



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

COMMUNITY TOWN HALL
FINAL REPORTS

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“Strong Families Thriving Children”
ASPC - Perryville Community Town Hall Report
Goodyear, AZ – May 1, 2019



Photos courtesy of the Arizona Department of Corrections

STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

ASPC - Perryville Community Town Hall Report

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 – Goodyear, AZ

Participants of the May 2019 ASPC - Perryville Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

There are many characteristics of strong families and thriving children: Stability. Safety. Sobriety. Quality time. Mutual respect. Good communication. Loyalty and understanding. Knowledge and access to resources, including health care, education, transportation and child care. Basic needs are met—food, shelter, clothing, and a living wage. There is work-life balance. Unconditional love is expressed and children are forgiven, not judged. Guidance, encouragement, structure, consistency, boundaries and discipline are provided for children. The family provides a support network, an anchor and role model, a connection to heritage. There is a faith component. Strong families understand how to access and feel comfortable asking for help, and they look to neighbors, friends and the larger community for help when needed. Good parents are empathetic, open, and offer praise rather than criticism. Technology is ever-present, but should be subject to limits and boundaries. Children are protected from harm, not exploited. Parents are guides and role models, not friends. They instill healthy beliefs and create self-esteem, providing positive reinforcement for good behavior. Strong families appreciate the strengths of each child. Society should not dictate what happens in our homes. Each family should have its own mission statements to build upon.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Some families suffer from drug and alcohol abuse, mental health issues and intergenerational poverty. There is a lack of resources and early interventions to treat these problems and support these families. We need more opportunities for rehabilitation other than incarceration. We should help families build supportive relationships and connections to the community. Families should increase protective factors by being involved with faith-based communities.

To help incarcerated persons and their families, we need more clinics to help restore rights. We should educate the community about the reentry population to reduce fear and stigma and increase opportunities for jobs, housing, education and support programs. We should create true wraparound transitional programming, more programs like the second chance center, and more housing opportunities. While people are incarcerated, they should learn about honesty, morality, dependability, parenting and decision-making. They should be assisted by programs that help repair relationships and reunify families. They should receive job training so that they can become productive members of society when they are released. Barriers to family interaction, including the \$25 background check fee for visitors and charges for telephone calls in prison, should be eliminated and technology should be used to promote more contact between incarcerated persons and their family members. We should create a reentry advocacy group to help reduce stigma and increase acceptance. Businesses should be more willing to hire formerly incarcerated persons and give people a second chance to make a living wage.

The government and community programs that are supposed to help children should be improved, including the foster care system. Money that is supposed to support children is too often used for personal gain, and too often children in foster care suffer abuse or neglect. People who abuse or traumatize children should be held accountable for their conduct. There should be nurses and counselors in every K-12 school as needed based on the school population, to provide services to children and to empower them. Children would benefit from life skills courses that include age-appropriate lessons about healthy relationships, substance abuse, self-care, cultural values and similar subjects. We should reach out and listen to children, be alert to trauma and ask them if they are okay. There should be more after school programs providing services to children,

including nonprofit camps and support groups, such as the YWCA, and programs for children of incarcerated persons. Programs that help transport children to prison to visit incarcerated parents also are needed, as are programs that better educate children to help them avoid repeating destructive patterns of behavior. We should develop more safe places or havens for victims of abuse to go. There should be co-parenting classes, and education provided in the home so that whole families can practice skills together. There should be family support centers.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

- Implement sentencing reform to quickly reunite families separated due to incarceration.
- Fund alternatives to incarceration, particularly for low level felonies and mental illness related crimes.
- Find ways to offer early release to inmates who complete programs that prepare them for successful reentry, such as drug treatment, GED and job training programs, without having to go to the Board of Clemency.
- Invest in programs in prisons and schools that educate and support families.
- Support programs with community partners that provide transportation for families to visit prisoners.
- Enact laws to allow felons access to housing, jobs and education, and provide tax and other incentives for employers to hire them.
- Keep in mind when enacting legislation the importance of community connection and common humanity.
- Provide more tools to help families effectively communicate and support one another.
- Make college courses more available.
- Value children and families more highly.
- Have more affordable child care.
- Provide more after school programs to fill the gap between school and when parents come home from work.
- Fully fund reentry programs and make second chance centers available to every inmate with comprehensive wraparound services upon release (i.e., food, shelter, clothing, transportation, mental health services) with no fees as long as program guidelines are followed.
- Instead of tearing families apart, focus more on healing hurting and damaged families by building stronger family ties, whether with families of choice or families of blood.
- Provide incentives to support reentry—less focus on checking the box and more focus on reinforcement and support.
- Restore voting rights to the incarcerated upon completion of sentence.
- Fund public education, including after school programs, and reprioritize the state budget to focus less on incarceration and more on education, taking into account equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Restructure the educational curriculum to include programs that prepare children holistically for a healthy life, including civics classes, behavioral health and life skills.
- Decriminalize mental illness and addiction.
- Erase the stigma and eliminate barriers associated with incarceration—make it easier to find jobs, housing and other support, and restore rights.
- Educate families and children about their rights, how to access resources and how to navigate complicated public systems.
- Ban the box—remove the question about prior convictions while still encouraging disclosure of criminal history in a personal interview.
- Provide strong counseling services and parenting programs to inmates to help prepare them for reconnection with families and success in life after release.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the ASPC – Perryville Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Continue to grow in my faith and be a part of my son's life no matter what my title may be. Also, I will share my testimony to show people that anyone can choose to better their life.
- Continue to bring awareness to the societal issue of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) to reduce this tendency and create stronger families and thriving children.
- Support legislation that says once a sentence is done you don't have to explain what you were in trouble for—records are sealed.
- Continue to serve children of incarcerated parents.
- Advocate for the elimination of mandatory sentencing.
- Become an advocate for the ones who do not have a voice and actually follow through.
- Continue to raise awareness and advocate for all who are affected by incarceration including families, those employed by correctional facilities and those who are or have been incarcerated.
- Continue to advocate for the reentry population and help ease anxiety felt when coming back to the community.
- Educate the community to help break the stigma of Justice undervalued individuals.
- Learn from my past, share my story to help others, live and enjoy the present, advocate and break the cycle and never, ever give up!
- Succeed because I was part of the second chance program; thanks to all the information and resources I received from the program.
- Communicate issues learned and advocate for family units and support for family units in and out of incarceration.
- Look for opportunities to connect with others and be a support.
- See beyond the person to include families and the impact on all of them.
- Encourage all of those around me. Show support to families in times of need.
- Support family issues for incarcerated individuals.
- Start working on myself now so when I go home I will be able to communicate with my children to build a better relationship with them individually so we will have a stronger family.
- Improve myself to be able to help others; ask someone if they are well and if they need assistance and what I can do to help.
- I will not be ashamed of my life. I will share my experiences and show I can overcome and be successful so I can help others with the same or worse issues.
- Share with others how important our voices and opinions are no matter where we are and what we've done in the past. We need to speak up and collectively discuss issues and fund resolutions for ongoing problems.
- Use my current situation to better myself and use my story to help strengthen others.
- Continue to work to get counselors and nurses in the elementary schools and encourage my employer to hire those who have been incarcerated.
- Be more involved with contacting my representatives (local, state and federal) to discuss ideas brought forward in the Town Hall regarding education, school counseling and job skill training in prison and alternatives to incarceration.
- Improve myself in order to improve my future self, my family and my friends.

- Be a bit stronger, more alert and more responsible as an adult. Not give up. I will accomplish my goals and dreams.
- Continue to participate in Town Hall programs and find ways to support the organization in conducting future Town Hall events.
- Share with others the information I learned and take advantage of all programs offered in prison.
- Continue to advocate for legislative changes.
- Work with groups to educate many others.
- Become a better mother, be more loving and firm. Communicate with my kids.
- Be more involved in my kids' lives.
- Become better listeners and be more outspoken.
- Write letters to elected officials to eliminate the felon label.
- Become part of my community. I will engage into society.
- I will be involved and try to make a difference as a volunteer.
- Take what I have heard today, share it with the ladies here and to contribute to efforts to ban the box.
- Educate myself more in all of the communities where they have problems.
- I will strengthen and empower everyone to come and participate to make our lives excellent in general.
- Absorb all of the information I obtain today and reflect on my personal self to make goals to better myself and become an asset to society again. I refuse to dwell on the past.
- Support incarcerated parents.
- Advocate for parenting programs in prison.
- Look for grants that improve the quality of life for children of incarcerated parents.
- I will individually help where I can communicate what I have learned and lobby at the legislature.
- I will always pray to make a difference in what I'm passionate about. Having strength to encourage families and myself in all situations. Be a productive member of society. Work hard and stay educated. Love my family and most and continue in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with respect and gentleness.
- Change my attitude and perspective on the way I look and the way I can contribute to Arizona. After today's meeting I know that many issues need to be addressed and it starts with me, even as a felon!
- Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. I will be involved and volunteer in my community. I will educate my children and neighbors on the importance of strong families and thriving children.
- Be an advocate for those that can't speak for themselves.
- Incorporate parenting programs in our mentoring sessions on Rosa, Cruz & Pedro.
- Be more aware of the needs of incarcerated parents and their children as our organization continues its work.
- Read to my grandchild and give my daughter more of my time and attention when I get out.
- Communicate more with my 9 year-old son.
- Ask questions and get more involved.
- Learn to be the best parent I can for my child.
- Continue to encourage fellow inmates to continue their education in order to empower themselves to do better.
- Be good peer-support for those around me.
- Run for office.
- Find a family to sponsor for mentoring, emotional needs, education, transportation, employment, etc., leading toward a full restoration.

- Bridge the gap and heal the wounds between myself, my daughter and my family, therefore empowering my child to be a self-confident and strong individual, thus destroying the cycle.
- Continue to do research that brings to light the voices of those on the inside and seeks to limit the collateral consequences of incarceration on children, families, individuals and communities.
- Help facilitate Town Halls on this issue.
- Advocate to stop crime-fee lease addendums from barring all people with criminal backgrounds from housing.
- Find a way to make a difference. Volunteer either with a prison program or a supportive agency.
- Personal life skills, meditation and breath work.
- Improve upon myself to assist others. After release, get involved with helping other incarcerated inmates.
- Be the best me I can be to be a productive member of society upon reentry.
- Sponsor a family for mentorship.
- Attend more Town Hall discussions to voice my concerns and to offer more assistance in areas of need. Also to become more involved/engaged on an individual basis to help increase value to others.
- Be a voice in my community for the importance of community involvement in helping to build strong families for all community members.
- Be more involved with behavior health issues in households. Also, mindset.
- Run for office.
- Strive to develop a curriculum for children in schools, 5th-12th grade, that is age appropriate to strengthen their knowledge and competency of life situations such as coping skills, healthy relationships, substance abuse prevention and much more to reduce adverse childhood experiences.
- Be aware of the needs of family and community. Receive the education and the resources to effectively help my family and community. Choose to be grateful and respect each human life.
- Continue to build community collaborations that promote reentry opportunities, programs and services. Continue to educate stakeholders about ADC populations, their needs and risks, need responsibility strategies that promote holistic community engagement.
- Not be afraid to share my story and the goodness of God. And I will listen to others' stories because every person is valuable to the well-being of our community.
- Provide resources to persons upon reentry by connecting them to employment agencies, helping with basic needs to settle into society.
- Continue to have hope for my future. Be grateful that citizens other than inmates care about our futures, education and rehabilitation. Continue to fight for my GED while incarcerated and will continue to further my education upon release.
- Be the change I wish to see by helping others through my community, starting by listening and taking action. I will not be silent on what I wish to see changed. I will always be supportive to those who are working to better themselves.
- Continue to attend these very important Town Hall meetings! So very important for the inmates in prison and as important, if not more important, for their families. Outstanding meeting with some fantastic folks!
- Work to expand our reentry services so we can impact more people.

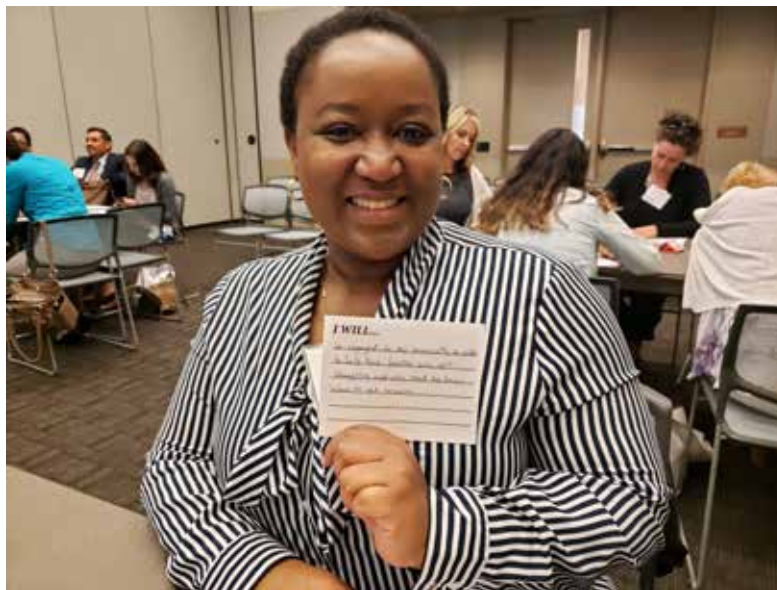
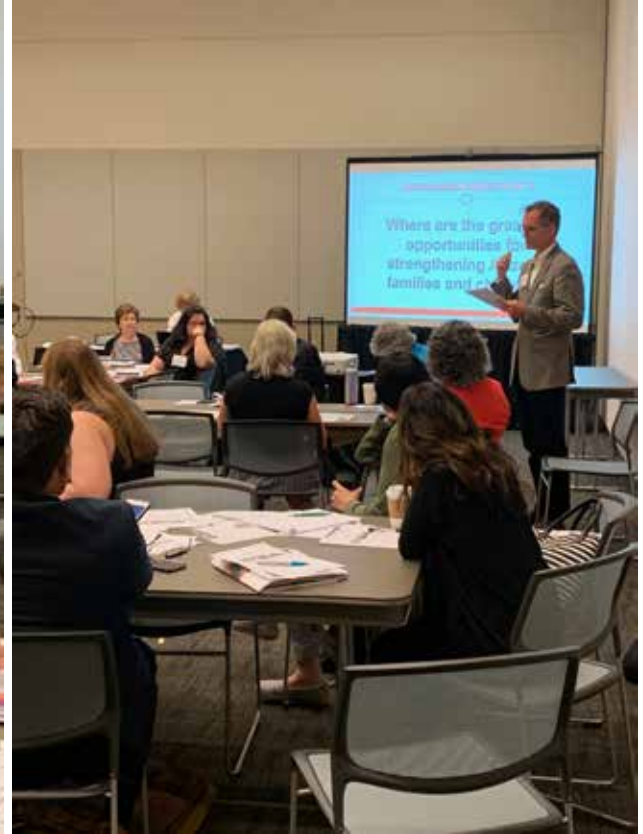
ASPC - PERRYVILLE COMMUNITY TOWN HALL HOSTED IN COLLABORATION WITH:



“Strong Families Thriving Children”

First Things First Community Town Hall Report

Phoenix, AZ – August 26, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

First Things First Community Town Hall Report

Monday, August 26, 2019 – Phoenix, AZ

Participants of the August 2019 First Things First Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

Healthy families have a network of other families and neighbors. They are not isolated. They have social connections with real people, not just social media. They ask for help when necessary, and have respite available when necessary. Parents are actively parenting, not talking on screens while their kids are doing whatever. The parents are emotionally healthy, so that they can parent effectively. They have access to community-based mentoring and support, health care and other resources, without regard to their at-risk status. They have safe housing, enough money to meet basic needs, and a support structure, including friends and family. Healthy families have the tools to be problem solvers, and they develop emotional intelligence as well as healthy families. Parents are engaged in the lives of their children, and have quality time and interaction with their children. Families whose children have suffered adverse childhood experiences have access to resources that mitigate the effects of those experiences.

