



Change a Child's Story June 2026

Yavapai County CASA Program Newsletter

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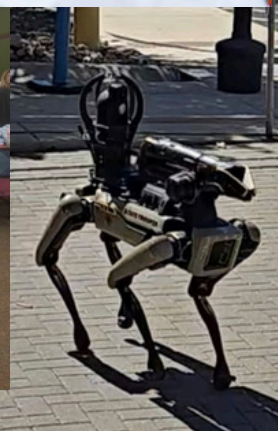
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Coordinators' Corner



Truly Grateful for you.

A **HUGE** thank you to Jessica and Amy who stepped in gladly to help me complete this month's newsletter. You guys are the best!



DID YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE BOOKS FOR YOUR CASA KIDDOS? THESE BOOKS HAVE BEEN GENEROUSLY DONATED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE PRESCOTT PUBLIC LIBRARY. STOP BY THE OFFICE TO PICK UP ONE OR TWO FOR YOUR KIDDO. AS YOU CAN SEE WE ARE OVERFLOWING!



HERITAGE PARK
ZOOLOGICAL
SANCTUARY



DONT FORGET ABOUT OUR PASSES AND MOVIE TICKETS!

Child and Family Team Meetings

To receive information about an upcoming CFT with:

CFSS: please email: dawnr@cfssinc.com

Polara Health: please email: whenthecft@polarahealth.com

Spectrum: please email: susans@spectrumhg.org

Please give the clinics 48 hours to reply to your email



2026

PRESCOTT

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

1

2

FTC 2:00

3

4

5

8

BOOK CLUB
9:30AM

9

Hearings

10

CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM

11

FCRB

12

FCRB

15

16

FTC 2:00

17

18

19

22

23

Hearings

24

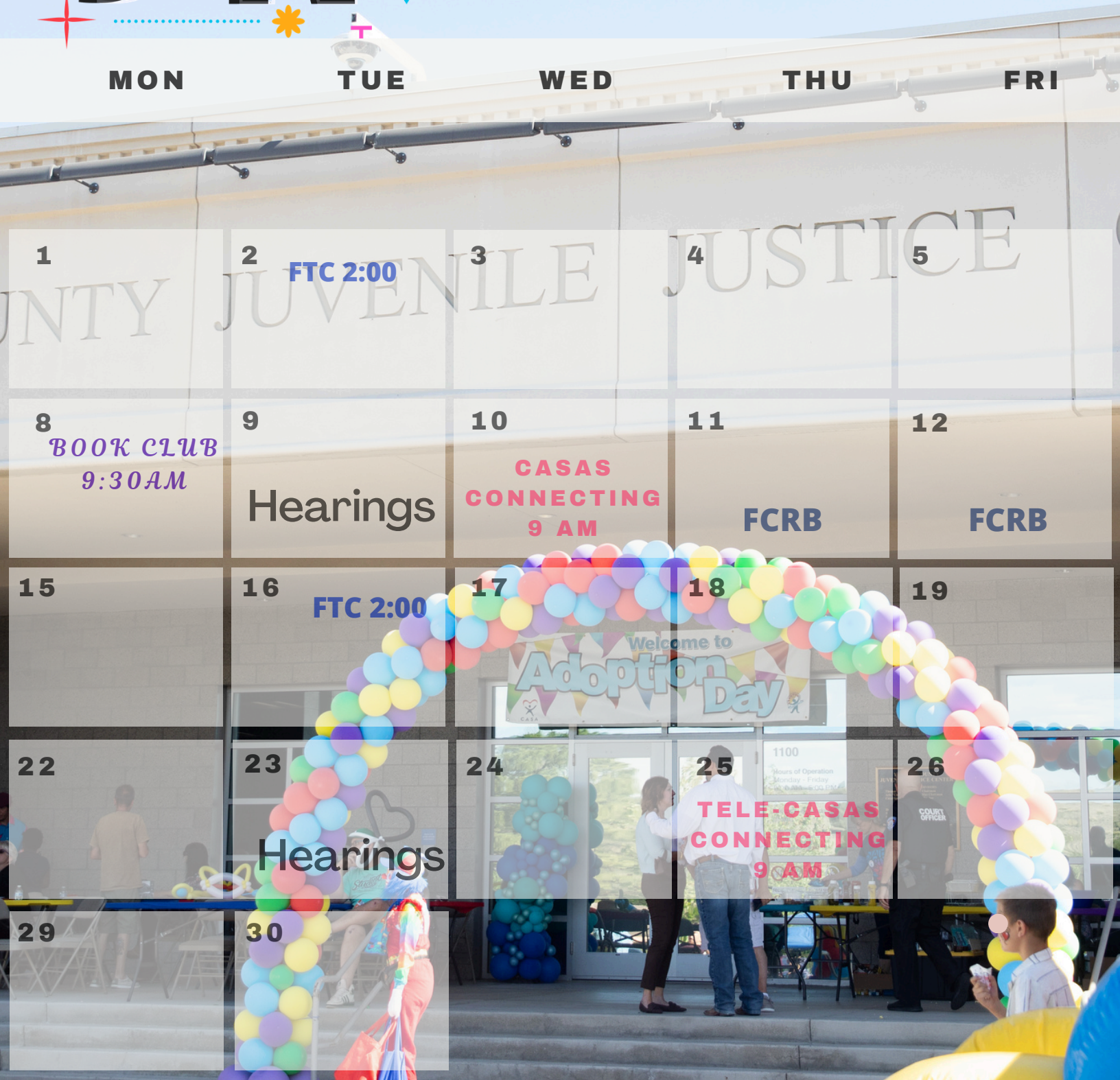
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TELE-CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM

