

Dear Supporters:

This is shaping up to be another beautiful Arizona holiday season for many of us. The sun is shining, our children are bursting with excitement, our families are near and our hearts are happy.

For many of the families we work with, the holidays aren't coming together in the same way. Finances are tight. There may be discord or addiction in the family, or there may be great loneliness. AZCA has spent the last 99 years helping families cope with these and other rough spots. Whether it's counseling in a difficult situation, referrals to community resources for help and support, "Just for Me" bags for children on their first night in foster care or 'stuffed stockings' or 'gifts of hope' for families whose finances have been tight this past year, our happiness comes when we create hope for children and families in desperate situations.

Of course we know that none of this work would happen without your help and support. In this issue you'll read about some generous companies and individuals who have helped to brighten the holidays for thousands of AZCA families across Arizona. They are just the tip of the iceberg. I would like to thank all those whose enthusiasm and generosity during the holiday season, and all through the year, help us help families see the ray of hope at the end of the tunnel.

Sincerely,

Fred J. Chaffee

Fred J. Chaffee, M.A., M.S.W.
President & Chief Executive Officer

Yummy Restaurants Wanted to Participate in Dine Out for Safety



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

To increase awareness about our vital services and raise funds to prevent family violence, child abuse and domestic violence across Arizona, Arizona's Children will hold Dine Out for Safety on Wednesday, April 20 at restaurants across the state.

Restaurants in Flagstaff, Prescott, Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma and across the state are invited to participate in Dine Out for Safety by committing a percentage of their proceeds for the day to benefit Arizona's Children Association. Restaurant benefits include their name or logo on promotional materials printed for the event, recognition in the Arizona's Children Association newsletter and the restaurant's logo and/or name on the Dine Out for Safety website.

Interested restaurant owners can go to dineoutforsafety.com or e-mail Becky Holton at bholton@arizonaschildren.org or call (800) 944-7611 x 2302 to learn more and register. In order to be included, we must have your completed restaurant commitment by Friday, March 4, 2011.



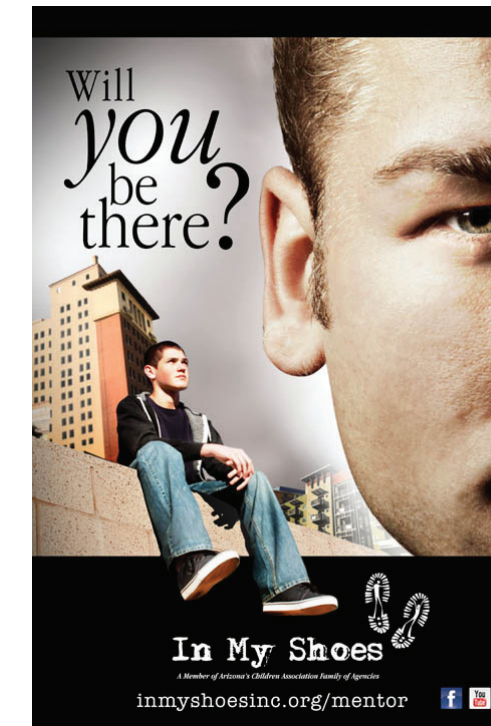
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A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY ARIZONA'S CHILDREN ASSOCIATION



WINTER 2010



Will You Be There?

In My Shoes has recently embarked on an ambitious project to recruit, train and match adult mentors with youth who are aging out of foster care in Pima County. In My Shoes is supported in this project by MarCom Worldwide, who has been contracted by a grant from Angel Charities.



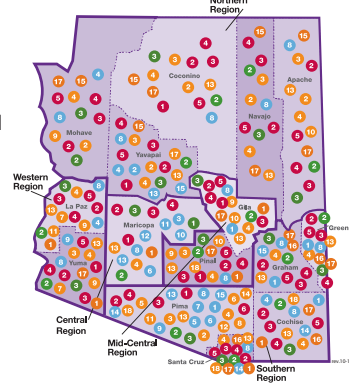
Angela Luna speaks at IMS press conference.