Thriving children feel self-confident, safe, and loved. They have a champion. They have access to education, health care, and the other basic necessities of life. They have a stable base, whether at home or at school. They have good emotional skills to navigate life.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Start early to strengthen Arizona's families and children through good prenatal care and mentoring for new moms. Resources are needed from early childhood through the end of high school. Children have access to early childhood programs, such as Head Start and preschool, to help them learn skills early. Strengthen early childhood education. Make parenting education more available, and begin even before people get married.

Increase awareness in the court system of the impact that early childhood experiences have on children. Educate families about the resources available. Establish resource hubs, with transportation available to make them more accessible. Provide kits to expecting parents. Base parenting classes on a community school model. Provide faith-based communities with supplies to assist families. Use mentors to help provide support for new families.

Build on resources that already exist in the community and make parents more aware of what is available and make information available in English and Spanish. Avoid silos and bring groups together to collaborate to make it easier for people to access programs.

Provide programs that make families more financially secure, such as job training and GED programs. Ensure access to transportation and other supportive services. Have schools, libraries, faith-based communities and other institutions form a network that works together to optimize the available resources. Engage the business community to help fund these efforts, based on the return on investment that comes from strengthening our community.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

Look at the cost of prevention versus what happens when you don't support schools and other programs. Show that all Arizona children are valued. Attract businesses that support the quality of life we want for Arizona families and children. Involve local politicians in creating funding streams for education, including early childhood education. Work across the aisle to accomplish these objectives.

Use an integrated approach to address the basic necessities of affordable housing, food and health care.

Provide funding for high quality, comprehensive and affordable early childcare and education, including increased resources for supporting the emotional needs of children. Support Head Start and use it as a model for other programs.

Take action by making a home visit to experience what life is like for families struggling financially. Advocate for programs that help these families to thrive.

Have a personal experience with an early childhood center. Focus supplemental funding and resources on the highest needs beginning there.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the First Things First Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Bring back information to my staff and attend a subsequent Town Hall.
- Go to a Town Hall and evaluate the resources available to families and children.
- Begin conversations with library staff about building community networks for families and children.
- Look for ways to expand communications in the community regarding families and children.
- Continue to support Mesa Early Learning Sessions and mentoring services.
- Help to educate and coordinate resources that are available in the faith community I am involved in.
- Share information from and about Town Halls at First Things First Phoenix North Regional Council and with library employees and ask stat reps to attend.
- Hound City of Phoenix personnel to set up a bilingual Town Hall.
- Advocate to my friends, family, staff and colleagues to participate in a Town Hall to make their voices heard and have an opportunity to impact change.
- Encourage my legislators to attend a Town Hall on children and families.
- Collaborate with the Family Navigation Action Team to establish areas of opportunity to support Arizona families.
- Look for opportunities in local communities to encourage involvement in early childhood development.
- Be engaged in my community in order to help those families who are still struggling and who need to know where to find resources.
- Share what I learned here with my family and friends.
- Talk to refugee community members so that they attend forums on how to build healthy communities in the cities where they live.
- Talk to the community about how we have to change our lives to step forward.
- Continue to work in Northeast Arizona to educate the community on the ten thriving and surviving factors necessary to end childhood trauma, leverage resources and integrate services.
- Continue to share information and resources through conversations and social media to help families identify ways to strengthen their networks and know they aren't alone.

“Strong Families Thriving Children”

Prescott Community Town Hall Report

Prescott, AZ – September 6, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

Prescott Community Town Hall Report
Friday, September 6, 2019 – Prescott, AZ

Participants of the September 2019 Prescott Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

Strong families and thriving children need to have a foundation of support including connections with neighbors, the community, institutions such as Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), and other trusted resources, who serve to engage them and expand the eyes and ears that see and hear them. Physical needs are critical, including housing, safety, employment, and healthy food along with caring social and emotional supports. Children need to be their parent's top priority and given the time, affection and loving relationships that enable them to thrive. They also need their parents to provide consistency and serve as role models. Parent education is also critical, integrated with support from the schools.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

We need to bridge the silos and foster collaboration among support programs that provide family outreach, drug education and treatment, including the Department of Economic Security (DES), law enforcement, Kids at Hope, Arizona Children's Association, First Things First and other support programs. We need to encourage volunteers including seniors and students to work in these programs. It is critically important to provide needed funding for public education, especially for pre-K to 12. We need to fund counselors and training programs including mental health first aid. Programs such as the Imagination Library, food distribution and backpacks are especially helpful. Universal pre-school would go a long way to strengthen and prepare children and families for kindergarten. We need to ensure that all children have access to healthy food, housing, safety and have their physical needs met. It is important to remove the stigma associated with asking for help that can delay needed support. We need to be inclusive and change our language to be strength-based and positive. "At Risk" language and thinking should be changed to "At Potential." We need to encourage WIC and Head Start program awareness. Early and effective intervention is needed so that our first responders and teachers can recognize people with needs including children dealing with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

- Expand the thinking process and prioritize legislative actions accordingly, including providing the full funding Arizona needs for public education and other programs that support families.
- Consistently invest in children and families and recognize that strengthening families and children transcends partisanship, and ensure that their votes reflect those values.
- Become actively involved in the communities they represent and support family resource centers in all communities such as Del Webb.
- Make it mandatory for all elected officials to visit public schools to educate themselves on the impact of their decisions.
- Understand that supporting Arizona families and children through funding and other critical resources saves money and fosters prosperity over the long term.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Prescott Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Share what I have learned in this discussion with my coworkers, colleagues, family and community network, and advocate (with elected officials) for increased funding for programs that strengthen families.
- Provide communication on resources available in the community.
- Use my resources to support local organizations that support family growth, youth growth and development-positive groups.
- Look for and, when possible, change language that stigmatizes access to the social services that support family and children's success.
- Continue educational advocacy in collaboration with families and our communities.
- Continue to collaborate with area organizations to provide opportunities for parent education at the library.
- Regularly call or email my elected officials to emphasize support for increased funding for birth-18 education.
- Reach out to local "grandparents raising grandchildren" groups to explore ways that my organization can support their families.
- Host a neighborhood block party to increase engagement and promote exchange of ideas in my own community.
- Organize a Future Leaders Town Hall on this topic.
- Help communities empower children, women and families to improve our society.
- Encourage others to volunteer.
- Share the discussions from today with co-workers, family and community members.
- Share the link to the strong families report.
- Stay engaged with topics that are important to me.
- Invest more of my time to volunteer to support organizations that support families and/or children's development.
- Provide communication of things available in the community.
- Take some of my free time to educate myself more about family dynamics. As well use what I have learned throughout my research and education to help educate at least one family in the next month.
- Share the report with our health improvement partners.
- Bring the Town Hall report to the legislature to ask them what they are going to do with the suggestions in the report.
- Get a better understanding of the needs in my community and stay involved in the conversations, and then take action to help make change in our culture.
- Get out in the community and find other organizations with a share mission and learn about what they do and who they serve so that I can educate others and, if feasible, collaborate or partner on programs or specific projects.
- Arrange to have Arizona Town Hall present at the next League of Cities and Towns Health Communities.
- Continue to stay involved in the issues our communities face along with taking action in having others become involved to support these challenges.

- Use my resources to support local organizations that support family growth, youth growth and development-positive groups.
- Support continued education, financial resources and services that provide/create resiliency in families to overcome ACES.
- Continue to network with other organizations that work toward strong families and thriving children.
- Discuss a social/emotional focus for recruiting volunteers to be with students.

PRESCOTT COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SPONSORS



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“Strong Families Thriving Children”
Whetstone Unit Community Town Hall Report
Tucson, AZ – September 11, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

Whetstone Unit Community Town Hall Report

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 – Tucson, AZ

Participants of the September 2019 Whetstone Unit Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

- Family members actively listen to one another and are able to voice their opinion.
- Parents respect each other, are able to forgive one other and do not bad mouth each other.
- Families communicate about the issues that arise within the family rather than ignore them, and know when to seek help.
- Parents talk with not to their children and listen to what each child's goals are, thereby giving their children a voice.
- Strong families start with parents being in the home (both parents whenever possible), demonstrating strong moral values, modeling effective behaviors, and setting consistent expectations.
- Children feel safe emotionally and physically, know that they are loved and valued as individuals, and trust their parents.
- Strong families find ways to spend time together such as eating meals together, taking the whole family out for routine activities like shopping, and attending children's sports events.
- Resources are available to parents so they can better understand childhood development.
- Strong families have economic and physical stability that enables them to manage day-to-day stress and respond to crises.
- Positive adult role models, mentors, and supporters are available such as extended family members, faith-based leaders, counselors, peer coaches, and case workers.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

- Reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) or alleviate their impact.
- Provide family-friendly visitation policies for incarcerated individuals so they may interact with their children as parents and preserve the unity of the family.
- Use other mechanisms to increase familial contact such as technology (e.g. Skype), on-site family workshops, movie nights and community member visits.
- Offer affordable transportation for family members of incarcerated individuals.
- Provide quality, accessible and affordable medical and mental health care to inmates and their families.
- Use professional counselors in the schools to screen for ACEs and address the needs early.
- Ensure easier and more immediate access for substance abuse treatment options.
- Provide more job training and education opportunities for inmates to build their sense of self-worth and increase their independence upon release.
- Develop more programs for families that have been separated by incarceration with the cooperation of DES, DCS, DHS and DOC.
- Strengthen community based activities/organizations such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and Big Brothers Big Sisters that support thriving children and young adults thereby strengthening families.

- Incorporate a parenting class into the high school curriculum as well as a range of other classes such as drug avoidance, violence prevention, and personal financial management.
- Gather community resources and information for economic, mental health, and medical services as well as basic needs such as food, clothing and housing.
- Spend more on education and teachers and less on the criminal justice system.
- Provide better training for law enforcement and corrections officers to be more empathetic to families.
- Train pediatricians, teachers and counselors to identify when there may be problems in the home and where to refer families for proper assistance.
- Consolidate family resources centers so that families can get all the needed services at one place.
- Bring back scared straight programs.
- Educate adults and children on ACEs and their impact and understanding protective factors. Provide access to services that address root causes.
- Reform sentencing guidelines, expand reentry program, increase opportunities for clemency, improve job training and offer family counseling during incarceration to empower individuals for returning to society.
- Allow community members to visit prisons to broaden their understanding of the issues of inmates and their families.
- Bring more programming to prison so our incarcerated community is better prepared for the time they are released.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

- Fund substance abuse treatment and drug prevention programs.
- Provide a social safety net to strengthen communities.
- Take advantage of the Arizona Town Hall community and statewide reports to better understand and address the needs of families and children.
- Don't think you know everything about the inmate experience.
- Visit the town halls in the prisons and meet with inmates and their families.
- Introduce an inmate bill of rights.
- Reduce sentencing to 65%.
- Introduce bills regarding the improvement of prison conditions.
- Move toward rehabilitation rather than penalties for people with longer sentences.
- Reform sentencing guidelines, especially as they apply to first time and non-violent offenders.
- Offer a parole board for all inmates.
- Reconsider sentencing related to mental health and addiction issues that recognizes that these are illnesses, not crimes.
- Get rid of mandatory minimums.
- Increase funding for DOC staff and case managers.
- Invest in education not incarceration.
- Support legislation to "ban the box" on job applications statewide.
- Allow incarcerated individuals to vote.
- Address the root causes of crime and the collapse of families rather than putting more money into dealing with the outcomes of these problems.

- Provide more money to programs that support families, such as affordable childcare, mental health counseling, after school care, housing, transportation, and job training that increase self-sufficiency and stability.
- Change our laws and social support programs so it can't be a career to live on welfare.
- Expand the number and scope of resource centers and second chance centers.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Whetstone Unit Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Contact legislators to take action to reconstruct the criminal justice system.
- Practice better communication with my family.
- Engage more with other members of my community instead of isolating myself.
- Build community and support networks within my neighborhood.
- Talk about these issues with people I know and those I meet.
- Help inmates prepare to reintegrate back into society.
- Be the man that I know I am. Never think I'm bigger or greater than what I really am.
- Reconnect with those I am currently connected with in a new way, one of hope and positivity.
- Bring what I learned in this Town Hall about ACEs and the impact of drug abuse to the attention of United Way's Cradle to Career collective impact effort.
- Approach juveniles who become involved in the juvenile justice system with renewed awareness of adverse childhood experiences and how they may have shaped the juvenile, as well as increase protective factors.
- Continue working to advocate for changes in the criminal justice system.
- Continue to promote self-advocacy and self-improvement.
- Make sure that those without a voice are being heard, even if I go hoarse in the process.
- Continue to support others through positive programming as well as constant affirmations. "Focus on what's strong, not what's wrong."
- Be understanding of what those who oppose progress are going through so as to help them move forward.
- Be more positive and open to the younger generation and talk to them not at them.
- Keep listening, learning and giving back what I come to understand.
- Be there for someone in need, reach out to someone I do not know, and take the time to listen and be there for someone.
- Stay humble, stay positive, and help others and keep their heads up in prison. When I get out of here and tell young people to stay focused and out of trouble.
- Get more involved with my children's school and their friends.
- Be a good role model not only for my kids but for their friends or any child I come into contact with.
- Look into options for incentives for inmates who don't have anyone able (or willing) to visit them.
- Attend more Town Halls and add my voice to those seeking reform and change.
- Become politically engaged in solutions and advocate for policy changes in Arizona legislation regarding mental illness.

- Work toward establishing an Inmate Families Association in 2020-21 based on the model used in Texas.
- Help inmates get visitation areas that are more family friendly.
- Continue to be a voice for our incarcerated community.
- Love myself and all people.
- Continue to advocate for the second chance programs as well as get involved with helping children upon my release in any way that I can to change their lives for the better and avoid the struggles that I have had to go through.
- Let my fellow inmates know that there is a right way to solve problems and let my family know about this meeting.
- Share with others what I learned today about the needs of inmates and their families and refer them to the Arizona Prison Reform Movement organization.
- Get more involved in programs offered by the DOC and come back for future town hall meetings.
- Work to strengthen Arizona families to give kids a healthy start.
- Fight for prison reform (work release and mandatory sentencing).
- Write more about families of the incarcerated.
- Vote.
- Volunteer in programs to aid disadvantaged youth.
- Write to state legislators regarding the final report, pointing out specific programs/policies contained in the report.
- Advocate for children and families and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Be vigilant for children's mental and physical well-being.
- Strive to make changes within my own family and start nonprofits that will help achieve family reunification and better communities.
- Help inmates with programming and be there for other inmates.
- Be part of the solution, not the problem to address issues at this unit.
- Advocate for more resources inside and outside to keep our families and communities strong.
- Speak with my legislator regarding the issue of placing inmates closer to their families.
- Be the best recovery support specialist and help my clients with substance abuse problems and mental health issues.
- Continue to tell my story to reduce the stigma of being a parent of an incarcerated child.
- Continue to volunteer with AFSC, LUCHA and ACLU.
- Be a model for others who struggle with overcoming Adverse Childhood Experiences as well as always be open, approachable and available to any child or young person affected by ACEs.
- Make a difference and help someone who is in need.
- Tell my children they are loved daily.
- Meet my children's affection needs and address the issues of my children, not ignore them.
- Take time to read with and interact positively with children.
- Do my part to be the best father, citizen and productive member of society. Help people whenever, wherever and however I can.
- Be open to change.

