

Better Futures

WINTER 2022 PUBLICATION OF



casa de los niños

Support from the Community for 49 Years and Counting!

As we head into 2022, Casa de los Niños is entering into our 49th year of serving the Tucson community! And it is very clear that we would not be looking at the upcoming 50th anniversary milestone without the incredible help of this community.

While we feel community support all year round, it is during the holiday season when we get a unique

view of how our community comes together and the different ways that everyone helps! From making monetary gifts to donating clothing, toys, and hygiene items for our families, every way you have helped has a big impact on kids and families in need. This year, we were actually approaching this holiday season with some trepidation albeit we were hopeful. Would people still have the

energy and desire to find ways to help the kids and families served by Casa de los Niños in the midst of this long and stressful pandemic? And the short answer is, "Oh yes!"

This community stepped up in so many ways! Young children found ways to inspire friends and family members to make gifts of toys and crafts, community groups came together to ensure the families we serve had support, and local businesses shared their time and resources to inspire their customers to help in so many ways!

We are humbled by the generosity of our wonderful community. And in this issue of *Better Futures*, we share a few of the stories of those that helped. Of course, there are hundreds more stories that can't all be shared in this newsletter. So, to all who helped with such generous and gracious spirits, we thank you. With this community, we are changing lives for generations!



We thank you!



Message from **Susie Huhn, CEO**



With all of the challenges of the pandemic, there is a glimmer of hope. As we embark on a new year, we remain steadfast in our mission to serve the children and families of our community. We have shown over this last year that we will continue to be here for one another and the people who need us. What remains unchanged is our unwavering vision of a just, inclusive world and our resolve to ensure all families have the tools, skills and resources to reach their full potential. The future of our community depends on children being raised in strong nurturing families. When I look back on all of our great accomplishments this past year I realize our success was built on the compassion and dedication of our employees, our community partners, and our donors. We have a lot to be grateful for as we enter 2022. We look forward to another year working together to make Tucson a place where all families thrive.

Thank you for your support,

Susie Huhn

Join Our Upcoming **Parent Education Classes** designed for you!

Covering real world, valuable topics such as:

- SUCCEEDING AS A SINGLE PARENT
 - TALKING ABOUT SEX & SEXUALITY
- WHY CHILDREN BREAK RULES & MISBEHAVE
 - RAISING A CONFIDENT CHILD
- HELP YOUR TEEN THROUGH DEPRESSION
 - DEVELOPING MORALS, VALUES & RULES
 - WHY ADOLESCENTS STOP TALKING
 - PARENTING TO PREVENT BULLYING

For more information or to register, please visit
www.casadelosninos.org/parenteducation



Nurse-Family Partnership Winter Gathering



Our wonderful team of nurses always find a way to make their clients feel cared for and special. Even during a pandemic, they found a way to celebrate safely, and this community helped to make sure it was a really fun event!

Eleven Nurse-Family Partnership families attended our winter gathering in Reid Park. Seven 12–24 month old children received dental screenings provided by the **Pima County First Smiles Matter** program and received a toothbrush, toothpaste, and board book about their teeth.

Families socially distanced in the park with donated handmade picnic blankets. Clients got to choose their blanket from many fun designs. Thanks to **MaryAlice Webster** for her donation of these blankets!

All families received a new board book, made possible by multiple donors!

All clients received a fun cosmetic pack from **Project Glimmer** with several items.

Everyone enjoyed a fabulous meal donated by **Boca Tacos**. Clients had their choice of a boxed beef, chicken, pork, or vegetarian lunch, and an extra meal to bring home.

Thank you so much to everyone who made this fabulous event possible!



Thank you Lone Mountain Elementary 6th Grade



A wonderful 6th grade teacher at Lone Mountain Elementary School in Cave Creek had a student who was looking for activities that she could do to make friends and create a little community at recess. They started making beaded fidgets that are so creative with colors and textures. Fidget toys help kids to focus their attention and can also have a soothing and calming effect. The young student who took the lead on this project also purchased Christmas zip locks with her own money at the dollar store!

Our new teacher friend said, "She is truly a delightful girl who's going to take the world by storm! It was such a pleasure to get them started, step back, and then watch them fly."

