



Glendale Strong Family Network

Thursday, August 8th, 2024

1:00 - 2:30pm meeting via Zoom

Attendees

Justine McDilda-DES Division of Childcare
Elvia Zaragoza-GSFN/SWHD Healthy Families
Dennis Parcels - GESD SOCC
Lori Schweighardt - Harvest Compassion Center
Natalee Sticht- CAC
Nicole Olvera - DES Division Of Childhood Support
Brandi Jordan - Rise Up Glendale

Martin Nowakowski - Maricopa County
Aimee Sitzler - CAC; GSFN
Jennifer Keiser - Banner Health
Ashley Hooper - IRC Phoenix
Maria Ruiz - Westside Headstart
Olivia Lucio -Southwest Human Development

Barrier Busters/Good news:

- DCS Concrete Resources lifted zip code restrictions (can't be self-referred) - \$1,000 per family one time use: trade school, pediatric dental, mental health services, auto repair
 - <https://dcs.az.gov/helping-grand-concrete-resources>

Ashley Hooper - IRC Phoenix - Partner Highlight

- Who Refugees are:
 - fled homes due to war, natural disasters, persecution
 - Legally able to live and work in the US
 - Assigned to a refugee organization; assigned a case worker
 - What resettlement agency did they come from? Question to ask. This is where the funding is for the family
 - 4,433 refugees from Sept 2023-now
 - Cities: Phoenix, Glendale, Tempe, Mesa, Avondale
 - Afghanistan and Ukraine - who IRC works with mostly
 - Education workshops; medical case management
 - call weekly and work one on one - learning numbers, self sufficiency skills

Event Highlights

- 2226 attendees; 448 families served
- Big Thank you to our Sponsors: SWDH, Molina Healthcare, FTF, GESD, Arkos, Nunez Law Firm, Chasse Building Team

What went well?

- Mom - so grateful for all of the services - haircut made her cry
- Although hot, we had a ton of volunteers and everyone was so helpful
- 21 volunteers showed up to help Rise Up Glendale booth

- A Colombian family with no english skills and were very nervous about coming, (through a translator) were very grateful for the community
- Got to see some familiar families that utilize partners services - other families were then introduced to this service
- Major kudos to Marines who were in full uniform and delivering water to every single family
- We had shade where we needed it
- Day before, 12-15 people helped set up tables and box food
- Dress for success - really excited about the outfits they got to pick out

What challenges did we experience? What can we do better next time

- Where to pick up food bag - they just didn't seem to know to pick it up at the end - better signage at the beginning.
- Parking was better - where would a secondary parking space be?
- No boy haircuts
- Table set up? Some congestion points

Next event: Everything but the Turkey

- November - 2, 9, 16, 23?
- Preference - 16th, then 23rd second

Partner Updates

- Continuing to have need for Volunteers - Maryvale - Tues, Fri, Saturday at Harvest Compassion
 - harvestcompassioncenter.org
- Waitlist for childcare- DES now has a waiting list for most families applying to the program due to increased demand and limited funding.
 - <https://des.az.gov/services/child-and-family/child-care/how-apply-for-child-care-assistance>

Next Meeting
September 12th
Via Zoom
1:00pm – 2:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88155373136?pwd=eDhuUUJoWEYrc0M0blo4ODBkTGIPdz09>