Watch Us Grow!

If you’ve visited the Child Crisis Arizona campus at 817 N. Country Club Drive this summer, you’ve no doubt noticed the flurry of activity and heard the sounds of power tools. We’re thrilled to announce that Child Crisis Arizona is expanding its Mesa Campus Early Education Services to include two new Head Start classrooms, in collaboration with Maricopa County Head Start, to serve an additional 40 four- and five-year-old children who are aging out of Early Head Start yet are too young to start Kindergarten.

Funding for this expanded programming collaboration has come from several local funders who support the need for more early education options for low income families. The remodel includes 4,300 square feet of space for the new classrooms thanks to a $200,000 gift from The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation, a $200,000 gift from Thunderbirds Charities, $50,000 gift from the Giles W. and Elise G. Mead Foundation, and a $10,000 gift from Niagara Cares.

“We could not provide this valuable resource for children and families without the support of generous donors who share our vision of ‘Safe Kids...Strong Families,’” said Torrie Taj, Child Crisis Arizona CEO.

When Child Crisis Arizona examined the need in community, we found that many more four and five year olds were qualified for preschool than there were spaces for them in the Mesa area. Thanks to our generous donors, the partnership with Maricopa County Head Start, and support from the community, we will be able to address the gap. This program will provide these children access to a quality preschool and give families additional resources.

The Simple Things

As I walk through our Emergency Children’s Shelter, I draw inspiration from our compassionate employees who live our vision of “Safe Kids...Strong Families” every single day, as they care for some of our community’s most vulnerable children.

I’m welcomed by the aroma of a hot meal being prepared by the kitchen staff. I’m comforted by hearing the compassion in the voice of a 30-year professional caregiver as she assures a child that he can take a nap because he is safe. I’m moved when I learn that maintenance staff members check bulbs in nightlights daily so that children who are afraid of the dark will have light.

These simple things - a hot meal, a reassuring word, a nightlight - mean the world to children who are healing from abuse and neglect.

Together, with the support of donors and volunteers, our professional staff are committed to making sure that every single child, and every single family, is welcome and comforted when they walk through our doors, as we give them the help and guidance they need, and deserve.

Torrie A. Taj, CEO
“I want them to know that they are perfect the way they are,” says Ny’Kol Dillon, Child Crisis Arizona Emergency Children’s Shelter volunteer.

Ny’Kol, who is studying to become a pharmacist, became involved with Child Crisis Arizona to fulfill community service volunteer requirements for school. She quickly formed a bond with the kids and decided to become a regular volunteer working with 7 to 10 year olds living in the Big Kids House. She commutes from Casa Grande to volunteer at the shelter once a week, and has given more than 135 hours of her time, compassion and talents, while balancing school and work.

“I like working with the Big Kids because they need you the most,” says Ny’Kol. “These kids are lost and they need fragile hands.”

Ny’Kol likes to share her personal story of resilience and determination to inspire the kids to “do whatever they want.” She has first-hand experience dealing with abuse and understands the circumstances many of the kids have been in.

Not only is Ny’Kol an outstanding role model, but she’s also a thoughtful and caring friend. She helps the kids with homework, listens to their stories, and asks them what they need from her. She also enjoys engaging the kids in activities that are educational and creative. During one conversation, they started talking about space and she noticed their excitement. A few weeks later, she and the kids made solar system models.

“They worked on the models for three hours and were so proud of them!” Ny’Kol explains. “We’re talking about doing more fun projects in the future.”

**Preschoolers Shine at Graduation**

Child Crisis Arizona celebrated 15 children who have graduated from the Phoenix preschool program in July and are starting kindergarten this fall. Wearing blue caps and gowns, the graduates sang songs and smiled from ear to ear as they received “diplomas” to mark this very special achievement. We want to thank the philanthropic community for supporting the preschool program and for providing a valuable resource for children and their families.

**The Legacy Love Builds IRA 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. An IRA Charitable Rollover is a way you can help continue our work and benefit this year.

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to $100,000 from your IRA to our organization
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts

Contact your IRA administrator to get started or contact Jodi Stoken at jodi.stoken@childcrisisaz.org for additional information.

**Volunteers Spruce Up Emergency Children’s Shelter**

We are so very grateful to the team from Lennar Phoenix who gave their time and talents to help with a few projects at our Emergency Children’s Shelter. They built bicycles, completed minor repairs, and cleaned, which not only helps to create a warm and welcoming home for our kiddos, but also gives our staff an opportunity to focus their time on caring for kids and helping them heal. Lennar employees have been dedicated volunteers for several years and play an important role in supporting our vision of “Safe Kids…Strong Families.”
We would like to say a very special thank you to all of the generous donors who have made Honorarium and Memorial Gifts to Child Crisis Arizona as a tribute to a friend, relative, loved one or colleague.

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Child Crisis Arizona would like to pay tribute to those for whom Memorial and Honorarium Gifts were made. Please visit childcrisisaz.org/our-supporters to see the names of the individuals being honored and memorialized.
Together, Child Crisis Arizona and you, our community of supporters play an important role in ensuring all children are safe.

The qualified charitable foster care tax credit is one opportunity to share your passion to help Arizona foster children. Arizona law allows you to contribute up to $500 individually and $1,000 jointly to Child Crisis Arizona as a Qualifying Foster Care Organization (QFCO) and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit against your 2018 tax liability.* Please visit childcrisisaz.org or call (480) 834-9424 to make your tax credit donation.

*Please consult with a tax adviser. The tax credits are available only to individuals who file taxes in Arizona.

A NIGHT IN CASABLANCA

SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2019
Sheraton Grand Phoenix

Arrowhead Cadillac and Child Crisis Arizona invite you to go back in time to Casablanca, a timeless era of romance, white dinner jackets, and sentimental songs. Our annual fundraising gala brings the community together to enjoy an evening of fun, food and entertainment while supporting Child Crisis Arizona’s vision of “Safe Kids…Strong Families.”

Tickets available in November at childcrisisaz.org/attend-an-event