

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2024

### **ARIZONA FRIENDS OF FOSTER CHILDREN FOUNDATION EXCEEDS AZ GIVES DAY GOAL IN THEIR FIRST YEAR OF PARTICIPATION FOR THE 40-YEAR-OLD ORGANIZATION.**

Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF) is celebrating 40 years of foster youth impact. The organization began by providing financial support for youth in foster care to be able to participate in extracurricular activities. Funding allows youth in care to be able to take music lessons, play sports, learn to swim, go on school field trips and so much more.

In April 2024, the organization participated in AZ Gives Day and exceeded their goal of raising \$20,000. There are approximately 10,000 kids in foster care and most of them are under the age of 10. In 2023 AFFCF funded 9,800 childhood activities, serving approximately 4,500 foster children. Raising \$20,000 can fund sending 50 children to summer camps.

In addition to funding childhood activities, AFFCF offers post-secondary scholarships, financial success training, employment services and career development services. Each year approximately 900 youth leave Arizona's foster care system without families and a support system needed for success. AFFCF supports youth aging out of foster care by helping them realize their potential and a pathway to independent living.

To help support young adults in college, AFFCF hosts packing parties to send care packages to students before final exams. Students receive notes of encouragement, snacks, gift cards, and more. "Those check-ins and the care packages - stuff like that goes a long way." says current AFFCF scholar Jasper Smith. The next packing party will be held at Subaru Superstore of Chandler, located at 1050 S. Gilbert Rd. in Chandler on April 16 at 5:30pm. Packing parties are sponsored by Subaru Superstore of Chandler. Media are invited to attend the event.

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Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF) provides foster care support by closing critical funding and service gaps. AFFCF has over 40 years of experience ensuring Arizona's foster care population can participate in the same activities as their non-foster care peers, achieve self-sufficiency through employment, education, and housing programs and pursue post-secondary success. AFFCF is dedicated to changing the story of foster care in Arizona and qualifies for the Arizona Foster Care Tax Credit. Visit [affcf.org](http://affcf.org) for more information.