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GreatTHINGS

Child & Family Resources Where Great Things Start Small Summer 2017

MY GOAL IS TO BECOME SOMEONE IN LIFE

In her own words: the personal journey of a teen mom at Maricopa Center for Adolescent Parents (MCAP)

have many reasons for seeking my high school diploma. One is to show myself that I can accomplish anything in life if I put my mind to it, and to show my daughters that education is important.

Once I get my diploma, I will continue my education. I'm also doing this to have a better future and to give my daughters a better future. My husband and I didn't finish high school because we were young parents. Time is passing by fast and I don't want to be without my diploma.

I remember going to school in my freshman year and doing really well. But one day something personal happened and I ended up moving to California, and my life changed completely. School didn't really matter to me anymore. I was a different person. Life could change in seconds. I didn't attend school for an entire year. One day at a party I met a



guy named Oscar, and I became pregnant at 16. Then I decided to go back to school. I continued for two years and was doing really well. Everything seemed fine, but then I got pregnant again right before I turned 18. I had my second daughter on December 13, 2013. She was born with a rare skin disorder, and was in and out of the hospital constantly, so I dropped out of school and never got the chance to go back until I heard about the MCAP program.

Now my main focus is my family and my education. My daughters make me a stronger mother, especially seeing my youngest go through so much. There's no cure for her disorder and she goes through a lot of pain every day. Seeing her makes me keep on going to further my education and to reach my goal of becoming a nurse.

I love spending time with my family. Family to me is everything. I've been the strongest and bravest mother since my youngest daughter was born. My goal is to become someone in life and to show myself that even though I was a teen mom, I am able to accomplish my goals and move forward and be happy with my family.



Letter from Eric Schindler, Ph.D. President & CEO



ADMINISTRATION CUTS FUNDING FOR TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

Refocusing on abstinence-only education will ignore evidence-based ways to help teenagers make healthy decisions and avoid unwanted pregnancies

n early June, we learned that the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH), which has funded our teen programs Guy Talk and Mobilization for Positive Futures, was instructed to discontinue its Teen Pregnancy Prevention grants. The reason? The new administration's priorities are for abstinence-only education, axing nearly \$214 million in funding for teen pregnancy prevention and research programs across the U.S. Such a drastic change in priorities makes us deeply concerned, not just for the thousands of teens that we serve, but for Arizona's future.

Arizona historically has one of the highest teen birth rates in the U.S. Furthermore, young people of color are disproportionately more likely to alter the course of their life with an early, unplanned pregnancy. In the U.S., Hispanic teens have a birth rate of 46 per 1,000 females teens and American Indian teens have a birth rate of 35 per 1,000 female teens. This is even more stark in Arizona, where Hispanic teens have a birth rate of 52 per 1,000 and American Indian teens have a birth rate of 55 per 1,000 (Bureau of Health Systems Development, 2013).

It is within our power to stop this alarming tide. It's not magic. Time and time again, longitudinal studies have demonstrated that when teens are provided medically-accurate, sexual health information they delay the onset of sexual behavior and appropriately protect themselves from STIs and pregnancy when they do engage in sex.

If we are committed to creating a community where young people can reach their full potential, then our community should offer teens the vital information they need to make healthy choices about their own lives.

You have a role to play in building an Arizona that supports teens.

First, contact your legislators and let them know you support evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs (TPPP). Continue to vote for representatives who invest in the health of Arizona by supporting comprehensive sex education.

Second, continue to support Child & Family Resources and other organizations like ours, so that we may continue our work, even in the face of drastic reductions of funding, to empower young people with the knowledge they deserve.

Eric Schindler

Be sure to check out Eric's monthly blog, Corner Office, at www.ChildFamilyResources.org/news-notes

CHILDREN® FAMILIES

DECEMBER 7, 2017

Sheraton Crescent Hotel / Phoenix 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Do you know someone who is working to make the future brighter and better for children and families in Arizona? Nominate them for a Champions for Children & Families Award! To download the nomination application, visit ChildFamilyResources.org/Champions.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Don't miss out on one of the biggest events of the year! Contact Laine Seaton at (602) 688-5556 or LSeaton@cfraz.org.

CONFIDENT PARENTS, SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES

Families graduate from Healthy Families and Building Bright Futures

his summer, Building Bright Futures and Healthy Families hosted celebrations for the children and families who have completed their programs. Building Bright Futures, using the Parents as Teachers curriculum, and Healthy Families, using the Healthy Families America curriculum, are two of our biggest in-home programs. Between these two programs, we cover nearly the whole state: Building Bright Futures serves Maricopa County, and Healthy Families serves Cochise, Graham/Greenlee, Mohave, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yuma County. The programs are free and entirely voluntary; parents and guardians join to become the best parents they can be.