We are so touched by this project and thankful for the gift. The children we serve will love them!

Dear Ms. Gutierrez,
We are honored to make
fidgets for the kids at
Casa de los Niños. We
hope they enjoy our
gift to them. We also
included some new ring
fidgets that we've been
making. Our recesses
have been busy and
fun! THANK YOU!

-from Paola & Sierra +
LMES 6th grade
Lone Mountain elementary!

The Tucson Community **Showed Up** in a **BIG** Way to Help Families for the Holidays!



Our friends from **Empire Tattoo** outdid themselves again with their toy drive this year! Not only did they collect an amazing number of gifts, but they also made multiple trips to deliver the toys!

Our great friends at **Trico Electric** created a “giving cactus” where employees and staff came together to donate teen-focused items—an age group that is often overlooked by many. We are so grateful to Trico for their generous support!



U of A College of Education’s busy students and staff still found the time to take care of the community in a big way!



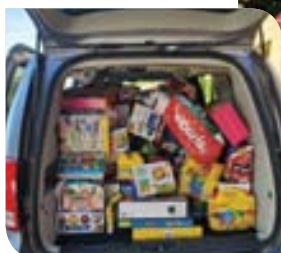
How can we find new ways to say thank you to **St. Mark Church**? They made multiple drop-offs this holiday season with each trip producing larger loads of gifts for children! And, in addition to the

toys and clothing, they also gave thousands of dollars in gift cards to ensure that families could afford groceries, purchase shoes, or other much needed items. We are so grateful to this incredible community.

The amazing team from **VIP Mortgage** did it again this year! They collected an impressive number of toys and supplies for children of all age groups and went above and beyond to ensure every single child’s needs from their wish list was covered. Thank you, VIP Mortgage, for the incredible support!



El Conquistador Hilton Resort came through with their generous donation! Thank you to the team at the Hilton Hotel, for your generosity and support.



We always want to recognize our friends from **Coffee Times** at the holidays because they go above and beyond, but they help us all year round! Their two-week-long holiday donation drive had a huge impact, with their incredible customers showing enthusiasm and support for our Tucson community by stopping by for their coffee and donating toys and supplies!

And More Thanks to These Great Groups:

AlphaGraphics

Altitude Home Loans

American Tire Distributors

Arte Bella

Christie's Appliance

Double C Dance Studio

Gallery Women's Golf Association

Hacienda Del Sol

Hotel Congress

Karnas Accident Law Firm

La Estancia HOA Community

Legacy Apartments

Lineweaver Elementary

Orangetheory Fitness

Perfection Plastic Surgery
and Skincare

Phoenix Amateur Players Tour

Sahara Apartments

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Middle School

Sam Hughes Elementary

Signature Wealth Concepts

The Home Depot

The View at Catalina Apartments

Tucson Association of Realtors

Tucson Magpies Rugby

Wildfire AZ Softball Team

Woodworkers of Green Valley

Giving for Over 15 Years: Paul and Darlene Earls

"My husband and I have been blessed with two girls and four grandchildren, and we strongly believe that every child should have a chance to grow up in a happy, loving and healthy environment.

For almost 20 years, we have been supporting Casa de los Niños, gifting \$50 a month for each one of our grandkids.

We have seen how crucial your work is to help kids and families in the Tucson community, and we are very thankful for all the work that you do! We are proud supporters of a worthy cause!

Thank you Casa de los Niños for your hard work and dedication, and for giving thousands of children the opportunity to be raised in a healthy home!"



KELLY EARLY EDUCATION CENTER **STEM Activities Galore!**

There are lots of new things happening at the Kelly Early Education Center! The EEC has recently started integrating many new science and STEM activities in the classroom. Students have been learning how to count and sort, have been observing animals, planting seeds, building structures, mixing colors, and (safely) experimenting with chemical reactions! The Kelly Early Education Center also held their third round of parent teacher conferences and ASQ assessments, along with vision and hearing screenings to make sure that students were on track to hit developmental milestones.



