



Child Crisis Arizona
Safe kids. Strong families.

2025 FALL
NEWSLETTER

WITH HER SON IN HER ARMS AND
SUPPORT BY HER SIDE, KATIE FOUND

The Courage to Thrive



“ I think what struck me the most was how often my Support Specialist reached out just to check in...I had never had someone do that before. It was so nice.

All her life, Katie* longed for the unconditional love of a family. But by the time she became pregnant at 25, her world felt unstable and uncertain. She had endured a painful past marked by instability and abuse, moving through seven different adoptions while still growing up. Now, as a young, single mother with no job and no support system, she wanted desperately to give her baby the love and stability she never had—but she didn't know how to begin.

That's when a friend told her about **Child Crisis Arizona's Healthy Families program**—a life-changing resource designed to support new parents with guidance, encouragement, and tools to build brighter futures. Through Healthy Families, Katie was paired with a Family Support Specialist who visited her weekly, offering parenting education, goal setting, and most importantly, genuine care and belief in her potential.

From the very first visit, Katie felt something she had never known before: someone listening without judgment, someone checking in simply to remind her she wasn't alone. That connection gave her the courage to take her first steps forward.

In just a few months, Katie secured a job, found safe childcare for her son, and began building the stable foundation she had always dreamed of. More than resources, Healthy Families gave her something even more powerful—confidence in herself and her ability to be the loving, capable mother she always hoped to be.

“I think what struck me the most was how often my Support Specialist reached out just to check in,” Katie shared. “I had never had someone do that before. It was so nice.”

The Healthy Families program is proven to transform lives like Katie's. It reduces child abuse and neglect, increases family stability, and helps parents achieve self-sufficiency. For Katie, it was nothing short of life-changing. She is no longer defined by the instability of her past, but by the safe, nurturing future she is creating for her child—thanks to the support of Child Crisis Arizona.

**Name changed to protect participant's privacy.*

Healthy Families Facts:

We do developmental checks with every single child we serve 4 times in the first year

- If a referral is needed, we will send it in for the family. We do this because we know that early intervention means better outcomes for the child.

We provide fun and engaging developmental activities for all children in the home

We have a primary participant but we serve the whole family

- We can provide referrals to anyone in the home that needs help.

Healthy Families Myth:

Having a home visitor means you don't know how to parent

- We believe every parent knows their child best. At the same time, we recognize that parenting doesn't come with an instruction manual and can bring real challenges. That's why we are there—to walk alongside families, listen to their insights, and provide the tools and support to help children thrive.
- We are there to help parents think of new ways to be their best parenting selves, not tell them what to do or what they are “doing wrong.”



BE PART OF THE IMPACT 5 WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

We have some exciting volunteer opportunities coming up this fall and winter and we'd love to have YOU join us! Whether you love costumes, crafts, books, or holiday cheer, there's a way for you (or your group!) to get involved and make a difference for the children and families we serve.

READY TO JOIN THE FUN?

Email us at Volunteer@childcrisisaz.org to ask questions, sign up and register!

OCTOBER

1 TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Mesa Early Education Center

817 N. Country Club Dr. Mesa, AZ 85201

OR Phoenix Early Education Center

402 N. 24th St. Phoenix, AZ 85008

Arrive at 7:45 am

Event runs 8:30–10:30 am

Join us for a spook-tacular morning! Perfect for groups—bring your creativity, dress up, and help us make Halloween magical. **What you need to bring:**

- Arrive in costume
- Decorate your car/vehicle
- Candy or toddler-friendly snacks
- A great attitude

2 BOOK DRIVE

Donate **new books** to help families we serve build their at-home libraries!

3 FALL FOOD BOX DRIVE

Help support families living 100–200% below the federal poverty level, or homeless teens in need of a holiday meal. Collect and assemble a “Fall Food Box” with nonperishable goods to spread warmth and care.



NOVEMBER

4 GOBBLE UP A GOOD BOOK

Friday, November 21, 2025

Center for Child & Family Wellness

424 W. Rio Salado Pkwy,
Mesa, AZ 85201

Arrive at 3:15 pm | Event runs 4–6 pm

This fun event combines books, crafts, and food boxes! Volunteers will help distribute books and bring a fall craft for preschoolers while families pick up their fall food boxes.

What you need to bring:

- Helpful spirit
- Comfortable shoes
- Ability to lift and assist as needed

DECEMBER

5 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 13, 2025

Center for Child & Family Wellness

424 W. Rio Salado Pkwy, Mesa, AZ 85201

Arrive at 7:15 am | Event runs 8–11 am

Bring the holiday magic to kids and teens in foster care and families in need. Groups of all sizes are welcome!

Volunteers will provide fun winter activities like:

- Cookie decorating
- Writing letters to Santa
- Making reindeer food and more!

