



Fostering Resilience



ARIZONA'S
CHILDREN
ASSOCIATION

Community Impact Report

Fiscal Year 2022



In the Face of Adversity

In the aftermath of a global pandemic—one filled with loss, uncertainty, isolation, and adversity—the importance of the work of Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) became more relevant to children, families and communities than ever before. At AzCA we know how to break down isolation, empower communities, strengthen families and build resilience in the face of unimaginable events.

We as a leader for Arizona's vulnerable children and families, are no stranger to challenges and setbacks. As you can see in the coming pages, 2022 was a year that called upon AzCA to be exceptional. Responding to children and families with increased trauma, severity and acuity has been no small task, but AzCA's children and families have taught us invaluable lessons: pain, disruption, fear, anger and hopelessness do not need to become permanent or inescapable.

With a mission as important and critical as AzCA's, the adversity caused by the pandemic is a continued charge to build upon a rich history of hope and resilience so that one day every child and family has the tools to navigate and overcome their own adversity.

Through our focus areas of child welfare, behavioral health and prevention services, we provide a way for people to create a better life. That's the way we've championed the Arizona community for more than 110 years—the way we can bring about positive changes.

Like us, you recognize that we can achieve so much more with a shared motivation that focuses on addressing critical long-term challenges for children and families, responding to emerging needs and identifying root causes so we can bring about real change and give rise to those who need us most. AzCA is honored to remain a leading voice for Arizona's most vulnerable children and families thanks to the hard work of our board, staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners.

We hope our journey through adversity will inspire you and that you will see the depth of your impact on the children and families we serve. We can't thank you enough for facing these challenges beside us, with hope, commitment, and love. I hope the accomplishments of 2022 are as much a source of pride for those who made them possible as they are a source of gratitude for those they served.

With gratitude,



Jacob Schmitt, MPA
President & CEO



Our Community Impact

Foster Care & Adoption

Because of you, we are able to train and support loving foster care families who are able to open their hearts and homes to vulnerable children while their biological families are on the mend. We collaborate with adoption placing agencies to provide a variety of adoption related services for those seeking to adopt internationally, privately and from the foster care system.

224 adoptions

435 children

in Arizona's foster care system were provided loving homes.

Kinship Support Services

At AzCA, our goal is to have all kids grow up in a safe and loving family. Families who are raising their relative's children are given the necessary support and assistance that will allow them to navigate the unique challenges that they may encounter while raising their relative children.



100
new kinship
caregivers

caring for **107** relative children
were provided information,
resources, referrals and support.



Young Adult Services

Our Successful Transition to Adulthood contract allows us to provide opportunities for youth currently experiencing foster care to develop and enhance their skills in areas of resilience, knowledge of adolescent brain development, social connections, concrete support in times of need, and cognitive and social-emotional competency. Youth receive support and resources to increase their ability to live successfully outside of the foster care system.

108

current and former foster youth
received support and services to assist with
transitioning into adulthood.

Family Education & Support Services

Our programs incorporate best practice and/or evidence-based opportunities for parents and children to learn and grow together. We offer all parents and caregivers information and support through various tools and trainings to increase their knowledge of child development and age appropriate behaviors, positive parenting skills and strategies, and the opportunity to build a network of parenting support.



2,575

home visits were made through our
Parents as Teachers program.

1,950

parents / caregivers & children
were served by our Family Education & Support Services.



Behavioral Health & Trauma/Crisis Response

At AzCA, we believe all services and support should be delivered in a trauma-informed, culturally and linguistically responsive manner. By embracing the family, changing circumstances and building relationships, our programs are able to assist families and individuals in crisis by working with them to develop long-term solutions and realistic strategies to reduce conflict, build resiliency, and work toward a positive future.

14,931

children, young adults, and their family members benefited from one or more of our **Outpatient Behavioral Health Services, Urgent Services, or Trauma Support Services**.



Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics

In many situations, children who exhibit unhealthy and difficult behaviors (acting out, aggression, self-harm, sleep disturbances, and struggles with regulating emotions), have brain development challenges that can be addressed with proper intervention. This program provides the structure to best recognize experiences that have impacted a child's developing brain. The goal of the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics is to provide an assessment of the child, determine primary problems, identify key strengths, and apply interventions in a way that will help family, educators, and therapists to best meet the needs of the child.

