

Los artículos  
en cajas color  
gris son en  
español!

Our purpose is:

“To enhance the quality of life in our community by promoting stability for families caring for children born to others.”

**From the Directors: Getting ready for Summer Vacation!**

Greetings from the staff at the KARE Family Center! Gearing up for summer activities brings to mind how many changes the youth you care for have weathered. Sometimes small transitions, like those from school to summer vacation, can cause big reactions in little people who have not always known predictability and security. You can help your child transition by focusing some attention on these small changes.

1. Let your child know what to expect in as much detail as you can. Tell them how you see the days being spent over the summer. Put a calendar up on the fridge. Ask them if they have any questions about the end of school, summer activities, or what might happen when school starts up again.
2. Parks and Recreation has a summer activity listing coming out in the Tucson newspapers soon, offering many activities that may be perfect for your child.
3. Think about a summer job for your teen.
4. There are summer activities at the KARE Center, too! Read through this newsletter for those.

If your child displays irritability or acting out, you may want to structure their days a little more until they relax into the new summer schedule. Because of the transition to summer understand that they may not know why they're having a hard time! Behavior that may seem volitional is often unconscious, a “knee-jerk” reaction to a something beneath the child’s awareness.

We are all looking forward to seeing you this summer!

From the KARE Staff  
and Laurie Melrood and Mary Blessington, Co-Directors at the KARE Center

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**De las Directoras: Preparándose para vacaciones de verano.**

Saludos de parte del personal de KARE Family Center! Preparándonos para actividades de verano trae a mente todos los cambios que los menores de cual usted cuida han pasado. Hay veces que pequeños cambios, como de escuela a vacación de verano, pueden cuasar reacciones negativas para los chicos. Usted puede ayudar a los menores con los cambios, con poniendo un poco de atención a los detalles diarios.

1. Deje saber al menor de lo que va a pasar con la mas anticipación posible. Dígale como usted ve como van a pasar los días de verano. Ponga un calendario en el refrigerador. Pregúnteles si tienen preguntas del fin de año de escuela, actividades de verano, o lo que pasara cuando comience la escuela de nuevo.
2. Los programas de la ciudad de Park y Recreation tiene una lista de actividades que sale en los periódicos de Tucson. Se ofrecen muchas actividades cual serán perfectas para su niño.
3. Piense en un trabajo de verano para su adolescente.
4. Habrá actividades de verano en el Centro KARE también. Lea este boletín para mas infamación.

Si su niño se muestra irritable o demuestra mal comportamiento, podría usted estructurar los días un poco hasta que los menores se adapten un poco a su horario de verano. Entienda que ellos no sabrán por que están teniendo tiempo tan difícil.

Nos vemos este verano!

De parte de el Personal de Centro KARE  
y Laurie Melrood and Mary Blessington, Co-Directoras.

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## Milestone for the KARE Center

Nearly 200 people, including grandparents and relatives, children and youth, service providers and community leaders and political figures, attended the recent KARE Fifth Anniversary Town Hall Meeting and Family Celebration on March 9 and 10. Invited special guests gave moving addresses on the program's history and the impact of KARE services on quality of life for thousands of Pima County's grandparent and relative caregivers. Caregivers thanked KARE and commented on the changes in their own lives. The most important needs they articulated: Stable funding, more services and more staff!

Natalie Luna, public relations officer for rep. Raul Grijalva, read the following proclamation, which has been inserted into the US Congressional Record



RAÚL M. GRIJALVA  
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

### *SPEECH OF*

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**  
OF ARIZONA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*March 7, 2007*

Madame Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to a great resource in Southern Arizona.

For five years, the Kinship and Adoption Resource and Education Family Center, KARE, has been providing support and resources for grandparents and other relatives raising children whose biological parents are unable to do so. Considering that Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the country where children are having to be raised outside of their own birth-families, the center's work has become invaluable to the community members of my district. Through KARE, many families are able to keep more children out of foster homes. It is my pleasure to thank them on this landmark date.

