

Better Futures

FALL 2018 PUBLICATION OF



casa de los niños

Nurse-Family Partnership Will Change More Lives

Casa de los Niños has been awarded a grant from the National Service Office of Nurse-Family Partnership to expand our own Nurse-Family Partnership Program throughout Pima County. This evidence-based, nurse home visiting program improves the health, well-being and self-sufficiency

of low-income, first-time parents and their children. Through this program, first-time mothers meet with a registered nurse in early pregnancy and regularly scheduled nurse home visits continue through the child's second birthday.

This vital expansion grant will allow our program to serve an additional 100 families per year!

The goals of this program are to:

- Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in preventive health practices, including obtaining thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diet, and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances.
- Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care.

- Improve economic self-sufficiency by helping parents develop a vision for their future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.
- While nurses target new mothers for home visits, they encourage the participation of fathers and other family members, and help both parents improve their skills in money and debt management, communication, problem solving and decision making.

We are so fortunate to welcome a new Program Supervisor to oversee this critical expansion, Tara Stanislav, RN, BSN. Tara brings over 10 years of nursing experience including expertise in the areas of Cardiovascular Care, Labor and Delivery, Postpartum Care, and Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders.

Tara Stanislav, RN, BSN,
Program Supervisor



Message from Susie Huhn



Susie Huhn

There are good things happening! The Family First Prevention Services Act was signed into law as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018. This act reforms the federal child welfare financing streams, Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, to provide services to families who are at risk of entering the child welfare system. The bill aims to prevent children from entering foster care by allowing federal reimbursement for mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home parenting skills training. It also seeks to improve the well-being of children already in foster by incentivizing states to reduce placement of children in congregate care.

This was the first major reform we have seen for our Child Welfare System in decades. We have known for some time that it is vitally important to intervene as early as possible to ensure the safety of children. Families First gives states the flexibility to use federal resources to provide an array of innovative early intervention and prevention services.

This is encouraging news and is the model that Casa de los Niños has been building for years now...In-Home Programs, Parent Outreach and Education, Mental and Behavioral Health Services, and investing in the well-being of kids that have been removed from homes and are in the foster care system. We work with children and families before they experience child maltreatment. And there are so many positive outcomes for both children and their parents thru our home visiting programs. This coming year, we are proud to be expanding our Nurse-Family Partnership Program – this investment will increase our capacity to serve 100 additional families.

We continue to look at new and better ways to serve children and families in our community. This fall, we will open a high quality early education center on our campus. We are thrilled to be utilizing the space that previously provided crisis shelter care to (a maximum of) 48 children at a time, and now with renovations, we will provide critical early education for 100 kids at a time! The research is clear that high quality preschool education is a critical way to boost a child's development and ensure kindergarten readiness that leads to long term school success.

I hope that you will come and visit our vibrant campus this Fall! Every day hundreds of children and their families come through our doors and we could not help them without your support. I remain grateful to you for your commitment to helping kids and families!

Will you do a donation drive to help provide immediate assistance for a child and family in need?

STUFF-A-BACKPACK

Stuff a backpack with school supplies and help start the school year right!

CLOTHING FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

Clothing and shoes for babies, toddlers, pre-teens and young adult sizes 4-12.

TEEN SELF-ESTEEM BAG

Deodorant, hair gel, comb/brush, shower gel and shampoo, hair accessories, body spray/lotion.

FOR TEENAGE GIRLS AND BOYS.

FAMILY FUN

Developmental toys, board games, books, coloring books, activity books.

FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

SELF-EXPRESSION BAGS

Art supplies, journals, diaries, pens, sketchbooks.

GIFT CARDS

from Target, Wal-Mart, Kohl's, Old Navy, Safeway, Fry's, Walgreens, CVS, and shoe stores will help a family immensely.

For more information on ways to do a drive please contact Mikaela Ross at mross@casadelosninos.org.

Basis Oro Valley Helping Families!

Myka Salvacion hosted a birthday party for some friends that share the same birth date, and they all asked for donations instead of gifts. And as

you can see they totally rocked it! This terrific class (freshman when the party took place) from Basis Oro Valley put together a tremendous donation of school supplies! Myka says, "We're a tight-knit grade, and I'm really proud to be friends with them." Thank you so much to a great group!



In-Home Work Makes the Difference - Loveta Hearn

I have worked for Casa de los Niños for ten years now. And, in the past, the programs I've worked with have been designed to assist with the visit supervision *after* a family has been separated. In May 2018, I was blessed to have the opportunity to work in the In-Home Services Program with Casa de los Niños – and the main goal of this program is to help families to *stay together*. I love the concept! When you work with a family that knows you are trying to keep them together, they are more receptive and accepting of the services... and they are so driven to be kept together. What a positive concept!