26

29

30





2026

PRESCOTT

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI



1

2

3

HAPPY
Independence
DAY ***
150
YEARS!

6

7

FTC 2:00

Hearings

8

CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM

9

FCRB

10

FCRB

13

14

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20

21

FTC 2:00

Hearings

22

23

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TELE-CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM

31

JUNE VERDE

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

1

2

FTC 2:00

3

4

5

8

9

10

Hearings

11 CASAS
CONNECTING
9:15
COTTONWOOD
LIBRARY DEDE
EWALD ROOM

12

15

16

FTC 2:00

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19

22

23

24

Hearings

25

TELE-CASAS
CONNECTING
9 AM

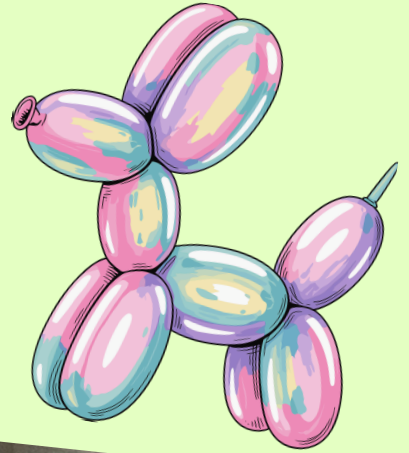
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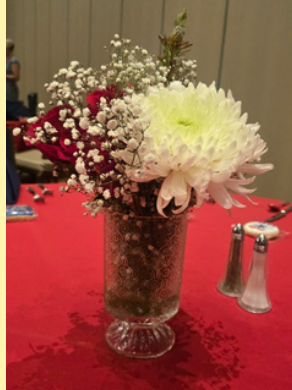
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Adoption Day

May 8, 2026



CASA Spring Appreciation Luncheon



Yavapai CASA for Kids Foundation Gala 2026



CASA Kudos

Kudos to **Tricia C** who worked tirelessly on making sure that the services that were ordered were in place on her CASA baby which include her submitting the referral herself!

Kudos to **Joan F** for putting through her first grant without hesitation or assistance to ensure that an immediate need was addressed and taken care of!

Kudos to **Jo Z, Greg B and Janice L** for coming alongside to mentor to new CASAs with their first cases.

Kudos to **Amy E** for seeing through her assigned dependency case through to ADOPTION – WOO HOO!

Kudos to **Bob R** who has patiently stood by his CASA teen through decisions that have impacted his education and finances. Bob continues to respect his teen's choices and offers steady, nonjudgmental support, encouraging him to keep learning, growing, and doing better.

Kudos to **Cathy J** for finishing strong on her case as the child was adopted on Adoption Day!

Kudos to **Bob M** for being involved throughout the case and being part of adoption day for his CASA child 😊

Kudos to **Lynn M** for taking an additional case where the children are placed in Maricopa County!

Kudos to **Patricia B** and **Bob M** for their participation in Dependency 101!