Over the existence of the KARE Family Center, several thousand grandparents, relatives and adoptive parents have received many crucially important services. The center provides such benefits as case management services and mental/behavioral health services, completely free of charge. Without such services, many of the children in question would not be found under the care of their own family, which simply can not be equaled by state care. Grandparents, relatives, and adoptive parents, who are often suffering from declining health and financial burdens, are able to overcome these extraordinary circumstances through the help of the KARE center.

As the need for specialization in the area of adoption and kinship support services grows across the country, the KARE center has helped to develop and promote access to similar programs. In its five years, KARE has provided assistance to several thousand families, and with more programs like it in development, far fewer children are left to be raised in unfamiliar surroundings, or overburdened foster families. Their work has shown that kinship and non-nuclear biological families can provide permanent stable homes, an alternative to foster care and delinquency systems, while one-hundred percent of children in the program remain in school.

I wish continued success of the KARE Family Center. It is my honor to celebrate with them a history of community involvement and service

NOT PAID FOR AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE





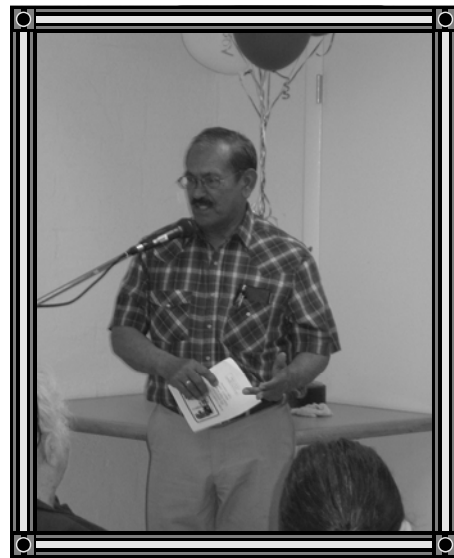
Co-directors Laurie Melrood and Mary Blessington address the Town Hall.



The Hon. Judge Suzanna Cuneo of Pima County Juvenile court talks to the participants about Kinship Families.



Left: Jessie Heatherington and Right: Manuel Romero, speak of their success with their grandchildren and their hopes for the future.



Attendees look at the information booths of all the KARE collaborators.



David Berns of Casey Family Programs receives artwork.

**FAMILY RECOGNITION GARDEN PARTY**

**Friday May 11, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Grandma, grandpa, aunt uncle, mom, and dad – this is your evening to be honored! Sit back and relax in the grassy area behind KARE Family Center in the balmy May weather! Bring all the children and other family members. Enjoy a meal, entertainment, certificates and prizes, while you meet with families just like yours. This is a fun family event. Be sure to sign up soon! *Registration required. RSVP by May 8, 2006.*

**FIESTA DE RECONICIMIENTO A LA FAMILY**

**Viernes 11 de Mayo, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Abuelas, abuelos, tías, tíos, mamas y papas-esta es la tarde para celebrar! Disfrute una cena, entretenimiento, certificados y premios. Al mismo tiempo conozca a otras familias. Este es un evento de para toda las familias. Hable e inscribase antes del 8 de Mayo al ext. 105 o 104.

**KARE FAMILY CENTER COLLEGE**

**Wednesday May 16, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**What is play therapy and how can play therapy help the child in your care?**

The Southern Arizona Association for Play Therapy's (SAZAPT) purpose is to foster understanding of the discipline of play therapy, as well as its uses, and to establish professional standards for practice. Play Therapy has been shown to allow children to process their past traumas and move forward with their lives. SAZAPT is a non-profit professional association that invites your membership, support, and participation. *Presenters from SAZAPT, please call for childcare 323-4476 x100*

**KARE KOOL KIDS KOLLEGE 2007**

**Tuesday June 5 through Friday, July 26** Children

ages 7-11: Come to KARE. for the best summer of your life! Dates are Tuesdays through Thursdays in June and July, 10 a.m – 4 p.m, beginning Tuesday June 5. Half-day outings will be held with a Friday, July 26 graduation day. This safe, healthy 8-week on-site program offers diverse activities that include drawing, arts & crafts, expressive arts, dance, swimming, baile folklorico, and more! Children bring a bag lunch and KARE provides snacks and transportation when needed to and from our center. *Free for children from relative and adoptive families. Space is limited. Please let us know when you call if your children are enrolled in a behavioral health network.*

