

# Better Futures

FALL 2021 PUBLICATION OF



casa de los niños



## Have You Considered Becoming a Foster Parent?

**“There is no perfect time for anything. There is only now.” ~ Jack Canfield**

Foster children need dependable, understanding and trustworthy adults to care for them.

Casa de los Niños supports prospective foster parents every step of the way by not only guiding families through the foster care licensing process, but also by being available for emotional support, encouragement and guidance. We provide the tools that foster parents need so that they can care for each child uniquely. With ongoing training and face-to-face meetings,

licensing workers tailor their support for each parent/family and can be a resource to answer any questions that families may have while going through the process. Our Foster Care and Adoption team welcomes single and two-parent families and has

---

**TOGETHER, WE CAN  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN  
A CHILD’S LIFE!**  
[casadelosninos.org/foster-care](https://casadelosninos.org/foster-care)  
520.326.8250

---

no restrictions based on religious beliefs, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Being a foster parent can be very rewarding, and it leaves a lasting impact on a child’s life!

Casa de los Niños is prepared to educate, train and support you through this courageous journey of fostering children.

Visit our website at [casadelosninos.org](https://casadelosninos.org) or call our Foster Care and Adoption program directly at 520.326.8250 with any questions or to start the foster care process today.

**Together, we can make a difference in a child’s life!**



# Message from Susie Huhn, CEO



We are embarking on a new fiscal year which is a time of reflection on the past year and looking forward to new opportunities. I think we can all agree this last year was more than unusual, requiring flexibility, creative thinking, and fortitude to meet the challenges. Casa de los Niños came through this strong. We quickly pivoted in March 2020 and maintained our services and supports for families. There were many lessons learned over this time, and one was seeing the resiliency of our staff, families and our community. We learned there can be many new and creative ways to meet families where they are and still provide a strong array of education, support services, and crisis intervention. Telehealth is here to stay, and while it may not meet the needs of everyone, it is part of our new service delivery model going forward.

Employees like the flexibility of working from home, and when feasible and effective, they will continue to do so. One thing we learned in the past year is that the future is never certain, and we—as an organization and community—need to continue to learn and be open to change as the pandemic continues. We know that we can pull together as a community to continue to provide needed resources and services while keeping our employees and our families safe.

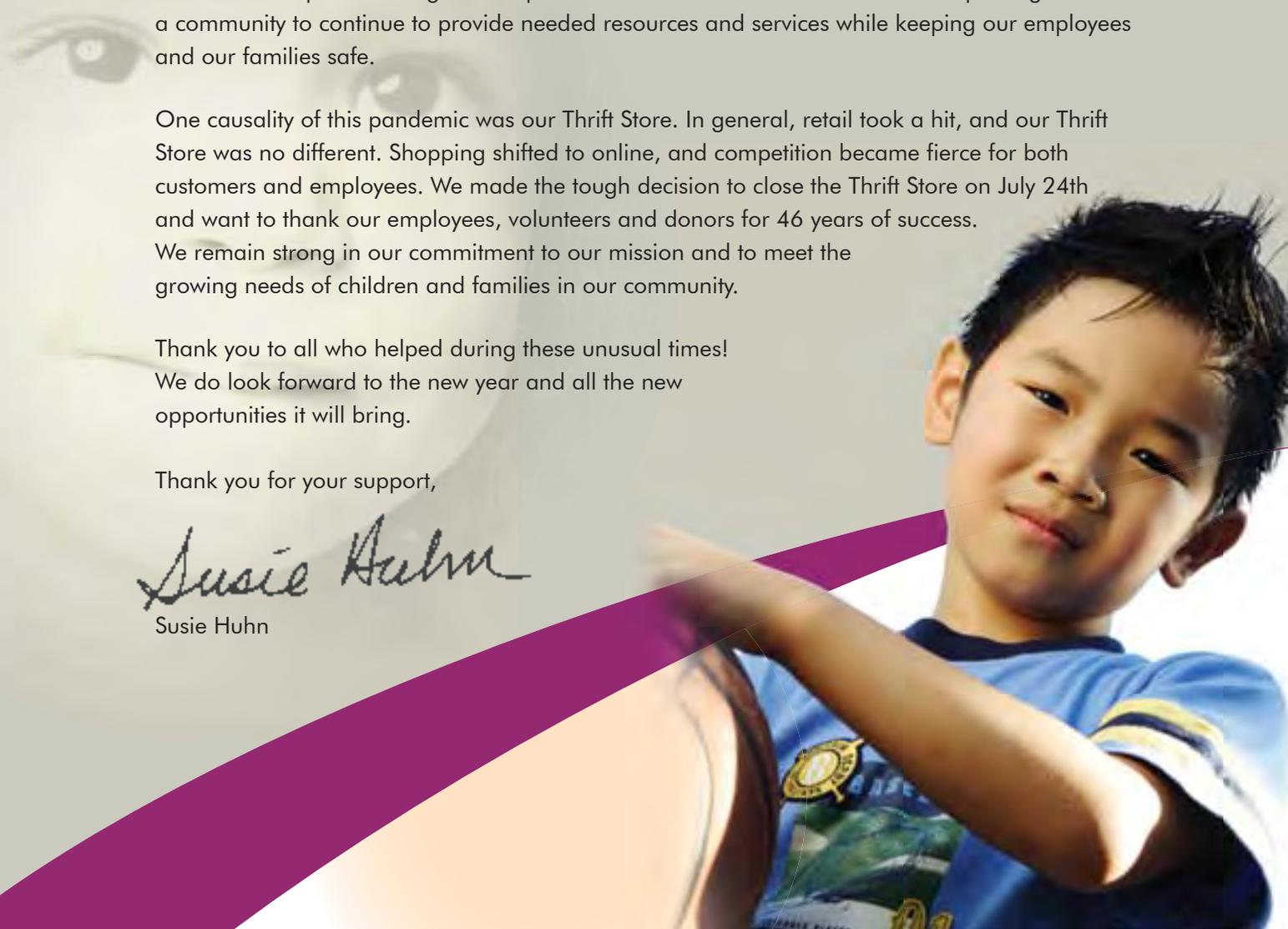
One casualty of this pandemic was our Thrift Store. In general, retail took a hit, and our Thrift Store was no different. Shopping shifted to online, and competition became fierce for both customers and employees. We made the tough decision to close the Thrift Store on July 24th and want to thank our employees, volunteers and donors for 46 years of success. We remain strong in our commitment to our mission and to meet the growing needs of children and families in our community.

