In This Issue:

Building to Change Lives Forever pg 2-3

Parenting Classes Help You Have Fun While Connecting With Your Children pg 4

Looking for Resources? Call our Free Parent InfoLine pg 4

Arizona Tax Credits pg 5

Making a Difference at Casa de los Niños pg 6

$3 Million Gift Makes Vision a Reality!

A transformational $3M gift from Cole and Jeannie Davis will fund a new Family Center at Casa de los Niños! The Family Center building will meet the urgent need to help children and families in Tucson. Coming in 2017, Casa de los Niños will embark on the construction of the Cole and Jeannie Davis Family Center to bring together prevention and treatment programs from across Tucson to support our mission to prevent child abuse and neglect.

A comprehensive Family Center has been Casa’s long-held vision. Over the past 20 years, we have deliberately acquired all of the land on the block (between 4th and 5th Ave. off of Speedway) where the shelter program and administrative offices currently reside. The need is tremendous and we have the space and infrastructure to fully utilize this center. Casa de los Niños currently rents over 30,000 sq. ft. around Tucson at a cost that exceeds $50,000 per month. Renting space is a short-term strategy and not the best use of our resources. Families and children will benefit from a comprehensive campus. We will provide a unified source of support for lives rocked by abuse and neglect! The building is slated for completion in 2018.

Follow this story that is changing lives... page 2
Building to change lives

Message From Our Chief Executive Officer

This special edition of Better Futures newsletter comes with a milestone announcement!

We are thrilled to have received an unprecedented gift from Cole and Jeannie Davis of $3M that will make our vision of a comprehensive campus of care for families a reality! We are well on our way to begin building a new Family Center to bring together programs of prevention and treatment to keep families together. It is an exciting time! This has been a long-held goal, shared by all of the leadership of Casa de los Niños, starting with Sister Kathleen, our founder, and then Jeanne Landdeck Sisco, Executive Director from 1987 to 2004, and through the determination and vision of all of the board members past and present. We are confident that an integrated and unified campus of care will not only help more families more effectively, it will be a better use of our valuable resources. We are constantly at the mercy of changes in state and federal funding—and every time a change occurs, our work is dismantled, and then time and money must be devoted to putting things back together. Children and families who are in crisis do not suddenly disappear when there is a change in political office or in funding! The Cole and Jeannie Davis Family Center at Casa de los Niños will provide a consistent and flexible resource for kids and families in need. We plan to continue to fundraise for another year with the goal of building in 2017. Take a look at the details in this newsletter and feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like a tour of the campus.

This will be a critical year for our work, and we will stay in close touch with you! There is much work to be done and we are optimistic about the future!

Sincerely,

Susie Huhn, MA
Chief Executive Officer

Casa de los Niños is Ready to Respond with a Solution!

We are witnessing a tremendous growth in the number of children removed from their homes and reports of abuse and neglect are overwhelming the state’s resources. Arizona’s child and family welfare system is staggering under an unprecedented caseload of more than 17,000 children. Casa de los Niños is Building to Change Lives for Generations! An unprecedented $3M gift from Cole and Jeannie Davis has paved the way for this ambitious $12M Family Center project to begin construction in early 2017. Not only will the building bring together programs of prevention and treatment, it will improve efficiency and help families to navigate the offerings of all of these critical services in Tucson.
for generations

Casa de los Niños owns all of the property on the block on Speedway between 4th and 5th Avenue, and has the space available to build to help more kids and families. The Cole and Jeannie Davis Family Center will provide support for families who are struggling or are involved with the Child and Family Welfare system, for kids who are in need of mental health services, and first-time mothers who need some extra support to ensure a healthy pregnancy and positive early childhood for their baby.

The 39,000 sq. ft., two-story Family Center will include: more than 20,000 sq. ft of space for therapeutic child and family services; over 6,000 sq. ft. of meeting space to provide free parent education classes, and to host community educational lectures and events; and 9,000 sq. ft. of space for staff to perform the vital administrative and support work necessary to help children and families in need.

Bill Estes, Campaign Chair and Vice President of the Board of Directors says, “We are confident that by creating this vital resource right here on this campus, it is going to give us the flexibility and consistency we need to continue to help children – and to reverse the trend of more and more families in crisis”. “We are thrilled with the number of generous donors who have stepped forward to help with this ambitious project,” says Lisa Webster, Director of Development. “From the Davis’s transformational $3M gift, to an anonymous gift of $1M, and several major gifts that bring our funds available for this project to over $9M. Casa de los Niños plans to continue to fundraise for this project throughout 2016.