Kudos to **Steve H** and **Roberta H** for seeing their case through to reunification!

Kudos to **Randy K** and **Deb O** for seeing one of their CASA children through to adoption, two more to go 😊

Ron Stoehr

6/4

Jeni O'Callaghan

6/14

Bev Medlyn

6/10

Vicki Service

6/16

Tricia

Crean

6/11

Eileen Roberts

6/17

Ellen Dewan

6/11

Happy Anniversary

Amy Edwards
2 years

Ron Stoehr
2 years

Meg Rowan
1 year

Sharleen Henderson
1 year



Dependency 101

One of the goals of the Court Team for Infants and Toddlers (Best for Babies) in Yavapai County that was created over two years ago was to develop a program to help foster and kinship placements understand and learn more about the court process and their role as a foster or kinship placement. In

May 2024, the 1st Dependency 101 Class – Mock Hearing was held at the Juvenile Justice Center in Prescott, and the response was wonderful! Since May 2024, the Dependency 101 Classes have expanded, and topics covered within the classes have included: Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings, Shared Parenting Panel, and Parenting Time Visits and Child Dysregulation Panel. To mark our 5th Dependency 101 Class, we decided to change things up, and for the first time, held the Dependency 101 Class at the Camp Verde Superior Courthouse on the evening of May 13, 2026!

During the class, a mock dependency hearing was conducted where foster and kinship placements were able to observe how the court proceeds through a dependency hearing as well as learning about the roles of each person attending a dependency hearing. The mock dependency hearing included: Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, Assistant Attorney General, DCS Case Manager, Attorney for Mother, Role of Mother, Attorney for Father, Role of Father, Attorney for the Child, Behavioral Health, Foster Placement, and a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Each mock dependency hearing participant was outstanding within their respective role!

After the mock dependency hearing concluded, Dependency 101 Class participants had the opportunity to ask questions about the dependency process and discussed the type of updates the court would like to receive from placements during court hearings regarding how the child(ren) are doing with foster or kinship placement.

Each foster and kinship placement was provided with a dependency flow chart specific to Yavapai County, Understanding the Roles in a Dependency Court Hearing, a Guide to Child and Family Team Meetings, along with a QR code for the DCS Go-To Guide for Foster and Kinship Caregivers and a QR code for the CASA Dependency Resource Guide. In addition, each foster and kinship placement received a certificate of completion for attending.

Thank you to each person who was part of this informative and interactive evening! We look forward to creating new and interesting material for future Dependency 101 Classes that will provide foster and kinship placements with additional knowledge that they can apply to the amazing job they do of caring for the kiddos in their care. 😊

Thank you for all that you do!



PAJAMA DRIVE 2026

For many children entering foster care, comfort items such as pajamas are often overlooked during times of transition. The goal of the pajama drive is simple: to help children feel cared for during difficult circumstances.

Community organizations in the Verde Valley and Prescott areas were encouraged to donate new, unused pajamas in sizes ranging from infant to teen. During the month of April, donations were dropped off at designated collection sites throughout the community. The total number of pajamas donated was 80! Thank you to the many churches and organizations that dropped off pajamas at our main Yavapai CASA for Kids Foundation office in Prescott Valley!

In addition to pajamas, pajama drive supporters contributed books to go with each pajama set. Thank you to Prescott Public Library, Imagination Library, and Peregrine Book Company, for the 75 books donated this year!

Verde and Prescott CASA's were provided the opportunity to submit requests for their CASA kiddos also! A total of 17 pajamas and books were set aside for the CASA kiddos. The Verde and Prescott DCS offices also had the opportunity to obtain pajamas and books for the children they work with.

I look forward to continuing the pajama drive next year, as it is very fulfilling to be a part of this amazing cause and giving community.

Sheri

Assistant Manager - Verde Valley
Yavapai CASA for Kids Foundation

YOU'RE INVITED to join us for Yavapai BestforBabies



First Friday of the Month*
10 A.M. - 12 P.M.
Prevent Child Abuse Arizona Office

What is it?

The monthly Yavapai Best for Babies meeting brings together child welfare professionals and community members to discuss what we can do to ensure best outcomes for infants and toddlers in foster or kinship care.

Who should attend?

