

NONPROFIT



The Center for Child & Family Wellness will centralize Child Crisis Arizona operations and become the new home to services for low-income children and families, including foster care and adoption services. (Metro Creative Connection)

Child Crisis Arizona awarded \$1M by Parsons foundation

Child Crisis Arizona, whose mission is to provide children and youth in Arizona a safe environment, free from abuse and neglect, has been awarded \$1 million by The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation.

The donation will support both the organization's annual operational costs and its Center for Child & Family Wellness, which is under construction and is to be completed in early 2024. The 38,000-square-foot, climate-friendly, net-zero Center for Child & Family Wellness will expand Child Crisis Arizona's ability to serve more people and offer health, wellness, and educational opportunities to the community, according to a release.

"Since 2015, Child Crisis Arizona has more than doubled in size and scope of services, experiencing unprecedented growth in our Early Ed-

ucation Services, which increased by 200%, and our shelter bed capacity, which increased by 177%," Torrie Taj, CEO of Child Crisis Arizona, said in the release. "While this growth has drastically increased the number of children and families we serve, it has caused staff members and entire departments to become displaced and dispersed throughout the Valley to make space for additional classrooms and shelter beds as needed."

According to Taj, the Center for Child & Family Wellness will centralize Child Crisis Arizona operations and become the new home to services for low-income children and families, including foster care and adoption services; family education; children's counseling; health and wellness, including medical screenings and basic needs; centralized kitch-

en and food distribution; centralized administration and philanthropy; foster teen programs; art, dance, and music therapy; and volunteer and staff training. It will also allow for strategic collaborations with such organizations as Ballet Arizona, United Food Bank, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Free Arts for Abused Children of Arizona.

"Child Crisis Arizona is often the go-to resource provider for children and families in need," Bob Parsons, co-founder of The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation, said in the release. "Their new state-of-the-art campus will continue to improve how we take care of vulnerable children and families, offering hope and support when families need it most."

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The Center for Child & Family Wellness will be at 424 W. Rio Salado Parkway in Mesa. (Child Crisis Arizona)

Crisis

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At full build-out, the Center for Child & Family Wellness will feature:

- Meeting rooms that can convert into larger spaces for community classes aimed at providing educational opportunities ranging from financial literacy to parenting skills to drug trends in teens.

- A health and community wellness area, which will include space for medical screenings and immunizations for low-income families, basic needs distribution, and food distribution.

- An art and music therapy space, hosting partnerships with Ballet Arizona and bringing the arts to vulnerable children within our organization and community.

- A counseling sup-

port center with four sensory and play therapy rooms.

- A foster care and adoption wing, offering foster or adoptive families realistic training and ongoing support to prepare them for placement of children of all ages and backgrounds.

- A donation center and a volunteer center.

- A full-service kitchen to provide meals for our clients throughout the east valley.

- A safe kids car seat safety station, across the parking lot, that will offer classes on proper car seat installation and will distribute free car or booster seats to low-income families.

Additional spaces include a children's playroom, community partner hub, technology center, job skills center, and innovation space.

"Child Crisis Arizo-

na has worked tirelessly to ensure that children and families who are economically disadvantaged, are experiencing homelessness, the foster care system or other such challenges can be safe and well cared for," Renee Parsons, co-founder of The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation, said in the release. "Their new campus will not only allow them to continue making a positive impact on our community, but also increase that impact."

"We look forward to honoring the long-standing relationship with and support from The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation by dedicating the lobby in the Center for Child & Family Wellness in their name upon opening in 2024," said Taj.

Go to childcrisisaz.org and TBRPF.org.

Water

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can still help. Now is the time. We need you right now," Jason Reed, United Food Bank president and CEO, said in the release. "Remember, a five-dollar donation or a case of water will save lives."

There have been large donations from the business community, non-profit organizations and residents this summer:

- Niagara donated more than 40,000 bottles

- Eastmark donated close to 20,000 bottles during the community's annual water drive

- Benchmark donated approximately 13,000 bottles

- Zari Pavri, a resident of Dobson Ranch, donated approximately 13,000 bottles with a matching cash donation from the Dobson Ranch HOA

- Via Church donated 7,603 bottles of water

- Back on Track Chiropractic donated 5,124 bottles of water

- Mesa Rotary donat-

ed more than two tons of water

A unique way to donate is through the One Ton Water Challenge. Promoted by the Mesa Chamber of Commerce, United Food Bank and the city of Mesa, it challenges businesses, residents and organizations to buy a pallet of water, weighing more than one ton, for approximately \$200. Individuals can split the cost so it's about 100 dollars each. To donate a pallet, email Mandy Hodges at mhodes@unitedfoodbank.org.



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