Thank you to all who helped during these unusual times! We do look forward to the new year and all the new opportunities it will bring.

Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susie Huhn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Susie Huhn



# Making a Difference in our Schools

Casa de los Niños is honored to partner with **Arizona Complete Health** to offer mental health services to children in schools all over Tucson! And with a recent generous gift from **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona**, we will be able to continue our outreach and offer these services to kids in schools to diminish the likelihood of disruption in school and address mental health challenges. These services include individual therapy, psychiatric services, and access to group therapeutic services. In many instances, teachers and school administrators are the first to notice when there is trouble in the home or when a child is struggling. Mental Health professionals from Casa de los Niños are in schools around the community to be proactive when children need support and to connect them to additional services when needed. Casa de los Niños currently works with over 44 schools in the Tucson Unified School District, Flowing Wells Unified School District, Vail Unified School District, and various charter schools to bring services to children and families.

Casa de los Niños' Behavioral Health Services also offers an array of groups that cater to both children and adults and helps form bonds and connections with their peers while also working through similar challenges and traumas they have experienced in their lives. Casa de los Niños group classes include: Triple P Parenting Classes which are evidence-based parenting groups to reduce parent stress; Teen Anxiety Groups that help teens cope with anxious feelings; and Dinosaur School/The Incredible Years. Dinosaur School/The Incredible Years is an evidenced-based group that is taken by both children—ages 4-8—and their parents at the same time. Children learn how to work through and process tough emotions and build their emotional confidence, while parents learn the same material, geared for adults, so that the skills can be applied in the home. These groups are critical to healing trauma, addressing behavioral and mental health challenges and building resilience among our clients and their families.

Thank you Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona for your generosity and your support of our work!



# Casa de los Niños Awarded New Contract to Help Families!

In June 2021, Casa de los Niños was awarded the Family Connections, SENSE, and Nurturing Parenting contract by Arizona's Department of Child Services. This new program brings an array of services to families in Pima County through home visitation services, parent education, in-home therapeutic services, and plans that are tailored to every family. Casa de los Niños looks forward to providing this new service to families and to continuing to promote safe and stable homes in our community.

We are looking for talented  
**CHILD & FAMILY THERAPISTS**  
to join our team! Are you  
dedicated, compassionate,  
solutions focused? For more  
information, check out  
[casadelosninos.org/  
employment](https://casadelosninos.org/employment)



Mental  
Health  
MATTERS

# What Does It Take to Open Your Heart and Home to a Person With Disabilities?

Casa de los Niños works with homes licensed to serve children and adults with developmental disabilities. We support these homes—licensed under the Division of Developmental Disabilities—for children and adults living with disabilities such as epilepsy, cerebral palsy, autism, or a cognitive disability. In the last few years, there has been a higher demand for this resource due to aging parents and to COVID. Our Casa de los Niños Foster Care staff all have a wide array of direct experience caring for people with

disabilities. This allows us to support our Developmental Home providers in very meaningful ways. We are available for ongoing training and 24/7 support.