Child Welfare Professionals • Foster Parents and Kinship Families • Foster Parent Licensing and Training Personnel • CASAs • DCS/DDD Supervisors and Caseworkers • Parent Aides • Visit Coaches • Court Personnel * Attorneys • Guardians ad litem • Behavioral Health Professionals • Early Care / Education Providers • Providers of Services to Families • Anyone who works with or cares for young children

*No meeting July 2026

 **Prevent Child Abuse** 3298 Bob Dr, Prescott Valley
Arizona Questions? Email meghan@pcaaz.org

Topic of the Month: **Perinatal Mental Health's Impacts on Families and How We Can Make a Difference**

This session, led by David Barko, LCSW, PMH-C, IMH-E, covers the severity of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (PMAD) and the challenges families face in seeking help.

You will learn about evidence-based approaches, including screening recommendations, and local Arizona strategies to support parents and eliminate barriers to care.

Yavapai Best for Babies meets in-person on the first Friday of each month from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Prevent Child Abuse Arizona office (3298 Bob Dr., Prescott Valley). These monthly meetings bring together child welfare professionals and community members to collaborate, share ideas, and strengthen outcomes for our youngest children. **Our next meeting is June 5th!**



Nature Niños



2025-2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

One Saturday a month



Park Rangers and community partners lead child-centered play events at a different family friendly park each month. At every Nature Niños event there are take-home items, a healthy snack, creative nature activities, story time, all encouraging us to Leave No Trace and make Healthy Choices. Nature Niños events are led by Park Rangers and community partners with a strong understanding of child development and experience leading child-centered outdoor programs.

August 2nd

West Granite Creek

Splash Pad

350 N. Montezuma Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

September 6th

TEVA Community

Prescott National Forest

2900 N. Granite Basin Rd.
Prescott, AZ 86305

October 4th

Stricklin Park

1751 Sherwood Dr. Prescott,
AZ 86303

November 1st

Pioneer Park

Kayla's Hands

1200 Commerce Drive
Prescott, AZ 86305



December

No event

Go explore with our
Junior Ranger Guidebook

January 3rd

Vista Park

1701 Sarafina Drive
Prescott, AZ 86301

February 7th

Community

Nature Center

1980 Williamson Valley Rd
Prescott, AZ 86305

March 7th

Watson Lake

Upper Ramada

3101 Watson Lake Drive
Prescott, AZ 86301

April 18th

Prescott Earth Day

Downtown Courthouse

120 S. Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

May 2nd

Goldwater Lake

Upper

2900 S. Goldwater Lake Road
Prescott, AZ 86303

June 6th

Granite Creek Park

554 6th Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

July 11th

Antelope Park

6933 N. Cattletrack Road
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

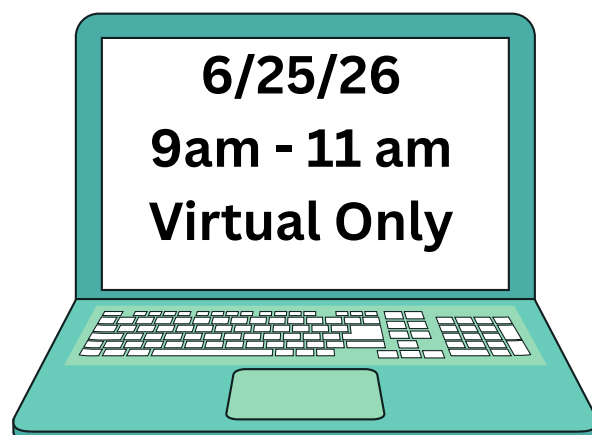




**Attend our
CASA Peer
Support Group
to help you be
more effective
on your case**



**6/10/26
9am - 11 am
in person at the JJC**



Watch your email for
link to this meeting
during that week!

Because the work of a CASA is confidential, it is important to have a safe place to talk about your case. ALL CASAs are highly encouraged to attend a CASA support group. This support group provides lively and informative discussions. The attendees include a mix of veteran and new CASAs and CASA staff. These discussions can help you understand system issues, procedures, identify needs and solve unanswered questions. CASAs Connecting qualifies for training hours!

ARIZONA VICTIMS' RIGHTS & VICTIM COMPENSATION

Training

Build your understanding of the Arizona Victims' Bill of Rights and the Victim Compensation Program, and explore how they can come into play when a dependency case involves criminal proceedings. Hear from a CASA who has navigated these intersections firsthand.



