



Dear Supporters:

Every year I have the opportunity to visit with all of our staff in all of the places we work across the state. It is always the highlight of my year!

Meeting face to face with those AzCA employees across the state who are on the ground carrying out our mission energizes me. They bring a level of professionalism, compassion and determination to their work that sets us apart, and ensures that the children and families we serve get the best care possible.

The world of AzCA is as different in Lake Havasu as it is in Nogales or Surprise or Prescott, and all of the other wonderful venues in which we work. But no matter where you are in the state, the commitment of all of our staff is awe-inspiring. On a recent visit to Lake Havasu one of the staff asked what has been the most memorable thing over the 20 years I have been privileged to lead this agency. The answer is simple: it is the ability to have conversations with those who day in and day out advance our work!

I encourage all of our friends and supporters to get to know the work of Arizona's Children Association and the staff in your community. I'm confident that you, too, will come away energized and inspired.

Sincerely,

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

Dine Out for Safety, April 20

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month. As a nonprofit with the mission of "protecting children, preserving families," Arizona's Children Association works tirelessly across the state to end interpersonal and family violence. We rely heavily on individual and corporate contributions to maintain the quality and efficiency of our programs to help make all our Arizona communities a safer, healthier place to live.

For the past 15 years, local restaurants, businesses, organizations and individuals have united in a unique and fun community wide experience in Tucson to support services for survivors of sexual assault and children affected by family violence called "Dine Out for Safety." Last year, AzCA expanded "Dine Out for Safety" statewide.

Plan to eat out and make a difference on Wednesday, April 20, 2011. Participating restaurants in Tucson, Phoenix, Flagstaff, Prescott and Yuma will generously donate up to 20 per-

cent of their day's proceeds to support our services for survivors of sexual assault and children affected by family violence.

If you can't make it out to dinner that night, visit our online raffle at www.rafflezca.org to support our anti violence initiative and win some fabulous prizes. Generous underwriting of Dine Out for Safety, and donated raffle prizes permit all proceeds to be directed to the programs aimed to prevent family violence, child abuse and domestic violence in the community where the funds are raised.

To check out the yummy participating restaurants in your community, visit www.dineoutforsafety.com.



PREVENTION

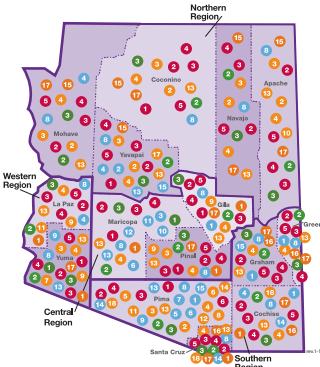
1. The Parent Connection*
2. Child Haven*
3. Golden Gate Community Center*
4. Bright Start/Bright Futures
5. Substance Abuse Education
6. Parenting Classes
7. Star Mentor Program
8. New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development*
9. Early Childhood Training
10. Promotoras de Bienestar
11. Head 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



4. Private Adoption Home Study/ Post-Placement Supervision
5. Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC)
6. In My Shoes*

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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

*Indicates Members of AzCA Family of Agencies



Protecting Children. Preserving Families.
Across Arizona Since 1912.

2833 North Third Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

www.arizonaschildren.org

give hope THIS SPRING

They are your neighbors and friends. The people you work with and the families down the block. For the first time ever, Arizona families are finding themselves in more difficult situations than they ever anticipated having to face. With your help, Arizona's Children Association will continue to be there to **give hope**:

- to children who are vulnerable
- to parents who want to learn
- to families in crisis
- to survivors of sexual assault

www.GiveHopeAZ.org
800.944.7611 x 2166

Become a fan of our Facebook page at: facebook.com/arizonaschildren

View videos at: youtube.com/arizonaschildren

Follow our blog at: <http://arizonaschildren.blogspot.com>



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A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY ARIZONA'S CHILDREN ASSOCIATION



SPRING 2011

"I Knew That Life Would be Different"



From a very early age, Nathan Delafield knew his life was different from other kids his age. He had virtually no relationship with his father, and his mother moved from home to home to homeless shelter during Nathan's most formative years. And then, when Nathan was only eight years old, she left.