Providing in-home services to children and families helps far beyond just those families members that are served. The time spent in the home with every child and family is positive and then impacts those around them in positive ways. The overall mental and physical health and well-being of the community is helped! When we work with the family as a unit – when they are still together – we can avoid so much of the anxiety, hurt, blame and distrust that can come once kids are removed from a home. When we visit with the families frequently, and in the home, it allows for a more thorough assessment, and many more opportunities for positive intervention and to help ensure child safety.

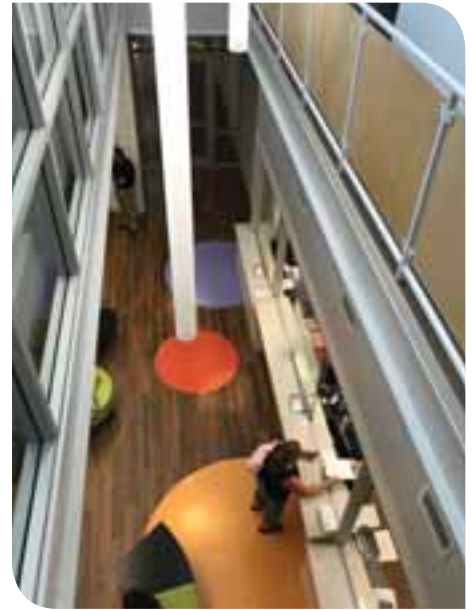
In my experience, working with In-Home Services of Casa de los Niños is the most positive and rewarding concept of all – keeping families together and working through a crisis, providing services and resources to help the family do well together. I truly feel it's a brilliant concept, and a win-win for the child and family and society in general.

The Cole & Jeannie Davis Family Center is Open

This new facility opened in April, and immediately the building is filled with children receiving therapeutic services and parents learning new skills to nurture and care for their children. The Davis Family Center features space for mental and behavioral health therapy, family visitation and reunification services, administration, and gathering spaces for parent and community education and outreach.

In keeping with the mission of Casa de los Niños, this wonderful new facility provides the resources to keep this organization at the forefront of prevention and to keep evolving. This was, without question, the most important capital project ever taken on by Casa de los Niños. The Family Center is a beautiful space – and it encourages and supports a collaborative and integrated approach to helping kids and families in the most meaningful ways.

- Lisa Webster,
Director of Development & Community Relations



Here is a Glimpse at a Day of Life at the Davis Family Center

Nohemi Maciel *Child & Family Therapist* I do play therapy with kids and families....I love seeing the progress with the kids and seeing them be able to begin to tell their stories and learn coping skills to help them at school and at home.



Carlos Cervantes *Transportation Manager* We transport over 50 kids a day from homes and schools to therapy sessions....it's a good day when everything flows perfectly, but there are no bad days!



Bruce Kahler *Child & Family Therapist* We have the most interesting people in the world to work with! We join with the families, and we learn so much and begin to do some creative problem solving – which improves the situations for behaviors, mood and families. CDLN has a well-deserved reputation for really investing in the lives of children and families....I see it happening around me and I want to be part of that.



Anna Richards *Care Coordinator* I have 120 kids on my caseload right now...and each of those kids requires home visits, child and family team meetings. I go home after work, water my plants, have dinner and then am back on my laptop putting in specialty referrals, writing my notes and service plans. It's a lot, but I love the work!



Ryan McCullough *Network Systems Administrator* The best part of my job is resolving technical issues so that people can get back to the work they are trying to accomplish! And IT is not in the basement here... that's quite a change!



Steve Wilson *Child & Family Therapist* A good day is a day of change, when a kid is able to connect some dots that can make him feel less anxious....be present to a past trauma that is effecting him in ways he didn't understand. I am very family-focused, so success is when a parent can recognize that maybe a slight change in their behavior can have a dramatic effect for the kid.