Wednesday, June 10
9:00am - 11:00am



**CASA Connecting @
Juvenile Justice Center**



Amy Fillingim, MS, CA
Program Coordinator II

**JUNE'S CASA
CONNECTING TRAINING**

**CASA GUEST
SPEAKER**

**NETWORK WITH
FELLOW CASA'S**

Arizona Constitution, Article 2, Section 2.1.

Victims' Bill of Rights

- A) To preserve and protect victims' rights to justice and due process, a victim of crime has a right to:
1. To be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity, and to be free from intimidation, harassment, or abuse, throughout the criminal justice process.
 2. To be informed, upon request, when the accused or convicted person is released from custody or has escaped.
 3. To be present at and, upon request, to be informed of all criminal proceedings where the defendant has the right to be present.
 4. To be heard at any proceeding involving a post arrest release decision, a negotiated plea, and sentencing.
 5. To refuse an interview, deposition, or other discovery request by the defendant, the defendant's attorney, or other person acting on behalf of the defendant.
 6. To confer with the prosecution, after the crime against the victim has been charged, trial or before any disposition of the case and to be informed of the disposition.
 7. To read pre sentence reports relating to the crime against the victim when they are available to the defendant.
 8. To receive prompt restitution from the person or persons convicted of the criminal conduct that caused the victim's loss or injury.
- To be heard at any proceeding when any post conviction release from confinement is being considered.
- To be heard at any proceeding for a speedy trial or disposition and prompt and final conclusion of the case and sentence.
- To be heard at any proceeding governing criminal procedure and the admissibility of evidence to protect victims' rights and to ensure the integrity of the criminal justice system.

For more information:

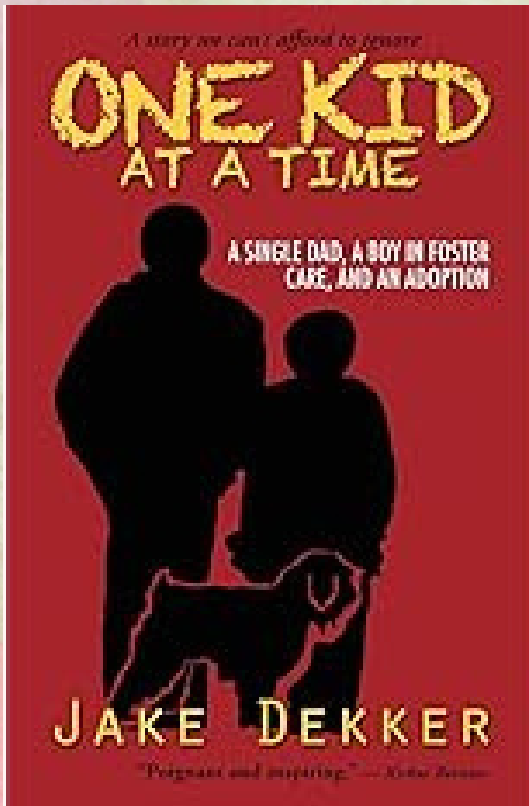


(928) 771-3165

afiillingim@courts.az.gov



Book Club



This true, heartwarming story reveals that miracles occur in everyday life. Enjoyable and uplifting, One Kid at a Time will empower--and encourage--everyone who reads it.

Danny had no chance. His mother abandoned him. His father in prison didn't know him. His grandmother beat him so badly that the doctors couldn't count the bruises. He lived nonstop days of unending anxiety, loneliness and terror. Ordered into foster care, the system isolated, drugged and betrayed him.

Jake lived the good life. Warm friendships, plenty of money and freedom to do what he enjoyed. From the outside he had the perfect existence. But inside he longed for a child.

Books Available

NEXT

**JUNE
8TH**

9:30 AM

IN THE CASA OFFICE

Save the Date

Yavapai Mental Health Conference: Hands On!



One-day education and awareness event for professionals, advocates, & community members. Keynote speakers, break-out sessions, & networking.

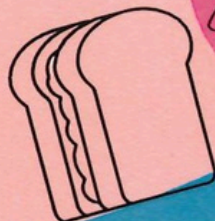
July 28th, 2026
Cliff Castle Hotel
Camp Verde, AZ

Sponsored by:



FREE SUMMER MEALS!

