



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor



While Arizona is turning 108 years old today, the Department of Child Safety is in its 5th year as a cabinet state agency.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all Arizona parents and children a Happy Statehood Day and Happy Valentine's Day on February 14th.

As our Valentine to you, below are some heartwarming wins we'd like to share.



Lina and Sierra

The Department is SO PROUD of foster youth Lina and Sierra, who took advantage of a DCS program that offers a \$1,500 stipend to any foster youth that can earn their bachelor's degree prior to age 21, an accomplishment not often achieved by ANY youth.



Faith

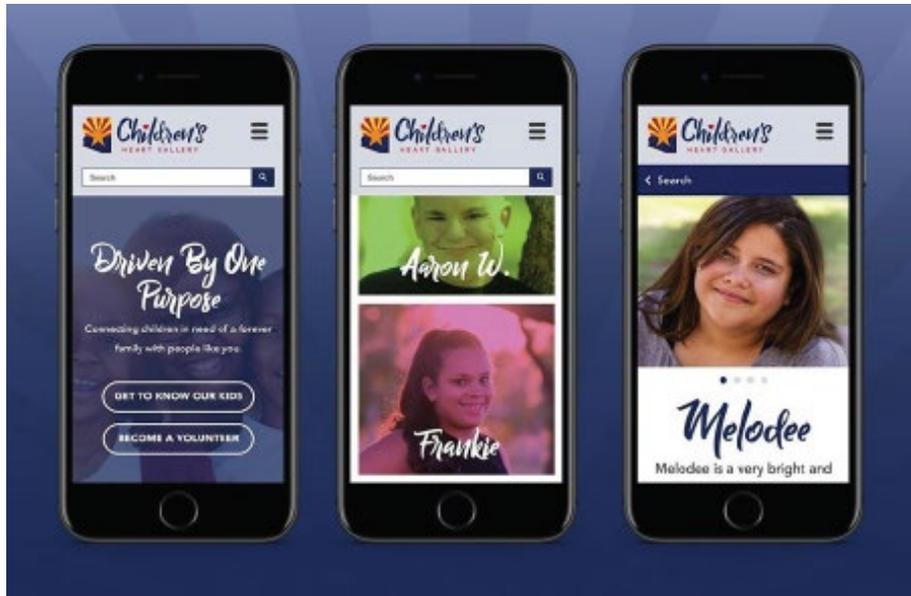
The Department is also proud of Faith, who serves on our Youth Empowerment Council. She volunteered to share her story in an effort to increase the number of families willing to foster teens. You can watch Faith's story here:



Child-Focused

DCS launched a new Children's Heart Gallery logo and website in an effort to help Arizona's children who are in need of their forever families. This effort has resulted in increased community awareness and an 85% increase in adoption inquiries. Governor and Mrs. Ducey also visited a Heart Gallery event to spend time with the children and see for themselves the positive effect these events have, not only for the children, but also for the volunteers who serve them.

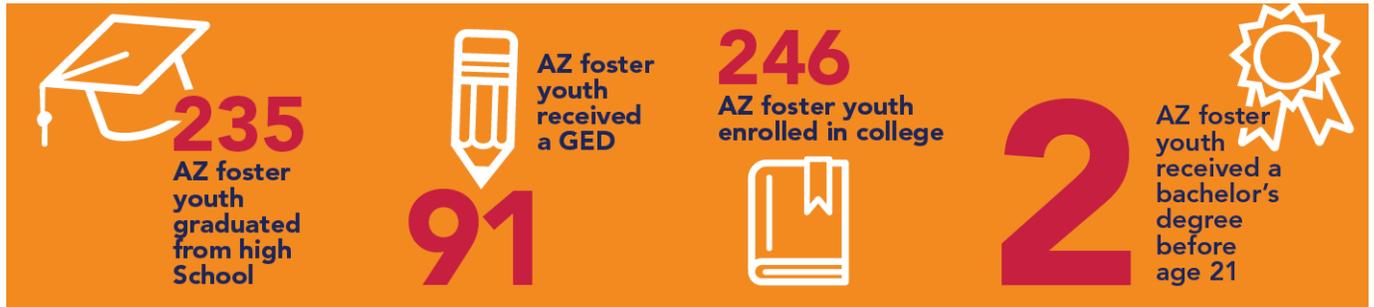
Recruitment outreach also included a recent campaign focused on increasing the number of Native American foster families. This campaign is promising and is producing 10-12 inquiries per month.



Youth-Focused

Foster youth turning 18 can choose to voluntarily remain in DCS care until age 21. The Department seeks to grow this population to give our young adults the best opportunity for successful transition to adulthood. The Department will expand semi-supervised and unsupervised housing options, allowing foster youth to continue their education or step into adulthood while maintaining departmental support.

Arizona celebrates our striving and thriving foster youth, in 2018-2019:



Parent-Focused

The DCS Parent Advisory Board provides valuable insight and feedback. Locally, the board has advised on policy for services and visitation to incarcerated parents, shared parenting materials and more. Nationally, members of the board have represented Arizona birth parents at several conferences regarding system improvement, and have also presented a workshop on Parent Voice at the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health.



If you'd like to learn more about our recent points of pride, you can read our [2019 Year in Review](#).

Thanks to all who serve to support Arizona's most vulnerable families and children. I am proud to serve with all Child Safety employees and providers.

Happy Valentine's Day to all! Happy 108th Birthday, Arizona!

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).



FOLLOW US