

# MEDIA ADVISORY

## CHILD CRISIS ARIZONA TO HOST FOSTER ARIZONA AND FAITH-BASED GROUPS

### TO SHARE THE NEED FOR FOSTER PARENTS AND HOMES IN ARIZONA

**WHAT:** Child Crisis Arizona, Foster Arizona and the Department of Child Services is coming together to host an informational session with members of some of the Valley's largest faith-based congregations such as Sun Valley Community Church, Living Word and Cornerstone to share current information on the state of child welfare and how members of their community may be able to help the more than 19,000 children in foster care in Arizona.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to tour and see the services Child Crisis Arizona provides as the Valley's only two emergency children's shelters for children birth to 11.

The first step for anyone considering foster care is attending a free orientation to see if fostering is right for you. At an orientation, needs of children in care will be discussed, 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.

"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," says Torrie A. Taj, Child Crisis Arizona CEO.

"We believe that when you spend time with kids in foster care, it changes your entire view on the foster care crisis. Our event for church leaders is designed to do exactly that; bring influential leaders from churches around the Valley into one place where they can interact with kids currently in foster care, hear from Director McKay about the current status of Arizona's foster care system, and feel empowered to be a part of changing the future for Arizona's most vulnerable children, says Kim Vehon, Foster Arizona Founder and CEO.

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 28, 10 a.m. to noon

10-10:40 a.m. Activity with the children of Child Crisis Arizona

10:45-11:30 a.m. Welcome from Kim Vehon and Torrie A. Taj

11:30 a.m. Remarks from Gregory McKay, Director of Child Services

11:45 a.m. Q&A

**WHERE:** Child Crisis Arizona's Emergency Children's Shelter, 604 W. 9th St. Mesa, AZ 85201

**INFO:** To learn more or attend, please contact [press@childcrisisaz.org](mailto:press@childcrisisaz.org)