The campaign kicked off with a press conference on Wednesday, December 8, that included remarks by Judge Joan Wagener, Pima County Juvenile Court Judge and founding member of In My Shoes; Fred Chaffee, President and CEO, Arizona's Children Association; Christa Drake, Director, In My Shoes; Nicole Lavalée, a founding member of In My Shoes and alumni mentor Angela Luna, a young woman who aged out of foster care with the support of a mentor from In My Shoes. Dozens of partner organiza-

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PREVENTION

1. The Parent Connection*
2. Child Haven*
3. Golden Gate Community Center*
4. Bright Start/Bright Futures
5. Substance Abuse Education
6. Parenting Classes
7. Star Mentor Program
8. New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development*
9. Early Childhood Training
10. Promotoras de Bienestar
11. Head Start
12. Pathways to Success
13. Financial Literacy Partnership
14. Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault* Education Outreach
15. Parents as Teachers
6. La Canada Substance Abuse Treatment Center
7. Child & Divorce Workshop
8. The Nellie P. Covert School
9. Rapid Response
10. Renewing Arizona Family Traditions (RAFT)
11. After School Partial Care
12. Summer Day Treatment
13. Home Care Training to Client (HCTC) in Treatment Foster Homes
14. Cornerstone Substance Abuse Treatment Program
15. S.T.A.R. Program (Skills Training and Respite)
16. Parent Aide Services
17. Independent Living Services
18. Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault* Crisis/Mental Health Services and Su Voz Vale



INTERVENTION

1. Outpatient Services
2. Respite Care
3. In Home Family Support Services
4. Individual, Family and Group Counseling
5. Las Familias Angel Center for Childhood Sexual Abuse Treatment*

PERMANENCY

1. Kinship and Adoption Resource and Education (KARE) Family Center
2. Foster Care
3. DES Adoptions

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

1. Life Book Program
2. Infant Adoption Awareness
3. Volunteer Program

*Indicates Members of AzCA Family of Agencies



I keep hope alive

Your support of Arizona's Children Association helps to "Keep Hope Alive" for thousands of children and families each year. Your contribution this year will...

- Help survivors of sexual abuse and assault gain strength and develop trusting, caring relationships.
- Provide counseling services for children and families to move together toward a positive future.
- Help keep vulnerable children safe and secure.
- Support new and experienced parents with education and information.

To donate, visit our contribution website at www.IKeepHopeAlive.org

A donation to Arizona's Children Association qualifies for the working poor tax credit of up to \$200 for individuals or head of household and up to \$400 for married couples filing jointly.



MEMBERS OF THE ARIZONA'S CHILDREN ASSOCIATION FAMILY OF AGENCIES

She Believed in Me When Nobody Else Would

At the beginning, Angela Luna was a "foster care success story," in her group home, earning good grades and holding a job. When she turned 18, and signed a voluntary agreement to remain in foster care to pursue her education, she moved into an adult group home, where there were 'no rules.' In Angela's words, she began, "going down the wrong path. I met some kids, we were all bad company. We got into drugs. I almost killed myself."

About that time, Christa Drake came into Angela's life as a mentor. Angela explains, "Christa was my roommate's mentor, and she invited me to go to a financial literacy class she was teaching. We hit it off right away, and Christa began to mentor me as well."

Angela was going through a lot in her life. She was in trouble with her 'voluntary' foster agreement. She was fighting with her roommate. She was using drugs. One night it all came to a head and Angela landed in jail.

"Christa was waiting for me at my job the next day," said Angela. "She didn't judge me. She didn't stop mentoring me."

She told me she was proud of me for showing up for work after I got released from jail, and that not many people would have done that. Nobody in my life had ever told me they were proud of me before."

Christa helped Angela re-connect with her family. She made sure that she stayed active. She believed in Angela when nobody else would.

"All kids in foster care do is survive," said Angela. "That's the only mode we're in all the time. Christa told me once that there was nothing I could do or say that would make her turn away. And no matter what we went through, she never gave up on me."

Angela recently graduated from cosmetology school and got her cosmetology license. She also finished her GED. She's working at a retail store while she waits for a cosmetology position.

"I would not be where I am today without Christa's support," said Angela. "It's extremely essential to have somebody like that in your life."

We Call it "The Beanbag Place"

Three year old Benjamin Wexler, and his parents Doug and Elyse and younger sister Sabina, have been participating in classes and workshops at The Parent Connection since Benjamin was born.