Are you considering becoming a licensed foster home for someone living with developmental disabilities? Casa de los Niños is committed to training and supporting you through this experience. It takes 3–6 months to complete the licensing process.

## LEANN'S FAMILY

In November of 2020, we moved my brother Alan, to a Casa de los Niños Adult Developmental Home. The whole experience from finding our wonderful home provider, as well as guidance and direction from Anabeli, went very smoothly.

Alan had been residing in a group home in Colorado. There is a huge difference in the level of care, emotional support and family interaction.

I have never seen my brother so happy! He loves being part of Mary's large extended family. He is treated with respect and most importantly loved! Our entire family has witnessed a profound, positive change in Alan. He is happy and social. He laughs often and has improved social interactions. We are so thankful we have found a loving home for Alan! Thank you all for providing such a life changing service.  
*Leann and Family*



## Will you take a moment now to make a gift to help kids and families in need?

Your gift goes to work immediately for at-risk kids and families in Tucson who need your help!

Would you consider setting up a monthly automatic gift plan? Please contact Lizbeth Canez-Pompa at [lcanez@casadelosninos.org](mailto:lcanez@casadelosninos.org) for assistance.



## THE LARA FAMILY

We are the Lara family; we are ADH (Adult Developmental Home) providers through Casa de los Niños. Being ADH providers has impacted our family in many positive ways.

After experiencing difficult and joyful moments related to our ADH members, we have become a family with enhanced moral values. Our faith has also expanded. We have always believed that God blesses us as a family when we support these special individuals who need love and a family, and being ADH providers has intensified this belief. We consider

our own kids to be big-hearted individuals, but their compassion has grown since we became ADH providers, which is very satisfying as we feel that the best things our kids can inherit from us are our values. Our kids being compassionate, caring and loving with our members (who become family)—even when they are not blood related—is something invaluable.

*The Lara Family*

## AMBER'S FAMILY

Amber lives with Mary and Alonzo and has two other housemates and their adopted 4-year-old child. Amber has her own room and is starting a work program.

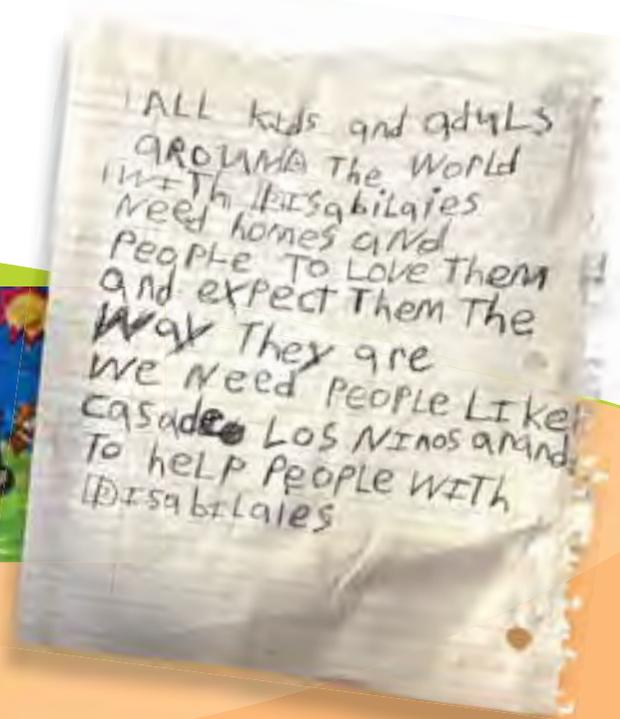
When Amber moved to this home, she felt very angry and anxious. Over time, Amber has learned to do relaxing things like draw and write to calm down. Amber enjoys watching movies. In the last couple of months, the family has gone to Las Vegas and to California to the beach. They all felt they needed a break from being cooped up in the house for 18 months!

Amber has many notebooks where she writes stories and illustrates them. Her dream is to be published. Anabeli asked Amber to write/draw something that expresses why she likes

living in the home she lives in. This is what she produced. She was informed that this could be her first published work, and she lit up.

*"All kids and adults around the world with disabilities need homes and people to love them and accept them the way they are. We need people like Casa de los Niños to help people with disabilities."*

*Amber*



Tucson Electric Power

**Thank you to Tucson Electric Power** for your generous grant of \$5,000 for the Kelly Early Education Center to provide STEM educational activities, working on regulating emotions, and the formation of healthy attachments and social skills!

