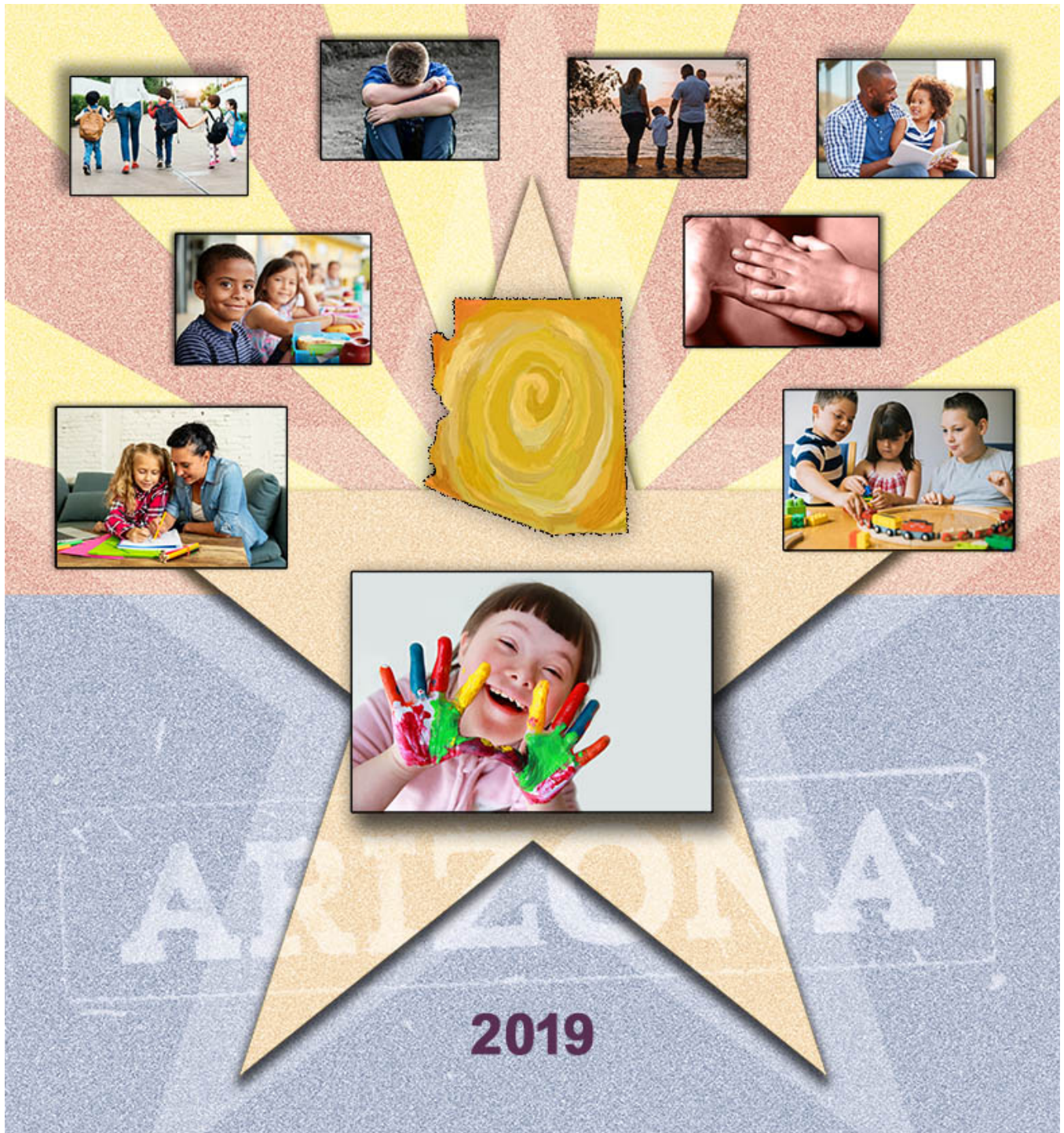


“Strong Families Thriving Children”

Flagstaff Community Town Hall Report

Flagstaff, AZ – October 24, 2019



STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN

**Flagstaff Community Town Hall Report
Thursday, October 24, 2019 – Flagstaff, AZ**

Participants of the October 2019 Flagstaff Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN

Strong families have quality time together. They communicate and have fun together. There is trust, loyalty, and love.