For more information or to get involved, contact Lisa Webster, 520.624.5600 ext. 302 or lisaw@casadelosninos.org.
Parenting Classes to Help You Have Fun While Connecting With Your Children

Nurturing Parenting, a series of 10 parent enrichment classes will begin in late September.

Nurturing Parenting is a non-judgmental proven series of lessons that empower parents and caregivers with the skills to increase positive parenting attitudes and behaviors, and support a more nurturing way of life for families.

All classes are 2 hours in length and registration is required for both adults and children. Child care for children up to age 5 is provided. There will be a light meal for adults and children. Gift cards to Toys “R” Us and Kids Center are provided to participants who complete the entire series of 10 classes. This series of classes includes topics such as:

Communicating with Respect  Designed to help parents communicate more constructively with their children, including ways to confront children without criticizing.

Understanding Feelings  Feelings can be hard to understand, especially for children. This class will help parents recognize and understand their own feelings as well as the feelings of their children.

Alternatives to Spanking  Do you and your partner argue about how to discipline your children? This class is designed to increase parents' awareness of the other ways to discipline besides spanking.

To register for this series, or any of our other classes, visit our website www.casadelosninos.org or contact Amada Mendoza at 520.624.5600 x309 or via e-mail at amendoza@casadelosninos.org

The Nurturing Parenting series of classes is funded by First Things First.

Looking for Resources? Call our Free Parent InfoLine

Have you ever had one of those days when you are pulling your hair out? The kids are crazier than usual. Your temper is flaring and you think there must be a better way. That’s when you call our Parent InfoLine!

How can it help you? The Parent InfoLine is a resource in which parents can call to receive support and referrals to services designed to make parenting a little easier. Casa de los Niños Community Education and Outreach offers this totally free service to the community to help make parenting fun, easy and as stress-free as possible. Information is provided including parenting tips, strategies and parent education opportunities for those in need.

Please call our Parent InfoLine anytime at 520.624.9290.
Arizona Tax Credits.... how do they work?

Sometimes the tax language can be confusing…let’s keep it simple! You can make a gift to Casa de los Niños and receive that money back – dollar for dollar - on your Arizona state tax return. There are two different tax credits Casa de los Niños qualifies for –

Qualifying Charitable Organization – An individual can make a gift of $200 and receive a $200 tax credit (yes, you give $200 to help kids and families, and the state returns the $200 back to you on your tax return); couples can make a $400 gift and receive a $400 state tax credit. Every single cent of your gift comes back to you while the whole gift goes to help the children and families we serve.

You can double your impact!

Casa de los Niños is also a Qualifying Foster Care Organization – An individual can make a gift of $400, and a couple can make a gift of $800, and, yes, the entire amount is refunded to you in your Arizona state tax return.

All you do is make your gift, and then, when you file your taxes, complete tax form 321. It is straightforward and a great way to help kids and families and also make your tax situation a little brighter!

For more information about becoming a volunteer contact Maricela Fair, Volunteer Resources Manager at 520.624.5600 x301 or mfair@casadelosninos.org.

Volunteer Profile

This is the story of Ron DeWitt, a man who has never been able to retire, well not officially. Ron began as an employee with Casa de Los Niños in April of 1989 after retiring as an Elementary School Principal, a career he held for over 13 years. He began as a cook preparing meals, then moved to providing direct care for the school-aged children, eventually becoming a supervisor in what was then called Casa B, the O’Rielly Building today.

One of Ron’s favorite memories is from 1990, when President Ronald Reagan visited Casa de los Niños. Ron recalls standing behind a counter in Casa B when President Reagan entered the shelter. “I will never forget that he looked my way and winked at me,” says Ron, a moment he cherishes.

Eventually Ron started to work in our Medical Department, and would continue there until December 2010 when he retired, yet again. But soon after this second retirement he began volunteering with our Nurse-Family Partnership Program, which is where you will find him today. Ron will tell you his dedication is based on his love for this agency and for the people and children he works with. We believe he continues out of a heart-felt dedication to make a difference in the lives of others. His caring, and passion throughout his life and career has been devoted to the children and families in our community.

Ron is one of those individuals that exemplifies the heart and soul of Casa de los Niños. Thank you Ron, we are honored that you have chosen to spend the past 26 years of your retirement working with Casa de los Niños.

For more information about becoming a volunteer contact Maricela Fair, Volunteer Resources Manager at 520.624.5600 x301 or mfair@casadelosninos.org.
Thank You to Our Partners...