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*The Reverend John &
Mrs. Kathy Kitagawa*



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“Strong Families Thriving Children”

Tucson Community Town Hall Report

Tucson, AZ – September 13, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

Tucson Community Town Hall Report
Friday, September 13, 2019 – Tucson, AZ

Participants of the September 2019 Tucson Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

Strong families are resilient. They have a strong parent figure, whether mother, father, grandmother or grandfather. Strong families enjoy quality time with one another as well as with the greater community to build empathy and strength. Education and financial stability play a key role as well, to provide basic services and enhance a stable lifestyle.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs dictates basic priorities: food, clothing, and shelter must be provided first and then emotional needs and self-actualization can be addressed. Adults who are not reactive can focus on meeting children's basic needs. Story time is important for the growth of children and provides an opportunity for parents and children to spend time together and for adults to learn how to parent. Access to resources such as quality food, transportation, and even amenities such as sidewalks, can contribute to safe and high-quality family life. Parents and children must be able to self-regulate.

The resilience of both parents and children is important. In healthy families, children feel safe from violence, hunger, and want. Children have access to a caring adult, whether in the home, in school, or in programs such as Big Brothers-Big Sisters. Children have good self-esteem, and the ability to communicate. Adults model strong values and respect. Families have access to high quality child care.

Open communication is important, with both parents being involved in the rearing of the children. Families need parents to make a living wage. Parents demonstrate appropriate behavior, such as how to properly handle stress. Parents give their children opportunities to be who they are and have passion and motivation for what moves them. Parents are present during family time, not distracted by cell phones. There is internal and external support for the family, particularly in times of stress. Parents are advocates for their children, involved in their schools, and engaged in their lives.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

- Provide children a safe roof over their heads to live and sleep and a place that belongs to them.
- Reassure children whose parents are incarcerated that the parents' bad decision is not their fault.
- Offer opportunities for food self-sufficiency through community gardens in conjunction with food banks.
- Identify mental health issues in early childhood.
- Increase funding for music and arts in schools and the community.
- Support programs like Literacy Connects that are available to everyone in the community and help children who are not ready to read at age 6.
- Establish parental education and support groups.
- Ensure all families have access to high quality, affordable preschool and full day kindergarten.
- Continue and strengthen job training and vocational education programs, such as JTED.
- Use community schools as an opportunity to get children access to services they need, including physicians, nurses, screening, and other services.
- Bring more services into schools, to make them accessible, including drug and alcohol prevention and treatment, and early intervention, and assure that they have separate funding.

- Have an enrollment person at schools to sign children up for needed services, such as AHCCCS.
- Increase access to drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs.
- Increase access to affordable housing programs.
- Provide better training for law enforcement and those working in the criminal justice system to help them be more empathetic to families of incarcerated persons.
- Offer more programming opportunities for families in rural areas.
- Provide better pre-natal care and education, even pre-pregnancy care, including the role of stress and its effect on the fetus in utero.
- Teach children emotional intelligence and the vocabulary they need to talk about their emotions.
- Meet people where they are and teach them while they are receiving services at the food bank or attending church.
- Use access to libraries for support services and promote literacy to increase children's self- confidence.
- Mitigate the negative aspects of social media.
- Address negative impacts of prejudice in any form.
- Address stigmatizing language relating to mental and behavioral health issues, and instead use strength-based language when discussing mental health issues.
- Create clearing houses for informational resources for families that need them in order to make access to individuals more central.
- Increase communication and cooperation among service providers of similar services to consolidate efforts.
- Leverage existing resources more effectively by engaging existing institutions to provide services and programs to families in need along with what they already do, including local governments, churches, schools, etc.
- Build community through small local events to enhance connections.
- Ensure funding is available and appropriately allocated.
- Have Arizona Town Hall and Native American communities collaborate in community discussions about these issues.
- Teach basic life skills in schools.
- Use utility bills to get information out to people.
- Engage with employers and local businesses to get financial literacy information out to people.
- Encourage businesses to allow employees to volunteer services to help affected populations and count that time toward work hours.
- Regionalize community planning efforts to coordinate among different jurisdictions.
- Support a very strong nonprofit sector that provides services to families and children, and facilitate collaboration with government agencies serving these populations.
- Develop a state-wide, well-staffed, well-funded central clearinghouse for information and referral about resources, probably through public-private partnership.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

- Take a more holistic approach to the welfare of children and families, budget according to this new approach, and don't give in to special interests.
- Make an agreement that you want the best for our children and look to the future, not just the constituents who want you to do something just because they made a contribution.

- Increase spending on public education, including teacher salaries and programs like the arts, with more of an emphasis on community schools and reinstate the funding that was taken away.
- Move prison funding to the education budget.
- Provide equitable funding across the state that puts each school on an equal footing with every other school.
- Fund parent education and provide a complete and accessible resource system at the state and county level.
- Strengthen the sense of community, including reaching out to underrepresented populations, especially the poor, less educated and the voices of others who are generally not heard from in public forums.
- Create a central location for you and your fellow elected officials to get information about community and statewide issues regarding public education.
- Find out what your constituents need by putting your boots on the ground, listening to the people and solving the issues.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Tucson Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Bring these ideas and the research reports to the people with whom I work and other colleagues, to integrate financial literacy opportunities in our community.
- Share the report and information to inspire people to get involved and make a difference.
- Continue to focus on the following issues that have a direct impact on Tucson's families and children: 1) restoring adequate funding for public education; 2) access to health care; 3) addressing problems relating to access to affordable housing and mental health services.
- Continue to be an advocate for every voice being heard.
- Nominate colleagues and parents to attend town halls.
- Attend a community outreach event.
- Distribute the report from this community town hall and the subsequent statewide Town Hall to the broadest audience possible.
- Ask elected officials about their familiarity with town hall reports.
- Teach my students about this topic and these reports and resources.
- Vote, engage and educate.
- Encourage my children to use the power of their voice and action.
- Identify the proposals in the next legislative session that deal with the welfare of children and families and encourage my legislators to vote appropriately.
- Explore private-public partnerships at the local level and always advocate for my community.
- Share what I've learned here today with those I work with at the City of Tucson and see what more we can do to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences and help families thrive.
- Integrate information on protective factors into my next Parent Night Meeting I run at schools throughout Southern Arizona.
- Continue working on my resource list for the recently incarcerated people.
- Promote the wellbeing of children by spreading the concept of The Greatness Chair to try to change the way we talk to children and provide a simple method that parents and teachers can use.

- Spread the message of how important and impactful town halls are.
- Connect with my tablemates after today.
- Spread the word of this topic and others to fellow students at the University of Arizona.
- Use the lessons learned here when starting my own family.
- Work with my library colleagues to continue to provide and increase programs and opportunities that are meaningful to the populations who may not have easy access to our library branches.
- Get more involved!
- Educate myself on Policy and be sure to comment when public comments are asked for!
- Pursue a possible volunteer opportunity in the public-school system to provide early education and information to high school students.
- Do my best to share information about resources available to people in the community.
- Be mindful of other people, family, and kids.
- Continue to work on Help & Hope for youth to improve youth mental health.
- Use the Arizona Town Hall report on housing in my work with the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona.
- Continue being a Reading Seed Coach with second graders in low income schools.
- Write to Gov. Ducey regarding funding and restoring the monies that were taken away.
- Reach out to neighborhoods and encourage resident participation in Arizona Town Hall.
- Continue to attend Town Hall events to create priorities for Arizona, as well as continue to engaging my community in various ways to support children, families and their well-being.
- Share with my friends what different community members are doing to help families and children thrive.
- Email my elected officials with a direct link to the Arizona Town Hall website and reports.
- Continue to advocate on behalf of families who receive mental health services and use the report created to further this cause.
- Continue to attend Town Hall events to create priorities for Arizona, as well as continue to engage my community in various ways to support children, families and their well-being.
- Share with my friends what different community members are doing to help families and children thrive.

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“Strong Families Thriving Children”

UMOM Community Town Hall Report

Phoenix, AZ – September 17, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

UMOM Community Town Hall Report

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 – Phoenix, AZ

Participants of the September 2019 UMOM Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

The many forms of families are recognized and supported to help them thrive. Strong families are loving and nurturing with parents or others who are emotionally and physically stable and who model positive values and positive life skills.

Strong families and thriving children have emotional and financial stability, including access to stable housing and healthy food. Strong families have the knowledge and ability to recognize and care for their children's needs, including both physical and mental challenges.

While technology can create challenges, proper use of technology can help strengthen families.

Strong families have connections, relationships and a sense of belonging in order to be resilient. They are connected to and communicate with each other. Connections to outside resources and support, including employers and faith-based communities, help families to thrive. Access to counseling, emotional support, employers and support services (preferably through "one-stop shopping") are available to parents. For children, there are other caring adults who can step in when the parents are unable or unavailable.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Increase and simplify access to needed services, including access to affordable, sustainable housing, transportation and affordable health care.

Provide better access to community resources, whether through schools, faith-based communities or neighborhood gathering spots. Better leverage schools as resources for families, children and organizations, using school facilities to provide needed support services and connect community members to each other.

Normalize the need for help and provide easy access to resources for those in need to prevent injury and trauma to children and families. Allow for much needed emotional support for those who feel alone and overwhelmed.

Focus on prevention to create opportunities to strengthen families, such as early childhood services, preventative healthcare, early education for children, and education for parents so they have knowledge of good, culturally sensitive parenting skills. Educate government and other organizations about trauma informed responses. Educate families and agencies about adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), protective factors and how best to remove stigmas, and other roadblocks that prevent vulnerable populations from seeking needed assistance.

Establish proactive collaborations with those providing services and those who need them. Use the media to educate the public about these issues and inform them about access to resources. Explore and apply for grants to help meet the financial requirements needed to implement some of these recommendations.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

- The most important items families can have are stable housing, childcare and education.
- Walk the city and the streets. Take the bus. Get out and learn what Arizona families are dealing with.
- Ensure that government agencies are trauma-informed when providing services.

- When you make laws, be aware that there is a uniqueness to those in need and there needs to be some flexibility with generalized laws. For example, court systems and protocols need more flexibility for individuals. We also need changes to the laws to be quickly implemented.
- Create a process that makes it easier to get desperately needed services, including mental and health care.
- Invest in prevention including policies that keep families and children in their homes.
- Invest in education, life skills, and diversion services that assist the homeless and prevent people from entering the criminal justice system.
- Use the money currently spent on jails and prisons for prevention and diversion services.
- Invest in home visitation programs to assist parents.
- Demonstrate that you truly care about these issues by supporting the actions discussed in this report.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the UMOM Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL:

- Fuse human experiences and stories with political action, such as the Red for Ed movement did.
- Use personal stories to educate elected leaders in a way that creates legislation addressing the problem.
- Empower other families with knowledge on how to obtain resources/information/help, etc.
- Strive to maintain the focus on rehabilitation and reunification.
- Engage in more interaction with families and make others know that their voice will be heard.
- Do my best to better inform others about how trauma has an impact on society, specifically as it relates to understanding the community and its dependence on strong families.
- Look for increased opportunities to educate the community on trauma and its effects on mental health and overall family stability.
- Help to mitigate the difficulty of navigating complex systems for families.
- Advocate for policies supporting families, including contacting local, county and state elected officials.
- Vote and help get out the vote.
- Talk to the mayor of Phoenix about inclusionary zoning.
- Become more active in engaging with my Legislative District representatives and those running for the Senate and House of Representatives in support of issues for families.
- Offer support and provide connections to all families in my personal networks by lending an empathetic ear and transportation and childcare when families need support.
- Continue to develop, implement, and grow family skills needed for success by consistently providing comprehensive, holistic, and innovative modalities to those who are underserved.
- Inform other senior citizens regarding working with SSI, housing, transportation, families, affordable housing, affordable health care, and affordable childcare.
- Become a success story and then be more active and vocal in the right settings to assist in connecting decision makers in the community by rehumanizing those affected.
- Make the most of opportunities to communicate support of strong families and healthy children.
- Get involved in advocacy programs that support strengthening Arizona families.
- Support candidates for local and state office for whom healthy children, families and communities is a priority.

- Continue to educate myself and use this discussion and the Town Hall final report to better understand how my organization (UMOM) can more effectively meet the needs of the clients we serve.
- Bring community partners together to connect with our agency (Department of Economic Security).
- Attend additional Town Halls and continue to educate myself.
- Share this information with the leadership within my organization to shape future strategies.
- Communicate what I've learned today, pass on ideas and "think outside the box."
- Work with colleagues at the Capitol and within government agencies to increase data collection/sharing and cross-systems collaboration.
- Continue to educate myself on topics that affect my community and be an advocating voice for those that do not feel they have one, but they do.
- Communicate my knowledge on ACEs to families I work with and provide the support to help families increase their resiliency.
- Listen with empathy and model strong social capacity and competency. Continue to share how important early childhood education is as well educating parents on short term training opportunities available to earn a living wage.
- Do my best to halt the cycle of ACEs within my immediate family and provide them, as well as others, the education to prevent future traumatic experiences from occurring.

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“Strong Families Thriving Children”

Casa Grande Community Town Hall Report

Casa Grande, AZ – September 20, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

Casa Grande Community Town Hall Report
Friday, September 20, 2019 – Casa Grande, AZ

Participants of the September 2019 Casa Grande Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

Family should be redefined to normalize the wide range of family structures, creating space for all children to understand that their unique family structure is valid. Strong families and thriving children are able to communicate and engage with each other while providing positive reinforcement that teaches children their worth and promotes resiliency. Strong families demonstrate love and a connection to communicating spirituality and their culture. They have good relationships and a strong sense of community. They have high expectations, a stable parental figure and parental involvement. In strong families there is lots of honest communication, with parental figures setting and articulating expectations and boundaries. There is communication with structure. These families are involved with extended family and community. Children have positive role models, to break various cycles, such as incarceration.

Parents practice good listening skills. Kids look at the world and understand that there is something greater than themselves. Technology is a tool that provides needed resources to children and parents, and is carefully managed. The benefits of new technologies are balanced against the need to interact with people. Children learn how to deal with peer pressure, to play with others and thrive in their own way.

Strong families live in a safe environment and have their basic needs met. They have economic and social security, physical security and good mental health. In this environment they have food, housing and are safe from abuse. There is funding for counselors in the education system to educate and intervene with children. Community support is available in areas that are easy to navigate with barriers removed.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and increase protective factors by promoting collaboration between and among government, corporations, nonprofits, parents and faith-based organizations. Identify the services required, including education, training, communication skills, peer-to-peer coaching, mentoring, support systems, trauma systems and counseling. Involve corporations in the community.

Community involvement could be increased by eliminating the stigma and stereotypes and changing social norms to provide more equal resource availability for parents without regard to gender or mental health status, and by providing life skills and parenting education to both parental figures and children, within and outside the school system.

Leverage community groups to raise awareness by utilizing existing and new models and leverage celebrities and community influencers to support families and children.

Provide support, education and intervention for all families, focusing on those with young children (ages 0-8) and those that have experienced trauma or have other "at risk" factors. Schools are hubs in their community and can be resource centers that partner with a wide range of service agencies to bring resources to families where they are. Empower parents to be part of the solution by working in resource centers creating a community of practice. Corporations can help parents by providing training and information to parents in the workplace.