The children have freedom to grow, and are given an opportunity to be heard. The families engage in activities together. They are able to work together through any difficulties and able to share their feelings.

Strong families have support from others, including extended family members and the broader community. Their basic needs of housing, food and health care are met.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES

Financial issues, lack of resources, support for parents and affordable, safe housing are all challenges facing Arizona families.

There are a number of ways to address these challenges.

- Improve access to quality education, after school activities and job opportunities for our youth.
- Provide assistance to deal with domestic violence.
- Ensure adequate transportation to afterschool programs because they are essential to developing children and strengthening families.
- Offer resources to families to enable them to gain necessary knowledge and help them through major challenges.
- Increase the availability of health care (including mental health), childcare, tutoring, educational support, and training for job opportunities for different age groups.
- Provide incentives for business that support these goals.
- Build community awareness and knowledge about these issues so that communities can better address the factors that cause Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and increase protective factors.

ROLE OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS IN CREATING STRONG FAMILIES

Afterschool programs can make or break our children and families. They provide safe spaces and opportunities for children to learn and grow. They provide opportunities that prepare youth for further education, including both formal education as well as life and communication skills.

They allow children and youth to make friends and to have additional emotional support in a safe environment where they can share challenges that may be facing them or their families. They create structure, discipline and additional opportunities.

Afterschool programs allow parents who need to work the security of knowing their children are well cared for, and they provide children with additional educational support such as tutoring and homework assistance.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Flagstaff Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Spark interest and support, help and friendship to other people in the community.
- Continue to give emotional support while teaching life skills and never stop learning to be able to provide services to our community.
- Continue to provide an afterschool program at the YMCA to my community and ensure teens feel welcome.
- Spread my knowledge to the community and offer open hands to those who are struggling.
- Engage in conversations with children and parents about what challenges they face and what is needed to address them.
- Advocate for increased state funding for education and afterschool programs that are accessible to all students.
- Work hard to make those around me feel as if they belong and are supported, along with offering my help with any problems they may have.
- Educate the community and stakeholders about the importance of providing resources and early intervention and support of families to provide resources and early intervention to meet the needs of parents and families thereby contributing to the development of thriving children and healthy future generations.
- Be more aware of the people around me and if they are acting differently than usual.
- Take more time to listen and/or engage with the youth of my communities especially with my own children.
- Speak to the Coalition about their experiences.
- Learn more about family issues and ways to support families and children at home.
- Make new connections for resources in the community.
- Talk about what we need for strong thriving children and families.
- Talk about the health and wellness needs of children and families.
- Spread what I learned today. Tell my teachers and my friends about these issues because some people have more connections than others.
- Take advantage of opportunities that are provided for me. I will also share with friends and family opportunities that are out there. I will manage my time and help others.
- Advocate for myself and make known that there are programs that can help. I will do a better job of making more choices about my future, and be that someone people can talk to.
- Listen to the needs of Native populations to make sure we are serving them to the best of our ability.

- Continue to support safe public places for children to learn, connect and be heard.
- Advocate for families for better services and access to opportunities.
- Communicate and lend a hand to children and families in Arizona by befriending, talking with them, giving time and helping them if they are doing something that needs to be done.
- Learn about ACEs and share what I learn.
- Volunteer and vote.
- Expand the reach of services.
- Inspire others to educate themselves.
- Convince others of the importance of mental health awareness.
- Talk to friends about personal problems.
- Go to more Town Hall discussions.
- Attend the Save the Earth discussions.
- Share within my organization what I learned from my participation in this town hall.
- Continue afterschool programs and help involve youth in the larger community.
- Create an opportunity for ALL.
- Be kind.
- Connect community members like researchers, experts and businesses to schools and afterschool programs.
- Show up to these places to demonstrate support and help out if needed!!!
- Show support and kindness to everyone.
- Walk to raise funds for scholarships.
- Report on my participation in this town hall to our agency management.
- Potentially send staff and youth to the statewide town hall.
- Continue afterschool programs, and consider opening them up from just court-involved youth to the larger community.