

CHILD CRISIS ARIZONA CEO NAMED OUTSTANDING FUNDRAISING EXECUTIVE FROM ASSOCIATION OF FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS

Mesa, AZ – Child Crisis Arizona’s CEO Torrie A. Taj was honored at the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) 31st Annual Celebration of Philanthropy Luncheon today with the Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award. The ceremony was held at Sheraton Phoenix Downtown in front of more than 700 Valley philanthropists, business leaders and nonprofit leaders.

The AFP Philanthropy Day Award Luncheon is a celebration of philanthropy—recognizing individuals, organizations and businesses that are inspiring change through their impact on nonprofit organizations in our community. In keeping with the theme of Philanthropy Day, the morning began with an inspirational speaker, followed by a short social gathering, before entering the hall for the award luncheon.

“Child Crisis Arizona’s staff, board of directors and supporters are so proud of Torrie. This award not only recognizes her impressive work, but also honors all the generous donors she has worked with. As we build on the successful fundraising Taj has accomplished, we are excited to have her on board at Child Crisis Arizona as we look to reaching our goals in 2016 as a newly merged agency,” says Board President Clesson Hill.

Taj assumed the role of CEO of Child Crisis Arizona in September. Child Crisis Arizona has an operating budget of \$14.5 million and 250 employees. It serves more than 8,000 vulnerable children and families and prevents child abuse and neglect through education and intervention services. Taj worked at A New Leaf for 23 years, most recently as Deputy CEO. Taj’s accomplishments at A New Leaf include rebranding the organization, leading the adoption of a “housing first” initiative with expanded affordable housing, and spearheading the \$11.5 million capital campaign to build the La Mesita Family Homeless Shelter. Taj is a member of the Arizona State University faculty and is an instructor for ASU’s Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation. . She is a certified fundraising executive and earned her bachelor’s degree from Arizona State University. She is a long-time volunteer and current president-elect for the Greater Arizona chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP).

The AFP works to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education and certification programs. AFP represents more than 30,000 members in 230 chapters around the world. The Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Arizona Chapter is the premiere organization for fundraisers and nonprofit professionals in the Phoenix-Metro region, currently representing nearly 300 members from the leading nonprofit charities, foundations and consultants across the Valley.

Other award recipients include:

Outstanding Philanthropist - David C. Lincoln, Lincoln Laser Company

Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser - Laura Byers, Veterans Heritage Project

Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy - Huanvy Phan, Viet House Foundation

Outstanding Foundation/Corporation - Thunderbirds Charities

About Child Crisis Arizona

Child Crisis Arizona provides hope and services to vulnerable children and families. Child Crisis Arizona operates the only emergency shelters for children in the Valley, is a leading resource to license, train and support foster and adoptive families and provides early childhood education and support for families through a preschool, parenting classes, workshops and playgroups.

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