



Protecting Children, Empowering Youth,
Strengthening Families.

A Century of Hope
Providing Services Since 1912

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.



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

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.

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



Mrs. Julia Attix

1914

In 1914, Mrs. Julia Attix donated 7.5 acres of land in South Tucson 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.

1915

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



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 home was finally completed. The two-story building (photo below) provided accommodations for up to sixty children.

CHILDREN'S HOME TO
BE OPENED TODAY

1921

1916



Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society / Tucson, #2323

1912-1939 - The Early Years

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, #BN21527

The new nursery, built 1932



Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society / Tucson, #BN27236

Infirmary, added 1926

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

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



Playground equipment was donated, in 1949, by the Tucson Exchange Club

1958



During the 1950's, funds from the Burridge 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.



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.

1940's-1960's - The Next Three Decades

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

50 Years Of Welfare Service

1962

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. For nearly 50 years, the Covert School served students with special needs including those with emotional disabilities, learning disabilities and behavioral issues.

Nellie Covert School To Be Dedicated



Nellie P. Covert classroom, mid-1960's



1967

The late 60's illustrates the Association's 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

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.

New Girls' Facility To Be Built



1978

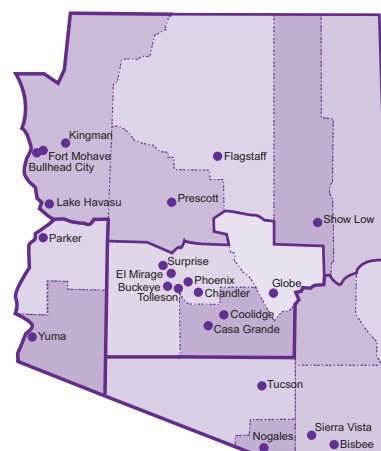
Children's recreation center is begun



In 1984, Angel Charity for Children led efforts 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.

1984 - 1987

Gift from Angels upgrades Arizona Children's Home



Arizona's Children Association's services reach into new communities throughout the state.

1990

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, 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.

1990's-2000's

1997



Arizona Children's Home Association

ARIZONA'S
CHILDREN
ASSOCIATION

Protecting Children, Empowering Youth,
Strengthening Families.

Arizona Children's Home Association changes its name to Arizona's Children Association and introduces a new logo.



2000's



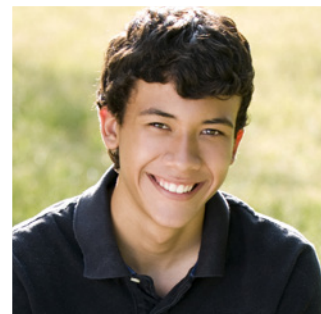
Shifting focus: An evolution of strategies of care

The 2000's led the Association to provide a broader scope of programs and services for children and families statewide. Studies show that more effective early intervention is key to building long-term family stability and even preventing family struggles before they begin. From 1999-2008, we acquired a number of independent 501(c)3s which are now programs within AzCA. Some of which included: The Parent Connection, New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development, and Las Familias. This allowed us to expand our scope of services to parenting education, childhood sexual abuse, infant brain development, and much more.

During this time, our residential treatment programs of the past also began to evolve into systems of care that kept children more closely connected to their homes and/or their local community. Research shows that keeping children tied to the connections they have formed in their life before their involvement in the child welfare system are incredibly powerful in their ability to adjust and adapt to change, thereby decreasing the likelihood of long-term trauma impact (Children's Bureau, 2012).

In 2014, the Association's five-year strategic plan to improve services and better utilize resources led to the decision to move our various programs from around the Tucson metropolitan area to one location. Unfortunately, this great opportunity came with a bittersweet departure from the very building that we had called home since 1921.

This move has accommodated the growth of the many programs which were spread throughout Tucson. The new site allows these programs and their clientele to connect in ways that Arizona's Children has never been able to provide before – the same client can receive multiple services at the same site, expanding their knowledge and usage of the many services available in the process. The same approach to cross-utilization of our programs has been effective in Phoenix, as well.



Today

Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) is one of the **oldest** and **largest** not-for-profit child welfare and behavioral health agencies in Arizona. For more than 100 years, AzCA has stayed true to "**Protecting Children, Empowering Youth, Strengthening Families**," serving more than **42,000** children, individuals and families in all **15 counties** in the state each year.

Our professionally trained, caring and dedicated staff provide a broad spectrum of services that help create and sustain a healthy family environment. Each of our programs are tailored to meet the needs of the particular child, individual or family. Our team members are able to expertly navigate between our behavioral health and child welfare programs to provide additional supports and resources to clients.

We believe...

***every child deserves a protective,
stable & loving home.***

We believe...

***every youth deserves the tools & support
they need to reach their potential.***

We believe...

***every family should have the opportunity
to be healthy, strong & resilient.***

We are Arizona's best
resource for helping
children and families!

Our Services

Foster Care & Adoption
Behavioral Health & Trauma/Crisis Response
Family Preservation & Reunification
Kinship Services
Parenting Education
Transitional Living Services



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