



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY



Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor



"BELIEVE" is a word used often this time of year. For those of us that work in child welfare, I know it is doubly-stressful to ensure all of our children and families are supported while balancing self-care and home-life through the holiday season and on through the new year.

We work tirelessly as a community to ensure all children in care have the opportunity to enjoy memorable experiences and receive gifts that underscore the fact that every child matters.



Christmas at the Princess #LoveUp event for Foster Children.

I am eternally grateful for all who will be supporting gift drives for foster children, supporting parenting time between children and their birth families, as well as sponsoring special events this holiday season. But mainly, I am grateful for YOU! My words cannot express the respect, admiration and thankfulness I have for every member of our Team.

It is through your presence and selfless sharing of your time, talents and treasure that we can help Arizona's most vulnerable children and families know that we, as a community, BELIEVE in them.

It is through the gift of yourselves in serving others that healing can occur, and ultimately encourage our struggling families and children to BELIEVE in themselves, because WE BELIEVE IN THEM.





The Capitol Christmas Tree was lit today! In attendance were special guests from Apache Junction, Janice, Betty and Pastor Bledsoe. Janice and Betty lead a ministry at their church that sews handmade bags for children experiencing foster care. Each bag contains basic necessities, an age-appropriate toy, a plush animal, a handmade quilt and a note of support from the community.

To support their ministry, we are currently collecting tear-less shampoo, kids toothbrushes/toothpaste and toys through the month of December. Collection boxes are located at the Capitol Christmas Tree and at DCS central office. Be sure to stop by and drop off a donation!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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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