SEVEN DAY MEAL PACK PICK UP



FREE



HUSD Child
Nutrition

IMPORTANT

You do not have to live within HUSD boundaries. Any family with children 18 and younger in the quad cities that are able to pick up meals from one of these locations are encouraged to register.

Locations:

1. Humboldt Elementary School - 2750 S. Corral Street **OR**
2. Pronghorn Ridge Middle School - 6411 N. Robert Road

Time:

Meal pack pick up is 7AM to 3PM only on dates listed below

Pickup Dates:

Monday, June 1st

Monday, June 8th

Monday, June 15th

Monday, June 22nd

Monday, June 29th

Monday, July 6th

Monday, July 13th

Monday, July 20th

Register Now

SCAN HERE



No proof of residency or income is required! All children 1-18 years old qualify for **free** meals over the summer months regardless of what school district they attend. **Registration is required.** Scan the QR code above or visit: <https://forms.gle/dMHM7quiasvJtSqG6> to register now! Call 928-759-5017 if you are unable to register online.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

KIDS & TEENS SUMMER MEALS

YMCA OF PRESCOTT

750 WHIPPLE ST.

MONDAY-FRIDAY

JUNE 1ST-19TH

BREAKFAST 7:30AM-8:30AM

LUNCH 11:30AM-12:30PM

ABIA JUDD ELEMENTARY

1749 WILLIAMSON VALLEY RD.

MONDAY-THURSDAY

JUNE 1ST-18TH

BREAKFAST 7:30AM-8:30AM

LUNCH 11AM-12PM

**EAT HEALTHY
ENJOY MEALS AT **NO COST!**
OPEN TO AGES 0-18
NO APPLICATION IS NEEDED.**

For additional information about our Summer Feeding Program, visit
the [Prescott Unified School District](http://prescottschools.com) website at prescottschools.com

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER



2026 Summer Reading at Prescott Public Library

May 21 – July 25



Starting May 21, sign up for Summer Reading, then log your minutes to earn prizes!

THREE WAYS TO PARTICIPATE—CHOOSE ONE!

- Sign up at the Youth Desk and receive a paper reading log
- Use the QR code to sign up and log your minutes online at <https://prescottpl.beanstack.com/>
- Download the Beanstack app, create a free account, join our Summer Reading challenge, and log your minutes in the app
- Prizes can be collected from June 1-August 2, 2026



215-E Goodwin Street - Prescott, AZ 86303 - (928) 777-1537 - www.prescottlibrary.info



**Grocery benefits are available
for eligible school-age children
during summer break.**





SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

SUN Bucks provides \$120 in grocery benefits per eligible school-age child when school is out for summer. **Children who get SUN Bucks can also participate in Summer Meals programs.**

Your child may be eligible if your family's annual gross income* is **LESS THAN:**

Family Income	Family Size
\$37,814	2 people
\$47,767	3 people
\$57,720	4 people
\$67,673	5 people

*For 2024-25 School Year

Can my child get SUN Bucks?

Your child will automatically get SUN Bucks if they participated in any of these programs between July 1, 2024- August 5, 2025:

- Children ages 6-16 years old and your family participated in SNAP or TANF.
- Children ages 6-16 years old and your family participated in AHCCCS with a household income of 185% of the FPL or below.
- Children ages 6-16 years old who are unhoused, foster, runaway, or migrant students.
- Children who attend a NSLP participating Head Start.
- Children who attended a school that participated in the NSLP in School Year 2024-2025 and who were certified for free or reduced-price meals.

SUN Bucks will be mailed to the address on file with your school. Please make sure it is up to date!

IMPORTANT: Do not discard the letter that comes with your card. It contains your case number, which will be needed to set up your card's PIN!

Your child may be eligible, consider applying for SUN Bucks if your child meets **any** of the following:

- Children that attend a school that operates the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs **AND** submitted a completed alternate income form with their child's school.
- Children that attend a school **that serves free meals to all enrolled students AND** they would qualify for free or reduced price school meals.

If you think your child is eligible based on your household income, visit the Arizona Department of Education application screener or call 833-648-4406 to find out if you should submit an application.

The SUN Bucks application will close on August 5, 2025.

How does SUN Bucks work?