Nathan was brought into foster care and moved in with his aunt Kate and uncle Randy, a young couple who had recently purchased their first house. "It was a roller coaster," said Kate. "We had only been in our house for a few months. Every plan that we had was gone. But Randy and I totally jumped into Nate's life. He's always been a great kid, and I knew we would work it out."

"My first night in the house, when I went into the cupboards to start to make myself dinner, my aunt told me that adults do the cooking here," recalls Nathan. "I knew from that moment on that life was going to be very different from the life I knew up til then."

Nate is now 21, graduating from Arizona State University this May, with an award for most outstanding senior graduate for the College of Nursing and Health Innovation and the "Spunky" Award (achieving a college education through adversity with Spunk) through the College of Liberal Arts and Science and he has been selected to

speaking at his convocation. Nate is also preparing to attend the Indiana University School of Medicine in the fall. "I can't stress enough how my foster family changed my life," Nathan says. "Up until I arrived at my foster parent's home, I never even had my own bed to sleep in, and my shoes were hand-me-downs from my older brother. I was just a kid trying to survive and get by with the basics, but this amazing opportunity changed my life and gave me a chance to thrive and ultimately succeed."

Equally as important as family stability, notes Nate, is the socialization that his foster home and new school and new friends provided.

"When I first arrived at my new school, I got into a lot of fights. But when I realized and learned that this was a defense mechanism that my young mind developed to protect me, my attitude quickly changed, and I became a thriving student and developed several lifelong friendships."

"If there's one thing I can remind potential foster families and foster kids, it's to be patient with each other," stresses Delafield. "Most of the kids in the foster program have seen or experienced things in their young lives that most adults will never encounter."

For Kate and Randy, the past 13 years have been a learning process about raising a child and the foster care system. "Nate has touched our hearts in so many ways. He is an inspiration to the masses and we have been truly blessed to have him in our life," said Kate. "I would encourage all families to educate

themselves about the system. The more knowledge you have, the more power you have."



Randy, Nate and Kate Delafield

We're happy to say that Kate is now a licensing worker for Arizona's Children Association. "I've wanted to work for this agency since I got licensed here," said Kate. "They've given us so much help and support."

To learn more about the foster care and adoption program at Arizona's Children Association visit www.arizonaschildren.org, and click on 'Permanency.'

"I was just a kid trying to survive with the basics, but this amazing opportunity changed my life and gave me a chance to thrive and ultimately succeed."

Arizona Family Members Behind Bars

Arizona currently leads the western states in the rate of incarceration of adults, resulting in more than 176,000 Arizona children with a parent in jail or prison, or on probation or parole. Tens of thousands more have experienced the trauma of having an incarcerated parent during their lifetime.

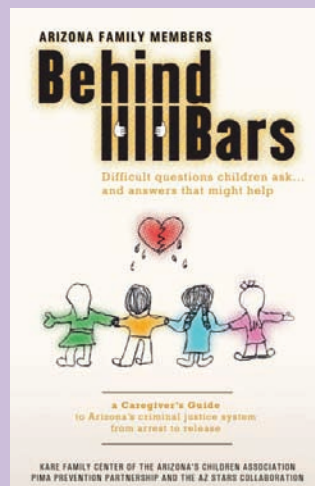
Life is not easy for children who have experienced the trauma of their parent's arrest and who have been deprived of their parent's attention and care. Whether they live with the non-incarcerated parent, with a relative or in foster care with strangers, daily life can be confusing and stressful.

In response, the KARE Family Center, Pima Prevention Partnership and the AZ STARS Collaboration have created a caregiver's guide to Arizona's Criminal Justice System entitled, "Arizona Family Members Behind Bars. Difficult questions children ask...and answers that might help." The manual is

divided into the various stages of the criminal justice system, from arrest to release. It includes tips for caregivers, questions and answers for each stage of the process, information about visitation and communication with inmates and a resource guide.

