Stephen Schmitz is the Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of America's Specialty Finance Company. He is an accomplished public speaker and author of the soon to be published book, “Whatever-it-Takes.” He has also been a generous supporter of Child Crisis Arizona for the past three years.

Schmitz became involved when he heard the testimonials of the kids (now young adults) who came to the shelter in order to survive, but now have ended up learning to thrive.

“The Child Crisis Arizona system works. It’s not just about rescuing kids from harm, although that is essential. It’s not just about providing safe shelter and food, although that is crucial. And it is not just about providing a loving, caring environment, although that makes all of the difference. What it is really about is helping these kids find a permanent home with a stable family where they can feel loved and truly wanted. It is through a sense of belonging, love and encouragement that these kids, once destined to be merely a statistic, can grow to become not just functioning members of society, but also great examples of what is possible if they have someone who believes in them,” says Schmitz.

When adults are in need of help, there are a number of things they can do. When a five or six year old child is being abused by his or her own parent, it is not like they can get in their car and drive away. They often have nowhere to turn. They desperately need our help,” says Schmitz.

“Though I earned a masters in social work and worked with several family service agencies, NOTHING prepared me for when my grandchild was brought into my care. Finding the Relative as Parents (RAP) classes and support groups offered by Child Crisis Arizona was like stumbling upon an oasis. I was welcomed and comforted by people who understood my fears. I was validated by caring staff who could explain legalities and loopholes. Having adopted my grandchild, I am now on the other side, but still greatly benefiting from the support, education, resources and friendships of RAP.”

~ Family Resource Program Participant
New Chapter brings Big Changes

This year was a year of integration, expansion and new stories of promise. Thanks to the generous support of you, our donors, volunteers, board of directors and professional staff, we have continued to serve children and families to ensure our vision of safe kids and strong families is accomplished.

We spent this year building the capacity of programs that serve families in the community. With your support, we were able to reach 5,000 children and families. Please take a look at our Community Report to see the impact we made on the children and families we serve. To all of you who made a difference this year, to those who helped be a part of our new chapter of Child Crisis Arizona, thank you.

Warm regards,

Torrie A. Taj, CFRE | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Bill Halsted | BOARD CHAIR

Looking ahead to the New Year . . .

Child Crisis Arizona will reach even more families and children as we partner with eight local organizations offering parenting classes and workshops. With more than 20 locations throughout the Valley, we work to ensure our vision of Safe Kids, Strong Families through parent-focused education and support. To see the list of offerings, CLICK HERE.

New limits for 2016 Qualified Foster Care Organization (QFCO) Tax credit. Please consult with a tax advisor. Tax credits are available to individuals who file taxes in AZ.

YOUR FOSTER CARE TAX CREDIT OPPORTUNITY HAS INCREASED!

Give to Child Crisis Arizona up to $500 individually and $1,000 jointly by participating in The Foster Care Tax Credit and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit against your state tax liability.

Note FROM THE CEO

CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW
Motown music changed minds and touched lives just like Child Crisis Arizona whose vision is Cancer Kids, Strong Families. The event proceeds will benefit Child Crisis Arizona’s two emergency Children’s Shelters, foster care and adoption programs, early education services, home visitation, counseling programs and family classes and workshops.

Underwriting and sponsorship opportunities are available. CLICK HERE to learn more.

Proceeds benefit Child Crisis Arizona’s various programs. Event Chairs: Kate Dei Cas and Nicole Garcia.

PRESENTED BY

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jackie Forbes

Jackie Forbes has volunteered at the Phoenix Emergency Children’s Shelter since 2010. She spends three hours every Sunday evening with our children and she loves wrapping up her weekend that way. Jackie was introduced to the agency by her neighbor and friend of Child Crisis Arizona, Suzanne Dickey. Dickey invited her to attend the annual gala and Jackie realized "I could do a better job procuring donations if I had volunteer experience and spoke with more knowledge about the services provided.”

“I am happy when I come in and visit to help any way I can: playing with the children, sitting with them to watch TV or read a book, rubbing their backs, listening to them tell stories about their day or dreams of family. I am always touched when it’s been a few weeks and I step onto the playground and the kids come running to give me a hug… I guess that’s the big part of what motivates me to come back”.

Jackie is impressed with the breadth of services the agency provides to children and families. She was unaware before becoming a volunteer of the need in our community. "I can’t imagine families not having resources to help them through tough times and not knowing where to turn for help. I am always happy to come in and find that some children are back with their families or are in foster care or are adopted.”
Thank you... two words we cannot say enough.

Because of your generosity, hundreds of people have stepped up and allowed Child Crisis Arizona to brighten the holidays for the many children and families we serve. Please know how grateful we are for your support. We appreciate your donations and hope you have a happy holiday season and thank you helping us ensure our vision of Safe Kids, Strong Families.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Check out our...

WISH LIST

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

To donate items, please drop off or mail to 817 N. Country Club Drive, Mesa, AZ 85201.

There are multiple ways to support Child Crisis Arizona:
- Take a shelter tour
- Volunteer
- Donate your Tax Credit HERE

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

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