To provide Arizona’s children a safe environment, free from abuse and neglect, by creating strong and successful families.

September 2016

Child Crisis Arizona

Safe kids. Strong families.

News

Mission

A father reached out to our Phoenix Preschool, requesting care for his two boys. The family arrived as religious refugees from Iraq. The family was successful in Iraq, Dad was a dentist and Mom a mechanical engineer.

With the peace of mind provided that their children were safe and well-cared for during the day, both parents were able to focus on finding work and acclimating to a new way of life.

The oldest son graduated in June from preschool and the family is flourishing; they purchased a home, Mom is working and has returned to school, Dad is on stage 3 of 4 for dental certification, and the youngest son is excited to finally have homework like his older brother.

Thank you for making Back-to-School bright for our kids!

Because of your generosity and kindness, Child Crisis Arizona was able to provide the children with the tools needed to be successful in school. The shelter children enjoyed a special life-learning experience, thanks to a group of volunteers and donors who came together to provide a back-to-school shopping day.

The staff and volunteers will continue to ensure the children have what they need for continuing success throughout the year. We look forward to many happy moments for the children whose lives will be forever changed through love and learning.

Warm regards,

Torrie A. Taj, CFRE | Chief Executive Officer | Child Crisis Arizona

Smiles, giggles and excited anticipation filled the hallways of our Emergency Children’s Shelters in August as the children exclaimed, “We’re going to school!”

Faces beamed with pride and heads were held high, as they showed off their new shoes, outfits and backpacks. They were ready to meet their teachers, make new friends and learn.

Letter FROM THE CEO

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Success

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Child Crisis Arizona has been so lucky to have the support of Bill Halsted for five years, and as Board President.

Bill and his wife Kathysue, know firsthand about child welfare in the Valley. They gained guardianship of three children many years ago and know the support of agencies like Child Crisis Arizona is a must. Parents willing to open their hearts and homes need the resources and tools to be successful so the children can succeed as well.

Bill and Kathysue began as volunteers at the Mesa Emergency Children’s Shelter many years ago. “We did whatever we could to help the staff. It was amazing to see what consistency did to help the children heal and thrive.”

Bill is the Executive Vice President at Bank of Arizona. Bank of Arizona fully supports its employees that want to serve in the community. “At Bank of Arizona, serving our community is more than a commitment. Making a community stronger begins with clearly understanding its needs. That’s why we have developed meaningful relationships with more than 800 nonprofit partners in the eight states where we have banking centers,” says Halsted.

Bill led the Child Crisis Arizona Board through its important post-merger year and believes the agency and Board is accomplishing what we had envisioned when initially discussing a merger between the two legacy agencies. “We wanted to impact more families and children and we have accomplished that at a more escalated rate that we could have imagined, and I’m proud of our successes.”

Thank you, Bill, for your dedication and service!

Noelle & Scotty Miller

Noelle and Scotty Miller and their employer, General Dynamics, have been supporting Child Crisis Arizona for more than 20 years. General Dynamics is committed to strengthening the communities where its employees live. “Scotty and I have always felt a strong connection to Child Crisis Arizona and we feel like we can help others connect, whether through the need of services, volunteerism or a philanthropic connection,” says Noelle.

From 2007-2013, Scotty served as a board member and Noelle is currently serving on the board since 2013. “We hope that every class, in-home visit or foster parent training helps to prevent a potential crisis. We also love that children in a crisis situation have a safe place in the Emergency Children’s Shelters,” continues Noelle. The Millers are passionate about creating as many safe environments as possible for all Valley children, whether in their home, or by increasing the number of foster care parents. “We think it would be wonderful to end the cycle of child abuse and neglect, and we are proud of the work Child Crisis Arizona does to fulfill its vision of safe kids and strong families.”

Thank you, Noelle & Scotty, for your long-time commitment!
Child Crisis Arizona’s adoption program is an option for families who are hoping to add a child as a permanent family member. We are one of a handful of agencies offering an adoption-only program. Unlike other adoption programs, there is no charge. Most attorney fees are covered by the state, as are adoption fees. Child Crisis Arizona works with individuals, married couples and same-sex couples of all ethnicities, 18 and older.

Our greatest need is for families who are willing to parent older children and sibling groups.

In 2015, we had 61 children adopted through our program. Our exceptional training prepares parents to meet the needs of children coming into their home. When your adoption is finalized you can still count on Child Crisis Arizona to offer support to your family, including adoption support groups, bi-monthly family events, advanced training available and reimbursement for non-recurring expenses and facilitate respite. Basic requirements include: pre-adoption certification training, background checks, medical references, character references and a home study.

Some requirements of Child Crisis Arizona in order to adopt are:

- 18 or older, so older siblings can adopt
- Complete the pre-service education: 30 hours of PS-MAPP training
- Five references – 3 non-relative and 2 relative
- Home inspection

To learn more, call 480.834.9424 or visit childcrisisaz.org.

Kathy Brady has served the children at Child Crisis Arizona’s Mesa Emergency Children’s Shelter for more than five years. In her time working with the children ages 4 to 6, she has completed nearly 650 hours.

We are fortunate enough to benefit from Kathy’s artistry. Kathy donated her time to paint a mural on the hallway at the Shelter. Kathy shares, “I started volunteering at Child Crisis Arizona because I’ve always been interested in working with children. I knew it was something I would enjoy when my kids grew up and I retired. I continue to volunteer because it is rewarding. Coming in with a grateful heart and a smile is such a simple thing with big rewards. I love these little kids.” And our children and staff love Kathy! She’s also mentors new volunteers just starting out at the Shelter.

Kathy clearly remembers one frightened little girl. “She didn’t interact with anyone. Then the pet therapy group came in. I was asked to sit in and watch and I found it so interesting! After a few minutes, the little girl reached out (with a helping hand) and interacted with the therapy dog and team. There we sat, all three grown women, crying with tears of joy. The little girl had just discovered she was safe and learning to trust.”
There are multiple ways to support Child Crisis Arizona:

- Take a shelter tour
- Volunteer
- Provide:
  - Financial donations
  - Giving Society
  - Direct your $500 or $1,000 Arizona tax liability to Child Crisis Arizona through the Foster Care Tax Credit
  - Legacy & Tribute gifts
  - In-kind items (new)

To give a gift, please contact Justin Duran, Development Manager at 480.834.9424 or justin.duran@childcrisisaz.org.

Check out our...

WISH LIST

- Clothes, shoes, grocery, entertainment, gasoline and oil change gift cards

To donate items, please drop off at either our Phoenix or Mesa locations, or mail to 817 N. Country Club Drive, Mesa, AZ 85201.

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info@childcrisisaz.org
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