

100  
YEARS

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CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION



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Protecting Children. Preserving Families.



*Minnie Tevis Davenport*

Photo courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society / Tucson #12594.

## *Our Legacy of Hope*

IN MAY 1912, during a monthly meeting of the Missionary Society of the First Christian Church of Tucson, Mrs. Minnie Davenport proposed the formation of a children's home to care for Arizona's homeless and dependent children.

Prior to this, child-placing work in Arizona had been under the jurisdiction of the Children's Home Society of California, one of many

charitable Homes organized during the National Children's Home Society movement begun in 1895.

Empowered with a new vision, Mrs. Davenport led the churchwomen of Tucson on a campaign that inspired Arizona to care for its own by founding a new children's Home and becoming an active member of the National Children's Home Society movement.

Mrs. Davenport addressed the formative years of the Association in her memoir, *The Origin and History of the Arizona Children's Home Association*:



*“You cannot realize how enjoyable it is to dream of years gone by, of pioneer organizations that had small beginnings and little support unless the appeal touched the heart-strings of the people in the community.*

*Even after all the hardships and struggles, even to exist through times when faith and courage faltered, yet ever-renewed with a spirit to carry on, and today we can see the silver linings to the clouds and know of a haven of rest where sobbing, homeless children meet kind friends who are really interested in their comfort, care and future life.”*





*Julia Attix*

Photo courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society / Tucson #6849.

IN NOVEMBER 1914, Tucson rancher Julia Attix demonstrated her support of the movement by donating 7.5 acres of land for the purpose of constructing a permanent Home where the Association could care for children in need.

It would be another seven years before the Association raised enough money to construct their Home, but this did not delay their work. Arizona Children's Home Association held its first Board of Directors' meeting on December 28, 1914 and was incorporated on March 2, 1915.



“Do not forget that the child has an intellectual, moral and spiritual nature to be trained. This is not to be a sectarian institution nor a denominational home. We are founded on love.”

*Arizona Children's Home Association, Secretary's Book, June 1915*

JUNE 1, 1915, the Association began providing its first child-placing services in a modest rental home located in Tucson. There were only six children in care on Opening Day: one from Tucson, two from Globe and three from Bisbee.

This same year, Arizona Children's Home launched a statewide campaign to form local Advisory Boards in communities all across Arizona. It was through these Advisory Boards that work of the Home began to spread statewide.

Local support was demonstrated through individual donations,

volunteer hours, group fundraising efforts as well as loving foster and adoption homes.

IN NOVEMBER 1921, one week before Thanksgiving, Arizona Children's Home realized its dream of constructing a permanent Home for children.

This new Home, located just south of Tucson, was capable of sleeping sixty children and served as the core of the Association for the next 40 years.

Today, this historic building is home to the Association's corporate office where we now operate over



twenty-four regional offices and currently serve more than 46,000 children and families in every county of Arizona.

We are proud to say we have established work that stands the test of centuries but we know we did not do it alone.

In celebration of our FIRST CENTURY OF HOPE, we would like to thank the thousands of Board members, volunteers, financial supporters and staff members who have been the heart of our agency over the past 100 years...

*Thank You!*

As we move into our next century of service, Arizona's Children Association remains committed to partnering with individuals and communities, all across Arizona, to provide diverse services that fulfill our common mission: *Protecting Children, Preserving Families.*

We invite you to join us today and become part of our legacy. A legacy of hope for Arizona.

To donate, volunteer or connect to services, visit us at:

[WWW.ARIZONASCHILDREN.ORG](http://WWW.ARIZONASCHILDREN.ORG)

## OUR FAMILY OF AGENCIES



*“The future possibilities  
of caring for the  
unfortunate child are  
unlimited, encouraging.  
We are establishing  
work to stand  
the test of centuries.”*

E.D. Raley, Arizona Children's Home  
February 27, 1917

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