



Child Crisis Arizona
Safe kids. Strong families.

*Downtown
Soul*

For immediate release

Motown-inspired gala raises funds for children and families in crisis

Friends of Child Crisis Arizona host 37th annual event for child welfare agency

MESA, Ariz. (Feb. 14, 2017) – The legacy of Motown set the tone for the 37th annual Friends of Child Crisis Arizona Gala held Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Sheraton Grand Phoenix. More than 450 guests, many dressed in time-period fashion, helped raise more than \$400,000 for Child Crisis Arizona which runs the only licensed emergency shelter program for children from birth to age 8 in Maricopa County. The agency also licenses foster families and certifies adoptive families, operates Early Head Start and preschool programs, coordinates home visitation services and runs family classes and workshops.

The gala, set to the theme Downtown Soul, was chaired by Kate Dei Cas and Nicole Garcia. Presenting Sponsor, Arrowhead Cadillac, generously donated a 2017 Cadillac XT5 Crossover for the evening's live auction. Other items included jewelry from Isaac Jewelers and an exclusive six-course, in-home dinner for 40 guests prepared by *Thrillist* Chef of the Year Silvana Salcido Esparza of Barrio Café..

“Over the years we’ve been able to grow a community of support through our sponsors, donors and guests that gets stronger each year,” said Dei Cas. “The event is a fun way to raise vital funds to help children and families in crisis and to support the kids in foster care.”

This year’s top gala sponsors include Arrowhead Cadillac, PetSmart, Walmart, Western Refining, Fervor Creative, Isaac Jewelers, Macy’s, Blue Cross Blue Shield AZ, Nationwide, SRP, National Bank of Arizona, Snell & Wilmer, VMI Holdings and many others.

“The gala is a major component of our fundraising efforts throughout the year and we deeply appreciate the commitment of the Friends of Child Crisis Arizona who partner with agency staff to coordinate this wonderful evening,” said Torrie Taj, chief executive officer of Child Crisis Arizona.

About The Friends of Child Crisis Arizona

Thirty-seven years ago, a group of women came together to support the efforts of Child Crisis Arizona. Today, the group includes more than 50 women who volunteer and provide financial support help keep vulnerable children safe and make families stronger.

About Child Crisis Arizona

For decades, Child Crisis Arizona (CCA) has served the Valley’s vulnerable children and families and is committed to preventing child abuse and neglect through education and intervention. CCA offers emergency shelter for up to 78 children from birth to age 8 at its Phoenix and Mesa campuses and offers foster care and adoption services as well as community-wide parenting classes, workshops, children’s playgroups, support groups and more.