

Child Crisis Arizona Raises Over \$1 Million at Annual Fundraising Gala

Written by Mallory Gleich
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Child Crisis Arizona raised over \$1 million to support the well-being and safety of children and families. The nonprofit invited the community to a "Disco in the Desert" to raise awareness and funds for its intervention, prevention and early education programs.

Four hundred attendees danced the night away in bell bottoms and sequins, while their generous support helped families in need afford groceries, provided beds for teens in Child Crisis Arizona's emergency and group homes, care for foster children and more.

The event took place at the JW Marriott Camelback Inn and provided a platform for the organization to honor long-time supporters Roger Hill and Yvonne DeBeauville with the Legacy of Love Award.



Child Crisis Arizona started the Legacy of Love award tradition six years ago to honor remarkable individuals whose generosity and unwavering commitment have left an indelible mark on Child Crisis Arizona.

"The couple have made several transformational gifts to the organization in addition to their volunteerism, including a five-year investment that has strengthened Child Crisis Arizona's ability to serve vulnerable children and families," President and CEO Torrie A. Taj said. "Yvonne's journey began in 2016 as part of a volunteer group. Deeply moved by our mission, she shared her passion with Roger, and from there, something truly special began."

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Other spotlighted individuals included extended foster care program participant Luis and his dedicated success coach Martell Washington to the stage to share their journey.

"From our first meeting, Martell made me feel like I mattered. I was not just another case file. He helped me create a plan for my future and showed up for me, consistently. For the first time in a long time, I felt like someone was listening to me," Luis said.

During the event, Luis spoke about his experience overcoming poverty, homelessness, his mom's battle with thyroid cancer, his dad's drug addiction, the loss of two brothers, and 20 years of abuse with resilience and determination, thanks in great part to the mentorship by Washington.



"With the support of Child Crisis Arizona and the extended foster care program, I was able to strengthen my relationship with my mom and rebuild my life. Since then, I've accomplished things I never thought possible – advocating to Arizona senators, joining my college's student

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government, speaking to the Juvenile Justice Steering Council, and even being part of a documentary about youth in the juvenile system," Luis said.

The evening was filled with exciting entertainment including a paddle raiser; stilt walkers dressed like giant disco balls; professional dancers; Alinx Permanent Jewelry outfitting guests; a caricaturist drawing guests' portraits on commemorative event coasters; casino tables; a themed photo booth; and live music courtesy of the JJ's Band. For more information, visit childcrisisaz.org.