



ARIZONA'S CHILDREN  
ASSOCIATION

Protecting Children. Preserving Families.  
Across Arizona Since 1912.

**founding** principles

our first **century** of *hope*

**contemporary** ideals



**timeless** volunteerism

1912



Arizona Children's Home Association early Board of Directors

**Arizona's Children Association** was founded in 1912 during a meeting of the Women's Missionary Society of the First Christian Church of Tucson. As the group discussed its missionary work, it was revealed that local orphan children were being sent to a Home in California rather than handling placement in Arizona. Inspired by this dialogue, **Mrs. Minnie Davenport** made a motion to found a Home in Arizona where orphaned and neglected children could be cared for and adopted. Following the approval of her motion, a call went out to unite all Tucson churches in the work. This group generated support and drafted by laws for the formation of **Arizona Children's Home Association**.



Mrs. Minnie Davenport, founder, Arizona Children's Home Association

Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society / Tucson, #12594

WILL INCORPORATE TO ACCEPT GIFT OF LAND MADE BY MRS. JULIA ATTIX

Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society / Tucson, #6949



Mrs. Julia Attix

In 1914, **Mrs. Julia Attix** donated 7.5 acres of land to the **Arizona Children's Home Association** for the purpose of constructing a permanent home to serve the children of Arizona. The land donation was not fully executed until the organization raised enough funds to begin design and construction of the home in 1920.

1914

Nonetheless, work got underway once the Association was incorporated March 2, 1915 and in June, the first temporary home was opened with six children in a modest rental house.



1915



CHILDREN'S HOME TO BE OPENED TODAY

The organization quickly outgrew the original quarters and in March 1916, the Association moved to another temporary home. The 14-room rental house provided services to Arizona's children until November 1921 when our permanent home was finally completed. The two-story building provided accommodations for up to sixty children.

1916

1921



Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society / Tucson, #2323

# 1926

In 1926, an Infirmary was built just south of the original Home. The Infirmary provided separate quarters for those children in need of medical attention.



Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society / Tucson, #BN27286

Infirmary, added 1926



Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society / Tucson, #BN21527

The new nursery, built 1932



SET JUNE FIRST AS DATE WHEN  
GROUND SHALL BE BROKEN FOR  
NEW CHILDREN'S HOME HOSPITAL

In 1932, the Association built a new nursery for its growing family of infants and toddlers. Located just west of the original Home, the new nursery had its own sleeping quarters, play area, kitchen, bathroom, and nurse's quarters.

# 1932



As news of the agency's work spread across the state, more cities, counties and volunteers united to help support the services of **Arizona Children's Home Association**. Depending solely on private

donations, volunteer activities along with county and court contracts, the Association was able to help a growing number of children each year. Hope for Arizona's children was being realized.



Volunteer Workers Assist With Children's Home

# 1933-1939

## Celebrating Our First Century of Hope

1940



Members of the Board of Directors / Advisory Board at the Home on May 10, 1940

The three buildings, constructed during our foundational years, formed the core of the agency's Tucson campus for the next two decades. The Home, Infirmary, and Nursery continued to care for children arriving from every county across the state of Arizona.

1941



In December 1941, Arizona Children's Home Association took its first step toward providing on-site education by opening its first Kindergarten classroom



\$6,000 worth of playground equipment was donated, in 1949, by the Tucson Exchange Club

During the 1950's, funds from the Burrige D. Butler Estate enabled the Association to expand the original Infirmary building on two occasions. A reception area and play room were added in 1951; a much needed Administrative wing was added in 1958.

1958



The expanded building was dedicated as "Butler Cottage" on March 17, 1958

1960

By 1960, the Association, along with the Arizona State Department of Health, was beginning to focus on the mental health needs of the agency's children. Funds from the Federal Mental Health Act made it possible for the Association to hire a psychiatric social worker assigned to work with the children residing at the Home.

During this time, the Association also constructed a new dormitory, which provided up-to-date living quarters for the children and two "House Mothers." The building was divided into two wings, each with its own kitchenette, bathroom and recreation room.

With Foundation Aid  
**'Home' To Get  
New Cottage**



Marshall Cottage was designed by Place & Place Architects and named after the Marshall Foundation which contributed \$50,000 towards the construction of the new cottage

# 1962

50 Years Of Welfare Service

## Arizona Children's Home Making Semicentennial Of Its Operation



The Nursery building is dedicated as the Nellie P. Covert School on March 4, 1963

# 1963

In 1963, the original Nursery building became home to the Nellie P. Covert School for the purpose of providing special education to the children of Arizona Children's Home as well as select students from the Tucson community. Funds for the school were received from the estate of Nellie P. Covert who was a local Tucson school teacher and long-time friend of the Association.

