITS FAMILY OF AGENCIES




Connecting to AzCA

This article provides an overview of part of the Arizona's Children Association Strategic Plan in four parts (one each quarter).

Dear AzCA Employees:

The results of the 11th annual AZCA Employee Satisfaction Survey were recently tabulated. With more than 61% of the full time staff and 32% of part time staff returning the survey, the statewide Morale Index Score of 78% indicates that staff is generally satisfied with most aspects of their work experience here at AzCA. The ongoing objective of this newsletter is to connect AZCA employees to our mission and to each other. We are a large and growing agency and we continually strive to communicate with our employees in meaningful and informative ways.

In this issue we'll focus on the AZCA "Strategic Plan for FY 2008 – 2012, Strategy #1: Reviewing current contracts to see whether they are viable and meaningful when measured against the mission. When they are not, moving to shutting down those programs and targeting our resources into more viable and community-needed activities. When the contract remains viable, continuing to enhance those services, expand them and look at new kinds of business and Strategy #2: Maintaining our efforts to continuously look at efficiencies within our family of agencies.

We look forward to you continued input into how we can all do our best to make your work experience here a great one. 

Sincerely,


Fred Chaffee
President and CEO

The Clear Connection

What we do in our work and how we do it has a direct impact on the agency's success. This column provides information about employees who are living the vision and strategy in their work.

Daniel Zapata, program director at Golden Gate Community Center (GGCC), entices the students who are currently enrolled in classes at GGCC to re-enroll by giving them priority enrollment for upcoming classes. "We like to have our students come back and this process helps us to see quickly which classes are filling up." More students in the classes means additional revenue for Golden Gate. *Thank you Daniel.*

April Garcia, recreation coordinator at Golden Gate Community Center is working in collaboration the Cinco de Mayo Youth Sports Association to host basketball tournaments for youth ages 8-17 at Golden Gate Community Center. Tournaments are held once a month and provide significant new revenue for the recreation program. Thanks to April for her initiative in bringing this program to Golden Gate, and along with Johnny Gonzales, staffing the tournaments for the entire weekend.

On February 4, 2008 the **Mid-Central** Region officially made its first adoptive placement. Sonya and Nick Mendoza came to AzCA in May, 2007 and we have been dedicated to helping them find the right match for their family. They are currently planning to adopt their nine year old adoptive placement. Congratulations to the Mendoza family and our dedicated Mid-Central staff. 

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ARIZONA'S CHILDREN
ASSOCIATION

Protecting Children. Preserving Families.
Across Arizona Since 1912.

Would You Believe?

CELEBRATING AzCA
ANNIVERSARIES

DEC 2007- FEB 2008

15 YEARS

Wilson Roadman

10 YEARS

Albert Borboa

Dr. Jill Stamm

5 YEARS

Maria Gallego

Karissa Greving

Tiffany Hipolito

Luis Lerma

From the Editor of

AzCAnections

We hope that you enjoy this quarterly edition of AZCAnections, the Arizona's Children Association employee newsletter. Please consider stepping up to serve as an AzCAnections advisor – letting us know what's going on in your department, office and/or region and bringing our attention to people and programs that would be of interest to our employees statewide. Please contact Kris Jacober at 800.944.7611, x144 or e-mail kjacob@arizonaschildren.org to become an AZCAnections advisor. NO WRITING IS REQUIRED. We will contact you for your suggestions and story ideas as we make decisions about the contents of AzCAnections each quarter and then do the interviews and write the stories. Your opinions and insights are welcome.

Thank you.


Linked to Each Other

Arizona's Children brings 44 programs and services in the general areas of prevention, intervention, permanency and special programs to children and families across the state each year. This section focuses on current information and updates for different programs each quarter.

The Parent Connection and New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development

are embarking on marketing campaigns to reach out to the community with information and increase participation in their classes for parents and families. We know that the most effective communication we can do about these classes is to our own employees who work with families every day and understand the value of providing parents and caregivers with good information and techniques to be the most effective parents they can be.

