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FAMILY
REUNIFICATION
DAY



Celebrating Family Reunification in Arizona

Family Reunification Committee Co-Chair

Victoria Strayer - Co-Founder, Voices for CASA Children

We Believe in the Resiliency and Strength of Families

Purpose – Per the American Bar Association and supported in Maricopa County since 2014

To **celebrate** the accomplishments of families who have overcome an array of challenges to reunify safely and successfully.

To **recognize** the vital role that community partners – including mental health and substance abuse providers, courts and judges, foster parents, and others – play in helping to reunify, strengthen, and support families.

To **inspire** other parents – particularly those going through the recovery process – that it is possible to confront and resolve the issues that led to their separation, and to reunify with their children.

Sponsors and Contributors



Governor's Office
of Youth, Faith
and Family



city of
grace.



Maricopa County
Office of the Public Advocate



...strengthening families and protecting children
through collaboration, education, and advocacy.



Families Deserve More...A Broader View

Each year the Family Reunification Day Committee would reflect on the impact of Family Reunification Day – not because of the event itself, but because of the courage, strength, honesty and hope that each family shared. We are inspired to do more.

Knowing strong families make strong communities we asked:

- How can we elevate their powerful messages. All families struggle from time-to-time, regardless of circumstance. There is hope and there are connections.
- How can we share that there are *thousands* of families in Arizona where family reunification was the proper outcome?
- How can we celebrate and honor all reunified families, not just those that happen to be nominated for Family Reunification Month?
- How can these families be better served in a more real-time manner?
- How we can share what we know with other counties in Arizona?

Inspiration to Action – Committee Framework

Purpose

Reunification heals families and nourishes those working within the Child Welfare System. We support positive, long-lasting permanency outcomes by harnessing the power of parent participation. We will co-create a better Child Welfare experience that prevents re-entry by joining parents with lived experience.

Principles

We come to this work with hope and heart. Family voices are central to our work. We must team with reunified families to co-create a psychologically safe forum for parents to share their concerns and express their needs. We must actively cultivate a community reflective of the larger AZ community in all its diversity, remaining culturally humble as we do so. We must acknowledge the pervasive impact of trauma upon generations of people and communities.

Vision for Arizona's Reunified Families

Reimagine Family Reunification and Community Support

- All reunified families feel care and support.
- Increased empathy and understanding in our community – applause not stigma.
- Leveraging the strength and hope of the reunification community to help families stay together and provide inspiration for those families in the reunification process.
- Collaboration between stakeholders that is an evergreen support channel.
 - Working with Foster Arizona to include a Reunified Family community within Foster Cooperative
- On-going recognition of these inspirational families, not just during Family Reunification Month, but all year long. Connecting with families as they reunify.
- Family Reunification is celebrated statewide.

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Maricopa County Celebration
Saturday, June 24, 2023
4:00pm – 7:00pm

City of Grace, Mesa Campus
655 E University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85203

Visit <https://goyff.az.gov/FRD> to view inspirational 2022 FRD footage & review 2023 FRD event registration

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Thank you for your support!