Address the specific challenges of rural Arizona, including less availability of transportation, internet and other services, as well as greater distances from resources. Business involvement in addressing the problems of families and children is particularly important in rural areas. Businesses can support their workforce and the communities in which they operate by providing funding and supporting community efforts to address the needs of families and children.

Make investment in our children a priority. Develop proactive initiatives and collaborations to mitigate ACEs. Begin conversations with all stakeholders to develop tangible solutions and ask government agencies to facilitate this process by bringing those stakeholders together.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

- Families and children need resources and access to behavioral and mental health services.
- Take action by governing with intentionality.
- Draft legislation that will directly impact families.
- Seek input from communities, including rural and tribal populations to design targeted solutions to demonstrate successful outcomes.
- Involve the business community, creating partnerships and recognizing the important role that business tax revenue plays in the general fund.
- Focus resources on the holistic dimensions of wellness including: education; health; meal programs; before and after school programs; and financial, occupational, social, spiritual, emotional and environmental services.
- Invest more money in public education.
- Hear what is going on, get out in the trenches and meet with the people.
- Build a consensus between the political parties to foster action for implementation.
- Invest in prevention programs instead of punishment to change the fact that Arizona has the highest incarceration rate in the country.
- Move funding from the criminal justice system to education and prevention.
- Use Arizona's \$1 billion rainy day fund to empower Arizona families.
- Increase support for better public education through more teacher training and higher compensation.
- Improve education in the prison system to support successful reentry.
- Improve parenting education and skills training.
- Be visionary. Be present. Participate. Advocate. Lead by example.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Casa Grande Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Build stronger collaborations in the community and attend future town hall meetings and events.
- Volunteer with my local schools and community service organizations to lead by example and to fill the gaps for over stressed and overworked organizations that are working to better my community.
- Create a coalition of nonprofits in Pinal County focused on solving one long-term (10 year) systemic issue.
- Carry on the conversations we had here today and continue to advocate for Arizona's families and children.

- Engage with others. Be vocal about what could reduce adverse childhood experiences. Set goals to help others.
- “Be vocal” on the strong families and thriving children that Arizona needs to improve funding towards education!
- Set goals to champion efforts to support rural programs.
- Help facilitate initial conversations between nonprofits to identify major deficiencies in Casa Grande to increase efficiencies while addressing those issues.
- Share my experiences at Arizona Town Hall as an example of positive community action in this contentious political environment.
- Continue the conversation with others in the early childhood field.
- Educate myself on services and community needs so I may help move, change and communicate visionary public policy that creates strong families and thriving children.
- Continue to educate myself on the needs of children and families.
- Listen and engage the community so that I can advocate for their needs.
- Share my own ACEs and coping skills that have enabled me to be resilient to help empower others.
- Work with others to coordinate outreach efforts to educate families on ACEs and other matters influencing strong families and thriving children.
- Commit to be proactive in every organization and community group I’m involved with in order to raise the issues surfaced in this conversation.
- Work on arranging educational opportunities for community, business and parent groups.
- Raise awareness of the Pinal County Interagency Council to End Child Abuse to increase partnership and expand the scope of its impact through action.
- Reach out to the business community to raise awareness of issues and programs to support their workforce.
- Connect to community organizations and leaders with the goal of finding opportunities to collaborate on ways to help build strong families and support services so children can thrive.
- Share information with my religious community about adverse childhood experiences and the impact they have and how we can help prevent them.
- Continue to help increase awareness of healthy development for our children and positive experiences to empower our youth and have thriving children and families.
- Become more educated and familiar with the issues facing Casa Grande’s families and strive to use both personal resources to assist as well as lead discussions in my organization to determine what role it can play in building stronger families that help children thrive.
- Take our discussion back to the civic groups and make a project to educate about ACEs.
- Talk to my mayor, HOA and local churches.
- Help facilitate initial conversations between nonprofits to identify major deficiencies in Casa Grande and increase efficiencies while addressing those issues.
- Make my father-in-law’s amateur boxing gym a nonprofit organization by 2021.
- Bring my middle-school aged niece to the Future Leaders Town Hall.
- Volunteer at elementary schools.
- Be a mentor.
- Use my access to the corporations to educate them on all the issues dealt with today.
- Educate myself during local and state elections and vote for individuals that support funding and expansion of programs that strengthen families by providing education and increased access to services.

- Continue to advocate to national and local legislators to make available and fund services that families need to continue to thrive.
- Use my knowledge, influence and passion for healthy strong children to educate those around me on professional, personal and social levels.
- Be part of the solution.
- Speak out about the special needs that children face in rural communities.
- Advocate for strong families.
- Continue to advocate and push for behavioral health services.
- Bring this information to my school district's administrative teams and counselors to partner with agencies that will help our parents to build thriving families and children.
- Share what was discussed with my co-workers and personal network of friends and family and encourage all to look for areas to get involved.
- Pay attention to how local elected officials talk about and vote on issues that strengthen families, support community and engage in decision-making that focuses on prevention and building resources, as opposed to punitive measures. Engage my community to also pay attention, raise awareness and vote on these principles.
- Tell my co-workers, supervisors, friends and family about my Town Hall experience. It was an honor to participate in this event!

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FIRST THINGS FIRST



Additional support from community members Evelyn Casuga and David Snider

“Strong Families Thriving Children”

Town Hall for Affected Populations Report

Tucson, AZ – September 21, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

Town Hall for Affected Populations Report
Saturday, September 21, 2019 – Tucson, AZ

Participants of the September 2019 Town Hall for Affected Populations make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

The characteristics of strong families and thriving children include great communication and parents and caregivers who are engaged, listening, and available to children. They laugh together and have respect for each other. The parents/caretakers are present, and the families foster an environment where they talk to one another. There is an expectation of family time. Families live in safe and secure neighborhoods. Parents/caregivers are educated to recognize difficulties children may have, including developmental disabilities. Training in crisis management is also available. They have economic stability, food security, nutritious meals, education, and language fluency.

Strong families have a support system and a web of community services. In addition to the parents, there are strong, caring adults around them, such as grandparents, neighbors, mentors, role models, and faith-based leaders.

Strong families and thriving children receive help with mental illness, are aware of family planning and have access to resources such as mental and physical healthcare. They also have access to quality educational opportunities, including resources that may be provided through schools.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Improve our educational system by providing a higher ratio of counselors to students in the schools. Grant paid time off for parents/caregivers to attend parent/teacher conferences. Make education available early on by improving access to preschool, improving K-12 education and supporting quality daycare.

Reduce adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) by implementing prevention and awareness measures such as educating parents, caregivers, and teachers. Equip parents with the necessary tools to support them and their children. Improve the access to and availability of support services and their facilities, including offering extended hours of operation. Enhance prevention measures by involving the schools and faith-based institutions. Provide comprehensive, medically accurate and inclusive sex education, domestic violence prevention, incarceration deterrence programs, and fulfilling work opportunities.

Increase protective factors by applying the values we have for ourselves to how we treat and pay social workers. Provide substance abuse and trauma treatment. Advocate for living wages and an increase in the minimum wage. Establish "Neighborhood Care Associations" to strengthen and build up communities.

Consider the roles of government, communities, faith-based organizations, and non-profits. Involve the schools, healthcare systems, libraries, and faith-based institutions in making resources more available and educating the community about the problem of ACEs and their impact. Provide appropriate funding to our schools and ensure it gets to the right districts with more funding going to those schools with a disproportionate number of children at risk. Enhance interactions between the courts and foster care programs and raise the legal age of juveniles to 21 in order to keep them out of the criminal justice system. Foster interactions between non-governmental organizations and law enforcement. Provide greater access to more Town Halls and community events.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

Hear that there is a lack of resources in our communities and educational system. Recognize that economic insecurity is a major stressor for families. Address the inequitable funding and provision of resources for schools. Support early childhood education without reducing funding for necessary social services. Understand that we want accessible, affordable, and quality education, which consists of inclusive, comprehensive, medically accurate sex education programs, community education, childhood development, and financial planning programs. Be aware that keeping kids in school is critical. Make intentional, precise, moral decisions that prioritize the needs of families.

Be more transparent with where our taxpayer money goes and show us tangible results. Increase teacher pay and raise the minimum wage. Direct funding to parental education, community schools, and vocational training programs. Improve transportation to schools so education is more accessible. Develop a state curriculum that includes civility, critical thinking and active listening to give children the skill set to chart their own futures. Revamp the justice system in a manner that would rehabilitate first-time offenders and keep families together. Improve the economic security of our families through an earned income tax credit. Take deliberate steps to bridge the gap to get people off welfare. Reduce barriers to benefits, especially those that discourage people from seeking or improving their employment circumstances. Improve healthcare accessibility and affordability. Come together, stop arguing, and start doing!

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Town Hall for Affected Populations. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Work to elect leaders who make education, parents, children and families their priority.
- Encourage friends to VOTE and use my own vote to elect those who work for the peoples' undermined, voiced concerns and who will respond with their actions.
- Let my legislators know of the outcome of the Town Hall Final Report on this topic and my expectations of what I think they should do in terms of making its recommendations a reality.
- Promote the ideas exchanged in today's meeting, as well as encourage people to attend Town Hall meetings in the future.
- Have conversations to bridge the gap between empathetic goals and financial goals.
- Utilize the information from the "Strong Families Thriving Children" Report to support our Boys and Girls Club of Tucson mission to serve Tucson children who need the most.
- Be more aware of my community to be able to provide resources to anyone that may need it.
- Be more politically active.
- Further social change through education—especially in poverty inequality.
- Lobby for change with Congress.
- Advocate for a state-earned income tax credit and provide legislators with evidence that changes their perceptions of low-income residents.
- Do more research as to volunteer opportunities to help children and families. I will also research organizations that provide effective advocacy for children and families so I can participate in advocacy efforts.
- Start volunteering at my church's mentoring/tutoring program at Rio Vista School.
- Keep informing myself on issues and support organizations that provide effective programs to address issues.
- Advocate for fair housing, equal pay and criminal justice reform.

- Register as an Arizona resident and let elected leaders know how I feel.
- Become better educated about public policy issues.
- Continue to take political action.
- Continue to serve mindfully on my school district's governing board. Consider volunteering with a non-profit that works to support families. Support candidates for office at the state level who understand those issues.
- Continue and increase my volunteer activities with vulnerable youth in an effort to be a positive role model to foster self-reliance.
- Learn how to manage my stress better so I positively communicate with my peers, loved ones and everyone else.
- Support organizations that assist families and children to make their lives better.
- Write to governor and Pima County elected official regarding priorities of families and children.
- Talk to my family and share this experience.
- Read Town Hall reports.
- Try to go to the Statewide Town Hall.
- Look into the MacArthur Foundation.
- Share this information and the resource that is Community Town Hall.
- Communicate with Arizona Leaders and lawmakers to urge greater investment of public funds into the public school system.
- Start getting more involved in my community. This is just a start for me; that's what I believe. I want to spread awareness on getting more involved with our community and people of my generation.
- Encourage people in my life who are not as engaged in community events/forums to step out and attend Town Halls, community events, etc.
- Continue to have important and difficult conversations with those in my life, especially those with very different opinions than my own.
- Talk to all the people I know about the particular bubble they live in and how they can be aware of others and what they can do.
- Continue to work with youth and families, working to find ways to better equip parents and guardians with the necessary skills and tools to support their children.
- Talk to teachers and the administration about increasing funding to different districts that need it the most and just communicate district-to-district and build that trust.
- Work with my college recruiting staff to make sure our education opportunities are presented to students from all backgrounds in southern Arizona.
- Participate in more events like this one to give me the opportunity to hear people talking about their experiences with the topic of children and families, and learn about public involvement.

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Additional support from community members Sally Simmons, Archibald Brown, Tom McKinney and Nancy Atherton.

“Strong Families Thriving Children”

Lewis Facility Community Town Hall Report

Buckeye, AZ – September 25, 2019



Photos courtesy of the Arizona Department of Corrections

STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

Lewis Facility Community Town Hall Report
Wednesday, September 25, 2019 – Buckeye, AZ

Participants of the September 2019 Lewis Facility Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

Strong families and thriving children have trust and support within the family and open communication. Having two parents in the home as well as encouraging and supporting families to stay together is very important. Strong families provide sustaining environments where there is healthy person-to-person dialogue, where bridges are built across conflict, and where there is patience and a commitment to unity in the family. Families and children are willing to ask for help, have access to parenting assistance and education, and have life coaches and other positive role models. Expressing love, demonstrating positive leadership, and having strong role models will help to instill responsibility and accountability within the family and restore value to children. Parents know what children are interested in, what they are doing, what they are watching, where they are at any given time, and who they are associating with. Having a stable, supportive network incorporating extended family, friends, faith, as well as connecting with community supports such as Boys & Girls Clubs, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and after school programs to keep children safe while their parents are at work. Other characteristics include:

- Unplugging from electronics and ensuring that entertainment is monitored (understanding what kids are connecting to online).
- Making time for meals together.
- Actively involving parents in their children's activities.
- Setting aside time for family-centered activities that will strengthen bonds and instill family values.
- Demonstrating positive leadership and mentorship in the home, building self-esteem among family members.
- Making space for meaningful conversations that delve into feelings beyond the automatic response of "I'm fine."

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

- Reduce parental stress by providing resources to support economic security (childcare subsidies, supplemental nutrition, job placement assistance, etc.) as families work toward self-sufficiency.
- Provide access to good healthcare, proper nutrition and mental health treatment.
- Offer reunification programs that provide opportunities to learn skills that will keep families together.
- Construct pathways to good jobs that provide a way for parents to support the family.
- Ensure access to quality educational opportunities.
- Add more counselors rather than more resource officers in schools.
- Develop supports to strengthen protective factors to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).
- Address issues related to poverty such as case management to help parents access workforce development services, affordable housing, affordable childcare programs, supplemental nutrition, life skills development, and other resources that provide economic support for families.
- Promote fatherhood involvement programs.
- Provide more and better programs for mental health education and family therapy/counseling.

- Teach skills for positive social interactions and the use of emotionally supportive language.
- Offer more counseling for trauma to reduce the fear of talking about problems.
- Incorporate programs that increase resilience for single parents.
- Recognize personal responsibility and instill positive values in children such as giving back to the community.
- Increase the availability of programs like Big Brothers Big Sisters and Boys & Girls Clubs.
- Develop mentorship programs with people who have had similar experiences and succeeded, using former inmates as mentors.
- Eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness, substance abuse, and a history that included incarceration.
- Expand drug treatment programs, focusing on substance abuse treatment rather than incarceration.
- Shift the perception that Department of Child Safety (DCS) involvement is negative and view DCS as a resource to get back to a healthy state.
- Provide more training for teachers and educational support staff in emotional health to help them better meet the needs of their students.
- Incorporate programs into schools that help young people explore career opportunities and develop a life plan to achieve their goals (including options for both college and vocational training).
- Improve parent/teacher communication and increase transparency between parents and school personnel.
- Develop interactive family workshops that build communication skills.
- Promote community-supported family events to bring people together in positive interactions and build a more cohesive neighborhood environment.
- Increase education about risky behaviors to help families recognize the signs of gang involvement such as clothing choices, language, and friends.
- Provide better information about available resources (use advertisements on buses, billboards, and light rail) and centralize community resources for easier access.
- Increase utilization of the services offered by faith-based and non-profit human services organizations.
- Promote programs for the families of incarcerated individuals that increase communication between parents and children (incorporate technology for face-to-face interactions) and increase the number of social workers in prison to help inmates and families reconnect positively.
- Increase opportunities for social activities in schools, in the home, and in the community, such as block parties and other events that encourage connections to the broader community that will help to remove social barriers and build a sense of community.
- Strengthen the ability of families to maintain contact while in prison, such as developing a program that provides transportation support for families to visit incarcerated individuals.
- Develop family reunification programs that build skills to support family connectivity.
- Offer programming for violent offenders as well as non-violent offenders.
- Increase access to vocational training in prison by expanding 2nd Chance Center services.
- Increase education regarding personal responsibility and the consequences of risky decisions to help children avoid getting into trouble.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

- Find ways to decrease the cost of education and healthcare, particularly for single parents.
- Increase funding for prevention, early intervention programs, and mental health services.

