

**Nonprofit Profile**

## Arizona's Children Association

The Business Journal of Phoenix - November 24, 2006

### THE ORGANIZATION

**Telephone:** 602-234-3733

**Web:** www.arizonaschildren.org

**When founded:** 1912

**Mission of the organization:** The mission of **Arizona's Children Association** is based on a strong commitment to the welfare of children, adults and their families. Its priority is to help create and promote healthy family environments on a permanent basis. Toward that end, AzCA provides a broad spectrum of services that foster healing and promote the emotional well-being of children, adults and families

**Annual budget:** \$35.5 million

**Expense allocation:** 86.81 percent programs and services; 8.34 percent management and general; 4.82 percent marketing and fundraising; .01 percent information technology.

**Corporate support:** 2 percent

**Top five corporate supporters:** The Arizona Republic, Phelps Dodge Foundation, Schaller Anderson Inc., Arizona Public Service Co. and IBM Corp.

**Board president:** Jess Lorona, attorney, Dodge, Anderson, et al.

**Board members:** 45

**Executive committee includes:** Jess A. Lorona, chairman; Dan Montoya, first vice chair; Daniel Soza, second vice chair; Wes Colvin, treasurer; Libby Howell, secretary; Thomas Wisz, chair elect; and Barbara Wilson, past chair. Members of the board come from around the state, including Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma, Williams, Prescott and Sahuarita.

**Employees:** 512 full-time; 15 part-time; 110 on-call/relief

**Volunteers:** 250 statewide

**Events:** Signature events for the organization include annual "Celebrate" events in Phoenix, Tucson and Prescott; golf tournaments in Yuma, Lake Havasu City and Phoenix.

#### **Milestones:**

- First Arizona Children's Home Association home opens in 1916 in Tucson.
- Arizona Children's Home Association changes its name to Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) in 1997.
- In 2006, Arizona's Children Association merges with the New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development.

**Recent challenges:** Expanding the agency and moving more into primary prevention in times that pose economic challenges.

**Measures of success:** In 1992, the agency was primarily a residential treatment program with some adoption and foster care. It was located in Tucson and in Phoenix. By 2006, the agency was in every county in the state, with 46 major

programs that serve 44,000-plus children annually in their own homes and in their communities. Residential treatment has been closed.

**Smartest move:** Merging with agencies that complemented AzCA's primary mission and supporting a statewide board of directors.

**Missed opportunity:** Not merging with an agency some seven years ago that would have been a real complement to the organization.

**Misconceptions about the organization:** Many people think AzCA is an adoption or foster care agency and do not realize the extent and breadth of the programs.

**Organization's best recent moment:** Merging with New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development.

**Worst recent moment:** Hearing about a mother we were working with who was killed by her estranged husband.

**Wish list:** Dedicated volunteers, businesses to conduct collection drives, financial support, a \$50 million endowment.

**Most rewarding project/achievement:** Changing the agency from a residential-focused program to a community-based, family-centered program and expanding its services across the state.

**Toughest aspect:** Finding the dollars to provide the services for the children and families we work with.

**Most surprising aspect:** The extraordinary generosity of people from all walks of life who support our mission with dollars and time.

## THE LEADER

Fred Chaffee

**Title:** CEO

**Since:** Fred has been with AzCA as CEO since April of 1992.

**Professional insights:** Children and families are extraordinarily resilient and if you provide them with some hope and support, they can reach for the stars.

**Personal path to not-for-profit work:** Have always been involved in this kind of work, starting with Peace Corps experience some 35 years ago.

**Greatest pleasure:** The absolute joy that comes from watching people turn their lives around.

**Greatest inspiration:** A quote that states, "Be ashamed to die before you do something good for mankind."

**Causes:** Child Welfare League of America, National Mental Health advisory board, Community Partnership of Southern Arizona, Southwest Network in Maricopa County, Pantano Behavioral Health Services.