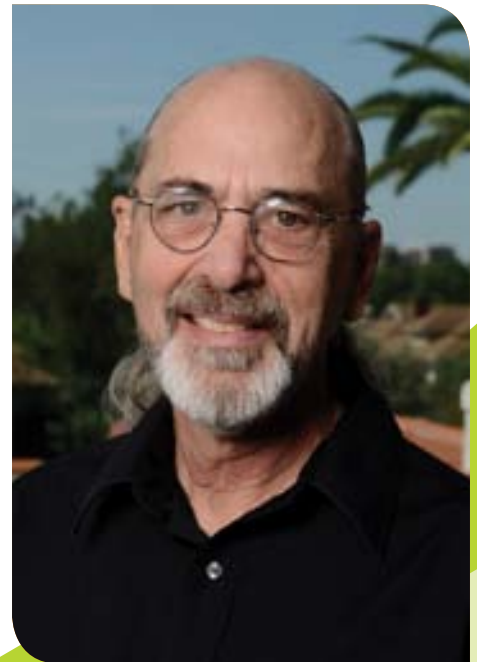
Staff Perspective

Bruce Kahler, CHILD & FAMILY THERAPIST

In March of 2020, the Casa de los Niños staff made the rapid shift to providing virtual services. It's hard to believe we are fast approaching the two-year mark of this shift.

We asked Child & Family Therapist, Bruce Kahler, how things are going?

"I think things are going surprisingly well! I was skeptical at first and not sure how effective virtual therapy could be. But, it is impressive that people can still do this important work and still feel the connection to the process and with their therapist. And, as we are learning to work in the context of a pandemic, we have created new, safe processes to allow for some in-person sessions as well. It is definitely necessary for some clients who are doing deeper work, exploring values, or doing complex trauma work that they are just not comfortable doing from home. There is often not enough privacy in the home setting to do this kind of work. There are other challenges. For example, it can be tough to keep a client with an ADHD diagnosis engaged through the screen, and in-person therapy works much better. I am seeing that many different therapy models work quite well in the virtual environment; models such as Carl Rogers' Person-Centered therapy approach using unconditional positive regard to provide the best possible conditions for personal growth. And even EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing)—a technique in which the person being treated is asked to recall distressing or traumatic events while the therapist directs the client to use some type of bilateral stimulation such as side-to-side rapid eye movement or tapping—has been used effectively in telehealth therapy. I think the impact of the pandemic, including school disruptions and all of the other uncertainty, remains to be seen. "



Casa de los Niños Selected by 100+ Teens Who Care LILY MESSING



Sometimes as a teen it's hard to feel like you can make a big difference in your community. **100+ Teens Who Care** works together to combine 100% of individual donations and put the money towards a local charity close to all of our hearts. Our goal is for teens in 9th–12th grade to make a difference in Southern Arizona by collectively selecting and donating to a local charity. Every member donates \$100 annually (\$25 for each quarterly meeting), and 100% of the donations are given to the selected charity. At each meeting, three vetted local charities are randomly selected for consideration.

Casa de los Niños was selected as our first awarded charity! All in all, for anyone—especially teens—donating \$25 to a charity doesn't feel impactful. But when a group of like-minded come together to pool their donations, real, meaningful change can happen!

Visit us at <https://100teenswhocaretucson.org>.

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

Casa de los Niños
1120 North 5th Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85705

casadelosninos.org
520.624.5600

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We are looking for talented people to join our team!

Are you **dedicated, compassionate,**
solutions-focused? We have open
positions across the organization!

For more information, check out
casadelosninos.org/employment.

Please Make Your Tax Credit Gift to Help Children and Families

Your gift made prior to April 15, 2022 can qualify for the
Arizona Qualified Charitable Organization tax credit.

Casa de los Niños is a **Qualified Charitable Organization**. Your gift
may entitle you to a credit of up to **\$400 as an individual** or **\$800**
as a couple on your Arizona State tax return. Our QCO Code is 22048.

For more information regarding your state tax credit,
please visit azdor.gov or consult your tax advisor.

To make a gift, visit casadelosninos.org/donate, email
rmccafferty@casadelosninos.org, or call 520.624.5600 x11939.

Thank you!