What you need to bring:

- Holiday cheer
- Crafting, moving, or general assistance ability
- Comfortable shoes



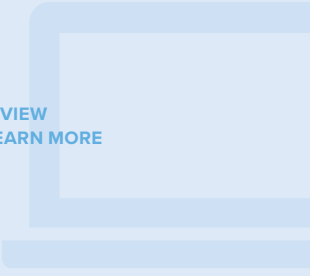


GET INVOLVED WITH OUR NEW COMMUNITY EVENTS PAGE

Looking for a fun and meaningful way to support Child Crisis Arizona? We invite you to explore our brand-new **Community Events** webpage! Whether you're hosting a fundraiser or attending one of our many upcoming community events, your support helps us continue providing safe spaces and resources for vulnerable children and families.



SCAN HERE TO VIEW EVENTS AND LEARN MORE



A SIMPLE, IMPACTFUL WAY TO GIVE: DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS (DAFs)

Donor-Advised Funds, or DAFs, are becoming an increasingly popular way for families to support the causes they care about, like Child Crisis Arizona. A DAF works like a charitable savings account: you set aside money in the fund, receive an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend grants to nonprofits over time.

Giving through a DAF is easy and flexible; you can make a one-time gift or set up recurring support from your fund. It's a great way to involve the whole family in giving back, while also planning for long-term impact.

If you have questions about how to make a gift through your DAF or are considering legacy giving, our team at Child Crisis Arizona is here to help. We're happy to guide you every step of the way.

To learn more, email Karen.DeCarlo@childcrisisaz.org

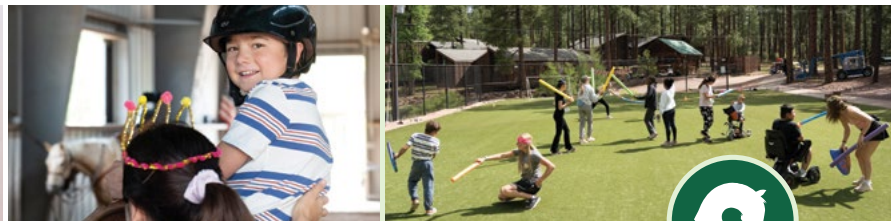


WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CENTER FOR CHILD & FAMILY WELLNESS

Our Mesa-based Center for Child & Family Wellness is full of life this summer! We're proud to offer **family-centered programming** that supports wellness, creativity, and community, with many free of charge:

- **Hammer & Strings Music Class** – Build rhythm, joy, and confidence through interactive music sessions.
- **Zumbini** – A free, high-energy class where parents and children bond through movement and music.
- **Ballet Arizona Classes** – Children and adults can explore movement, grace, and expression through dance.
- **Zen-it-Out Yoga** – A kid-friendly yoga series to support mindfulness and well-being.
- **IDIA Tech Hub** – Drop in and explore this safe, youth-friendly space to access technology, digital tools, and learning support.

SCAN HERE TO SEE THE FULL SCHEDULE AND REGISTER



CAMPFIRE MEMORIES AND SUMMER SMILES AT WHISPERING HOPE RANCH

This summer, Whispering Hope Ranch was alive with activity —welcoming more than 1,300 campers, volunteers, and staff who experienced the beauty, connection, and renewal the Ranch is known for.

And now, we're opening that same magic to everyone. Nestled in the scenic pines near Payson, Whispering Hope Ranch is available to book for your next unforgettable event whether it's a wedding, family reunion, corporate retreat, church gathering, or group celebration.

With its peaceful setting, rustic charm, and endless opportunities for bonding and inspiration, the Ranch offers a one-of-a-kind backdrop where memories are made.

If you've ever dreamed of hosting an event surrounded by nature's beauty, this is your place.

We would love to welcome you to the Ranch. Email EJ.Hughes@childcrisisaz.org to learn more about event rental opportunities.



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424 W. Rio Salado Pkwy. Mesa, AZ 85201

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424 West Rio Salado Parkway · Mesa, Arizona 85201 | 480.834.9424 · childcrisisaz.org



**STAY CONNECTED TO THE
HEART OF OUR MISSION**

Text "CCAKIDS" to

866-612-5278



MSG & data rates apply.
Text "STOP" to opt-out.
See our website for
SMS terms of service.

or scan the QR code to preload the message, press send, and start receiving inspiring updates on how you can help bring hope, safety, and love to children and families in need.

Cheers! **TO OUR PRESCHOOL GRADUATES!**

This season, we celebrated **25 bright preschool graduates**—14 from Phoenix and 11 from Mesa—ready to take their next big steps into kindergarten! We are so proud of their accomplishments and honored to have walked alongside them on this first part of their educational journey.

A heartfelt thank you to **Wilde Wealth Management** and the **Phoenix Suns/Mercury Foundation** for their generous support, helping provide backpacks, school uniforms, and end-of-year celebration fun that made this milestone even more memorable.



SCAN TO HEAR FROM THE GRADUATES!



Whether you give your time, your resources, or your heart, you help create brighter futures every day.

Wishing you a warm and joyful fall season!

Consider making a **Qualified Foster Care Tax Credit Gift today!**

QFCO 10012

