



I am delighted to welcome you to our community report for a year that has seen remarkable growth and a steadfast commitment to sustainability. In a world that is constantly evolving, our organization has demonstrated unwavering resilience.

Just like a flower grows from bud to bloom, we have embraced change as an opportunity for transformation.

**Growth** has been at the core of our strategy, and I am pleased to share with you the impressive milestones we have achieved. As the community need continues to soar, we have met the challenge with innovative programming and an emphasis on a continuum of care for children and young adults. We broke ground on the new Center for Child & Family Wellness and secured key community partnerships to ensure sustainable long-term growth.

Our team, the spirit of our organization, has continued to excel. Their dedication, creativity, and relentless pursuit of excellence have propelled us forward. Our investments in talent development and retention have strengthened our workforce and fostered a culture of innovation that positions us as a leader in providing the highest-quality care.

As of May 2023, 75% of our total staff identified as a person of color and greater than 50% are bilingual English/Spanish, which is reflective of the community we serve. Collectively, our staff speak many languages, are from different countries and cultures, and are ethnically diverse. We continue to seek out diversity in all respects, including lived experiences.

Child Crisis Arizona believes in **sustainable growth**, a growth that is mindful of our environmental and social responsibilities.

The agency has taken significant steps to reduce our carbon footprint and optimize resource usage throughout our organization. Our sustainability initiatives have not only garnered recognition but have also become a source of pride for our agency.

Child Crisis Arizona remains committed to our values, our pursuit of growth, and our responsibility to our planet and future generations of vulnerable youth. Together, we will continue to reach new heights, create lasting impact, and ensure that our organization remains a beacon of hope, sustainability, and excellence in the years to come.

I want to express my profound gratitude to you — our incredible community of donors, employees, and partners, who have joined us on this journey of growth. It is your unwavering support and trust in our vision that allows us to bloom.

— Torrie A. Taj, CEO

# **Family Education**

Family Education offers parenting education and support to strengthen families. From Car Seat Safety to Drug Trends, our online and in-person courses arm parents with the tools they need to parent effectively and confidently. Programming includes free workshops, seminars, classes, support groups, and events in the virtual and on-demand space and, when possible across the Valley.

"The classes gave me a third person view of myself to better reflect on. A lot of it was common sense but sometimes the common sense passes us by. We don't often think about how our autonomy can affect how we act or behave. It was applicable and I could apply it right away."

- Daniel, Family Education participant

Child Crisis Arizona's impactful work extends far beyond the individuals we directly serve. Our programs sow the seeds of positive change, nurturing the growth of healthy families and empowered children who will, in turn, contribute to a stronger, more resilient community. We remain dedicated to protecting and nurturing Arizona's children and illuminating a brighter future for all.

# prevention

Numbers reflect a 12-month period, July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

CHILDREN SERVED
4,035

4,216

HOUSEHOLDS SERVED
4,148

# Safe Kids Maricopa

This program works to reduce injuries and deaths among children due to traffic, drownings, falls, burns, poisonings, and more. As the Maricopa County chapter of Safe Kids, we host car seat safety events Valley-wide, sharing tips to prevent childhood injuries and deaths.

# **Pool Fence Safety Programs**

Child Crisis Arizona is the program administrator of the Pool Fence Safety Program in collaboration with Salt River Project (SRP), and the United Phoenix Firefighters Charities. We provide families in-need throughout Maricopa County with new pool fences.

# **Destination Diploma**

This programs assists homeless students in the Chandler Unified School District with a support system to allow them to stay in school and graduate high school.

# **FANS Resource Distribution Center**

Provides free basic needs items (clothing, hygiene needs, diapers, household goods) to children, youth, and families experiencing crisis.



# **Early Education**

With in-home and center-based options, our Early Education programs address the needs of children 0-5 years of age. Through our Early Head Start and Preschool to low-income families in Phoenix and Mesa, we ensure that children enter the school prepared for success. In addition, Family Support Specialists assist the families in identifying and overcoming racial and economic inequities, striving to break the cycle of generational poverty.

"Before I felt like I was in a shell, and I didn't want to come out, I was just a flower waiting to bloom...I feel really motivated now and happy. This program has helped me and pushed me to get to where I am now and that's all thanks to the staff at Child Crisis Arizona!"

— Karen, parent enrolled in Early Head Start

# **Youth Counseling**

Children who have experienced abuse, trauma, and neglect early in life benefit from the compassion found in our counseling program. Our therapists are well-versed in childhood trauma and work with children and their parents to overcome the challenges they face and help ensure success in the future. As a licensed behavioral healthcare provider, the program specializes in issues related to attachment and bonding, grief and loss, sexual abuse, childhood trauma, and family dynamics.

# **Mobile Pantry**

We address food insecurity with monthly on-site food distribution for Child Crisis Arizona families, as well as holiday and special event food box distribution.

Lynn is a 5-year-old girl who was dealing with anxiety when her parents separated and her mom went back to work. In therapy sessions at Child Crisis Arizona, Lynn was introduced to story books that helped her understand her parent's love for her had not changed. She was able to gain new vocabulary to express to her dad how much she missed him and she was also able to learn new skills to better handle the separation from her mother during the work day.



Child Crisis Arizona is a testament to the transformative power of growth and blooming, not just for the children we serve, but for the community as a whole. It is a reminder that even in the harshest of environments, with the right support and care, children can rise above adversity, like the resilient desert wildflowers and bloom into their full potential.

