

September 18, 2020

Dear Foster Families,

As a team and community we have continued to navigate these challenging times during this public health crisis. I continue to be awed by the strength and commitment this community has shown, rising to the challenges and ensuring that our most vulnerable children are safe and cared for in your homes while we engage the family in services.

Today's communication is to highlight and prepare for what lies ahead for our community. While we have seen the pandemic numbers gradually improve and our communities' open and in-person school resumes, we anticipate a greater need for your partnership. Over the past few weeks, we have begun to see the numbers of children entering care increase as well as an increase in children at the Welcome Center needing a family like setting to support them while they heal from neglect and/or abuse.

The last six months have demonstrated the power of our community rising to the many challenges we have faced. My hope is that we continue our partnership and remind all of us that this work is never done. Children will need us now more than ever and I ask that each of you talk with your families and supports about how you can continue partnering to help children in need.

If you have concerns please reach out to your licensing specialist, speak through the issue, and work towards finding solutions so that we can continue to meet the needs of our community. You can also reach out directly to Ricky Denwood at [Ricky.Denwood@azdcs.gov](mailto:Ricky.Denwood@azdcs.gov) for additional support or guidance to questions.

I am so thankful to each of you, your families and all of our community partners that help us every day fulfill this great and needed work to help children and families.

Sincerely,



Mike Faust  
Director

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