Benjamin calls it "The Beanbag Place" because during circle time at the weekly playgroups, there's a song where the children throw beanbags. Benjamin also likes dressing up like a lion and giraffe in The Parent Connection's costumes, and that he and his parents "play some games" at the 'Beanbag Place.' What Benjamin doesn't know, and his parents appreciate, is that all the fun will have a significant impact on his successful future.

"When Benjamin was born I got a flyer at the hospital about the First Steps program, a newborn support group for parents of newborns," said Elyse. "I was pretty new at parenting and was looking for other people who were having the same experiences."

During the First Steps program Elyse learned about TPC's "Parents as Teachers" program and now, a parent educator comes once a month to Elyse and Doug's home to answer their parenting questions and provide information and support. "My parent educators have really seen us through it all," said Elyse. "We work on sleeping, napping and all of the issues that come up in parenting. Mostly you realize that you're ok and that you're learning what you need to be a good parent."

For Doug, "The staff has been great. They're very friendly, very knowledgeable and they've helped us solve some problems."

Elyse and Doug also participate in the playgroups at The Parent Connection which include one hour of child directed playtime



and ½ hour of circle time where families participate as a group. Doug is a teacher and attends playgroups during the summer when he's off school.

Elyse returned to the First Steps group when her daughter Sabrina was born, and "really enjoyed it because I was a totally different person.

"Parenting can be isolating, and it's really hard to know if you're doing the right thing," added Elyse. "I have met some really nice people."

Doug adds, "The name The Parent Connection is great. We have connected with great people." To learn more, visit theparentconnectionaz.org, where good parents become great parents.

and her daughter attended a parenting class together "so we could be on the same page about discipline," adds Laura.

Laura also cares for her 9-month-old grandson on Mondays, and her daughter-in-law meets them at the "Baby Time" class over her lunch hour from work. "It's nice to know we're doing the right things," says Laura. "My daughter-in-law enjoys the camaraderie of baby time and talking to other mothers facing the same issues. Nobody is afraid to ask questions. The openness in the classes is great. There are no wrong answers. Everyone is just trying to do the best they can for their children."



AAA Arizona, KPHO and KOLD Stuff more than 1,000 Stockings!

AAA Arizona, CBS 5 Phoenix, KPHO TV in Phoenix and KOLD TV in Tucson joined forces this year for a Stuffed Stocking drive that will brighten the holidays for more than 1,000 children served by Arizona's Children Association in Phoenix, Tucson and Prescott.

AAA reached out to donors across the state to drop off their stuffed stockings at their local AAA location via television spots on KPHO TV and KOLD TV.

"We were thrilled to work with Arizona's Children Association and benefit such a worthy cause," said Brad Oltmans, vice president of insurance for AAA Arizona. "AAA is committed to giving back to the community, and hopes these stuffed stockings will help spread a little cheer to children in need during the holidays."

"The participation we have seen from the Stuffed Stocking drive speaks volumes about how much our community cares about its children. Even during these tough economic times, people are coming together and paying it forward to those in need. We at CBS 5 are proud to be part of such a wonderful program," said Jolynn Houk, marketing manager, CBS 5 Phoenix.

"The Stuffed Stocking Drive underscores a spirit of giving in our community. It is wonderful to be part of a program that brings people together to help pay it forward to children who face daily challenges; the holidays are a time to put cheer into their lives."



The elves at the Tucson Broadway AAA (left to right): Ruth Hughes, Cathy Lenox, Melody Watts, Debbie Kyle, Ellen Yasmer

Bringing Hope for the Holidays

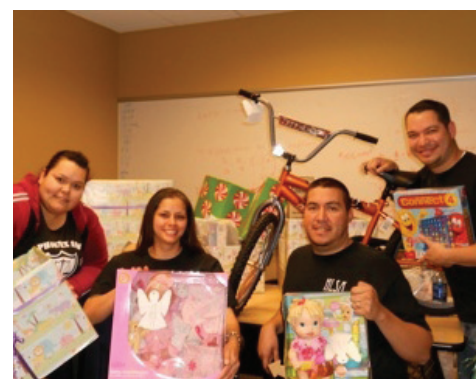
Across Arizona, individuals, companies and organizations have been collecting "Gifts of Hope" for the holidays for families we serve who have nowhere else to turn.