Casa de los Niños is grateful for the consistent long-standing support from the Stonewall Foundation of our Crisis Shelter Program. We were honored to receive $35,000 this year particularly since the number of children entering the shelter has steadily increased over the last few years. Stonewell Foundation funding will boost Crisis Shelter capacity for serving child victims of maltreatment and their families and further enhance the quality of individualized care each child receives including those in need of intensive medically vulnerable services. In partnership, we have touched the lives of hundreds of children and families! Thank you.

Casa de los Niños heartily thanks the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (CFSA) for its second grant award of $15,000 as part of its Poverty: its Effects on Children grant round for this upcoming fiscal year. This award provides salary support for Primary Care Workers at our Crisis Shelter. Primary Care Workers play a significant role in implementing care plan strategies through their daily work with the children and their families. CFSA funding will aid the Shelter in its aim to remediate the effects of child abuse/neglect and engage family in the process toward longer term stability. Strengthening families fortifies our community.

Casa de los Niños wholeheartedly thanks the Marshall Foundation for its grant award of $30,000 (split between FY15 and FY16) to offset salary costs of a part-time licensed nurse to provide healthcare services at our Crisis Shelter. All children admitted into the Crisis Shelter immediately receive age-appropriate well-child screening exams by a licensed nurse available 24/7. Our Shelter nurses play an integral care team role to stabilize each child, craft a care plan, and assist with formulating a strong discharge plan including teaching caregivers how to safely care for the child. We appreciate the generous award from the Marshall Foundation and its investment in our community’s children.

Casa de los Niños wishes to recognize the Child Abuse Prevention License Plate Donation Grant Program for it enduring support of our Child Abuse Prevention Programs and specifically our Parent Education Program. Our award of $40,000 will be instrumental in building Program capacity to provide a broader range of services to an increased number of children, parents, and families in an effort to significantly decrease the prevalence and devastating effects of child abuse and neglect within our community while simultaneously counteracting negative parenting behaviors exacerbated by continuing family support services cuts and economic challenges. Together we work to prevent child abuse and neglect!
Wish List

Would you like to help us care for the children and families of Casa de los Niños but don’t know what we need? Here are some suggestions:

- School uniforms: boys and girls, size 4-12
- Summer clothes: boys and girls, size 0-18
- Boys and girls shoes: preschool size 4-11
- Area rugs: child-friendly
- Pack n’ Play Playard
- Shatter-proof mirrors
- CD players and CDs
- Linens, white: washcloths, towels, twin sheets, bassinette-fitted sheets, towels
- Batteries: AAA, AA, D, C, 12 volt
- Hygiene products: wipes, Desitin, A+D ointment, shampoo, conditioner
- Diapers: size 4, 5 & 6
- Gifts cards: Walmart, Target, iTunes cards, movie passes
- Children’s art supplies

Making a Difference at Casa de los Niños Today

Making a difference one child and one family at a time is what Casa de los Niños has been doing for more than 40 years. Here are a few of the ways you can partner with us in this crucial work, right now!

Donate school clothing: School is starting for many of the children in the shelter and we are in need of new school clothing. We need uniforms (navy or white collared shirts, and navy or khaki shorts or pants) and regular school clothing, in sizes 4 to 18. Help each child have a new outfit for their first day of school!

Get your office, club, or other group involved: Organize a collection of items from our Wish List, spruce up our grounds or plan a fun activity for the kids! There are lots of ways your group can support Casa de los Niños, on-site or off.

Create a connection for our Foster Care Program: Being a Foster Parent is a big commitment and may not be right for you at this time. You can still make a difference by connecting us with groups you may be associated with. Help us share information with your church, neighborhood association, or any other organization you think is appropriate.

Make a gift to the Annual Fund: Unrestricted gifts to the Annual Fund give Casa de los Niños the ultimate flexibility to seize new opportunities, address unforeseen challenges and meet urgent needs. These gifts, no matter the amount, are a critical resource and go to work immediately to help children and families.

Thanks to the staff from AFNI Inc. for your $1,000 donation!

They presented a check to Krystal Alonis (far right), our Development Coordinator.
The mission of Casa de los Niños is to promote child well-being and family stability in our community.

ACCREDITED BY:

The Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services

PUBLISHED BY:
The Development & Community Relations Department:

LISA WEBSTER, Director

DAN GREGORY, Community Relations Coordinator

Better Futures is the official publication of Casa de los Niños, a non-profit, nonsectarian agency.

Casa de los Niños
1101 N. 4th Ave., Tucson, AZ 85705 | 520.624.5600

Casa de los Niños Thrift Store
1302 E. Prince Rd., Tucson, AZ 85719 | 520.325.2573

info@casadelosninos.org · casadelosninos.org · facebook.com/casadelosninos