"We hope that schools, law enforcement authorities, medical facilities, the behavioral health system and other agencies that come in contact with the children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers will welcome this resource manual," said Laurie Melrood, former director of the KARE Family Center. "Children have many questions and they want to be heard. This manual will help families help children find the answers to their questions."

To download a copy of the guide, visit www.arizonaschildren.org and click on 'Permanency' and then 'KARE Centers.'



"I want to visit my dad. When I visit him it's good. But I have to wait a long time and am not allowed to bring any toys. It's like 300 miles and takes a long time to get there. I can play games when I get there but when I get there I have to wait. Then they call you and you go into another room and wait some more. And finally I get to go into a big cafeteria room. When we sit, they call my dad and when he comes in it feels nice. We visit three hours or two, I think. I'm going next week, I think. I miss him."

It Was Like they Had a Camera In My House

At Arizona's Children Association we see lots of children with behavioral issues. "A lot of those issues are parenting issues as well," says AzCA clinician, Venessa DeLaCruz. "We offer our Common Sense Parenting classes to give parents tools and techniques to handle many of the behaviors that are going to happen."

Venessa and her partner AzCA clinician Ashley Royal offer Common Sense Parenting Classes for all of the people who will be parenting a child. That can include parents, grandparents, guardians and caregivers. The classes meet for six weeks for one and a half hours each week. The curriculum is different each week and builds on the previous week's work. Each class includes a lecture, video and skill practice.

"A lot of people are eager to come in and 'fix' their kids," added Venessa. "We give parents the foundational tools to manage their child's behavior." For many families that means changing their habits of interacting with their children.

AzCA staff have committed to doing kids groups while the par-

ents are in class, eliminating the barrier of finding child care for the families.

The classes average 20 – 25 people at the beginning. About half of the parents make it through. Those who do, learn a lot, as evidenced by the class reviews:

"The impact was very good for me and my husband."

"A lot of very realistic and good ideas."

"It was like they had a camera in my house!"

"Wow, it was like you knew what happened in my house..."

"Trainers seemed very comfortable with the material."

"I see results already! So far, positive feedback!"

"This is a great program – it works!"

For more information about AzCA Common Sense Parenting Classes call 480.814.7789.

The Pulliam Project – Faith Based Initiative

Thanks to a grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Arizona's Children Association expanded its faith based initiative to recruit faith based volunteers to provide support to youth who are aging out of foster care. The project has been a great success for the youth we've touched and the faith based groups who've been involved.

"Faith based groups who've become involved in the project came to us through word of mouth, informal communication and presentations to faith based groups across the state," said Natalie Randolph, Program Director for Arizona's Children Association in Flagstaff. Once a group has expressed an interest, its representatives attend a one day training to help them identify how they are going to connect to youth who are aging out of foster care. It may be through a mentor program, or they may participate in the 'suitcase initiative' and pack suitcases full of tools that youth who are aging out of foster care may need – bus passes, hygiene products, gift cards, etc. Another group in Coconino County is creating "Life Books" for youth in the foster care system.

Suitcase Initiative

Community mentors, volunteers, and Faith Leaders are trained and prepared to provide a suitcase along with the commitment

to host, provide resources, and support to the youth who receives it. While each suitcase is unique and tailored to the youth who receives it, they each contain basic resources on transportation, housing, counseling, personal items, and daily living assistance.

Lifebooks

Many youth who are aging out of foster care don't know their family history or culture. They may have many transitions, and lose the connection to their biological families and the memories of their natural home environment. The Life Book group is our way of giving youth who've spent their lives in foster care a way to preserve their memories, as well as to plan for the future. Life Book volunteers hope to create a life-long relationship with the youth during this process of exploring how the youth defines himself by identifying memories for that youth to know his/her past and have a place to start to launch into his/her future.