In partnership with Arizona Public Service Company (APS), NDI has recently expanded its programs across the state, bringing one-hour "Wired for Success" workshops to Show Low, Prescott, Flagstaff, Apache Junction, Yuma and Tucson. Trainers are available in each location to reach out to new and expectant parents and childcare providers with the important information about how an infant's brain develops and the simple steps that parents and caregivers can take to 'wire up' their babies' brains for success.

Trainers in northern Arizona have been actively holding classes and will soon be trained to offer the 4-hour "Wired for Success" workshops. Shortly after, the 4-hour training classes will be offered statewide. 

The Parent Connection offers STEP (*Systematic Training for Effective Parenting*) Classes: Parenting Young Children, Parenting School Age Children and Parenting Teenagers. The Parenting class fee is \$85 per participant or \$130 per couple. The fee includes the six week class, materials, book and certificate. Three parenting young children classes, two parenting school age children and one parenting teenagers class is offered each quarter.

The Parent Connection also offers ongoing Parent Skills Workshops that participants can come in an out of. The fee is \$10 per session.

Other offerings include *Sign with your Baby*, CPR infant/child/adult, Infant Massage, Newborn baby care, Anger Management and more.

Contact The Parent Connection at 520.321.1500 or visit www.theparentconnectionaz.org. 



Contact these trainers for the most current information about "Wired for Success" workshops taking place in your area:

Sheri Gifford	Prescott
Lori Barfield	Flagstaff
Lisa Brollini	Flagstaff
Laura Leff-Allen	Flagstaff
Mary Jo Shauinger	Show Low
Gretchen Shallcross	Flagstaff
Christine Araiza	Phoenix
Teri Cousins	Phoenix
Sheryl Derby	Yuma
Brenda Gomez	Yuma
Andrea Mendez	Yuma
Maria Garcia-Flores	Tucson

Visit the New Directions Institute at www.newdirectionsinstitute.org for the most current information about class offerings or call 602.371.1366.

Time for Some Spring Shopping

Remember to shop the AzCA store to see hundreds of items including shirts, hats, bags and lots of gift items available with the AzCA logo or the logo of any member of our family of agencies: Child Haven, Golden Gate Community Center, Las Familias, The Parent Connection and New Directions Institute. Visit www.arizonaschildren.org and click on AzCA Store. A portion of the proceeds from all purchases benefit AzCA. 

Joined with the Community

Tiffany Vasquez has been a family support partner for Arizona's Children Association in the mid-Central region for two years. She stays busy at work, and outside of work, where her activities in the community complement and enhance her work. For the past two years, Tiffany has served as a member of the Pinal County Restorative Board. The board meets with youth offenders ages 10 to 18 and their parents to hold offenders personally responsible for their actions while actively working with the families to help youthful offenders repair the harm they have caused to their victim and the community. The board also developed a resource book for families who have behavioral issues. "There are a lot of success stories on our Restorative Board," said Tiffany. "I can see the difference in many of the kids we work with."

Tiffany also serves as Advocacy and Mission chair for the Queen Creek Relay for Life and has also been a member of a Foster Care Review Board. ♪

Congratulations to **The Parent Connection**, recent recipients of the "Hope for Arizona's Children" Award in the category of prevention by Prevent Child Abuse Arizona. In presenting the award, Becky Ruffner, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse Arizona, recognized the unique mission of The Parent Connection and its array of programs designed to reduce the feelings of isolation and frustration in parents that can lead to child abuse. ♪



Shown here are (l to r) Marc Kellenberger, senior vice president and chief development officer, Arizona's Children Association, Kim Metz, director, The Parent Connection, and Becky Ruffner, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse Arizona.