In September 1967, Nellie P. Covert School moved into a new 6,700 sq. ft. building constructed on the grounds of Arizona Children's Home Association. Covert School is still in operation and continues to serve students with special needs including those with emotional disabilities, learning disabilities and behavioral issues. Programming has expanded to include an *After School Program* and *Summer Youth Program*.

## Nellie Covert School To Be Dedicated



Nellie P. Covert classroom, mid-1960's

# 1967



The new school was designed by Friedman & Jobusch Architects, constructed in 1967

This portion of the Association's history illustrates a modern approach towards service delivery reflected in the construction of more modern buildings. This is a theme that will continue into the next three decades as the Association continues to expand its services to meet the evolving needs of children in Arizona.

# 1972



**New Girls' Facility To Be Built**

The 1970's and 80's were marked by construction and renovation projects to accommodate the Association's continued growth and expansion. Generous donations and crucial fundraising efforts were key to the realization of these endeavors.

Grace Cottage was constructed as a girls' dormitory. The building was named after Grace Walsh who was a valued Office Manager at Arizona's Children Association for more than 30 years.

# 1978

**Children's recreation center is begun**



The Recreation Building was constructed, with a gymnasium, kitchen and arts & crafts rooms. In 2000, the Recreation building was dedicated in honor of Kent Richards.



# 1984-1987

**Gift from Angels upgrades Arizona Children's Home**

In 1984, Angel Charity for Children raised more than \$650,000 to renovate buildings on the Tucson campus. The original Children's Home was converted into corporate offices and subsequently dedicated as "Angel House" on March 28, 1987.





Fred Chaffee joins Arizona Children's Home Association as Executive Director in 1992



During the 1990's, the Association began providing regional services across Arizona. Beginning in Phoenix in 1991, it grew to include Sierra Vista, Casa Grande, Bisbee, Yuma, Parker, north Tucson, Parker, Globe, Flagstaff, Lake Havasu, Nogales, Kingman, Surprise, Prescott, El Mirage, Chandler, Bullhead City, Tolleson, Show Low, Buckeye, Fort Mohave and Coolidge. The work often expanded into some of these areas well before offices were actually opened.

1992

Fred Chaffee joins Arizona Children's Home Association as Executive Director, bringing with him many years of experience in the field of child welfare and behavioral health management. In addition to his service in the United States, Mr. Chaffee spent seven years in Western and Southeast Asia working with the Peace Corps in Nepal and a number of volunteer agencies in Hong Kong and Vietnam.

1997



Arizona Children's Home Association



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Arizona Children's Home Association changes its name to Arizona's Children Association

1999



Arizona's Children Association open its Residential Treatment Center (RTC) in Marshall & Grace Cottages. Modular buildings were constructed for the Residential Treatment Center in 1999, which now serve as the home to La Cañada, the Association's residential substance abuse treatment program.

**Mergers create Arizona's Children Association Family of Agencies**

By the late 1990's, the Association began to realize the limitations of its intervention efforts to make long lasting changes in the lives of troubled youth. In the words of Fred Chaffee, "from a mission perspective of protecting children and preserving families, we need to be serving kids earlier; we need to give families tools and reach kids before the need to intervene in their troubled lives later on." As a result, strategic mergers became the primary hallmark of the 2000's, enabling the Association to provide a broader scope of programs and services for children and families.

# 1999



April 1, Arizona's Children Association merged with **The Parent Connection**, a Tucson-based agency dedicated to helping children grow into caring, capable adults. Through a partnership with parents, the program is designed to build on family strengths, using support and education.

# 2004



**Las Familias**

January 5, the Association merged with **Las Familias**, a program dedicated to facilitating the healing process for children and adults who experienced childhood sexual abuse.

July 7, the Association merged with **Child Haven**, a Yavapai County crisis nursery for young children whose families are facing extreme difficulties.



**Golden Gate Community Center**

July 12, the Association merged with **Golden Gate Community Center**, to provide programs and services that improve the quality of life for children and families in west central Phoenix neighborhoods.

# 2006

April 1, the Association merged with the **New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development**, whose mission is to provide parents and caregivers with training and tools to help every infant, toddler and pre-schooler develop a healthy brain and enter school ready to learn.



# 2008



July 1, merger with the **Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault**, whose mission is to reduce the trauma and incidence of sexual assault by providing treatment and promoting prevention of sexual abuse, incest, molestation and rape.

# 2010

July 1, merger with **In My Shoes**, created by alumni of foster care and dedicated to ensuring that young people experiencing foster care will be supported through their transitional years to develop the competencies to realize their potential as adults.



**In My Shoes**



Protecting Children. Preserving Families.  
Across Arizona Since 1912.

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