# intervention

Numbers reflect a 12-month period, July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

NIGHTS OF CARE

54,363

CHILDREN SERVED

1,063

ADULTS SERVED

297

# **Emergency Placement for Homeless and Foster Children**

Having a safe place to rest at night is an essential part of any journey, but it's just the beginning. Child Crisis Arizona provides care 24/7/365 for children and youth who have experienced abuse or neglect, at our six emergency residential foster care homes.

Wraparound services ensure the emotional, mental and physical wellness of the children and youth in our care, ages birth to 21.

Our Independent Living Program for Foster Youth, allows young adults ages 18-21 who are in foster care and/or aging out of the system, to experience independence with a safety net of support behind them.

# Safe Place

Safe Place is operated by Child Crisis Arizona in Maricopa County, and connects runaway youth ages 12-17 with safety, shelter and support. Safe Place is a national outreach and prevention program that designates community partners as Safe Place locations, such as QuikTrip and Valley Metro. A youth who comes to a Safe Place location seeking help is provided shelter until a safe alternative can be found.



# **Foster Care & Adoption**

We support couples and individuals regardless of race or ethnicity, religious views or sexual orientation, who can provide temporary or long-term care for children removed from their family due to abuse, neglect or trauma. Training and support for foster families helps ensure the child's placement will be successful. We also provide an adoption-only option for families. Family events and 24-hour on-call assistance are available for those who license through Child Crisis Arizona.

"It was the best thing we ever did by far. There is no greater reward in life than being able to help these children. They had so many obstacles....they have soared and overcome so much. All it took was a loving home and environment for them to really thrive."

- Bailey, adoptive parent

# continuing blossom







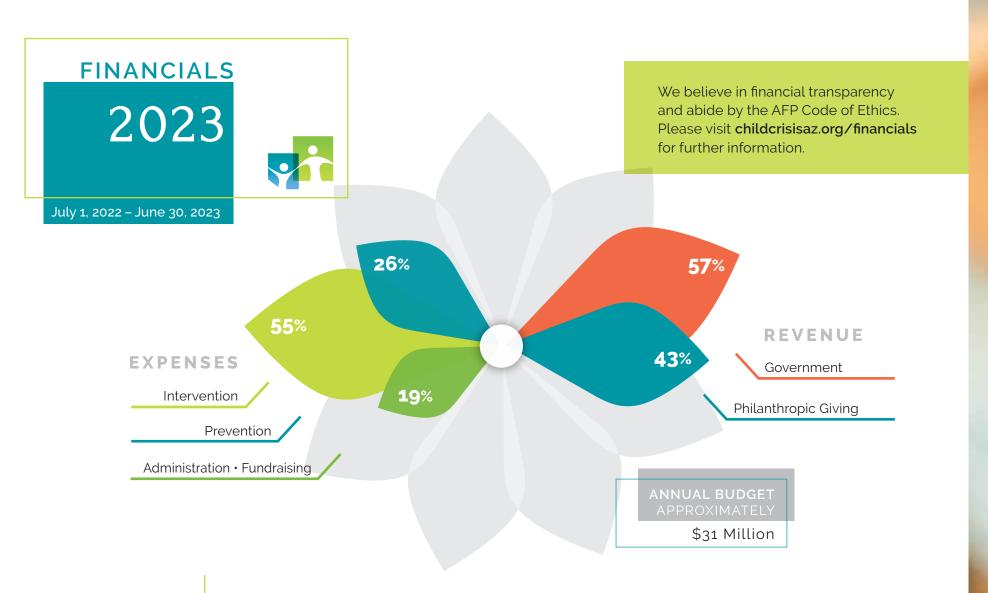
# The Center for Child & Family Wellness

The Child Crisis Arizona Center for Child & Family Wellness will bring programs together in one location, and further support foster children and low-income families in the community.

The current design for the building is a Net Zero Energy Project that will generate as much energy as it uses during a year. This includes a 50% reduction in energy use, daylighting throughout all working spaces, biophilic design (natural materials, forms and connection to nature) incorporated throughout, significant water use reduction in landscape. It will also include non-toxic materials throughout the project, outstanding indoor air quality and all with the end goal of becoming LEEDv4 Gold or Living Futures Petal Project certified.

Strategic collaborations are planned once the campus is completed, with Ballet Arizona, United Food Bank, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Free Arts, Gabriel's Angels, one•n•ten, and New Pathways for Youth, plus space for more. The new eco-friendly Center for Child & Family Wellness will provide the community with wraparound services such as counseling, art and music therapy, Safe Kids Training Zone and Learning Lab, and foster care and adoption services. In addition to building a green facility, our desired outcome is to improve health, wellness, and educational opportunities for children and families in need.





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# **Child Crisis Arizona Foundation**

# There's always room for growth.

In order to thrive, we rely upon a community of individuals that want to provide the brightest possible future for children. The Child Crisis Arizona Foundation and Endowment Fund was created to ensure financial resources would remain strong and sustainable for future generations.

The Legacy Love Builds Giving Society exists to accept both endowment and planned gifts providing funding and create a safety net for difficult times. Together, with your help, we can plant the seeds that will provide for seasons to come.

Please visit childcrisisaz.org/legacy-giving for information and resources on Legacy Giving.

"What has kept me involved for so many years is Child Crisis Arizona's ability to adapt and change based on trends in the child welfare system. No matter what, Child Crisis Arizona has continued to answer the call."

Rebecca Burnham,
 Foundation Board Member

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