Do Something Good, Get Something Great in Return

The McDowell Mountain Music Festival has selected Arizona's Children Association to be one of two beneficiaries of the proceeds of this year's music festival taking place Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26 at Westworld in Scottsdale. If you feel like doing something good and getting something GREAT in return (a General Admission ticket for the day) we are looking for some fun-loving people to volunteer for Friday and Saturday. You can do both days or one or the other - and will earn a ticket, lunch or dinner, volunteer t-shirt, and a great experience!

Areas available to volunteer include the campground, drum circle, trash/recycle stations, ID check stations, silent auction and raffle, merchandise tent, marketplace check in, ticket sales, ticket takers and information stations. Shifts are scheduled in six-hour increments beginning at 8AM and ending at 11PM. If you are interested in helping out, please go to www.mmmf.net and click on "Get Involved" for further details and the volunteer application. Hope to see you there. ♪



Watch Us Grow

Welcome New AzCA employees since Dec. 1st, 2007 through Feb. 28th, 2008

CENTRAL REGION

Molly Hamilton	Jill J. Mason
Elizabeth Kaufman	Daniela Navarro
Tammy Keeling	Sylvia Sanchez

MID CENTRAL REGION

Nonna Adams	Luanne Reich
Susanne Arnold	Jessica Reynoso
Candyce Bernal	Kristi Smith
Karl Kleinebreil	Myra Tanner
Carol La Brie	Erika Thrower
Judith Lopez	Patricia Waddington
Brandon Payne	

NORTHERN REGION

Amber Gutbrod	Kae Rehma
Marie Hymas	Beya Thayer
Lorina McCabe	

SOUTHERN REGION

John Basham	Mia Lira
Luis Bonilla	Marisa Muro
Melissa Congdon	Clara Samaniego
Suzanne Delgado	Kyle Sanders
Delgadillo	Danielle Schweyer
Karen Duker	Ariel Skalina
Sarah Gordon	Melody Smithey
Evette Guidotti	Catherine Stacey
Walida Harrell	Margaret Suarez
Trevor Hawley	Angela Taylor
Christina Herrera	Selina Telles
Raquel Hoston	Lana Tompkins-Stutzman
Patricia Koehle-Hennen	Jeff Trumbull
Angelika Lo Presti	

WESTERN REGION

Georgia Allen	Claudette Riker
Jennifer Cacho	
Paula McKinney	

CORPORATE

Michelle Aros	Irina Vlady
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Hope

Connected to You

Call 1-800-947-7611, x1600 to report suspected fraud or abuse

AzCA has recently established a Fraud and Abuse Reporting Hotline for staff, clients or stakeholders who wish to report suspected fraud and abuse. The hotline is available 24 hours a day. Calls to the hotline can be made anonymously. Staff who identify themselves when reporting are protected under anti-retaliation and whistle blowing provisions in our policy and procedures and in federal law. Linda Selsor, AzCA's Fraud and Abuse compliance officer, will monitor the hotline, record reports and take reports directly to our CEO and COO to determine the next steps in the investigation.

"We have established this hotline for several reasons," said Linda. "First, as an agency we are committed to the highest level of ethical and professional practice in the provision of services to children and families. Second, because we receive more than \$5 million dollars in federal Medicaid money for the provision of mental health services, **we are required by law to inform you about fraud and abuse—what it means, how to report it, and certain key provisions in federal law.**"

The intent of the federal law is to prevent dollars intended for the provision of services from being diverted to private pockets for personal gain. Also, the federal government can't do the job alone. They need all tax payers' help. If you have questions about our Fraud and Abuse Compliance program, contact Linda Selsor at 1-800-947-7611, ext. 1390. 



Editor's Note: We hope you enjoyed this issue of AzCAnections. If you would like to give us feedback or submit an article, please email us at AzCAnections@arizonaschildren.org or fax to AzCAnections 602.248.8150.

Arizona's Children Association is committed to multicultural diversity and is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative action employer. Women, minorities and other protected classes are encouraged to apply.

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