

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

August 26, 2014

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Space Available in Free Parent Support & Coaching Program

(Phoenix, Arizona) August 26, 2014- Arizona's Children Association is pleased to announce that their home visitation program, Parents as Teachers (PAT), continues to be available to families of young children in Pinal County.

The free, voluntary program is available to families of children 5 years old and younger who want information and support to enhance their child's health and development. The PAT program is open to all families of young children throughout Pinal County and is not contingent upon income or need.

With continued funding from First Things First, the PAT home visiting program consists of parent and child activities that support the parent as the first and best teacher in their child's life. Parent educators facilitate two home visits per month with fun and easy activities to support and enhance a child's skills and prenatal home visiting for each trimester to help support expecting parents. Developmental, vision, and hearing screenings for infants and children, and group meetings with other parents as support and networking, are also offered. As needed, consultation for resources and referrals to community resources are also provided to all families as part of the program.

PAT home visitors are early childhood educators who are nationally certified to bring this evidence-based program to Pinal County families. With more than 30 years of research, this parent and child curriculum supports advanced language, problem-solving, cognitive development, and social development skills necessary for school readiness. Families who have participated in the PAT program have children who are more prepared to arrive to school ready to learn and score higher on kindergarten readiness tests and in standardized measures of reading, math, and language tests in elementary grades.

Arizona's Children Association is located in Apache Junction and has a team of four (4) parent educators who travel throughout Pinal County, with an emphasis on serving Pinal's underserved areas, such as Red Rock, the Ak-Chin Tribal Community, and the Copper Corridor, to conduct home visits. For more information about the program, please contact the Program Coordinator, Deb Gonzales at 480-288-4723.

About Arizona's Children Association

Arizona's Children Association is the best resource for helping children and families in the state. Our mission is to protect children, empower youth and strengthen families. Founded in 1912, we are now one of the oldest and largest statewide child welfare and behavioral health nonprofit agencies in Arizona. Our programs serve more than 42,000 children, individuals and families in all 15 counties of the state each year. Learn more at www.ArizonasChildren.org.

About First Things First

First Things First is a voter-created, statewide organization that funds early education and health programs to help kids be successful once they enter kindergarten. Decisions about how those funds are spent are made by local councils staffed by community volunteers. To learn more, visit azftf.gov.

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Protecting Children, Empowering Youth and Strengthening Families!