- Offer tax credits for families with children involved in performing arts and sports to support those whose families might otherwise not be able to afford their involvement in extra-curricular activities.
- Expand programs that provide housing and workforce development opportunities, as well as economic assistance to help families move toward self-sufficiency.
- Provide greater access to resources for mental health and substance abuse treatment, as well as other supports such as treatment for anger management to support family unity.
- Increase funding for the expansion of re-entry services to include more safe and stable environments for formerly incarcerated individuals to go to upon release.
- Improve the regulation of halfway houses to eliminate drug use and negative influences.
- Support, promote, and fund programs that will increase families' access to the resources they need to provide the safety and stability children need to thrive.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Lewis Facility Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Continue to keep the information I learned today at the forefront of my mind. It is very important to me to allow my children to thrive.
- Find ways to help my community.
- I will provide for my family and stay close to my family by any means necessary.
- Thrive to be a positive peer worker and guide youth into making great decisions and look into ways to help.
- Provide healthy, stable halfway houses in all areas around the State. This way the formerly incarcerated have a real second chance.
- Commit to keeping government accountable for the services it provides; especially, more effective diversion and re-entry programs to assist families struggling with substance abuse disorders and mental illness.
- Be an active member of my community.
- Engage in community education projects in areas concerning mental health, substance abuse, and rehabilitation with an emphasis on re-entry and corrections.
- One day, work for a non-profit organization.
- Stay involved with Arizona Town Hall.
- Bring more people to Arizona Town Hall events.
- Continue to learn about the problems which impact my community and serve as an advocate.
- Spread the word about Arizona Town Hall and write about this meeting in my blog.
- Commit to hiring formerly incarcerated people to give them a safe paid employment and training in preparation for entry in to the general workforce.
- Continue to stay on this path to success and continue to gain as much knowledge as I can to better myself and my community.
- Share the insights and perspectives of the people I met today to help make a difference for young children and families.
- Focus on finding a solution to incarceration and stop locking people up for small things and try to help them.
- Look into ways that I can help my community.

- Practice resilience in my everyday life and encourage and support others to do the same. Everyone deserves support and everyone deserves support regardless of their situation.
- Become more involved in the betterment of my community and contributing to at-risk youth.
- Be more involved in my community and attend more Arizona Town Hall meetings.
- Be forever thankful for this second chance.
- Educate myself on how to be a part of a strong and thriving family and fight for more opportunities for others to do the same.
- Focus more time and attention on putting together community events at the school to create a space for bonding and connection among families.
- Continue educating children on social-emotional skills.
- Continue to provide support to my peers.
- Once I am released, become involved with Arizona Town hall to advocate for those who are considered disenfranchised.
- Help and volunteer with those who don't have anything to help their family and who can't feed their kids.
- Commit to donating 20 hours of my time to an organization promoting children, whether it's education or just good, fun after-school activities.
- Continue to find ways to make changes to the way we approach correctional programs.
- Be more proactive as a citizen.
- Be more involved in the betterment and success of our youth and their future.
- Help and aid my family as well as other families in my community.
- Attend Arizona Town Hall meetings.
- Engage myself in my community to provide help where needed and generally be involved in anything I can.
- Sponsor legislation to reduce the rate of evictions in Arizona, to help families be strong by keeping their homes.
- I will work to obtain inner strength so that I can positively influence my surroundings rather than being negatively influenced by them.
- Assist in facilitating more family-oriented activities in visitations to encourage family unification during incarceration.
- Write my legislators to advocate for a shift in funding from incarceration to prevention and treatment services.
- Work to elect legislators who support prevention and treatment programs rather than punishment as a way of addressing societal issues.
- Read and share the Arizona Town Hall report with my agency directors.
- Release the shame of being a child of a father who was in prison.
- Encourage others on the importance of family and do my best to pass on ideas and skills to help strengthen family ties and relationships.
- Be a productive member of my community.
- Not pass blame for the condition of my community, our world or my life. I will do what I can to make things better. I will believe and stand on the fact that we can do it together.
- Take what I learned and apply it to life – make a difference – educate myself.
- Start working on becoming the definition of what a real man should be so I can help myself and others.

- Run for office as an Advocate for sentencing reform, drug abuse prevention and family support programs.
- Maintain awareness of what's right and wrong.
- Receive and give family support to maintain a drug-free lifestyle.
- Focus on civil advocacy, render potential advocacies as requisite for developmental procedure.
- Be clean and sober.
- Help children with their lives to do well.
- Advocate regulation of half-way houses.
- Advocate for second chance centers.

LEWIS FACILITY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SPONSORS



“Strong Families Thriving Children”

Sierra Vista Community Town Hall Report

Sierra Vista, AZ – October 7, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

Sierra Vista Community Town Hall Report

Monday, October 7, 2019 – Sierra Vista, AZ

Participants of the October 2019 Sierra Vista Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

In healthy families parents provide a supportive and financially stable environment. A thriving family is drug and abuse free. All families go through trials, but a strong family is resilient, and has good coping skills. In healthy families there is some element of family time, and parents are present for the children. There is good communication, and children feel valued and safe. Thriving children feel safe to make mistakes, have a healthy level of independence, and have the space they need to grow and mature.

In healthy families parents are present for their children. Strong families spend quality time together and put the family first. Children are well nourished. The family has healthy routines, and there may be organized chaos.

Strong families are aware of their own circumstances and feel able to ask for help when needed. They are supported by their extended family and their community. They have financial resources, and access to quality education that includes parental involvement, quality health care, and mental health care.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

We can strengthen Arizona families and children by building infrastructure to support families and encouraging community organizations to be involved in the community and to share information. One of the best ways to do that is through programs sponsored by employers, such as support groups including support groups for kids in schools, and skill building groups for young parents and parents to be, including the skills of empathy. Help young people get the skills they need to have a sense of purpose and hope. Provide community centers where families and children can learn the life skills they need such as budgeting. These community centers can also serve as places kids can go after school where adult supervision is available.

Foster more collaboration among social service and community organizations. Establish a clearing house or hub where all community resources and social services are available, directly or through referral. Improve access to mental health care and offer more resources for post-natal mothers and their children. Develop options outside the faith communities to help people prepare for marriage and child rearing. Build trusting relationships with children and families to identify those who need help. Eliminate the stigma associated with accepting help. Hire more great teachers to strengthen families and help children thrive.

Reduce the negative impact of geographic isolation by increasing the amount of activities available, assessing the issues, and being intentional in programming. Ask families and children in rural communities what they want and need. Hold round tables and conferences. Adequately fund non-governmental organizations that are providing services that in other areas are provided by government.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

Value education and educators, specifically public education. Increase funding for public schools. Raise taxes as needed to fund public education adequately and reassess how schools are funded. Incrementally and consistently improve Arizona's overall funding status vs. the rest of the country. Address Cochise County's property tax issues to help solve its education funding problems.

Protect AHCCCS and Kids Care and devote more resources to early childhood development, and more and better access to mental health care.

Promote the formation of new partnerships that support families and children. Schools and businesses both make great partners and supporters of families. Attach family resource centers to schools. Provide incentives for various employer programs that support strong families.

Rural communities need more resources and programming specific to their challenges. The voices of these communities need to be included at the table whenever issues affecting families are being discussed.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Sierra Vista Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Tell others about the value of a Town Hall meeting.
- Share the ideas and information with others at my church.
- Work in Douglas to develop strong families and thriving children.
- Use this information at our next County Roundtable.
- Share with others what Town Hall is about and what goes on at the meetings. Encourage others to attend, especially Pastors from the DFA (Discovery Forum Alliance), an Ecumenical Group.
- Participate in the Statewide ACE's Project headed by Dr. Ghandi from Childhelp to collect ACE/PCE data from 13 other FAC/CAC's within Arizona.
- Educate myself on community resources.
- Share information with those in need or to organizations/people working with those in need.
- Continue to build connections with individuals and organizations that have the same goals and seek out opportunities to collaborate.
- Continue to educate myself about local issues and provide educational opportunities for my community.
- Discuss with my employer the possibility of hosting community town halls to discuss strengthening families.
- Provide information about existing resources in our community to our church members and other community people to help them with their concerns.
- Raise awareness of the issues and recommendations discussed today.
- Continue to work at the school districts in providing education and training classes as well as implement support groups for our children within schools (sexual/physical abuse, sexual violence, drugs).
- Be the best Grandpa I can for my grandchildren and my wife and family.
- Take this idea to our Rotary Club & Healthy Communities Committee and adapt or start at least one new project that will impact families.
- Use my position as a Community Engagement Specialist to spread the word about the different programs in the community where I work. Help decrease the duplication of services funding, so those monies could be used for other needs.
- Shift my focus from just children to family ministry to help build strong families rather than just strong youth.
- I plan to share ideas learned today on my council Facebook page and perhaps to prepare an op-ed.
- Work to identify someone in every county community to attend Arizona Town Hall, both the community and statewide events.
- Use my skills and the organizations of which I am a member to support families and help them make good decisions.

SIERRA VISTA COMMUNITY TOWN HALL
HOSTED IN COLLABORATION WITH:



“Strong Families Thriving Children”

Cave Creek Community Town Hall Report

Cave Creek, AZ – October 8, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

Cave Creek Community Town Hall Report

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 – Cave Creek, AZ

Participants of the October 2019 Cave Creek Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

Strong families with thriving children are like a tree: what is important is not how it looks on the outside but the strength and health of the root system that provides the anchoring structure, and nurtures and protects the tree against the outside forces that otherwise might blow it down.

A strong family is founded on love and caring, has a supportive network, and establishes supportive expectations. Resources are easily found and accessible. Strong families have faith in something. Members maintain good communication, listen and pay attention to one another, set appropriate limits, provide appropriate nutrition, and provide appropriate and consistent oversight for children. There are trusted adults in the family, ideally two parents, and families also may be comprised of people who are not genetically related. Adults treat both children and one another with respect. Parental figures are present and involved, and they have good parenting skills. The adults act like parents, not friends, and lead by example. Adults are encouraging, not judging. Children are polite and respectful of themselves and others. Parents teach their children empathy and good citizenship, diversity, mindfulness, inclusion, and tools for coping.

Mistakes are made and overcome. Strong families deal with adversity as a team, and include children in problem solving. They have hope. There are supportive extended family members. Family and community support is available when families are under stress. Family members are taught to recognize the signs of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and they intervene or seek help early when ACEs occur.

Basic physical, financial and emotional needs are met. There is good quality childcare, and a safe and secure environment. Children feel loved, and have a sense of belonging, a voice, and a strong emotional connection. Pride, love and acceptance are not conditioned on performance. Communication comes from a place of love. Parents manage electronic devices, and place importance on spending quality family time together, like sharing family meals. Children receive a good education with an emphasis on employable skills.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Create a space in the community that would bring everyone together, and connect and engage people in different segments to information and resources. Utilize coaches and other positive adult relationship and role models. Encourage employers to provide guidance and resources to those who have mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression. Link schools and libraries to resources in the community. Make use of retired people as volunteers.

Increase community education and collaboration between and among community entities, including faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, schools, government, and the media. Prepare people for marriage and parenthood. Provide better education about life skills and the problems and challenges that people face, including ACEs, drugs, and human trafficking. Make people aware of the benefits and dangers of electronic devices and social media. Improve this type of education for law enforcement and key professionals. Take existing outreach programs and strengthen their message and broaden their scope. Parenting education programs such as First Things First, after school programs, and in-school programs are all important. Take the town hall process and experience into the schools and teach students how to communicate better. Expand programs that teach youth life skills, such as the program that teaches kids at risk how to identify when they are feeling out of control and how to control their behavior. Agree on morals and integrity and teach them to our youth. Use grass roots efforts.

The greatest opportunity for change is at the personal level. Know your neighbors. Un-gate the gated communities and encourage people to connect with one another.

Fund the needed resources, including in rural communities, so that families aren't left behind.

We need a vibrant economy to make these things happen.

Reduce funding for incarceration and increase funding for education.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

- Fund education at least to the median level for the United States.
- Publicize the 211Arizona.org resource directory so that everyone knows that it exists and how to access it.
- Have counselors available at all K-12 schools, including for social and emotional counseling programs in the classroom.
- Improve the tax code to make the 501(c)3 deduction unlimited.
- Prioritize children because children are our future.
- We need programs for our youngest, most vulnerable children ages 3-5.
- Encourage physicians to spend more time with families and children.
- Have resource centers that are available for everyone, and fund parenting support and education programs.
- Ensure that we have a thriving economy.
- Money has been taken from middle class to address the programs for the poor; this has started the decline of the middle class.
- Revisit how welfare benefits are distributed.
- Increase oversight and review by the Department of Child Safety (DCS) of policies associated with child predators. Put the safety of families ahead of businesses, and encourage businesses to support families.
- Shift funding from incarceration to programs that strengthen families and children through prevention and treatment.
- Institute the 24/7 Sobriety Program as a policy for drunk driving to reduce arrests and keep parents employed and in the home.
- Encourage people to reach out to their elected representatives to advocate for programs and resources needed by families and children. Ask elected representatives to get out into the community to "walk a mile in our shoes" to see problems first hand, to listen to their constituents and to act.
- Address the disparities in health insurance coverage. Find ways for the state to provide coverage comparable to that provided by private employers.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Cave Creek Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Share Town Hall information with families.
- Learn about community resources and share with families.
- Assist abused families with baby-sitting.
- Become more engaged in monitoring my children's social media and use of electronics.

- Encourage my grandson and fiancé to attend faith-based marriage counseling and childcare before they get married.
- Share my knowledge of the Adverse Childhood Experiences and protective factors with my colleagues and neighbors in my community.
- Strive to strengthen my family.
- Work to support my children.
- Create and hold space where family can connect to God and be supported in their family life.
- Be engaged in helping other families thrive.
- Continue to grow my commitment to local problems and my faith-based values and integrity in my community.
- Host a child abuse prevention workshop for community members.
- Investigate and advocate for ways Kiwanis can support the forgotten youth.
- Become acquainted with who my elected officials are.
- Make an effort to stay in touch with elected officials.
- Create stronger family unit by working with police to create a database that allows police to know in advance if a call comes from a family with a child who has special needs.
- Be an advocate and partner with other non-profits, faith-based organizations and schools to educate as well as to provide resources to provide education and increase prevention of Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- Continue to volunteer and support nonprofit organizations in reaching families and children with programs and services to meet their needs as well as identify opportunities for collaboration.
- Bring all discussed ideas to our nine legislators and ask them what they plan to do.
- Bring additional resources to the people who need our support.
- Talk to my representatives, get involved and advocate for funding for all communities and age groups – not based on income levels.
- Help to find/promote the establishment of a Cave Creek/Carefree/Desert Hills Community Resource Center.
- Educate myself on various family services already in place and become a resource on those services.
- Get involved in local community groups.
- Communicate with state legislator about needs of community as identified in Town Hall.
- Join another organization that focuses on Strong Families Thriving Children.
- Be an advocate for social and emotional programs, as well as support school staff and other community organizations.
- Become more politically active.
- Continue to learn new skills to help me be a better grandparent.
- Continue to support my local libraries.
- Continue to improve my skills as a marriage preparation monitor.
- Encourage the accessibility of resources for children and families.
- Dedicate my time and energy to work with Kiwanis to develop programs that promote programs for children.
- Explore idea of Town Halls in schools with the Superintendent.