Unlike traditional programs that ask families to bundle up a new baby and travel across a city or county to get support, we go to them. Our



Parent Educators and Family Support Specialists visit families in their home, using the natural environment to educate on child development, provide guidance, empathy, and referrals to other programs and supports in the community.

Families enroll when their children are infants, and can spend up to five years in our programs. At five years, the families move on to the natural supports of the school system, but the years of work with our in-home programs have already given the whole family a solid foundation to build on.

THE EVIDENCE IS IN

Cydney Wessel, reporting in the May 2017 issue of *The Statesman* outlined research supporting in-home programs. "Rigorous, long-term studies have ... shown that children whose parents have participated in voluntary home visiting through Healthy Families America enter kindergarten ready to learn — and with fewer behavioral problems, higher cognitive development scores and better overall school outcomes than children in the control group whose families did not receive this support."

FAMILIES THRIVE

One mom in Building Bright Futures explained the difference her participation has made in her life: "I got in the program and let me tell you, I have learned so much in this program. Without this program I couldn't have learned about the different activities to stimulate my son, the different science activities and how I can, as a mom, encourage my son. The Parent Educator helped me to know more about my son, by observing him and learning what would be the best to help him in his development." •



HEALTHY FAMILIES — In an average month 1,045 families served

2,050 home visits

— BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES —

n the 2016-2017 program year 420 families served 4,266 home visits







(pictured) Graduates from the Pima County Healthy Families Graduation and the Maricopa County Building Bright Futures graduation.



MAXIMIZE YOUR CREDIT

Changes to the 2017 tax credit may change how you give

Development Officers Tucson Morgan Matchett (520) 320-4031 Phoenix Laine Seaton (602) 688-5556

TAKE A DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR TAX CREDIT

You can make a gift up to \$400 as an individual or \$800 as a couple and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit when you donate to a qualifying organization. You are not required to itemize your tax returns, and better yet, you can take advantage of all Arizona Tax Credit options, including the School Tax Credit and Foster Care Tax Credit.

DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS EXTENDED

The Arizona IRS will allow you to make donations until April 15th and apply to the previous year's taxes. Find out you owe money? A donation in early 2018 can apply towards your 2017 taxes!

ONLY ONE TAX CREDIT PER ORGANIZATION

As of 2017, you cannot claim the same organization for two types of credit. To take advantage of the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit, the School Tax Credit and the Foster Care Tax Credit, you'll have to designate a different organization for each one. (Previously, a single organization that qualified under multiple designations could have received all donations.)

Child & Family Resources partners with Aviva Children's Services and encourages you to select them as your Foster Care Tax Credit nonprofit. Since 1978, Aviva Children's Services has strived to fulfill its mission of providing enhanced services to improve the quality of life for children who are victims of neglect, abuse and poverty, and are in the care of the Department of Child Safety (formerly CPS) in Pima County.

Please Note: Child & Family Resources is not a tax advisor. Please contact a qualified tax advisor for advice on your personal tax situation.

CHILD & FAMILY RESOURCES IS A QUALIFYING ORGANIZATION FOR THE ARIZONA CHARITABLE TAX CREDIT.



elping children to reach their full potential would not be possible without the generous support of our donors and corporate/foundation funders who invest in this life-changing work. You are deeply appreciated!

\$50,000+

\$30,000+

Connie Hillman Family Foundation Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona Arizona Child Abuse Prevention License Plate Fund

\$10,000+

AT&T

Eaglet Fund held at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona Helena Harvey Endowment Ohio Children's Foundation Tucson Electric Power

\$5,000+

The TJX Foundation Lippincott Family Foundation March of Dimes

\$1,000+ CITI Fry's Food Stores One AZ Credit Union Valley Anaesthesiology Foundation

Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust

\$500+

Jim Click Automotive Team QuikTrip Corporation

Great ways to get involved!



TOUR OUR OFFICES

Get a one-on-one look at the work and programs of Child & Family Resources, and learn more about how we help children and families.

ATTEND AN EVENT

We host several events in Tucson and Phoenix throughout the year including our Champions for Children & Families fundraisers.

JOIN OUR CIRCLE OF GIVING

Our monthly giving program offers you an easy way to support children and families throughout the year.

Visit www.ChildFamilyResources.org/get-involved



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GREAT THINGS welcomes your story ideas, comments, and any letters you would like to share about our programs. Send correspondence to cfr@cfraz.org.

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