



Our constant focus at AZDCS is to help improve the lives of Arizona's most vulnerable children and families. Our success as an agency would not be possible without our extended team of foster parents and the service provider community.

March is National Social Worker Appreciation Month. I am thrilled to thank each and every one of you. This may seem odd to you as you may not consider yourself to be a "social worker."

However, if you have answered the call of caring for Arizona's most vulnerable children, or assisting in the healing and reunification of a family in crisis, you are indeed a social worker meeting a critical need in our community.

This month is an opportunity and reminder to reflect and express my gratitude for your tireless efforts. Our shared mission to advocate on behalf of Arizona's children and families is difficult and can frequently seem thankless. But what you do is deeply important and achieves meaningful results, especially for the children that need you.

In addition to having extraordinary strength, sensitivity, and passion, your work requires you to have the most compassionate hearts, which is something I truly admire. **You are Compassioneers.**

To all of our amazing DCS Compassioneers that work both outside and inside the agency itself, thank YOU for your service!

Sincerely,

Mike Faust  
Director  
Arizona Department of Child Safety

## ABOUT DIRECTOR MIKE FAUST

Mike Faust is the Director of the Arizona Department of Child Safety.

Mike began his state career in September 2015 at the Arizona Department of Administration's Government Transformation Office. During this assignment he worked closely with the DCS leadership team to build the agency's management system, supported development and implemented the Department's strategic objectives and improvement priorities. Mike found working in child welfare to be extraordinarily rewarding. He officially joined the Child Safety team in December 2016 as Deputy Director where he continued to support strategic planning, projects and management system definition across state agencies.

Before joining the state, Mike spent over 15 years in the aerospace manufacturing industry in various capacities including general management, value stream management, manufacturing engineering and continuous improvement. Mike's hands-on approach and ability to practically apply lean manufacturing concepts to human services delivery has made a lasting impact on Arizona's child welfare system. Key contributions include the elimination of the 16,000 inactive case backlog, safe reduction of Arizona's out-of-home care population by 25 percent, and increased timeliness of service referrals.

## ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY

The Department of Child Safety is dedicated to the vision that "Children thrive in family environments free from abuse and neglect." As highly motivated and caring public servants, the DCS team is committed to fulfilling this mission with excellence, providing safety and well-being for the most vulnerable population in Arizona - our children. If you suspect child abuse, call [888-SOS-CHILD](tel:888-SOS-CHILD).



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