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“Strong Families Thriving Children”

Maryvale Community Town Hall Report

Phoenix, AZ – October 10, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

Maryvale Community Town Hall Report
Thursday, October 10, 2019 – Phoenix, AZ

Participants of the October 2019 Maryvale Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

Define family broadly to reflect the current society we live in. Family may include caring adults or others in the community who provide loving support.

Strong families have love, respect, humor, ties to their cultural identity, strong values, work/ life balance and opportunities to thrive. They have dedicated time and good communication with each other. They listen to and respect each other, including gender identities. They have responsible, caring adults who know how to emotionally support their children. They are resilient and able to creatively address challenges that arise.

Their basic needs are met, including financial stability, safety, housing, education and healthcare (including mental health). They have access to affordable, high quality childcare and other information and services as needed.

Strong families feel connected to their community and comfortable reaching out for help when needed. Having services provided in multiple languages allows resources to be more accessible. There is access to needed resources within the community, including education, information and services for substance abuse and recreation opportunities for the family.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Create an environment where parents feel supported and there is no stigma associated with asking for assistance.

Keep families together. Repeal SB1070 and eliminate the racial profiling and cultural biases that can lead to families being separated. Provide additional training to police and first responders so that they can respond more empathetically to situations and be more of a community partner.

End mass incarceration which also separates families. Make changes in workplace policies to allow families to take time off when needed.

Reduce substance abuse through programs that focus on prevention and are available and affordable to all. Reduce bullying, domestic violence, racial profiling and discrimination. Provide leadership opportunities for our youth.

Families would be stronger if we had greater gun control measures in place, jobs that pay better, and resources matched to those in need. Break down silos that create barriers for accessing resources. This includes working in collaboration with government and other sectors to leverage existing resources to better serve our families. It also includes making resources more available and accessible to those in need.

Maximize the opportunities available within our schools by having trauma-informed staff, and partnerships that enhance what schools provide. This includes parent education about child development, support for struggling parents and support for teachers and others who work directly with our children.

Share and highlight the positive aspects of our community, not just the challenges. Our community has many things to be proud of.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

Pledge allegiance to our children. Listen to our kids and put all children first. Have the courage to listen to conversations like this.

Be transparent and accountable. Focus less on the interests of corporations and more on the needs of your constituents, the people you serve. Be courageous and speak up for the needs of the community, including the undocumented members of our community.

Spend more time in your communities and embrace them. Provide opportunities for youth and diverse people (including diverse families) to stay connected, and to have pride in their communities. Provide activities and opportunities that allow families to thrive.

Put more dollars toward prevention, especially for early childhood. Fund education the way it needs to be funded. Spend more on education and less on incarceration. Provide opportunities for criminal records to be expunged so that people can find jobs. Spend less on police and invest more in community activities, like town halls, that actually make the community safer.

Address the needs of the people who really need to be helped. Provide safe, affordable housing and change the laws so that families can stay together.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Maryvale Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Keep working with my community.
- Ask my friends, family and school to embrace support groups.
- Educate the community's youth to understand helping people in need.
- Be more mindful of the struggles my neighbors face that may be foreign to me, enabling me to advocate for the collective well-being of our community.
- Strive to invite diverse voices to the table as all voices have value. Diversity invites creativity, problem solving and the opportunity for success.
- Be present, active and connected to my community and encourage others to do the same in their own capacity.
- Yo voy a ser uncambio en mi conunidad compartiendo esta valiosa información.
- Yo voy hacer madre temporal y dar amor y cuida-do a ninios que nesesitan.
- Llevar esta informacion al a comunidad.
- Que la comunidad este informuda y conosca sus derechhos, porque como gente de color é indocumentada tumbien tenemos derecho a tener Acceso a Medicos desalud.
- Educate my community, be transparent and hold legislature accountable to speak up for our community and healthy and happy families.
- Share the information with our leadership team.
- Look of opportunities to host community discussions at City of Phoenix Community Centers.
- Ask our young patients what we can do to make their healthcare better.
- Be a patient, loving, courageous and supportive parent and role model
- Daily challenge myself to act on strengthening families and children. What did I do Today?
- Advance ACE's in my job, as a parent, and as a voter.
- Tell my elected officials to put child well-being at the center of their decision-making.
- Keep my courage up and speak out against efforts to harm children.

- Do what I can to help organizations deliver resources and awareness to underserved communities.
- Educate my community n ACE's, resources and how to advocate for children and families.
- Inform patients here and anyone I know about community resources.
- Work more closely with other community organizations and schools to stand stronger and more united.
- Educate and advocate for agencies to promote their resources to at-risk communities to be more accessible.
- Use my resources to improve communication within our target area of resources available to the community and encourage others to do the same.
- Develop relationships with other social service organizations to learn more about how we can better serve families together.
- Empower youth to be strong, informed leaders in their communities.
- Invite colleagues to attend future town halls and voice their opinions.
- Help decision makers understand all perspectives of the communities they serve.
- Encourage more concern and assistance with affordable housing across the state of Arizona.
- Encourage more support for quality education, increase wages for all in the field of education – who work hard to educate, protect our children and our future.
- Listen and continue to put children at the center of my work and decision making.
- Make sure that I am an ally to those that experience barriers and provide resources to those in need.
- Continue to educate others about the importance of early brain development and the impact Adverse Childhood Experiences can have – Education leads to resiliency.
- Do more good for Arizona's children and families.
- Be the voice of my community.
- Continue pushing for Healthy Communities policies and access to resources for those in need.
- Work to bridge partnerships/connections that will help develop opportunities for progress and improvement.
- Share with my colleges the information shared tonight.
- Share information learned at this town hall at my next village planning meetings.
- Seek opportunities to understand the needs of my communities I serve and interact.

MARYVALE COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SPONSORS



“Strong Families Thriving Children”
White Mountains Community Town Hall Report
Pinetop, AZ – October 11, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

White Mountains Community Town Hall Report

Friday, October 11, 2019 – Pinetop, AZ

Participants of the October 2019 White Mountains Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

Family means different things to different people and may be different for different cultures. Family is a group of people who take care of one another and support one another, and it may be a place of employment. Families provide love and respect and nurture their children. Ideally a family unit would have two parents, as single parents, particularly teen mothers, may struggle to provide what children need. At the heart of family there is structure and a sense of connection and support.

Strong families have safety, support and a sense of belonging. They have access to enough food and health care, including behavioral and dental. There is family support, spiritual belief and community pride, so that family members feel rooted in the community, with a sense of connection. Children have a sense of self-worth. There is quality family time and good communication among family members and with others in the community. Expectations are clearly communicated and consistently enforced. Strong families spend quality time together and try to schedule that time. Parents monitor the use of electronic devices, particularly at mealtimes, and serve as good role models. There is access to family intervention services as early as possible.

Strong families have a livable income, and access to education, job training, and the other tools they need to achieve financial stability. They have access to high quality nutrition, and high quality, affordable childcare. In strong families children are exposed to new experiences, cultures, languages, foods, and people.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Existing programs and resources may have to be restructured, consolidated or expanded, and information about those programs better disseminated. Provide 100% access to the 10 services people need to survive and thrive. Break down silos and do a better job of connecting people to resources, and connecting people working in the field to one another so that they can connect the people who need help to the available programs and resources.

Look to local programs, such as MAMAs, that could be expanded or scaled up, and to national programs, such as Nurse Family Partnership for which there is evidence of effectiveness and consider adopting those programs. Focus on adopting and expanding evidence-based programs and highlighting effective programs.

People of all ages need access to formal and informal education. Ensure that people understand the causes and consequences of behaviors such as drug abuse, domestic violence, and other ACEs. Increase knowledge about available resources and access to resources. Parents need information about parenting. Programs such as the family engagement center at Blue Ridge School are wonderful examples of the benefits that partnerships between schools and the community can provide. At Blue Ridge parents can not only drop off their children for after school programs, they can obtain education themselves, everything from parenting classes to language training.

Build a network of community programs to support families under stress, such as support groups, food banks, and substance abuse treatment and parenting programs, and find ways to incentivize participation in parenting programs. Eliminate the stigma associated with the use of such resources.

Create opportunities to model healthy relationships, recognizing that there are families that are the product of generations of high stress and trauma. Provide high quality after school programs that kids want to participate in. Offer programs that will support families to keep children in their homes with access to the services they need.

Quality childcare that is appropriately licensed and available 24/7 will support the needs of working parents.

Ensure easy access to dental and behavioral health and routine medical care. Provide reliable public transportation and safe sidewalks so that children can walk and bike to school. Offer more activities for children, such as 4-H programs. Communities need faith-based organizations as well as community centers.

Programs that improve the economic health of the community and offer a hand up rather than a handout will strengthen families. Support for entrepreneurship can be extremely valuable. Teach basic life skills such as economics, cooking and sewing. Establish workforce development, training and education programs that are holistic and aligned with employer needs.

Prepare first responders with tools to help address the problems they will encounter in the field.

Make sure providers are compassionate, supportive, knowledgeable and not judgmental. Solving these problems and connecting people to the resources they need should not be about “those people over there.”

Rural communities need to have jobs that pay a living wage, and have affordable, accessible and safe housing.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

Fund education in schools, businesses, and the community, including workforce training and development.

Create a common access portal for information and resources that families need, and make sure that these facilities train their front-line staff to know what services and resources are available.

Create high quality, affordable childcare, with wraparound care, implemented through a tax credit or other tax incentive.

Create family-centered schools, serving as a one-stop center that become a hub for family services.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the White Mountains Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Visit Family Engagement Center and learn how to engage our NAMI WM Chapter with them.
- Continue to make Family Engagement Center at Blue Ridge grow.
- Education.
- Continue to volunteer at Blue Ridge Elementary School kindergarten.
- Get involved in the Family Engagement Center at Blue Ridge Elementary.
- Commit to making sure staff and Pastors of the Church will be ACEs trained.
- Find ACEs resiliency training resources and learn as well as advocate within the community and work to incorporate ACEs and resiliency training.
- Work to improve the fabric of communication so partners/providers do a better job of complimenting others services as opposed to duplicating services.
- Connect others who are active in community work to break down silos, connect resources and increase educational opportunities on ACEs and resilient factors in Navajo County with some key groups and leaders in Apache County.
- Continue collaboration with organizations.

- Share knowledge and resources.
- Continue educating myself, family and staff on strong families/ACES/SA.
- Help bring education and resources to communities.

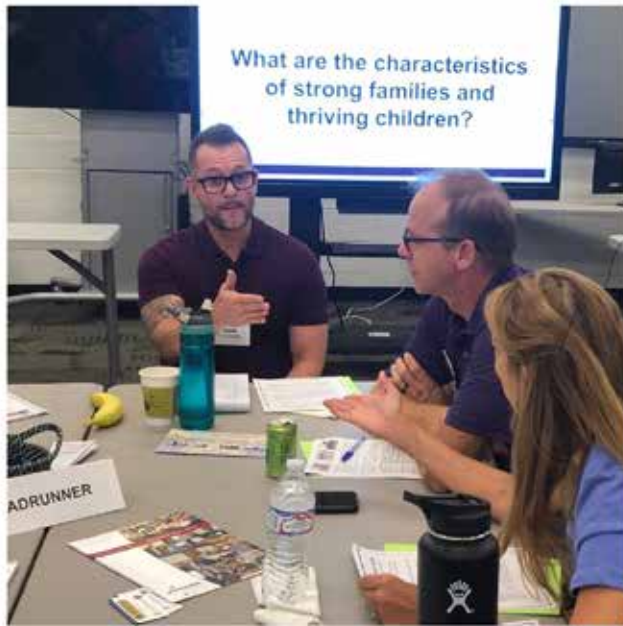
WHITE MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SPONSORS



“Strong Families Thriving Children”

Apache Junction Community Town Hall Report

Apache Junction, AZ – October 18, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

Apache Junction Community Town Hall Report
Friday, October 18, 2019 – Apache Junction, AZ

Participants of the October 2019 Apache Junction Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

In strong families, there is stability, routine, and consistency. Parents, extended family and the community provide a strong support system for children. Thriving children have a feeling of belonging within the family and the community. It helps for the family to have a church affiliation, friends, and connection to the larger community. Thriving children and families are resilient, and have the ability to bounce back from adversity.

There is economic security and the basic needs of families are met, such as a roof over their heads and food on the table. Health care is available, with early intervention where needed. Caregivers meet children where they are at and adapt their parenting skills to address the influences of social media and tech devices.

Caring adults provide proper guidance, and they discipline children but in a good way. It is clear to children that it is okay to fail so they can learn how to grow and bounce back from mistakes. Kids know that their home is a safe place to come where they will be loved and supported. They have a strong relationship with a caring adult, who may not be a parent. Parents are careful in how they talk with kids about issues. They work to break the cycle of poverty and drugs because when children grow up in a house of chaos, they tend to repeat the cycle because they don't know any different. Parents don't worry about keeping up with the Joneses and they recognize that while there is a place for participation trophies, it is more important for parents to figure out what programs and activities their children need to thrive, and find ways to encourage them to participate in those programs. Parents manage their own stress in order to tend to their children. They provide structure and a sense of belonging. Parents are socially active, and they model engagement and respect.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Networking of resources would be helpful, with outreach to make people aware of what resources are available and how to access them. A brochure could be developed that would be given to new residents, for example when they buy or rent a home, that would welcome them to their new home and provide information about available resources.

Loss of job, lack of food, a health emergency, or an injury, often pose a barrier to obtaining the help that would alleviate those very circumstances. Remove barriers to families obtaining needed services, which include lack of transportation, fines, and lack of information about programs. If helping programs are to be available, the community needs to have jobs and affordable housing. Design programs that offer assistance with a "give back" component, so that people "give a little and take a little."

Education offers great opportunities for both children and adults. Make available a full spectrum of lifelong learning opportunities, including parenting classes.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

Support better allocation of funding and more direct connection to resources and follow through. Reduce bureaucracy. Bring resources to people in places where they already are, such as schools. Project Connect is a great example of how this might work.

Prioritize and increase funding for education. Make funding equitable and adequate, which does not necessarily mean equal. Base funding on the needs of each community. Invest in education to invest in children, because they are our future.

Address the health care needs of families because many families are just one accident or illness away from financial ruin. Continuity of coverage and awareness of coverage availability and rights are both important pieces of this issue. Don't take away Kids Care. Regulate the cost of prescription drugs, and keep out of pocket costs as low as possible.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Apache Junction Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Be more involved in my community and get others to become more involved or at least be more informed about opportunities.
- Continue to advocate for adequate funding for our educational institutions.
- Look at an opportunity for our Youth Advisory Council to engage in this discussion or another through a Future Leaders Town Hall.
- Reach out to community relationship facilitators to understand family needs and influence my circle of support to engage and prioritize support where it is needed.
- Ensure that the Apache Junction Unified School District creates a community resource manual for school personnel to guide parents and guardians to the needed resource(s).
- Research education funding mechanisms.
- Adopt a family in need.
- Work within my new group to help create more sense of community.
- Advocate that the government is not the solution, and that relationships on an individual level are the solution.
- Continue to connect to resources in the community and inform them about Head Start and what we do.
- Let people know about today's meeting.
- Promote our facility as a resource.
- Have resources for parents available at the school.
- Continue to advocate for health and wellness through Thriving Communities and Economic Impact.
- Create a parent resource list.
- Continue to promote partnerships in the community that have a positive impact.
- Contact the newspaper regarding articles explaining resources.
- Continue to work with communities to educate them about how to access health care and community resources.
- Help raise awareness in my community to strengthen families.
- Create awareness by sharing issues and information on social media.

