



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mar. 3, 2026

Contact: Kaylin Dunnett

Phone: (219) 241-1663

Email: kaylin@evolveprandmarketing.com

Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation Served 3,129 Foster Youth in 2025

Phoenix Nonprofit Provided Moments of Joy, Housing Help, Career & Education Guidance to Foster Community

PHOENIX – [Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation](#), a Phoenix-headquartered nonprofit serving Arizona’s foster community, recently released the 2025 impact numbers quantifying outcomes of its work. In total, AFFCF served 3,129 unduplicated foster children and youth aged 0-26 across its three impact areas – the Childhood Activities Program, Post-Secondary Program and Keys to Success.

The Childhood Activities Program covers costs associated with a variety of enriching activities, items and experiences for youth aged 0-20, ensuring they can experience moments of joy that is not covered by state funding. The nonprofit funds everything from bicycles, athletic equipment, textbooks, summer camps, special event clothing, car seats for young children and school picture costs. In total, AFFCF reported that 2,671 Arizona foster youth received funding through the Childhood Activities Program, with assistance being provided 5,593 times. After surveying caregivers of youth who received funding from AFFCF, 98.2% agreed that the resources made possible enriched the child’s life.

The Post-Secondary Program provides funding for current and former foster youth aged 18-26 to attend higher education, covering costs of tuition and fees. The program goes beyond financial aid, providing support for young people who age out of foster care through regular check-ins, scholar outings, and care packages that help students stay on track. In 2025, AFFCF served 219 students through the Post-Secondary Program, helping 112 earn scholarships. AFFCF itself awarded 178 scholarships to help foster youth pursue their education goals. It also provided emergency and enrichment funds to 328 youth, helping them purchase necessities such as groceries, gas, and auto repairs.

Keys to Success, the largest and most impactful program of its kind in Arizona, is for foster youth aged 16-26 who are transitioning out of the foster care system. The Keys to Success program is tailored to suit each participant’s goals and needs, helping youth achieve higher education and career aspirations, secure stable housing and become financially literate. During 2025, Keys to Success served 644 foster youth, a 36% increase in youth served from 2024 (473.) 96% of participants secured a job within a year of graduation from the program, and 170 youth completed financial literacy courses. AFFCF also provided housing assistance and prevented homelessness for 229 foster youth through Keys to Success.

“AFFCF takes a ‘bookend-to-bookend’ approach to supporting youth through the foster care experience, as each stage of their life matters. Whether it’s meeting a youth’s emotional needs through the Childhood Activities program, and then later helping them graduate and get their education for a stable adulthood, we’re able to be a consistent, supportive presence,” said Luis De La Cruz, president and CEO of AFFCF.

De La Cruz himself is a former Arizona foster youth and participant in AFFCF’s Post-Secondary Program, through which he was able to graduate from Arizona State University in 2013 and gain the businesses experiences needed to later lead the very nonprofit that once helped him.

“Our three programs are structured to address the challenges children and young adults face before, during and after the foster care experience, and are so effective because many members of AFFCF leadership, staff and program managers – myself included – have lived experience with foster care. We are an organization created by and for this community.”

During 2025, AFFCF stepped up for the foster community beyond its traditional program scope – after SNAP benefits were briefly suspended due to the government shutdown in late 2025, the nonprofit distributed emergency grocery funds



to 350 kinship care families. During the nonprofit's Giving Tuesday campaign, AFFCF successfully \$30,000, which was enough to fund three weeks of groceries for 120 youth aging out of foster care and living independently.

In 2026, AFFCF looks forward to continuing the mission to serve the foster community with the same quality and impact, empowering children and youth to enrich their life experiences and ensure their successful transition to adulthood.

For more information about Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation's three service areas, to make a donation, or to apply for aid, please visit affcf.org.

About AFFCF

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 for more information.

###