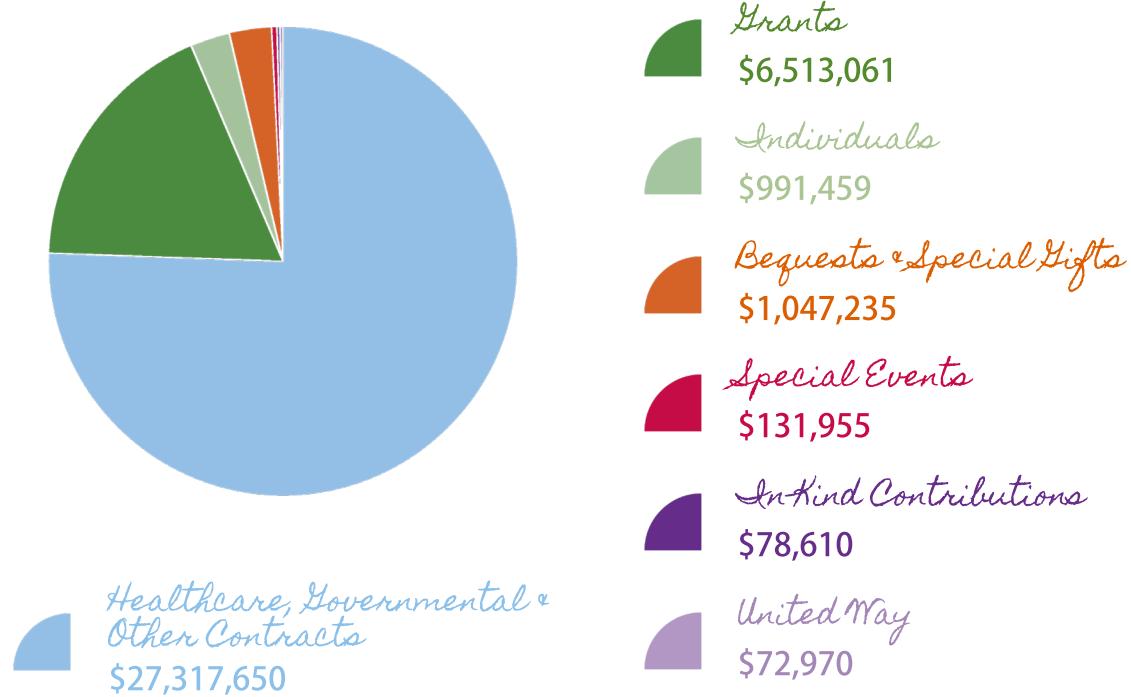
330
children

participated in the **Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics** to identify experiences that may have impacted their developing brains.

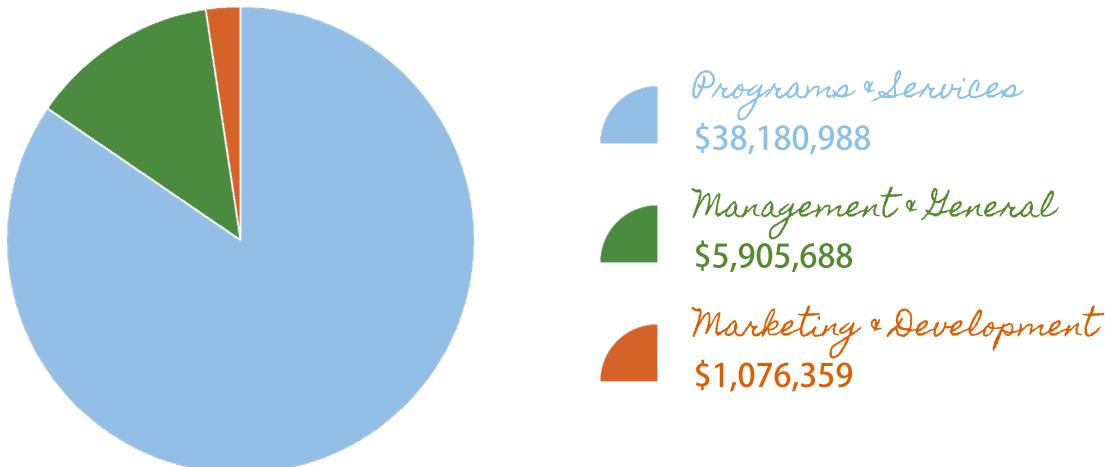


Our Financials

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



WHERE THE MONEY GOES



85¢

of every dollar goes
directly to support our
programs and services.