APACHE JUNCTION COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SPONSORS



“Strong Families Thriving Children”

Flagstaff Community Town Hall Report

Flagstaff, AZ – October 24, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

Flagstaff Community Town Hall Report
Thursday, October 24, 2019 – Flagstaff, AZ

Participants of the October 2019 Flagstaff Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

Strong families have quality time together. They communicate and have fun together. There is trust, loyalty, and love.

The children have freedom to grow, and are given an opportunity to be heard. The families engage in activities together. They are able to work together through any difficulties and able to share their feelings.

Strong families have support from others, including extended family members and the broader community. Their basic needs of housing, food and health care are met.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Financial issues, lack of resources, support for parents and affordable, safe housing are all challenges facing Arizona families.

There are a number of ways to address these challenges.

- Improve access to quality education, after school activities and job opportunities for our youth.
- Provide assistance to deal with domestic violence.
- Ensure adequate transportation to afterschool programs because they are essential to developing children and strengthening families.
- Offer resources to families to enable them to gain necessary knowledge and help them through major challenges.
- Increase the availability of health care (including mental health), childcare, tutoring, educational support, and training for job opportunities for different age groups.
- Provide incentives for business that support these goals.
- Build community awareness and knowledge about these issues so that communities can better address the factors that cause Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and increase protective factors.

ROLE OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS IN CREATING STRONG FAMILIES

Afterschool programs can make or break our children and families. They provide safe spaces and opportunities for children to learn and grow. They provide opportunities that prepare youth for further education, including both formal education as well as life and communication skills.

They allow children and youth to make friends and to have additional emotional support in a safe environment where they can share challenges that may be facing them or their families. They create structure, discipline and additional opportunities.

Afterschool programs allow parents who need to work the security of knowing their children are well cared for, and they provide children with additional educational support such as tutoring and homework assistance.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Apache Junction Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Spark interest and support, help and friendship to other people in the community.
- Continue to give emotional support while teaching life skills and never stop learning to be able to provide services to our community.
- Continue to provide an afterschool program at the YMCA to my community and ensure teens feel welcome.
- Spread my knowledge to the community and offer open hands to those who are struggling.
- Engage in conversations with children and parents about what challenges they face and what is needed to address them.
- Advocate for increased state funding for education and afterschool programs that are accessible to all students.
- Work hard to make those around me feel as if they belong and are supported, along with offering my help with any problems they may have.
- Educate the community and stakeholders about the importance of providing resources and early intervention and support of families to provide resources and early intervention to meet the needs of parents and families thereby contributing to the development of thriving children and healthy future generations.
- Be more aware of the people around me and if they are acting differently than usual.
- Take more time to listen and/or engage with the youth of my communities especially with my own children.
- Speak to the Coalition about their experiences.
- Learn more about family issues and ways to support families and children at home.
- Make new connections for resources in the community.
- Talk about what we need for strong thriving children and families.
- Talk about the health and wellness needs of children and families.
- Spread what I learned today. Tell my teachers and my friends about these issues because some people have more connections than others.
- Take advantage of opportunities that are provided for me. I will also share with friends and family opportunities that are out there. I will manage my time and help others.
- Advocate for myself and make known that there are programs that can help. I will do a better job of making more choices about my future, and be that someone people can talk to.
- Listen to the needs of Native populations to make sure we are serving them to the best of our ability.
- Continue to support safe public places for children to learn, connect and be heard.
- Advocate for families for better services and access to opportunities.
- Communicate and lend a hand to children and families in Arizona by befriending, talking with them, giving time and helping them if they are doing something that needs to be done.
- Learn about ACEs and share what I learn.
- Volunteer and vote.
- Expand the reach of services.
- Inspire others to educate themselves.

- Convince others of the importance of mental health awareness.
- Talk to friends about personal problems.
- Go to more Town Hall discussions.
- Attend the Save the Earth discussions.
- Share within my organization what I learned from my participation in this town hall.
- Continue afterschool programs and help involve youth in the larger community.
- Create an opportunity for ALL.
- Be kind.
- Connect community members like researchers, experts and businesses to schools and afterschool programs.
- Show up to these places to demonstrate support and help out if needed!!!
- Show support and kindness to everyone.
- Walk to raise funds for scholarships.
- Report on my participation in this town hall to our agency management.
- Potentially send staff and youth to the statewide town hall.
- Continue afterschool programs, and consider opening them up from just court-involved youth to the larger community.

FLAGSTAFF COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SPONSORS



“Strong Families Thriving Children”

Southwest Arizona Town Hall Report

Yuma, AZ – October 25, 2019



Southwest Arizona Town Hall
STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN
October 25, 2019 – Final Report

INTRODUCTION

On October 25, 2019, over 140 community and student leaders from Yuma County met together in a Southwest Arizona Town Hall Plenary Session to learn about, discuss and make recommendations regarding the topic, “Strong families and thriving children”.

Those gathered heard informative presentations from a distinguished panel of experts and then separated into five breakout groups each led by a Chairperson and a Panel Recorder. Using information gleaned from research documents furnished to each participant, the knowledge gained from the speaker’s panel, and the background each participant brought to the table, the five groups then addressed a series of questions designed to elicit consensus statements and recommendations regarding the topic. The Panel Recorders skillfully drafted consensus statements from each panel, which were forwarded in real time to a Report Writers. The Report Writers, working rapidly throughout the day, collated and edited the multi panel statements into a cohesive report of the consensus of the Plenary. This, then, is the Final Report of the 23rd Plenary of the Southwest Arizona Town Hall.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN:
HELPING YUMA COUNTY’S CHILDREN PROSPER AND THRIVE

Strong families and thriving children have identifiable characteristics. Examining these characteristics, and discussing what goals we as a community envision for our children helps Yuma County’s children and families to have the essential support needed to prosper and thrive. The characteristics of strong families and thriving children are varied. At their basic core, healthy families and healthy relationships are essential for strong families and thriving children. But “health” is not limited to traditional measures of wellness—it also includes other measures, such as functioning relationships and educational opportunities. Health starts with life’s basic needs, such as food, safety, and healthcare, and expands to include access to education (including early intervention), economic and job security, affordable and safe housing, and opportunities for success. Beyond these are relationship needs, such as strong adult role models, close familial bonds, and meaningful caregivers.

Strong families spend time together; stability for children, particularly at the family level, is critical. Strong children require parents and extended family members involved in their lives, so that the children know that they are in a safe and secure environment and that they are loved. Even simple things, such as breakfast at home with the family, are important. Where family may have other demands limiting its time, such as jobs with long hours, the community connection of neighbors linked as extended family is needed. This community support helps children, particularly those at-risk (also known as kids-at-hope), in times both good and bad, as role models, caregivers, and support. Indeed, our strength in Yuma County is our residents’ sincerity in helping families and children belong.

To foster these objectives—strong physical, social/emotional, and educational health—we envision strengthening certain aspects of our community to provide buttresses for these goals, particularly in early intervention. For example, our community should provide good opportunities for parents and children to have positive experiences together, particularly those that are little or no cost. This could include school facilities, parks, recreational programs, and special events. There are several relationships/networks that serve as an umbrella over families, including faith-based organizations, schools, non-profits, social clubs and events, the parks and recreation division, and healthy food and food security programs. Community-based schools that include services beyond traditional education are a model of how the community and these umbrella organizations can be directly involved with helping families gain easier access to services while protecting children’s well-being and preparing them to succeed with a whole-child approach.

Additionally, opportunities for outreach to parents so that they can gain an understanding of child development and the knowledge to implement best practices are critical, as parental involvement is such a

key indicator of childhood success. Being informed is essential for families to be able to help their children thrive within the unique circumstances of each family. Parents need access to tailored adult education to assist with understanding child development and the importance of providing a stimulating and educational home life, and schools can then supplement to help create well-rounded students. It is critical for the community to not just provide these services but to also make community members aware of them and to assist with getting families physically to the resources they need. This may mean providing transportation, or it may mean creating various contact points throughout the community that are within a reasonable distance of neighborhoods. Integrating employers may help too, as there are unique services and resources within particular industries available to employees.

Further, children need safe spaces in which to develop their own personalities and characteristics, where they can exercise some independence and have say-so in decisions affecting their lives. As such, economic security and safe housing are critical, as is educational attainment and early-access to developmental programs.

OBSTACLES AND BARRIERS TO STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN: THE CHALLENGES FACED BY SOME YUMA COUNTY FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

In Yuma County, there are some unique barriers and obstacles that children and families experience. With Yuma County's rural location, it is difficult to find skilled professionals, causing families to travel long distances to larger cities, which for many families often results in financial hardship and an overall disruption in daily life. This also limits the availability of funding and grant opportunities, particularly funding for education and mental health.

In Yuma County, incomplete education and inadequate training, and the lack of awareness about available resources, are significant obstacles affecting the region's economic development, gainful employment, and the future of the community. Educators and parents need more access to training and resources to support children in school and the home, including mental health education and an understanding of the role of Adverse Childhood Experiences. Parents need access to education to assist with understanding child development and the importance of providing a healthy and stimulating home life. Parents also need greater access to medical resources, and efforts should be undertaken to remove any stigma from utilizing "no cost" and free screenings (a hand up, not a hand out).

With Yuma County housing two military bases and having agriculture as one of its main economic drivers, many families are in transition, experiencing constant change in their lives. Further, there is a large population of immigrant families, and the majority of these are living in two cultures simultaneously. Language barriers exist between resource providers and families, creating a barrier to certain needs.

Yuma County has high unemployment rates, along with low wage jobs, causing parents to work many hours or multiple jobs, limiting the amount of time spent with their families. Low wages create a dilemma for families in choosing between the needs of the family and paying for support services. Employment, among other things, may also create separation in a family, and Yuma County is lacking in resources for such an obstacle. Affordable housing and accessible transportation is also a barrier to our population.

OPPORTUNITIES AND SOLUTIONS:

THE GREATEST AVENUES FOR STRENGTHENING YUMA COUNTY FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

There are multiple avenues within Yuma County available to provide opportunities to families and children. These paths serve different goals, including increasing protective factors (parental resilience, social connections, knowledge, support, and social/emotional competence) through a variety of organizations. As the environment shapes the child, children need to be provided the most optimal environment possible to grow into stable and strong people, which includes access to education, healthy foods, parks, and healthcare.

The most obvious answer is to strengthen and empower our schools to provide support and services to its students and their families. The school system is something that virtually all children and families interact with, and thus it is a very logical hub for providing access to services. It can aggregate the offerings of multiple non-profits and government agencies for the families that need those services and struggle with accessibility.

Teachers can be a trusted resource that help parents utilize support resources that they may not otherwise seek out. Social workers are another important asset the schools can provide. For example, certain schools are already discussing creating model child care programs for their students to create a new generation of informed parents as they enter adulthood. This also has the added benefit of increasing awareness of the services and jobs provided in the field of early childhood development. At least one elementary school in the area is already embracing the community school model, and this can be expanded on a larger scale to other schools in the county, providing more access to preschool and health care. Involving parents in the operation of schools and educational programs serves to inspire the parents and, in turn, the parents have the means to inspire the child.

These types of services can also be integrated into community-based centers located in housing communities. This local approach provides resident families with easy access to education on how to maintain a family and thrive. Connecting communities, such as young children, older students, working and stay-at-home parents, and the elderly, can benefit all groups by building a social network of support and mentorship. Through these means, we need to expand our services to reflect the “business hours” of our community members, which is not Monday through Friday, 8 to 5. This need can also be met through community-based support groups for parents, which allow parents to share and learn from experts and other parents, providing critical knowledge and ideas.

Availability of services also needs to be publicized. Yuma County already has many non-profits and government agencies that offer education and services to families, but knowledge of their availability is often limited. Accessibility but lack of engagement seems to be the greatest challenge to getting resources to families. Outreach about these programs needs to be strategic in order to remove stigma around assistance in such a way that the families are not ashamed or offended by being offered the services. One such possibility would be to utilize current, participating families as a grass-roots effort to advertise the success of the services received and create a positive community ripple effect that the services are a hand up, not a hand out.

As a long-term solution, educational programs such as the Yuma Promise is also opening an opportunity for our students to earn a postsecondary degree without debt while encouraging generations to remain in our community. Educational opportunities such as STEDY, AWC, NAU-Yuma, UA-Yuma, and ASU@Yuma are available to county residents and are building a well-educated community and creating home-grown specialists who remain in this medically underserved area. Other volunteer programs are available to help students learn confidence, public speaking, and other skills useful for gainful employment. Additional programs that help our population communicate with each other, both in English and Spanish, would help our members and families connect.

YUMA COUNTY’S PRIORITY:

THE TOP SOLUTIONS TO ENSURE OUR VISION OF HEALTHY FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

The top three recommended actions reached by consensus of the Southwest Arizona Town Hall that our community must commit to in order to ensure our vision of healthy families and thriving children are:

- 1. Community centers and resource hubs.** Developing a unified, one-stop-shop approach to services where families and children can learn about programs and opportunities available and utilize them in the same place would provide greater access and resources to families. This would require a consortium of providers and programs that communicate with one another and coordinate, in order to better meet the basic human needs of nutrition, healthcare, childcare, safety, and education.
- 2. Economic opportunities and training.** Changes must be made at the local and legislative level to foster development of Yuma County by attracting commercial developers to create more affordable housing and investment in job creation. This focus should include initiatives to encourage year-round employment opportunities, attract trained professionals (particularly in healthcare), and train adults in marketable job skills.
- 3. Expanding current school services.** Current successful school programs should be expanded upon and offered to more students, such as early childhood education and preschool for all, childcare and expanded school hours, and youth leadership training. The focus should be on obtaining adequate funding to allow for these services.

"STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN" SOUTHWEST ARIZONA TOWN HALL FORUM SPONSORS



“Strong Families Thriving Children”

Mohave County Community Town Hall Report

Lake Havasu City, AZ – November 2, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

Mohave County Community Town Hall Report
Saturday, November 2, 2019 – Lake Havasu City, AZ

Participants of the November 2019 Mohave County Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

Conventional ideas about what is a good family are often based on our life experience and biased by our cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds. In discussing these issues, it is important to understand and respect people where they are in the context of their cultures and backgrounds.

In strong families, there are caring parental figures (not necessarily the biological parents) who are involved with their children. There is open communication, and children are led to understand that real life is not as portrayed in social media.

The foundational levels of Maslow's hierarchy of needs are met: families have food, shelter, income, and health care. Children know that there is sufficient income and support to meet their basic needs.

Family members love and support and appreciate one another for who they are, not who others think they should be. Children feel loved for who they are. There is a strong sense of attachment. Parental figures demonstrate patience and understanding. There are strong core values, with known expectations and known consequences. Parental figures treat children with respect, but meet kids where they are, and allow kids to be kids. Parents don't enable bad behavior, and they empower children to learn from failure.

In strong families there are rules, consistency, chores, responsibility, and family dinners without TV or phones. There is prayer and God. Group discussion is a priority during family dinners. People show up to school and other activities. Strong families maintain family traditions. Parents know what is going on at school, and who their children's friends are. Parents provide structure, limits and love. There is mental and physical health, access to healthy food, outlets for sports and arts. Children learn techniques to manage anxieties other than drugs.