**PROGRAMA DE VERANO KARE KOOL KIDS KOLLEGE 2007**

**Martes 5 de Junio hasta Viernes 26 de Julio** Menores

edades 7-11. Vengan a KARE para el mejor verano de su vida. Tendremos excursiones de medio día con la Graduación el 26 de Julio. Este es un programa de 8 semanas aquí en el sitio de KARE. Varias actividades son dibujo, baile folklorico, natación y arte expresiva. Si hay necesidad de transportación, el centro lo podrá conseguir. Esto es gratis para niños que viven con sus abuelos, o tíos. Para mas información hable ext. 104 o 105.

**KARE FAMILY CENTER COLLEGE**

**Wednesday June 20, 6:30-8:30p.m.**

**Child and family team: Behind the scenes**

Get information about how a Child and Family Team works. Learn what happens between meetings and strategies on how to have your families' concerns heard by the team. *Presenters from Arizona's Children Association, please call for childcare. 323-4476 x100*

**ALL PROGRAMS** require you to sign-up on a first come, first served basis. To register or for more information, call **Laura: 323-4476 X 114 OR 100. CALL AND SIGN-UP NOW!**

**WATERCOLORING CLASSES**

Every Monday from  
10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Beginning date is Monday May 7  
and ending Monday July 2. For  
information call ext.116.



**CLASSE DE  
AGUARELA**

Todos los lunes  
empezando Mayo 7 y  
terminando Julio 2  
de 10:00 de la mañana  
hasta 1:00 PM.  
Para mas información  
llamar Rosario ext.116.



Hey Kids  
You Can  
Be A STAR!

**SIGN UP TO HAVE A  
SPECIAL FRIEND**

Get help with homework, play games,  
have talks, do crafts and have FUN with a  
Big Brother or Big Sister at the KARE  
FAMILY CENTER

Call Nikki Byrd @ 323-4476 ext. 108 for  
more information.