We are so grateful for your support of educating young minds to build bright futures!

# Foundation Spotlight

## Dee-Dee Samet

PRESIDENT OF CASA DE LOS NIÑOS FOUNDATION

I have always believed that there is a need to help the children and families in the community. I believe in the mission of Casa de los Niños which includes not only intervention, but prevention and supportive counseling to families as well as community education.



I am proud to serve on the Foundation Board as it is a vehicle to make sure that our efforts to help families in the community can continue and we have the means to raise funds to help improve the lives of children and families.

*Ms. Samet is a double Wildcat, receiving her Bachelor of Arts and JD from the University of Arizona, and has been in practice for over 30 years.*

**An up-to-date estate plan can ensure that your loved ones will be cared for and your charitable legacy will endure.**



Whether you're young or old, have great wealth or live modestly, your generosity can make a significant and lasting difference to the children and families of Southern Arizona.

For more information on Planned Giving, please contact Lisa Webster at 520.624.5600 x10302 or visit [casadelosninos.org](http://casadelosninos.org)

# Join our Team!

Casa de los Niños is looking to hire some great people. If you would like to join our team as a

**CHILD & FAMILY THERAPIST,**

**CARE COORDINATOR,**

or **INDIVIDUAL GIVING SPECIALIST,**

we have several open positions available. Take a look at [casadelosninos.org/employment](http://casadelosninos.org/employment) for details.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO WORK AT CASA DE LOS NIÑOS?

"I love being part of such an amazing organization! I was raised in a community where behavioral health services were extremely limited. Support, resources, and prevention programs were almost non-existent, and I had a desire to help others. I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to work for Casa de los Niños, and I strive to do my best everyday because I know that our work truly makes a difference in our community. I want to thank our leadership team for always prioritizing not only the well-being of our members but also of staff. The level of support is incomparable!"



*Pricila Holguin*

"All of my professional experiences have been working with children and families, and I stay in this field because I am continuously amazed by people's ability to love, build courage, and triumph. You see people at their best and worst, and we carry such an immense responsibility of stepping into their lives and hoping to make a difference.



Our team's work is so important because we work under crisis situations and have to be quick on our feet and use great clinical judgement. The knowledge and swift thinking my staff displays daily is super impressive. I have worked at Casa de los Niños for over ten years. I could not have imagined a better team to supervise. They make every day exciting, and I could never repay them for all they have given me as a professional and as a person."

*Richard "RJ" Encinas*

# Kelly Early Education Center has Openings!

Some of our young scholars have recently graduated from our Kelly Early Education Center and are headed off to start Kindergarten! Congratulations!

We have openings available in the center for ages 1–5. Check out our website at [casadelosninos.org](http://casadelosninos.org) or call us directly at 520.344.6678. We will set up a tour of the center and provide registration paperwork to families during their tour!



Jason Majuta and sons generously donated backpacks and funds to purchase the great water toys pictured below.



## How to Help for the Holidays

It will be the holiday season before we know it, and Casa de los Niños loves to join in the celebration of gift giving and ensuring families have basic resources. In planning for this upcoming holiday season, we have collected a list of items that we greatly need:

### BIRTH–5 YEARS

- Educational/developmental toys
- Baby wipes
- Newborn and infant clothing
- Baby bath supplies and/or eating supplies

### FOR OLDER CHILDREN

- Arts and crafts
- New clothes, shoes, and undergarments especially in adult sizes
- Hygiene products

Gift cards are always welcome as this allows families to buy unique items that they need and basic necessities like groceries. We really appreciate the generosity of our donors, not only during this time but year around. We hope you will join us in creating a memorable holiday season for our families!

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

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TUCSON, AZ  
PERMIT 2216

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

casadelosninos.org  
520.624.5600

## TWO WAYS TO HELP

### 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](http://azdor.gov) or consult your tax advisor.

To make a gift, visit [casadelosninos.org/donate](http://casadelosninos.org/donate), email [lcanez@casadelosninos.org](mailto:lcanez@casadelosninos.org), or call 520.624.5600 x10400.

**Thank you!**



#### Sign up is easy!

- Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)
- Log into your account, and you'll be prompted to select your charity. Type "Casa de los Ninos Tucson" into the search box, and click the "Select" button.

After that, simply shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), or set the Amazon app to activate AmazonSmile to have them donate from your purchase to Casa de los Niños!

#### Shop to support Casa de los Niños!

When you shop at Amazon, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .5% of your eligible purchases to our organization.

*It's the same Amazon.* Once you sign up for AmazonSmiles, the foundation does the rest.



**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT!**