



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor



November is National Adoption Month

Our mission is to engage children and families to ensure safety, strengthen families and achieve permanency. While most of the children that come into state care return safely to their families, many cannot. For those children, our Arizona family must step up to provide an adoptive home.

Each year for National Adoption Month, we have the opportunity to tell the stories that inspire us to do all we can to find permanency for children in need of an adoptive family. Whether you are a DCS employee, service provider, foster or adoptive parent, it is because YOU have stepped up in service to our most vulnerable that make these happy outcomes possible. Here are four amazing Arizona Adoption Stories that are sure to warm your heart.

💖 AZ Adoption Stories 💖

A Dream Come True – Leon



Anyone who has met Kelley and John McGinn would say they are a truly special couple. They have been foster parents in Arizona for the past 17 years. They have had over 40 foster children pass through their home, including several sibling groups. They have helped shape them and help them learn. The McGinns have been steady support to kids of all ages as they find their way through life. One of these kids is Leon.

Tons of Teens



Julie Crane and her husband Jimm married young – they knew they were meant for each other and took the plunge. Julie was 17 and her husband only 20 when they tied the knot, but they were already thinking about a family. Later, they added two biological children, Tanner and Bailey, to their growing family. As a military family, they had a different kind of life, often moving around or dealing with Jimm's deployments.

A Pit Stop



If you ask Kenda vonHamm what is important to her, she'll tell you that she loves providing a place for teens to stop before they head out into the world as adults. "What if we made a difference? What if these 3-4 years were enough to positively impact the road that that they are taking forward? Foster kids are going to grow up, become adults and go out into the world whether we do something or not. Even if we haven't helped them finish growing up, they'll still be out there in the world, trying to figure out life on their own," says Kenda.

Call Me Armando



Monique Hernandez and her husband Gerardo had never considered adoption – it wasn't something they had on their minds or felt called to. Adoption came to them in an unexpected way. In 2013, Monique and her husband made the move from Colorado to Arizona. That same year, Esias Seumptewa was placed into the foster care system in Arizona and began his journey to find his forever home.

Thank YOU for all you have done and for what you will continue to do for Arizona's children and families.

If you or someone you know are interested in fostering or adoption, please [visit our website](#) or call 1-877-KIDS-NEED-U. (1-877-543-7633)

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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