	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>MAY 2007</b>		<p>1 KIN-SUPPORT GROUP 9- 11 AM</p> <p>KARE ADVISORY COUNCIL 3:30-5:00 PM</p> <p>DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 114</p>	<p>2 GUARDIANSHIP CLINIC 8:45 AM</p> <p>TANF BENEFIT APPLICATION CLINIC 11:15 A M</p> <p>BAILE FOLKLORICO 3:00-5:00 PM</p>	<p>3 CLÍNICA DE TUTELA LEGAL 9:00 AM</p> <p>POWERFUL FAMILIES 9:00- 11:00 AM</p>	<p>4 MARANA SUPPORT GROUP MARANA LIBRARY MEETING ROOM 10:00</p> <p>SPA NIGHT 5:30-8:30 PM (SEE PAGE 3)</p>	5
		<p>7 GRUPO DE APOYO MUTUO PARA FAMILIAS CRIANDO NIÑOS DE OTRAS PERSONAS. 5:30-7:30 PM HABLE CON SANDRA EXT.104 (PAGINA 7)</p> <p>SUPPORT GROUPS FOR CAREGIVERS AND TEENS 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 111</p>	<p>8 KIN-SUPPORT GROUP 9- 11 AM</p> <p>DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 114</p>	<p>9 GUARDIANSHIP CLINIC 8:45 AM</p> <p>TANF BENEFIT APPLICATION CLINIC 11:15 A M</p> <p>BAILE FOLKLORICO 3:00-5:00 PM</p> <p>LEGAL INFORMATION CLINIC- <u>BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.</u> 6:00 TO 9:00 (BRING YOUR PAPERWORK)</p>	<p>10 POWERFUL FAMILIES 9:00- 11:00 AM</p> <p>S. ARIZONA COALITION GRANDPARENTS RAIS- ING GRANDCHILDREN U OF A CO-OP EXTENSION. 10:00-11:30 AM CALL 626-5161 FOR MORE INFORMATION</p> <p>PAFT ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP 6:30-8:30 PM CALL FOR CHILDCARE</p>	<p>11 <b>FAMILY RECOGNITION GARDEN PARTY 5:30-7:30 PM (SEE PG 4)</b></p>
13	<p>14 SUPPORT GROUPS FOR CAREGIVERS AND TEENS 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 111</p>	<p>15 KIN-SUPPORT GROUP 9- 11 AM</p> <p>DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 114</p>	<p>16 GUARDIANSHIP CLINIC 8:45 AM</p> <p>TANF BENEFIT APPLICA- TION CLINIC 11:00 A M</p> <p>EXPRESS YOURSELF 3-5:30 PM</p> <p>BAILE FOLKLORICO 3:00-5:00 PM</p> <p>KARE FAMILY CENTER COLLEGE 6:30-8:30 PM</p>	<p>17 CLÍNICA DE TUTELA LEGAL 9:00 AM</p> <p>POWERFUL FAMILIES 9:00- 11:00 AM</p>	<p>18 GREEN VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP CONRAD JOINER LIBRARY GREEN VALLEY BRANCH 10:00 AM (SEE PG. 8) LUNCH AND CHILD- CARE PROVIDED</p>	19
20	<p>21 SUPPORT GROUPS FOR CAREGIVERS AND TEENS 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 111</p> <p>GRUPO DE APOYO MUTUO PARA FAMILIAS CRIANDO NIÑOS DE OTRAS PERSONAS. 5:30-7:30 PM HABLE CON SANDRA EXT.104 (PAGINA 7)</p>	<p>22 KIN-SUPPORT GROUP 9- 11 AM</p> <p>DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 114</p>	<p>23 GUARDIANSHIP CLINIC 8:45 AM</p> <p>TANF BENEFIT APPLICA- TION CLINIC 11:00 A M</p> <p>BAILE FOLKLORICO 3:00-5:00PM</p>	<p>24 POWERFUL FAMILIES 9:00- 11:00 AM</p>	<p>25 SHOOTING STARS &amp; OUTMATES 5:30-7:30 (SEE PG. 8)</p>	26
27	<p>28 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b></p> <p><b>KARE CENTER CLOSED</b></p>	<p>29 KIN-SUPPORT GROUP 9- 11 AM</p> <p>DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 114</p>	<p>30 GUARDIANSHIP CLINIC 8:45 AM</p> <p>TANF BENEFIT APPLICATION CLINIC 11:00 A M</p> <p>BAILE FOLKLORICO 3:00-5:00PM</p> <p>TUTELA LEGAL O ADOPCIÓN UN TALLER EN ESPAÑOL 6:00-8:30 PM LLAME EXT. 105 PARA INSCRIBIRSE, CENA Y CUIDADO DE NIÑOS GRATIS</p>	<p>31 CLÍNICA DE TUTELA LEGAL 9:00 AM</p> <p>POWERFUL FAMILIES 9:00- 11:00 AM (LAST CLASS)</p>	<p><b>All activities on calendar are held at KARE Center unless otherwise noted. If you would like to attend any of these activities, call 323-4476 to reserve your spot.</b></p>	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>JUNE 2007</b>	<p><b>All activities on calendar are held at KARE Center unless otherwise noted.</b></p> <p><b>If you would like to attend any of these activities, call 323-4476 to reserve your spot.</b></p>				<p><b>1</b> MARANA SUPPORT GROUP MARANA LIBRARY MEETING ROOM 10:00</p> <p>SPA NIGHT (SEE PAGE 3) 5:30-8:30 PM</p>	<b>2</b>