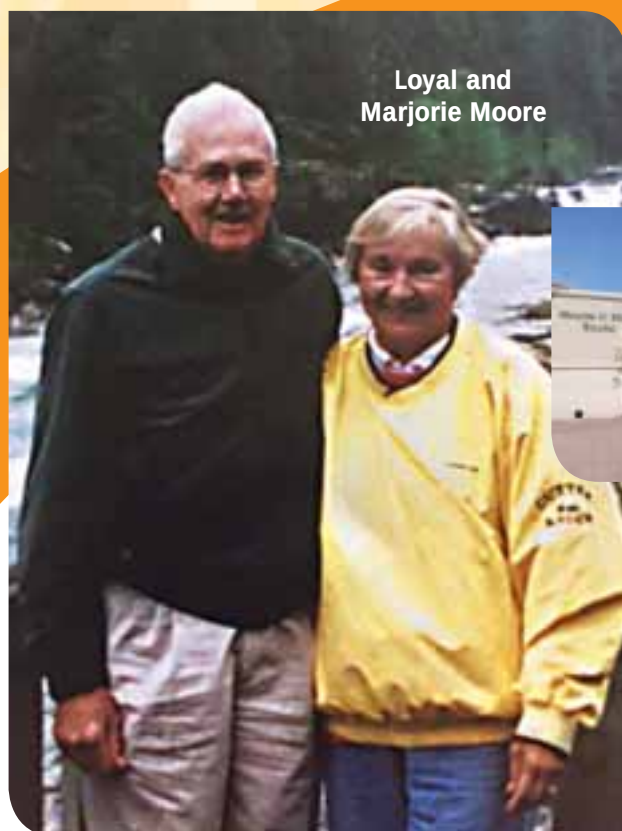
Generous Bequests Building a Dynamic Campus

Slated for a January opening, the newly renovated **Rose M. and James L. Kelly Early Education Center** (previously utilized for crisis shelter) will meet the urgent need for affordable, high-quality, early education and care for low-income and vulnerable families in this area. We will have the capacity to serve 100 children at a time at this center! Emphasis will be on cultivating a sense of safety and belonging and gaining a thorough knowledge of each individual child. We will focus on creating responsive and respectful relationships with the children and their families and building a strong sense of community. Through this very intentional approach, we will provide the tools necessary for each child entering kindergarten to succeed and thrive.

This center is named in recognition of a generous bequest given by the late Rose M. and James L. Kelly.



James and
Rose Kelly



Loyal and
Marjorie Moore



The final step in bringing all of our programs on one campus concludes with the opening of the newly renovated **Marjorie H. Moore Building**.

This space, which previously held all of the administrative programs of Casa de los Niños, will now bring together our Foster Care Program, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, Transportation Services, and Community Outreach and Education Programs, releasing us from the burden of rental properties throughout Tucson and providing a space to work together to help the families we serve.

This renovation was made possible by a generous bequest from the late Marjorie H. Moore.

Staff Perspective Kim DeFelice

Looking back over my career path, it's easy for me to see how I found my way to Casa de los Niños. Though I've worn many different hats over the years, from babysitter to preschool teacher/director, to Department of Child Safety (DCS) case manager, to behavioral health care coordinator and then supervisor...the common thread has been children and families.

It was during my time with DCS that I had my first-ever contact with Casa de los Niños. Very early on in my DCS career, I had to pick up a group of three little ones from Bullhead City and transport them down to Tucson, where they were taken to Casa de los Niños. When we arrived, they were tired, hungry, and very scared. I will never forget how welcoming the shelter staff was to them, and to me as well. When I left there that evening I knew that those kiddos were going to be well taken care of. I have always been impressed by the way each staff member conducts themselves that said, "We genuinely care about each child who comes through our doors." When I left the DCS I wasn't sure what I wanted to do next, but I knew it needed to involve children and families, as that is where my heart has always been. The timing was perfect: Casa de los Niños Behavioral Health Services had opened its doors about a year before, and a friend encouraged me to apply. After all of the positive encounters I had with Casa de los Niños during my tenure at DCS it felt completely right, like this was where I belonged. As a Care Coordinator, I could go to sleep every night knowing that I had done something positive, however small it may have been, for the families on my caseload. I moved into a supervisory position with an eye toward helping my team find that same passion in what they do.



The children and families in our community matter. I have never seen an organization embrace that philosophy the way Casa de los Niños does. The work we do here is hard. There is so much more

to it than the moments that we get to spend directly with the children and families. But it's those moments that make all the other necessary (if less fun) parts entirely worth it. Those moments, and those families, are the reasons why I am here. We make a difference. Who wouldn't want to be a part of that?

THE MISSION of Casa de los Niños
is to promote
CHILD WELL-BEING and
FAMILY STABILITY in our community.

the
voice
for change
advocacy
children



casa de los niños

CHANGING LIVES FOR GENERATIONS

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FAMILY BLOCK PARTY!

JOIN THE FREE FUN!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

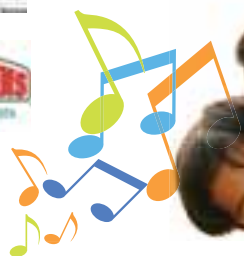
10AM-2:00PM

**TO ENJOY THE WONDERFUL, NEW
COLE & JEANNIE DAVIS FAMILY CENTER
AT CASA DE LOS NIÑOS!**

For kids and families!

*Casa de los Niños staff, family, clients,
and client-families are all welcome!*

Event Partners



GAMES

PRIZES

**LOTS OF GREAT
RESOURCES**

**SCAVENGER
HUNT**