The path forward

NEW OPPORTUNITIES & GRANT AWARDS

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program

AzCA's Family Education & Support Services department was selected for a multi-year federal grant through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. Funding allowed us to implement our proven Parents as Teachers model in the Maryvale Village community of Phoenix.

Our Parents as Teachers program is an internationally recognized, best practice, strengths- and evidence-based parenting education and support program. Parents as Teachers is a home visitation program designed to help new and experienced parents from pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten.

A key element to AzCA's mission is to provide comprehensive, evidence-based home visitation services in an effort to provide families information, education and support on parenting. In-home visits are tailored to individual families' needs to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life. Its goal is to assist caregivers and parents to gain new knowledge and skills to enhance capacity and confidence in their ability to support a child's safety, health, intellect, and well-being. We respond to the ever-changing needs of communities in order for participants to gain new skills, recognize warning signs associated with both typical and/or long-term stressors, and gain a better understanding of child development.

Core Services:

- **Personalized Home Visits** – Our Parent Educators provide age-appropriate child development information, support a safe and healthy environment, establish and assess measurable goals, and facilitate interaction between parents and children as a positive parenting teaching tool.
- **Group Connections** – We provide opportunities for families to connect with other parents, gain support, share information, and allow children to interact and socialize with their peers.
- **Screenings** – We screen for early identification of developmental delays, health, vision and hearing problems. These screenings also include Family Strengths Assessments and Goal Planning.
- **Networking** – Our Parent Educators help families identify and connect with needed resources to ensure that families receive comprehensive services.



Primary Goals:

- Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parent practices
- Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Increase children's school readiness and school success



Enrollments increased 114% in 3 months!

100% of families reported their child received timely developmental screenings.



In Arizona, there are
more than

160,000

**children living in homes
headed by grandparents
or other relatives. Our
programs help support
these extraordinary
families and their
potential to provide a
positive alternative to
traditional foster care.**



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse

AzCA's Kinship Navigation Program (KNP) Model was recently approved by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Prevention Services Clearinghouse as a "supported" practice. AzCA's KNP Model is currently the only program achieving this level in the nation and it is also the highest rating of any kinship program in the nation. The KNP Model is approved for use with both formal (DCS/state child welfare agency involved) kinship families and for informal (not involved with DCS/state child welfare agency) families. States and agencies across the country are now able to partner with AzCA to utilize this supported best practice.

The Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse was established by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct an objective and transparent review of research on programs and services intended to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements.

Our KNP Model provides assistance to families who are raising their relative's children (i.e., grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings and non-relatives/fictive kin) by helping them to navigate the various systems and effectively utilize available community resources.

Research indicates that children in kinship care experience greater stability than those in traditional foster care. Kinship caregivers provide love and support in a familiar setting, allowing children to remain connected with their families and communities. They are also able to live with people they know and trust, thereby reinforcing their sense of cultural identity and well-being.

Core Services:

- Information and resource referrals
- Advanced education related to kinship care
- Assistance with completing guardianship packets to help caregivers register children for school and apply for medical services
- Legal resource information
- Assistance for families wishing to become guardians or adoptive parents through the juvenile court
- Support groups
- Help in completing benefit applications such as TANF, AHCCCS and Kids Care
- Advocacy for caregivers and children in school, court systems, health care and mental health agencies, benefits programs, DCS, etc.

**Visit us online to learn more about
our Kinship Navigation Program and
additional outcome information:**



Our supporters

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

\$25,000+

The Estate of Edward C. Bessey

\$15,000+

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Rotkis

\$10,000+

The Estate of Mary Knoebel
Ms. Mary Lou Hapner

\$5,000+

Mr. Michael Zwieback

\$2,500+

Mr. Thomas Rush
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Shay
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wisz

FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

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Health Advancement
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Connie Hillman Family Foundation
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Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
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Ticket to Dream Foundation
Valley of the Sun United Way

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Arizona
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Tucson Electric Power

\$10,000+

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Pinky and Joe Brier Foundation
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Schuff Steel
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State Of Arizona - DCA Inmate Fundraiser
The Kress
The Sundt Foundation
The UPS Foundation
Women With Willpower, Inc.
Zoyo Yogurt



In loving memory of Emeritus Board Member,
Edward C. Bessey, a dedicated supporter of AzCA.



Visit us online to learn more:

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