	<b>8</b>	<p><b>4</b> GRUPO DE APOYO MUTUO PARA FAMILIAS CRIANDO NIÑOS DE OTRAS PERSONAS. 5:30-7:30 PM HABLE CON SANDRA, EXT.104 (PAGINA 7)</p> <p>SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS AND TEENS 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 111</p>	<p><b>5</b> KIN-SUPPORT GROUP 9-11 AM</p> <p>KARE ADVISORY COUNCIL 3:30-5:00 PM</p> <p>DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 114</p>	<p><b>6</b> GUARDIANSHIP CLINIC 8:45 AM</p> <p>TANF BENEFIT APPLICATION CLINIC 11:00 AM</p> <p>BAILE FOLKLORICO 3:00-5:00PM</p>	<b>7</b>	<p><b>8</b> SHOOTING STARS/OUTMATES 5:30-7:30</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>11</b> SUPPORT GROUPS FOR CAREGIVERS AND TEENS 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 111</p>	<p><b>12</b> KIN-SUPPORT GROUP 9-11 AM</p> <p>DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 114</p>	<p><b>13</b> GUARDIANSHIP CLINIC 8:45 AM</p> <p>TANF BENEFIT APPLICATION CLINIC 11:00 AM</p> <p>BAILE FOLKLORICO 3:00-5:00PM</p> <p>LEGAL INFORMATION CLINIC- <u>BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.</u> 6:00 TO 9:00PM (BRING YOUR PAPERWORK)</p>	<p><b>14</b> S. ARIZONA COALITION GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN U OF A CO-OP EXTENSION. 10:00-11:30 AM CALL 262-5161 FOR MORE INFORMATION</p> <p>PAFT ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP 6:00-8:00 PM</p> <p>CLÍNICA DE TUTELA LEGAL 9:00 AM</p>	<p><b>15</b> GREEN VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP CONRAD JOINER LIBRARY GREEN VALLEY BRANCH 10:00 AM LUNCH AND CHILD-CARE PROVIDED</p>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<p><b>18</b> GRUPO DE APOYO MUTUO PARA FAMILIAS CRIANDO NIÑOS DE OTRAS PERSONAS. 5:30-7:30 PM HABLE CON SANDRA, EXT.104 (PAGINA 7)</p> <p>SUPPORT GROUPS FOR CAREGIVERS AND TEENS 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 111</p>	<p><b>19</b> KIN-SUPPORT GROUP 9-11 AM</p> <p>DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 114</p>	<p><b>20</b> GUARDIANSHIP CLINIC 8:45 AM</p> <p>TANF BENEFIT APPLICATION CLINIC 11:00 AM</p> <p>BAILE FOLKLORICO 3:00-5:00PM</p> <p>KARE FAMILY CENTER COLLEGE 6:30-8:30 PM</p>	<b>21</b>	<p><b>22</b> SHOOTING STARS/OUTMATES 5:30-7:30 (SEE PG. 8)</p>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<p><b>25</b> SUPPORT GROUPS FOR CAREGIVERS AND TEENS 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 111</p>	<p><b>26</b> KIN-SUPPORT GROUP 9-11 AM</p> <p>DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP 5:30-7:30 PM CALL EXT. 114</p>	<p><b>27</b> GUARDIANSHIP CLINIC 8:45 AM</p> <p>TANF BENEFIT APPLICATION CLINIC 11:00 AM</p> <p>BAILE FOLKLORICO 3:00-5:00PM</p> <p>GUARDIANSHIP OR ADOPTION TRAINING 6:00-8:30 PM EXT 100</p>	<p><b>28</b> CLÍNICA DE TUTELA LEGAL 9:00 AM</p>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

