When Liz Ramirez started going into labor with her second child a month early she was terrified, but a small voice in her head whispered, “This is going to be okay.” That was the voice of her Family Support Specialist from Child Crisis Arizona, Silvia, who had been visiting her weekly throughout her pregnancy as part of the Early Head Start program.

Months earlier Liz had signed up for the program to get extra support and guidance through her pregnancy. The Early Head Start Program is designed to support parents in their role as primary caregivers and teachers of their children.

Liz’s son, Kevin, was born premature and had to stay in the hospital for a month. At two months old Silvia encouraged Liz to take Kevin back to the hospital when she noticed his struggle to breathe during their visit. He ended up needing immediate surgery. Through each incident Liz was able to lean on the expertise of the staff at Child Crisis Arizona.

Today Kevin is a thriving toddler and learning more each day inside an Early Head Start classroom in Phoenix, and his mom is still benefiting from the education and resources she gained from Child Crisis Arizona.

The importance of early education

Researchers* found that children enrolled in Early Head Start programs:

- Have a significantly larger vocabulary
- Demonstrate lower levels of aggressive behavior
- Have higher levels of sustained attention
- Demonstrate a greater degree of engagement with their parents

*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.
Expanding our continuum of care

Children coming into the foster care system have a lot to be worried and confused about but for teenagers the situation reaches a new level of chaos as they are often the most difficult population to find homes for. That’s why Child Crisis Arizona was pleased to acquire a group home for 10 boys ages 10-15 in the foster care system.

A typical group home is located in a residential neighborhood. Besides having a 15-passenger van parked in the driveway, the homes are indistinguishable from any other in the neighborhood. Inside, rooms accommodate 10 children to sleep safely and staff provide for their needs and transport them to medical appointments, school and other activities.

The new Child Crisis Arizona group home will be getting a huge makeover over the next few months. Everything top to bottom from flooring, painting, landscaping and furnishing will be renovated to make the space bright and comfortable.

Help us fill this home with smiles

Items needed for our foster teens:

- Bikes
- Skateboards
- Hydro flasks
- Acoustic guitars
- Outdoor basketball hoop
- Gift cards for clothes and shoes
- Gift certificates/tickets for field trips

“Safe Kids arrives at Child Crisis Arizona

Safe Kids Maricopa County has been added to our family education programs. This worldwide organization has been educating parents and caregivers on the importance of keeping kids safe while walking, riding bicycles, riding in vehicles or being near water since 1994.

September is Child Passenger Safety Month and Safe Kids is proud to partner with Larry H. Miller for their annual Keys to Car Seat Safety events. Join us on these dates for free car seat safety checks:

September 21 | 8-11 AM
Larry H. Miller Ford Mesa

September 28 | 8-11 AM
Larry H. Miller Dodge Ram Avondale

October 5 | 8-11 AM
Larry H. Miller Toyota Peoria

October 12 | 8-11 AM
Larry H. Miller Volkswagen Avondale

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New shelter program responds to the needs of vulnerable children

In June, Child Crisis Arizona entered into a federal contract to care for unaccompanied tender-aged children, 0-5 years old. This new shelter program provides a solution in response to the national crisis of very young children entering the U.S. unaccompanied and in need of immediate care. We provide 24/7 shelter, clothing, early education, play, nutrition, therapeutic and medical care with compassion.

“This new program embodies our vision of Safe kids, Strong families and we are considered experts in this arena,” said Torrie Taj, CEO of Child Crisis Arizona. “Our number one goal is to ensure the safety of each and every child and to quickly reunify them with their family.”
Meet Legacy Donor,
Bob Bové

Bob Bové is an accomplished entrepreneur and business man but he is so much more to Child Crisis Arizona.

Bob is unique in that he has shared his passion for helping children through so many avenues—as a philanthropic friend, a corporate sponsor, a volunteer and a provider of many in-kind donations. Most recently he and his wife Charmie, outfitted the teen boys in our 10-bed foster care group home with lots of clothes for back to school.

But what makes Bob so very special is that he has made the ultimate commitment to the future of the children in the community by making a significant Legacy Gift to the organization. This truly remarkable bequest gift will help to ensure there will be opportunity for vulnerable children to have a safe place for years to come. As the newest member of the Legacy Love Builds, Bob shares, “Children are important to me. I care about kids and the world I want to leave behind for them. For me, no child should have to suffer unnecessarily.”

Thank you, Bob, for your generosity of spirit and for creating a path for more children in the future.

Other ways to help:
IRA Charitable Rollover
Are you looking for a way to make a big difference to help further our mission and get a tax benefit? If you are 70½ or older you may also be interested in a way to lower the income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals.

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to $100,000 from your IRA to our organization.
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts.

Learn more at childcrisisaz.giftlegacy.com/.

Arizona State QFCO Tax Credit
- Child Crisis Arizona’s QFCO number is 10012.

Visit childcrisisaz.org/how-you-can-help/donate/tax-credits/.

Emergency Children’s Shelter summer highlights

The children have engaged in fun activities all summer from the Phoenix Zoo to the Crayola Experience. Seeing The Lion King in theaters was a group favorite. Of course there have also been plenty of crafts and trips to local pools.

Thanks to the many community members who underwrite our summer field trips and back to school drive. Each child in our shelter was able to head back to school with new clothes and filled backpacks. We are thrilled to watch them grow and develop new skills to support their emotional and physical growth.

“My best day was taking our kids to experience camp in Prescott. Seeing the look on each child’s face and hearing the astonishment in their voices as they tried new activities—archery, canoeing, craw-fishing and telling stories while eating s’mores around a campfire—was marvelous.”

~ SHELTER STAFF
Would you like to know more about the recent changes in tax laws?

Please join us for our free Lunch and Learn

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKERS

Kevin L. Stephens
Stephens & Company, PLLC
“Recent Tax Law Changes: Things to Know”

David T. Eastman
Morris Hall
Estate Planning Attorney
“Trusts/Wills: An Overview”

Please RSVP by October 25, 2019
jessica.nierad@childcrisisaz.org

THURSDAY
November 7, 2019

2334 E. Polk Street
Phoenix, AZ 85006

11AM Optional Tour
Phoenix Early Education Campus

11:30AM - 1PM
Lunch & Learn

LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE

A Night in MOROCCO

S A T U R D A Y
February 29, 2020

Child Crisis Arizona’s annual gala raises significant funds for the vulnerable children and families we serve. Come dressed for the evening in your kaftan tunic, leather slippers, bright colors and gold patterns and get ready for a thrilling night in Morocco.

6:00 PM
JW Marriott Camelback Inn

For more information on tickets and sponsorships visit childcrisisaz.org/events

CHILD CRISIS ARIZONA OFFICERS:
Torrie Taj, CFRE | Chief Executive Officer
Lisa A. Ricci, CPA | Chief Financial Officer
Jodi Stoken, CFRE, CAP | Chief Development Officer