The right time to say yes

Adoption was never a question of "if" for the Higgins family, but only a matter of "when."

Child Crisis Arizona's tour's gone virtual!

Learn more about Child Crisis Arizona from the comfort of your own home. The tour lasts approximately 10 minutes, providing an overview of our programs while sharing inspiring stories. For information and to register: childcrisisaz.org/day-in-our-life-tours.

I wish for...

We asked children in our emergency shelter what they would wish for if they had three wishes. We wanted to share with you some of their answers:

- "I would wish for a chameleon, and a monster, and a snowman."
- "I wish to play basketball and eat ice cream and hug."
- "If I had three wishes I would wish to be with my mom, I wish I could have a pet dog and I wish for a pet Pikachu."
- "I wish for a cute puppy and a grandma. I just want them so bad!"

May is Foster Care Awareness Month

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### Children in our Emergency Children’s Shelters are
- Visiting the Early Education Center in small groups daily for schooling
- Playing outside on our private playgrounds
- Enjoying special meals, movie nights and craft activities

### Children and families enrolled in our Early Education Services
- Can pick up breakfast and lunch curbside daily
- Enjoy free books and other activities to do at home
- Have been provided meals and gift cards when available

### Boys in our Teen Group Home are
- Working daily on online schoolwork
- Enjoying backyard upgrades including a new sport court

### Foster Care and Adoption families
- Receive virtual visits from their licensing specialists
- Grab-and-go dinners and activities have been provided when available

### Families participating in our Family Education courses
- Can access many classes online
- Will see our online classes expanded and more to come soon

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We are in need of caring, compassionate individuals interested in working with children and families. You can see a full list of employment opportunities at childcrisisaz.org/who-we-are/careers.

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1. **Consider attending an agency meet and greet.**
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2. **Make an in-kind donation.**
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3. **Take our donor survey.**
   Help us help others by taking a quick survey. We’d love to hear from you! Please visit survey.childcrisisaz.org.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to those who are vulnerable in our community!

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### Children in our Children’s Shelters
April was Volunteer Appreciation Month. We are grateful for the many passionate individuals and groups that spend their time volunteering at Child Crisis Arizona.

### Gail Shapiro
Gail Shapiro is no stranger to early education. She holds a master’s degree in early education and taught in Connecticut. Gail volunteers once a week with 3, 4 and 5 year old students preparing for kindergarten.

Gail said she loves that each activity is a learning opportunity for the kids but the best part is her relationship with the children. “It’s like a standing ovation every day,” she said. “It’s incredible. Listening to what they do, giving the extra hug—it gives you way more than you give them.”

### Celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Month
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### Meet Byron & LisaMarie Sarhangian
Byron and LisaMarie were both taught as children the importance of giving back regardless of your means. This couple was first introduced to Child Crisis Arizona through a colleague at Snell & Wilmer. Touched by the difference everyday people were able to make by contributing to the agency, Byron decided to volunteer with his church group and was surprised by the needs of children in his own community.

Seven years later, Byron currently serves as Board Vice Chair and Governance Chair for Child Crisis Arizona and is an all-around advocate for the organization. In this role he is a strong proponent of Child Crisis Arizona in the community and has made endless efforts to connect the agency to many resources.

His wife, LisaMarie, has also joined him in advocating on behalf of children. Together they have created an enormous impact on the organization. They’ve also been extremely generous with their own personal contributions. “The opportunity to help abused and neglected children and families in need is one we all must take seriously if we want our state to be a positive place to live,” he said. “Protecting children and creating strong families is vital to a healthy community and vibrant economy.”

Thank you Byron & LisaMarie for your unwavering commitment to serving your community.

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### TDIndustries
TDIndustries is known for building and maintaining buildings across the Southwest but it’s the work they do to build our community that is truly outstanding. For the past six years employees from TDIndustries have gone above and beyond to volunteer their time and construction-related skills at Child Crisis Arizona. This past spring the team from TDIndustries completed a list of landscaping and renovation projects at our new group home for teenage boys in foster care.

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We are here to help

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Growing up in Mexico, Tanya Higgins said she often saw children living in poverty and begging for money. She knew as an adult she wanted to provide a better life for children in need.

After having two boys biologically, Tanya and Wesley decided to pursue adoption of a sibling set out of the foster care system.

"We were ready for the wait," Tanya said. "When we saw this file, it just fit. The wait was worth it."

A month later the family welcomed two little girls into their home and six months later it was made official through adoption.

If there’s anything the family wants others to know about adoption now, it’s that you don’t have to be perfect to adopt.

“It’s a beautiful road,” Wesley said. “It’s such a worthy thing and an important thing in order to reach out to children who’ve had a rough time. No matter how they ended up in the system it has not been an easy process for them. To be able to offer them stability and comfort and a long-term home, it’s such a great feeling to know we have been able to provide that to these girls.”