*The Primal Wound-The Impact of Loss on Children Separated from Birthmothers*

by  
Anna Y. Loebe, Ed. D.

Thursday, July 19, 2007  
6-9 p.m.

Jeffers Building across from KARE Family Center

RSVP to Anna Loebe for Child Care  
323-4476, Ext. 117

This presentation is based on the first section of the book *The Primal Wound-Understanding the Adopted Child* (1993) by Nancy Newton Verrier, an adoptive mother, educator, and therapist. The presentation will describe the phenomenon of *the primal wound* experienced by individuals who have lost their birthmothers in childhood through death, voluntary relinquishment, or through intervention of the civil justice system. The presentation addresses how these individuals respond to primary loss. The presentation includes examples of how children manifest their loss from the presenter's own experiences as an adoptive mother of two foster children. Includes time for questions.

If you wish to read the book prior to the presentation, you may order a copy through any bookstore or the author's website: [www.nancyverrier.com](http://www.nancyverrier.com).

### KARE Legal Information Clinic

**What:** One half hour of free legal information from an experienced attorney on issues involving the care of a relative child, for example, adoption, guardianship, severance, dependency, Title 25 petition. The issue must concern care of a relative child who is living with you or will be living with you, or has lived with you within the past three months.

**Who:** Grandparents, other relatives and non-relatives such as family friends, godparents, neighbors caring for a child not born to you

**When:** Wednesday, May 9, and June 13, 6:00- 8:30

**Childcare:** None

**Cost:** None. Please call to cancel your appointment if you are unable to come, so we can fill the slot. Attorneys are volunteering their time!

**To register:** call, Ext. 100

## FOSTER CARE LICENSING

Did you know you may be eligible to be licensed for kinship foster care? If you are currently caring for relative children who are under CPS custody, please call at Arizona Childrens Association foster family recruiter **Rob Boyer** at **318-4882, Ext. 118**. He will schedule an appointment to review the application and training process with you. Meeting site: 3210 E. Ft. Lowell, Suite 103, just east of Country Club Rd.

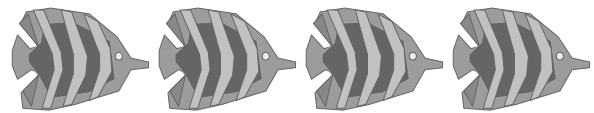
## LICENCIA PARA PADRES DE CRIANZA TEMPORAL

*¿Sabía que podría tener elegibilidad para conseguir licencia para ser madre/padre de crianza temporal? Si usted cuida a niño/s de familia quienes se encuentran bajo la custodia del estado (CPS), favor de llamar a **Jooanna Marroquin** al **318-4882, Ext. 119** para atención en español. Ella trabaja para Arizona Childrens Association y ella les explicará el proceso de solicitud y del entrenamiento. La cita con ella tomará lugar en la oficina colocada en 3210 E. Ft. Lowell, Suite 103, al este de Country Club Rd. Para más información, favor de llamar a Anna Loebe en el Centro Familiar KARE, 323-4476, Ext. 117.*

## BOLETOS GRATIS PARA EL ZOOLOGICO

El centro les ofrece un boleto de entrada gratis al zoológico del parque Reid para familias de KARE Center .

Si usted quiere que se le preste este boleto llámenos para haber si esta disponible. Pueden entrar 4 adultos y 10 jóvenes con este boleto. Hable a ext. 100.



## FREE PASSES TO REID PARK ZOO

KARE Family Center has a zoo membership card that can be loaned to KARE families. Up to four adults and ten children can visit the zoo at one time. This is a fun getaway!

For more info, please call ext 100. It's a first call first serve basis!

**SUPPORT GROUPS** for  
Kin-caregivers in our community

**@ KARE Center**

Over 60 caregivers 9:00 – 11:00 AM

- May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 June 5, 12, 19, 26

**PARENTS AND FAMILIES TOGETHER POST-ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP**

- May 10 June 14  
6:30—8:30PM

**MARANA, PICTURE ROCKS & AVRA VALLEY**

Marana Library Meeting Room 10 AM

- May 4 June 1

**GREEN VALLEY, SAHUARITA & CONTINENTAL**

Conrad Joiner Library Green Valley Branch  
10:00AM

- May 18 June 15



**GRUPO DE APOYO**

Venga a este grupo de apoyo los siguientes días:

**7 y 21 de MAYO**

**4 y 18 de JUNIO**

Los grupos serán de 5:30 a 7:30

5:30 – 6:00 habrá una cena

6:00 – 7:30 Los adultos tendrán su grupo y esa misma hora habrá un grupo para los adolescentes  
Habrá personas calificadas que cuiden a los pequeños.

Todo es Gratis.

Para mas información llame a Sandra extensión 104.

**MONDAY AND TUESDAY SUPPORT GROUP FOR KIN-CAREGIVERS**

Every Monday and Tuesday, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM, there are support group's for kin-caregivers. We have openings for more group members. Along with the group dinner is from 5:30 to 6:00 PM and childcare while the families attend the group.

If you would like more information or would like to become a member please call, for Monday group William Brubaker at ext. 110 and for the Tuesday group call Laura Stockert at ext. 114.

Give and get information from people looking for answers just like you!



