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

MISSION

The end of 2016 was an amazing collaboration between Child Crisis Arizona’s programs and the community. The level of public support was unprecedented and it was incredibly heartwarming to see what we accomplished together.

Because of our donors’ generosity, we were able to provide holiday gifts, clothing and necessities to 800 children and their families and still have enough supplies for several more months.

Thank you to our many supporters. We look forward to working with you to fulfill our 2017 goals and are excitedly awaiting the opening of the center-based portion of our Early Head Start program in Mesa.

Warm regards,

Torrie A. Taj, CEO

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FEBRUARY 2017

LETTER from the CEO

Child Crisis Arizona

Safe kids. Strong families.

Finding a forever family

After 832 days in foster care, Michael Brown was formally adopted by Tara, a single-mom with three daughters, just before the holidays. Tara decided to become a foster mom after “my heart told me I could” and received her licensing through Child Crisis Arizona. She picked up Michael on Feb. 14, 2015. They were his third foster family. He was a natural fit with the family, even his last name matched that of the girls. After his official adoption ceremony, Michael’s new sisters took some adorable photos and posted them on Twitter. They immediately went viral and news of Michael’s adoption swept across the United States through organizations such as Oprah, Huffington Post, ABC and Associated Press.
Building stronger families

Child Crisis Arizona's Family Resources are both prevention and part of the cure, helping parents learn and gain the necessary skills to build safe, stable and strong families. The no-cost resources are open to anyone and annually include more than 300 different parenting classes, workshops, children’s playgroups, support groups and family events. Classes are offered at 30 locations across Maricopa County through community-based partnerships with organizations like Fresh Start Women’s Foundation, Goodwill of Central Arizona, the Maricopa County Library District and others.

Topics range from child and adolescent development, infant care, and accessing community resources to understanding temperament, positive parenting, and teen dating violence. Financial literacy workshops and legal clinics are available as well as fathers-only groups where men can speak to each other about their experiences and concerns. There are even classes for step-parents or those who are separated or divorced but committed to sharing the responsibility of raising their children. Many classes are available in Spanish.

You can find a full list of the classes near you online at childcrisisaz.org/classes-workshops.

Mother with postpartum depression gains confidence through workshops

Maria was suffering from post-partum depression after the birth of her fourth child. After speaking with her doctor about her thoughts and feelings, she realized she needed additional help and turned to her family and the local community. Family members took in her children and she was relieved to learn that Child Crisis Arizona offered a variety of parenting classes in Spanish.

Family Resource Specialist Rosie Dominguez noticed that Maria was very quiet during her first workshop and spoke to her afterward. Rosie learned about Maria’s needs and recommended other classes and resources. In addition to signing up for more classes, Maria and her husband attended counseling to learn how to communicate more effectively and develop their coping skills.

At the end of one of her most recent workshops, Maria shared her success in applying the techniques she was learning with other participants and then spoke directly to another parent in the group who was experiencing similar circumstances. Maria, who initially had been very reticent, gave her contact information to a virtual stranger, offering herself as a support.

In December, Maria was well enough to have all of her children home.
CHILD CRISIS ARIZONA: Why did you choose to volunteer with our agency?
Norma: I’ve always enjoyed working with children, so when I retired from teaching school after 35 years, I still wanted to be a positive part of children’s lives. I especially wanted to be involved with children who have had adverse childhood experiences. When I read about Child Crisis Arizona, I knew it was the place for me to help children the most.

CHILD CRISIS ARIZONA: What motivates you to stay involved?
Norma: I stay involved because I can see how much just a few hours of my time each week helps children feel valued, nurtured, important and loved by just playing with them, reading a story or simply talking about their joys and interests.

CHILD CRISIS ARIZONA: Do you have a story about how the children have impacted your life?
Norma: A little girl came to the shelter as an infant and lived there until she was about 3 years old. I watched her take her first steps, learn to talk and develop a charming personality. All the staff and volunteers loved the girl as their own, but the day came when she left to live with her new foster family. About six months later, as I was leaving a friend’s apartment, I was surprised to see the girl and her foster mom coming out of their apartment next door. I was amazed when the child ran to me and hugged my legs tightly. She remembered me from the shelter after so much time had passed. She remembered many of the names of the staff who had cared for her through the years, too. Knowing that she warmly remembered me and the staff, brought home to me what a lasting impression our compassionate and considerate relationships have on the lives and well-beings of the children we serve.

CHILD CRISIS ARIZONA: What does Safe Kids, Strong Families mean to you?
Norma: Prevention, through training and parent education, will reduce child abuse and promote self-esteem in children who have suffered abuse and neglect.
How to get the Chef of the Year to cook a dinner in your home for 40 of your closest friends

The Friends of Child Crisis Arizona will host its annual gala on Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Sheraton Grand Phoenix. Downtown Soul will feature an evening of Motown magic and a second-to-none unique live auction from local donors willing to put their support behind a vision of Safe Kids, Strong Families. In addition to an all-new 2017 Cadillac XT5 Crossover from presenting sponsor Arrowhead Cadillac, the auction includes an exclusive six-course, in-home dinner for 40 guests prepared by Thrillist Chef of the Year Silvana Salcido Esparza of Barrio Café.