Early this morning, a rented U-haul driven by Wendy Curran from First Solar, pulled up behind the Phoenix office. The rear door opened, and bags and bags of new toys, games and electronic equipment spilled out, followed by bikes of every size and description. First Solar employees sponsored 140 children for the holidays and made all of their wishes come true.



Another group, the **Hispanic Law Students Association** at the Phoenix School of Law, took on the challenge of collecting gifts for 50 children this year.

The group reached out to the presidents of all of the student organizations on the Phoenix School of Law campus. They put



Members of the Executive Board of the Hispanic Law Students Association: Marysol Angulo, Lisa Montes, Josh De La Ossa, Edwin Ramos

notices in the school newspaper and put up an angel tree in a very visible location. "The staff, students and faculty at Phoenix School of Law really responded in an unexpected way. All of the angels were gone off the tree within a week," said Josh De La Ossa, president of the Hispanic Law Students Association and chairman of the toy drive.

Josh is also a law intern at the firm of Robert J. Campos, where the office manager took an angel for herself and one for her mom. She told Josh, "I was the recipient of people's generosity when I was younger and I am happy to have the opportunity to pay it back." It turned out that Robert

Campos gave her some cash to support the shopping and the ladies have two bikes and bags of gifts to donate.

Thanks to the Hispanic Law Students Association at the Phoenix School of Law and dozens of generous donors across the state for keeping hope alive for hundreds of children and families they will never meet.



And, members of the Old Pueblo Civitan Service Club, under the leadership of president Sara Trowbridge put up a new, outdoor play structure at The Parent Connection this past weekend. Our sincere thanks to each of the Civitans who so generously gave of their time and energy. Your efforts will be appreciated and enjoyed by our families for many years to come.



Growing Into a Lovely Young Woman

Jordan Brooks came into foster care when she was 13 years old. "It was very difficult, but it saved my life," said Jordan. An In My Shoes mentor at age 33, Jordan brings her foster care experiences and life lessons to her mentor match, Clara. "Clara was a student in my photography club at In My Shoes," said Jordan. "We just really clicked when we met." Jordan has been Clara's mentor for more than three years.

"Just to see this young woman triumph makes it all worthwhile," said Jordan. "She is such a hard worker and doing so much to improve her life. She is growing into a lovely young woman."

If you are an adult who has spent any time in foster care, consider becoming a mentor for the youth at In My Shoes. To learn more, visit www.inmyshoes.org/mentor or call 520.747.7533.



continued from page 1... **Will You Be There?**

tions, business leaders and community advocates were in attendance.

"Our challenge is to re-engage mentors who spent considerable time in foster care. It is a part of their life they may not want to remember," said Tomas Leon, Principal/CEO of MarCom Worldwide. "There is not a reliable source or database that tracks youth who were in foster care once they leave the system."

Campaign elements going forward include public service announcements, social media advertising, media outreach and community presentations.

"Our agency was founded to provide guidance for youth as they transition out of foster care and in to their successful futures," said Christa. "Adults who have spent time in foster care are needed to inspire and support our youth through their transitional years."

The mentor/mentee match is a two year commitment. The mentees and their mentors meet at least eight hours a month one-on-one with one additional hour of contact on line, on the phone or in a group setting."

To learn more about the In My Shoes "Will You Be There" recruitment campaign, visit www.inmyshoesinc.org/mentor.



KARE Fashion Show



The 'saucy, seasoned, glamorous grands' at the Heart Boutique in Green Valley recently held a Holiday Open House and Fashion Show to benefit the Tucson KARE Family Center. Shown here are models: Willie Saleem, Mary Glover, Brenda Ives, Kathleen Chester & Angela Anderson, and the children, from left, are: Alexis Chester & Niajah Anderson

Jess and Jennifer Lorna Receive Spirit of Philanthropy Award



Photo courtesy of Linda M. Herold

Congratulations to Jess and Jennifer Lorna, recent recipients of the Spirit of Philanthropy award presented by the Association of Fundraising Professionals / Greater Arizona Chapter. The nomination form for the Lorna's recognized their long-standing service and commitment to Arizona's Children Association. "We were pleased to have the opportunity to honor the Lorna's and recognize their true spirit of philanthropy," said Marc Kellenberger, senior vice president and chief development officer for Arizona's Children Association.

Shown here are Jess Lorna, Jennifer Lorna and Jathan Segur, senior vice president, Sales and Marketing at National Bank of Arizona.