**OUTMATES and Shooting STARS**

(A program for families raising children with an incarcerated parent)

By: Nikki Byrd

I have some exciting news! There is a Big Brother or Big Sister waiting for your child! The KARE Family Center has teamed up with Big Brothers Big Sisters to offer mentoring services for your child here at KARE! The KARE Center offers a safe and non-threatening place for your child and their Big Brother or Big Sister. It's a great way for you, your child and the Big Brother or Big Sister to get to know each other. The kids can be a STAR and get help with homework, play games and just have fun.

All Big Brother Big Sister mentors are thoroughly and carefully screened before they are allowed to become a special friend. They undergo an in-depth interview process, fingerprinting and reference checks. We look for men and women who are caring and capable of providing a mature and nurturing friendship. These special friends do not take the place of the child's parents or guardian. They provide a special one on one friendship for your child under the guidance of the agency.

For more information, please call Nikki Byrd @ 323-4476 ext.108.

Remember, both OUTMATES and Shooting STARS meet for dinner at 5:30 pm and group from 6-7pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of every month. May's meetings will be on May 25<sup>th</sup>. June's meetings will be on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Join us on May 11<sup>th</sup> for the KARE Family Recognition Celebration see page 4 for more information.

The STARS Mentoring Project is a program of Pima Prevention Partnership with the Arizona's Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, The Juvenile Services Coordinating Council, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tucson, Prison Fellowship Ministries, Amachi Mentoring Program and KARE Family Center.

# Staff Spotlight

Thelma Morales  
KARE Family Center  
Senior Services Specialist



I graduated from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in Child Development and Family Relations. This enabled me to have a great experience with children and their families. I'm so excited to be part of the K.A.R.E family. My journey started in January of 2006. I came for a guardianship clinic and immediately the K.A.R.E. staff made me feel right at home.

I started as a child care worker and a kitchen aide, and was promoted to be the new Senior Services Specialist. This is a great honor and a big responsibility, to fulfill the needs of grandparents sixty and older that are taking care of kin.

I have two beautiful children Diego 5 years old and Thelma 6 years old. I'm fortunate to have my 71 year old mother living with us making unforgettable memories for me and my children. We enjoy going to the park, the beach and spending time with family. I love what I do because I am able to help these amazing grandparents and their families in any way they need and for me "that is awesome"! You can reach me at ext. 109.

KARE Family Center Staff Directory

Receptionist	Administrative Assistant	ext.100
Laurie Melrood	Center Co-Director	102
Mary Blessington	Center Co-Director	323-0886 x. 223
Sandra L. Leon Garza	Case Manager	104
Ana Acuña Morales	Case Manager	105
Veronica Granmo	Case Manager	106
Nikki Byrd	STARS Children of Incarcerated Parents	108
Thelma Morales	Seniors Service Specialist	109
William "Bru" Brubaker	Senior Clinician	110
Michele Ream	Child & Family Team Facilitator	111
Eileen Caito	Community Outreach Specialist	112
Rosalyn Riesgo	Casey Office Administrator	113
Laura Stockert	Case Manager Supervisor	114
Yolanda Sevillano	Over 60 Case Coordinator	115
Rosario Heyer	Program Aide	116
Anna Loebe	Kinship Foster Care Licensing Spec.	117
Liceth Garcia	Kinship Foster Care Licensing Spec.	118

**Childcare Workers:**

Joseph Aparicio, Elia Batiz, Maria Gallego,  
Marcia Pineda, Mario Llamas, Rosalia Sinteral  
Chuck Dailey-**Driver**  
Brian Bentley-**Volunteer Social Worker**

Phone Number 520-323-4476

Fax Number 520-323-9830

E-mail- KARES@arizonaschildren.org



WELCOME ABOARD  
TO

Elia Batiz

Marcia Pineda

Rosalia Sinteral

who will be doing  
childcare here at the  
KARE Center.

&

Liceth Garcia  
who is our new

Kinship Foster Care  
Licensing Specialist

¡BIENVENIDAS!

# KARE Family Center

4710 E. 29th Street  
Tucson, AZ 85711

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[www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org)

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- Pima Council on Aging (PCOA)
- Arizona Department of Economic Security - Division of Developmental Disabilities, District II, and the
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension.

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