- Families that participate in SNAP or TANF will receive funds directly to their existing household's Arizona EBT card.
- If you have an Arizona EBT card from Summer 2024, benefits will be loaded directly onto the EBT card. For questions, please contact the EBT card SUN Bucks hotline at 1 (833) 648-4406.
- If you do not have an Arizona EBT card, one will be mailed to you with your SUN Bucks benefits pre-loaded onto the card. The card works like a debit card.
- If you have more than one eligible child, you will only get one card per household. For example, if you have 2 eligible kids, you will get one card with \$240 total.
- SUN Bucks must be used within 122 days of the date when benefits are loaded onto the card. **Unused benefits will be removed on day 123.**



Arizona Department of Education:

For information on program and eligibility, such as any of the following, visit or call 833-648-4406:

- Assistance with SUN Bucks case number.
- Date(s) of benefit issuance. Report a change of address.
- Child missing on your SUN Bucks case.
- Information on SUN Bucks eligibility, to apply, or to file an appeal.
- How to opt-out.
- Eligibility screener can be found here.
- SUN Bucks application linked here.
- Requesting a replacement card.



Arizona Department of Economic Security:

For information on your EBT card or benefits, such as below, visit or call 888-997-9333:

- Activating your card.
- Checking card balances.
- Changing your PIN.
- Reporting a lost, stolen, or damaged card.



Arizona Food Bank Network:

For information on the program, such as below, and FAQ:

- List of program names and streamlined certification process.
- Information on approved retailers.
- General information on program and eligibility.



Summer Food Service Program/ SUN Meals:

Free meals for kids and teens are also available as part of USDA's SUN Meal programs. Use the QR code to find a meal service site near you.



Rise Above the Clouds **SUMMER CAMP**

Trauma-informed, overnight summer camp for foster youth ages 10-14



JULY 13TH – JULY 19TH 2026



Apply Today!



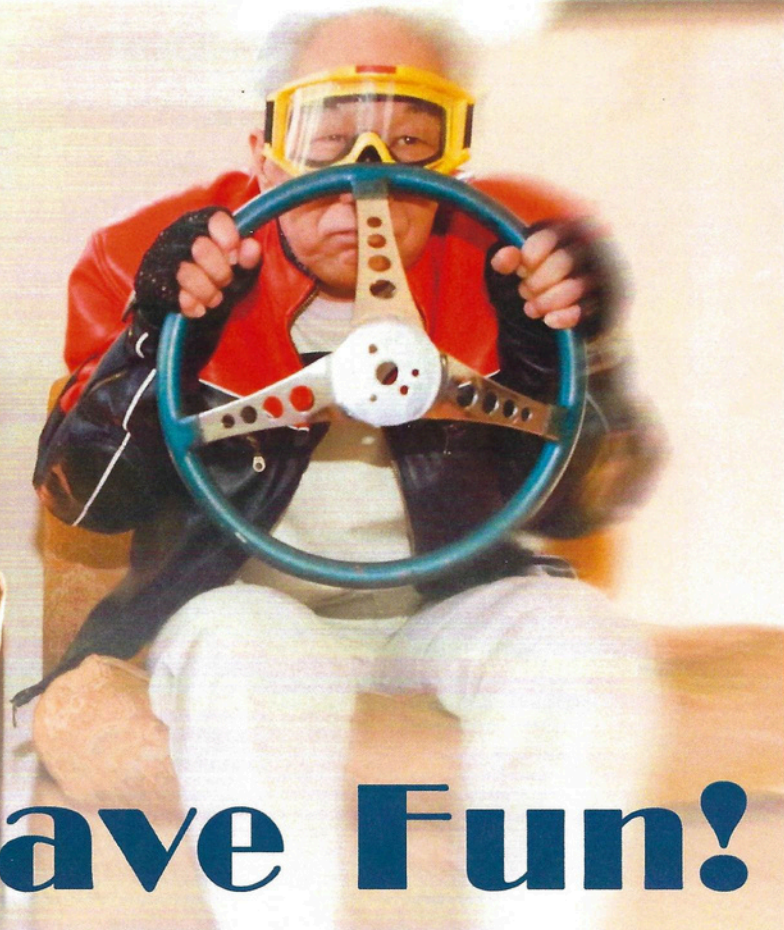
Camp Tuition \$800
Scholarships Available