Faith groups statewide who are interested in working with youth who are aging out of foster care can get involved in the Suitcase Initiative or Life Book program, or as mentors, are encouraged to contact Natalie Randolph at (928) 527-1000 x109 or e-mail nrandolph@arizonaschildren.org.

Smiles Give Hope

Jamie was three years old when she and her sister and brothers came into foster care. She had a big, wide smile – full of brown and rotted teeth. Thanks to a grant from Delta Dental, her big, wide smile is bright and her cavities, along with those of her seven-year-old sister and five and 11 year old brothers have been treated.



Over the past year, more than 251 children and adults in our in-home family services, foster care, kinship care, behavioral health and independent living programs in Yuma have benefited from the generosity of Delta Dental.

Dora Lopez, program coordinator for the KARE Center in Yuma meets with foster families, kinship care providers, youth in foster care and members of the community in up to five, three-hour sessions that focus on healthy teeth.

The Delta Dental class curriculum, "Teeth on the Go" is divided into different classes and materials that are relevant for each age group. Children receive a certificate signed by the "tooth fairy" with some toothpaste, a toothbrush and dental floss when they graduate.

"We also work in partnership with a local dentist, Dr. Claudia Colorado from the Gallemore Dental Group, who goes out of her way to help out during the classes and meet the needs of our children," added Dora. "She provides amazing support for our program."

Centennial Corner

Arizona's Children Association is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding in Tucson in May 1912, with a full schedule of activities that began in March, 2011 and wrap up with grand celebrations in Phoenix and Tucson in May 2012. The theme for our 100-year anniversary is "Our First Century of Hope," which we hope implies to you, as it does to us, that our work, in many ways, has just begun.



Activities currently underway for the Centennial include planning for a series of **local community receptions** in communities where AzCA has offices, development of special printed materials including a pocket history summarizing AzCA's foundational years and expansion statewide and an eight-page pullout from the annual report.

The goal of each AzCA Community Reception is to thank current donors and volunteers and introduce ourselves to new 'friends.' AzCA board members have signed on to host each reception.

Our first official Centennial reception took place on Thursday, March 10 at The Parent Connection, hosted by board members Ingrid Novodvorsky and Barbara Sparks. "It was a great event," said Kim Metz, director of The Parent Connection. "We connected and reconnected with many old and new AzCA friends."

A reception at The Children's Museum of Phoenix on March 31 to highlight Early Childhood Development in Phoenix was hosted by Arizona's Children Association board members Amelia Anderson, Shannon Clayton, Tony Mason and Christy Pylman.

Guests at all of our Centennial Receptions are asked to sign a "Book of Hope" to offer advice that will inspire future generations of children, families, volunteers, communities, staff members, business partners, elected officials, financial donors and Board members all working together to continue a legacy of hope for Arizona. The "Book of Hope" will travel to Centennial receptions across Arizona during 2011-2012 then be preserved for Arizona's Bi-Centennial.

Future Centennial receptions are planned for most AzCA locations around the state. More information can be found by visiting www.arizonaschildren.org/history.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Online registration is available for most events. For more details, please visit "Upcoming Events" on our website or go directly to www.arizonaschildren.org/events to register.

In addition to the events below, New Directions Institute workshops throughout the state and The Parent Connection classes are available throughout the year. Information is available at website link above.

April 20

Dine out for Safety

Restaurant locations statewide
Visit www.dineoutforsafety.com for details for your city.

May 7

14th Annual John Boemer Golf Tournament – Yuma

Yuma Golf and Country Club
Contact Dubia Zaragoza at arizonaschildren.org for details.

May 12

Golden Gate Wine Tasting – Scottsdale

Mastro's City Hall Steakhouse
Contact Becky Holton at bholton@arizonaschildren.org for details.

The AzCA Annual Report is Out!

To save funds, we have printed a limited number of Arizona's Children Association annual reports.

To view our annual report on line, visit www.arizonaschildren.org/annualreport.

To receive a printed copy in the mail, contact Chris LeBlanc at 602.234.3733, x 2166.



give hope