

## **MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH**

### **ARIZONA IS IN A CRISIS, CHILD CRISIS ARIZONA IS HERE TO HELP**

Mesa, AZ – The month of May is National Foster Care Month. Currently there are more than 19,000 Arizona children in foster care. Child Crisis Arizona is committed to registering, training and licensing potential foster care families.

Child Crisis Arizona's Foster Care and Adoption program provides a range of services and support along with training to prepare families for placement of children of all ages and backgrounds. In 2015, Child Crisis Arizona:

- 70 new foster families were licensed
- 419 children were placed in foster homes
- 51 new foster families licensed
- 42 new adoptive families were certified
- 94 adoptions finalized

Child Crisis Arizona's goals in 2016 is to get 90 new foster families licensed, 70 new adoptive families and 500 children placed. The first step is attending a free orientation to see if fostering is right for you. At the orientation, we will discuss the needs of children in care, what your role in meeting those needs will be, the process of licensing and certification, and support and resources offered to foster and adoptive families. Upcoming dates and locations:

- Saturday, April 30: 10 a.m. – noon, 817 N. Country Club Drive, Mesa, AZ 85201 – LGBTQ Specific Orientation.
- Tuesday, May 3: 6 – 8 p.m., 817 N. Country Club Drive, Mesa, AZ 85201
- Thursday, May 19: 6 – 8 p.m., 2711 E. Roosevelt St., Phoenix, AZ 85008
- Saturday, May 21: 10 a.m. – noon, 817 N. Country Club Drive, Mesa, AZ 85201
- Tuesday, June 7: 6 – 8 p.m., 817 N. Country Club Drive, Mesa, AZ 85201
- Thursday, June 16: 6 – 8 p.m., 2711 E. Roosevelt St., Phoenix, AZ 85008

“The community needs to take note and realize how many children in our community need a safe place to call home. Our emergency shelters provide a temporary place but the children need a forever home, and we ask that everyone strongly consider if this option is right for you or someone you know. Child Crisis Arizona is here to answer questions and to provide education, training, and post-placement support. We welcome single and two-parent families and have no limitations on religious beliefs, ethnicity or sexual orientation. We provide extensive support to families who are raising kin. Child Crisis

Arizona has licensed and certified homes for thousands of children,” says Torrie A. Taj, Child Crisis Arizona, CEO.

Operating the only emergency shelters in the Valley for children threatened with abuse and neglect from birth through age 11, Child Crisis Arizona provides hope and services to vulnerable children and families. It is also the leading agency in our state to license, train and support foster and adoptive families, and provides early childhood education and resources for families through its early education services, parenting classes, workshops and playgroups.