@rise.abovetheclouds

(928) 925-9559

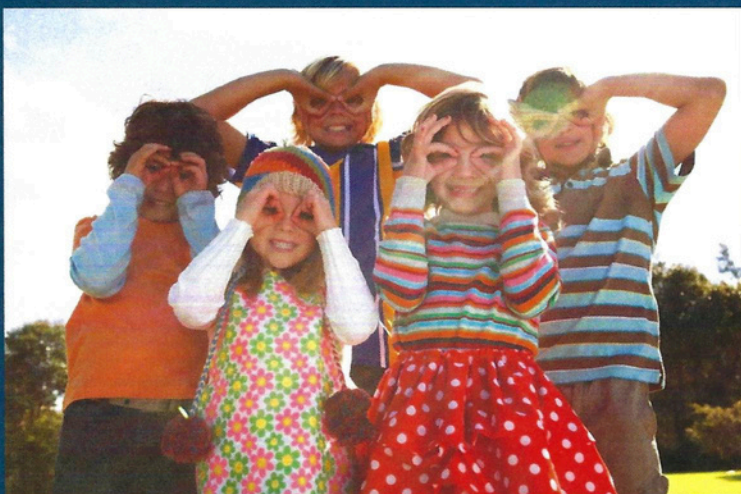
riseabovetheclouds.org



Come Have Fun!

with our Grand-Hearts for Grand-Kids

Free monthly event for kids ages 3 yrs (potty trained) to 11 who could benefit from a positive, nurturing grandparent morning of fun! 8944 East Sommer Drive, Bldg. B, Prescott Valley, AZ Registration is required; may be done on the website or at the door.



*3rd Saturday EVERY Month
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.*

**free for kids
ages 3-11**

Call - 928-899-8372

www.grandparentchamps.org

WRAPPED
IN LOVE

The Wrapped in Love (WiL) Diaper Bank provides diapers and supplies to struggling families across Yavapai County. Diapers are given to families through their affiliation with a service agency in the community. WiL promotes health and wellness by providing Yavapai County participants with diapers, wipes and referrals to local services. The overarching goal of WiL is to alleviate the cost of diapering and strengthen access to resources for struggling families in Yavapai County. The staff and volunteers at WiL coordinate with community agencies and family programs to ensure that needy families have access to the resources available to assist them in raising healthy children.

Yavapai County CASA Volunteers can request diapers for their foster or kinship families who are struggling to buy diapers.

If you would like to order diapers for your CASA baby's family, please contact your coordinator.

CELEBRATION!

Gift Cards

Does your CASA kiddo have a birthday coming up? Get a great report card or improve in a class they were struggling with? Successfully complete potty training? Any other event or milestone?

Stop by the CASA office to pick up a Celebration Gift Card! Thank you YCFKF!



**CASA OF
YAVAPAI
COUNTY**

LIKE US!

FOLLOW US!

facebook

May in Yavapai County

7

New Cases filed

9

Children taken
into DCS custody

201

Total number of
children in DCS Care

73

Number of CASAs

92

Children with a CASA

Kids who still need a CASA

109



Contact Information

www.casaofyavapaicounty.org

Prescott Office

(928) 771-3165

Amber Martin, Dependency Court Manager

email: amartin@courts.az.gov

Jessica Hines, Program Coordinator III

email: jhines@courts.az.gov

Amy Fillingim, Program Coordinator II

email: afillingim@courts.az.gov

Kathy McCormick, Mediator

email: kmccormi@courts.az.gov

Evelyn Hurtado, Admin Assistant I

email: ehurtado@courts.az.gov

Robin Fernandez Ames, Support Staff

email: rfernanzesames@courts.az.gov

Kristi Newman (928) 771-3398

Family Treatment Court Coordinator

email: knewman@courts.az.gov

Camp Verde Office

(928) 554-8900

Jen Bahr

Dependency Program Manager II

email: jbahr@courts.az.gov

Laura Gray

Program Coordinator II

email: lagray@courts.az.gov



www.YavapaiCASAforKids.org

P.O. Box 28070

Prescott Valley, AZ 86312

(928)445-0800

Board Members:

Lisa Watts, President

Greg Byrum, Vice President/Secretary

Cheryl Micholofki, Treasurer

Eileen Bond, Emeritus Member

Marlene Joy

**Yvonne Bartlett, Executive Director and
Interim contact for Grants for Kids Program**
Mona Stephens, Development

Questions about YC4KF?
email: info@yavapaicasaforkids.org