



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Governor Jan Brewer

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Foster Care Families to Hold Celebration at Phoenix Zoo

Phoenix – (May 4, 2010) Arizona's children in foster care will be commemorated on Saturday when the entrance to the Phoenix Zoo is decorated with a 10' x 20' canvas containing 10,000 blue handprints.

The *Make Your Mark artwork* will decorate the zoo's entrance for the 7th Annual Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents' (AZAFAP) Foster Care Awareness Celebration.

In an official proclamation of May as Arizona Foster Care Awareness Month, Governor Jan Brewer recognized "the enduring and valuable contributions of foster parents who come from all walks of life, showing their love and support continuously, serving as a bridge to help children and youth reconnect with their own families, and helping give them the love, support and tools they need to be healthy, successful adults."

Approximately 1,500 foster and adoptive parents and children – as well as children who have aged out of care – will attend the "Foster Families Make a BIG Difference" event for a day at the zoo, including a picnic lunch, jumping castles, face painting and live dance performances. Jakki Hillis, Acting Assistant Director for the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Division of Children Youth and Families (DES/DCYF), will address the audience.

The event is supported by the DES/DCYF, the Arizona Association for Foster & Adoptive Parents, Agape Adoption Agency of Arizona, Unity, LLC, Arizona Partnership for Children (AzPAC) Catholic Charities, KIDS Consortium, Avnet, and Safeway.

Media are invited to cover the event and interview foster parents. However, privacy issues surround foster children, so interviews involving them must include steps that protect their identity. Please contact DES if you are interested in covering this event.

What: 7th Annual Foster Care Awareness Celebration
Where: Phoenix Zoo, 455 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix
When: Saturday, May 8, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Photo Ops: "Make Your Mark" artwork, jumping castles, face painting, games, giant slide, cake walk.

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