Strong families are cohesive and resilient. They have the capacity to deal with problems, know when they need help and are willing to seek help when needed.

Strong families value mental health and work to overcome taboos and stigmas to achieve it. They recognize that there is strength in numbers and that it takes a village to raise a child. They value group teaching and education. Families are a package deal, both mentally and physically. If there is a problem they treat the whole family, not just the member presenting with symptoms. Strong families are supported by and involved in the community, including some form of faith-based community. They know the value of education and seek it out.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

There are a variety of opportunities to strengthen Arizona families and children. Families would benefit from greater availability of affordable quality day care, and early childhood education programs. There is a need for more family-oriented activities in the community, including summer programs, after school programs, and youth-serving and mentoring organizations such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Faith-based organizations have a role to play in providing such services, and it would be very helpful to have transportation available to transport children and youth to programs and activities that parents may be unwilling or unable to attend. On the other hand, it would be ideal if there were more family members at home instead of relying on day care. For that to happen, we need better, high paying jobs.

There should be places for children to go when they aren't getting what they need at home. We should develop more of a culture of caring and connection. For example, there could be hosted neighborhood gatherings to get acquainted at the level of a living room conversation honoring diverse viewpoints and interests, such as better angels and living room conversations. We could train people to ask "How are you?" People could be encouraged to be the one person or family who will help a child who is struggling or in need. People can also be encouraged to develop a sense of neighborhood and community so that people establish social connections which increases protective factors. We could consider establishing community gardens and a program of posting signs that identify "safe houses."

We need more resources devoted to identifying children who are suffering from ACEs. Staff, parents and counselors should be trained to identify children who are in need of intervention, and schools should receive additional funding for screening.

There are programs and activities that serve as protective factors but that may not be known or accessible to families. The community should be educated about available resources, and those resources should be provided at places families frequent—schools, parks, day care, health care facilities, churches, even the dollar store. We should consider establishing "one stop" centers where services of all kinds are available. Both formal and information training and education should be made available to parents, counselors, teachers and others in the community. We need strong referral systems and wraparound services. There should be respite care for families who are struggling.

We should reform the court system to replicate the very successful veterans court and expand that format to family, juvenile and drug courts.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

Be engaged in education to understand the educational environments produced for our children. Visit the schools.

We need multi-partisan support for education and funding. Please understand the root causes of early childhood issues and the importance of a strong and well-funded education system on the future economic growth of our communities and the well-being of families and children.

Make decisions based on what is best for children.

If you fund education, it will reduce the costs for programs such as incarceration.

Invest now in preventative programs. Be proactive, instead of paying later for punitive programs.

Take money out of politics. That will allow us to fix everything else.

Government officials at all levels should listen to the community, be encouraged to hold community town halls, have an open mind, and be willing to take action instead of just arguing. We also need more communication among different levels of government.

We need more events and activities that cater to children and families. These events should be free and affordable, and well publicized.

Services should be made more accessible, and we should reduce the bureaucracy associated with services.

There should be a clearinghouse for support services of all kinds

Food stamps should be protected, and should not be cut off abruptly.

We need more amenities for teens, such as basketball courts in parks.

Cities need more funding.

Recognize that everyone has value. There should be equal opportunity.

Teach personal responsibility.

Have a follow-up system. Referral alone is not sufficient.

There should be access to services and widespread information about those services that do exist.

People need good-paying jobs.

We need to find a way to stop bullying.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Mohave County Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Follow up with connections made in this forum.
- Share my knowledge with others and attend future town hall events.
- Continue to be involved in our communities and do my part as a service provider and community member.
- Support the great information brought here today.
- Volunteer to host an “understanding ACEs” discussion group for parents.
- Take all the information I’ve learned today and share it with my co-workers and clients.
- Share the information with PTK members to initiate ideas for community involvement.
- Look into having student participation in the town hall. There were none here today.
- Look at multisystem, multi-partisan approaches to addressing the root causes of ACEs.
- Create similar conversation with our community programs to generate community solutions for wrap around services, programs and systematic change within our communities, and bridge the multigenerational gap.
- Help create awareness and positive outreach to families to help them become and feel successful.
- Be more present with people I have influence over and more understanding of the “roadblocks” they may run into.
- Be more involved in community activities involving children and share my hard-learned experiences with others in the hope it will educate them through peer support.
- Bring back to my company the suggestions made.
- Listen more and help others as needed.
- Do what it takes to overcome my situation and rise above my obstacles.
- Advocate for more family and youth recreation opportunity and engage with elected officials for family and child policies.
- Be an example in my community—an example of hope, courage, passion and strength to make a positive difference! I will use my personal story as a part of this journey to make this positive impact. #selfproclaimedjoyologist
- Continue to share and bring resources to the community. Share this information with coworkers on the importance of strong families.
- Volunteer to make follow-up calls on referrals.
- Attend town hall meetings.
- Continue to look at system and root cause connections with a view to how collective efforts can increase the effectiveness and productivity of solutions for the common good, particularly for children.
- Share what was discussion here with the community. I will use what I heard to impact children I come in contact with.
- Reach out to my neighbors to form a neighborhood support group.

- Continue to support all educational efforts to support children and families to improve lives and improve communities.
- Do one thing to make a difference for families/young children in all my roles: parent, neighbor, PRAB, school volunteer, MCC, work, sports league, community member.
- Continue to work with the community resource committee to develop and promote access to services for our community/county.
- Help facilitate more community prevention events with outreach; talk with friends and family to raise awareness; learn about all the resources this community provides so that I can point someone (in need) in the right direction.
- Be more active in community events and meetings.
- Become more involved in the community so that I know what is available and topics discussed. Be more in the know!
- Continue my work providing education and training to individuals in Lake Havasu and beyond—and work with the community in support of strong families and thriving children.
- Go back and meet with the youth council to find out how to be of more assistance and serve as advocates for the youth in our community, and identify programs needed to build stronger families and thriving children.
- Ask kids and parents, “How are you?” much more often.
- Ask everyone the question “How are you?”
- Continue to support and advocate for families’ needs and be more involved in community groups.
- Continue to provide quality of care for my families I serve through education of family dynamic, available resources in our community and overall a positive role model in the role I play in their lives.
- Make a difference in my community by supporting families and children and empowering victims of abuse.
- Continue to empower parents to positively enable their children to be part of the solution and not the problem.
- Continue to serve on the CAG (Community Advisory Group) to invest and improve positive results.
- Support initiatives, programs and activities that lead to strengthened families and youth.
- Participate in various groups and programs that reduce ACES and enhance family strength in our community.

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FIRST THINGS FIRST



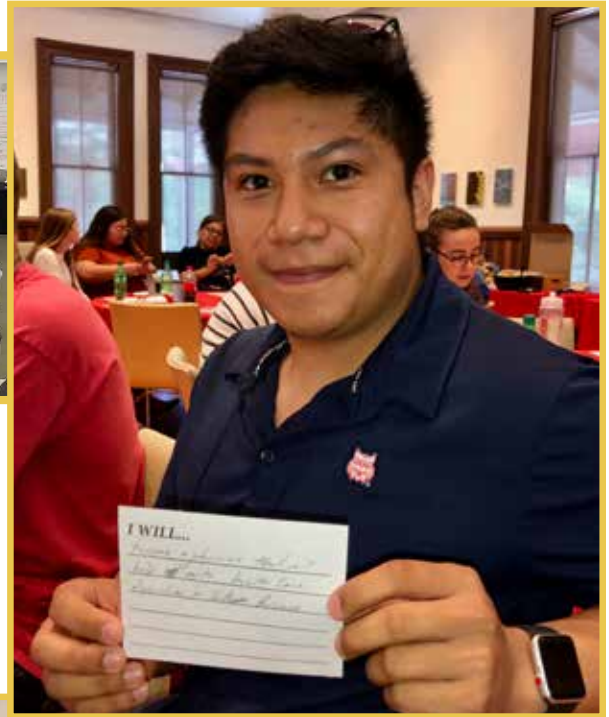
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GENERAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM SPONSORS



FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALLS ON “STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN”



FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL LOCATIONS

Arizona Western College – Yuma Campus

Camelback High School

Mesa Community College

University of Arizona – Tucson Campus

Yavapai College – Prescott Campus

In collaboration with AzCASE - Casa Grande, Surprise and Flagstaff

KEY POINTS FROM FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALLS ON “STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN”

PRINCIPAL GOALS FROM ARIZONA’S FAMILIES

- Help children to thrive physically, socially, emotionally, psychologically and academically.
- Develop a healthy and balanced relationship within families.
- Promote a safe environment.
- Provide a positive web of support to include parents, foster parents, guardians, extended family and community.
- Make sure parents and children understand that support, trust and respect are essential to a healthy family environment.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

- Family members feel comfortable openly discussing issues and goals.
- The environment is one of tolerance, mutual respect, strong bonds and understanding of roles and responsibilities.
- There is an appropriate balance of love, encouragement and discipline that makes children feel safe and establishes healthy boundaries while recognizing their autonomy.
- Members of the family spend quality time together and constantly work on improving their communications with each other.
- Strong families enjoy economic stability and sufficient, reliable resources to provide nourishing food, clothing, housing, medical/dental care and mental healthcare.
- Parents express and demonstrate positive values and character, and observe traditions to provide a sense of belonging.
- Children are encouraged to prepare for life’s challenges, set high expectations and pursue life goals.

CHALLENGES FACING ARIZONA’S FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

- Difficulties that arise from a lack of economic resources, job instability, work-related stress and the unavailability of transportation.
- Issues within families such as parents with limited education or language ability, domestic violence, drug abuse, mental illness, disability and divorce.
- Lack of quality bonding time due to work hours, no or limited role models for parents and children, school and work pressures and poor access to family enrichment programs.
- Inconsistency within the educational system and the cost of post-secondary education, which severely limits the opportunities to succeed for many children.
- Generational cycling of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).
- A lack of parenting training, a shortage of trained professionals to help children and an insufficient emphasis on building protective factors.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

- Provide more resources for students at schools including counseling, mentoring, tutoring, health services, and mental health.
- Offer more afterschool programs that give children the opportunity to engage in sports, the arts and community organizations.
- Create courses on life skills, career planning and building positive relationships.
- Advertise programs available in the community and build connections between social service organizations to simplify access for families.
- Ensure that everyone has access to affordable healthcare to include medical and behavioral health benefits.
- Improve transportation resources, especially in rural communities, so parents and children can get to work, school and needed services.
- Offer specialized programs for the families of incarcerated individuals and those dealing with drug addiction and mental illness.
- Focus on building self-sufficiency and working through obstacles rather than just temporary aid.

WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

- Spend time with families and in schools to gain a perspective on how others view the world and better understand the issues they face.
- Support more funding for afterschool programs.
- Increase public school funding and ensure that funding is equitable so that every child has an equal opportunity to learn and grow.
- Strive for diversity in the selection of leaders to ensure that all voices in the community are heard.
- Allocate more money for grants and scholarships to increase the financial aid for students to attend college.
- Invest in providing better school facilities and up-to-date technology.
- Eliminate the stigmas associated with poverty, drug abuse and criminal history.
- Offer preventive mental health services in schools and more resources to families in their homes as well as youth on their own.
- Reduce food deserts by sponsoring community gardens to make healthy food available to families at little or no cost.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

- Donate to programs that aid children with abusive families and donate to local programs such as Launch Pad.
- Raise awareness about our perceptions/judgments toward different people.
- Volunteer in afterschool programs and create new clubs for college/ jobs support groups.
- Find funding within the city limits as part of the Youth Advisory Board in Prescott.
- Take the issue off paper and make it personal and bring this issue to school by having real people tell their real struggles. Attend clubs and assemblies to raise awareness.
- Participate more in the programs for people in need or who are seeking information.
- Continue to support students by helping them develop the life skills necessary to become successful leaders.
- Complete my education and become a social worker and help people with mental health issues.
- Become a physician who will help reduce the health care disparities in southern Arizona.
- Seek out those in my school and community who need help finding opportunities to be successful.
- Pay it forward in the Phoenix metropolitan area and Arizona as a future certified occupational therapist.
- Make a personal effort to spread awareness of events like this.
- Increase awareness of these issues and opportunities among elected officials by educating them one at a time using word of mouth and social media.
- Vote and be involved in the policies and election of city officials.
- Educate myself about policies and laws that directly impact the under resourced and low income communities in Tucson.
- Encourage others within my community to reach out for help and make their voices heard.
- Get more involved in the PTA to promote changes at the school level.
- Advocate for open access and equal opportunity for students to enroll in various academic opportunities regardless of economic status or possible barriers.
- Discuss these topics with my peers and others, such as teachers and adults, who are able to make changes happen.
- Understand how the Boys and Girls Clubs help families by providing afterschool programs.
- Apply what I learned today in my everyday life and make sure that my friends and family members, including my parents, understand the importance of these issues.
- Remember that my parents do try their hardest and help out at home even without being asked.
- Spend more quality time with those I am responsible for and continue to promote and participate in parental education.
- Talk to other parents on how to be a responsible parent and show love to their children.
- Advocate for cultural awareness and better integration of international children in to our society.
- Educate myself about ACEs and engage in future discussions on the subject.
- Become more involved in the organizations in my community that sponsor programs to improve the self-sufficiency of individuals and families.

COMMUNITY TOWN HALLS FAQs

What is a Community Town Hall?

- A Community Town Hall is a gathering that includes discussion about a topic being addressed by Arizona Town Hall that is informed and facilitated using Arizona Town Hall methods. Generally, they culminate in a written consensus report, published by Arizona Town Hall.
- Working in partnership with the Arizona Town Hall, each community designs the event to meet its particular needs.
- The length depends on the community. Typically, the event lasts three hours, but it may be as short as one-and-a-half-hours or as long as one or two days.
- Community Town Halls may be held as part of a previously scheduled event, such as a regular meeting, or a conference.

Why sponsor a Community Town Hall?

- To provide both communities and leaders with tools that will help them resolve difficult issues.
- To educate community members about, and engage them in, tackling important policy issues.
- To provide communities with a voice that will inform policymakers and others not only about the community's perspectives but also to share their creative ideas.
- To empower communities and their members to become more effective action agents through powerful discussion and connection to resources.
- To enable those who cannot attend a statewide Town Hall to share their ideas and recommendations.



How can my organization sponsor a Community Town Hall?

- Start by contacting Arizona Town Hall so that we can help you to design an event that will best meet your community's needs.
- Determine a date, time, location and facility. Many communities minimize costs by obtaining in-kind donations of facilities and refreshments.
- Arizona Town Hall charges approximately \$5,000 to support and facilitate a Community Town Hall. The fee varies depending on the community and scope of the event; it does not include the cost of facilities or refreshments.
- Arizona Town Hall actively seeks philanthropic funding to help support Community Town Halls. Funding may also be obtained from local governments, businesses, registration fees and in-kind donations.

Why does Arizona Town Hall charge a fee and what does it cover?

- Arizona Town Hall staff provides operational guidance and support, training materials, background information on the issue, discussion questions and either training or trained facilitators.
- Arizona Town Hall assists in finalizing, publishing and publicizing reports.
- Arizona Town Hall provides additional services and resources including: participant registration, bookkeeping, press releases, contacts for in-kind services, catering and potential media coverage.
- Arizona Town Hall is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with limited resources. Our staff and volunteers, many of whom are highly-skilled professionals, have expertise developed over years of training and practice. Fees cover a portion of the costs of providing these services.

•••
“All voices have value. Diversity invites creativity, problem-solving and the opportunity for success.”

Participant, Maryvale Community Town Hall

•••



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