



Change a Child's Story

Yavapai County CASA Program Newsletter

October 2025

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*May your hearts
be as full as the
harvest moon
and your hard
work for
children shine
as brightly!*

Coordinators' Corner



Heritage Park Zoo has partnered with the Highlands Center. That means we can use our membership card at both locations! And don't forget about the membership at Out of Africa and that we have Harkins Movie passes, too!



**HERITAGE PARK
ZOOLOGICAL
SANCTUARY**

New Books Available!

The Friends of the Prescott Public Library has donated some new books for our CASA kiddos. There are now quite a few choices for early readers as well as books for middle and upper grades. Come pick one up next time you are in the office!



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

OCTOBER

Prescott 2025

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

1

2

3

6

7

Hearings
FTC 2:00

8

9:00
CASA
Connecting

9

FCRB

10

FCRB

13

14

Hearings

15

16

17

20

21

FTC 2:00

22

23

24

Appreciation
Event



27

28

Hearings

29

30

Tele-CASA
9:00

31

Prescott 2025

November

Thank you Veterans

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

3

4

Hearings
FTC 2:00

5

9:00
Court
Report
Writing

6

7

10

11

VETERANS
DAY
closed

12

9:00
CASA
Connecting

13

FCRB

14

FCRB

17

DCS/CASA
Meet &
Greet

18

FTC 2:00

19

20

Tele-CASA
9:00

21

24

25

Hearings

26

27

offices

28

closed

October

Verde 2025

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

1

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6

7 **FTC 2:00**

8

Hearings

9 9:15 CASA
Connecting
Cottonwood
Library Dede
Ewald room
FCRB

10

FCRB

13

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16

17

20

21 **FTC 2:00**

22

Hearings

23

24

Appreciation
Event



27

28

29

30

31

Happy Anniversary

Lyn Herrington - Ekiss

8 years

JB

Leslie Golich

5 Years

5 Years

Roberta Hatch

Janice Mauz

3 Years

Ehren Falk

3 Years

1 Year

Don O'Neil

10/15

Amy Edwards

10/19

Pat Seybold

10/26

Bob Marks

10/28



CASA Kudos

KUDOS TO THE HOPE FEST VOLUNTEERS: RITA DENNIS, RAY LEE, ROBERTA HATCH, PAM PEARSALL, LAURI DELFELD, AND ESPECIALLY KAREN KNECHT AND VICKI SERVICE WHO HELPED ME PACK UP DURING A CRAZY DOWNPOUR!!

KUDOS TO KIM NAVGLE FOR SHOWING UP AND WRITING MULTIPLE COURT REPORTS AS HER TEEN IS CLOSE TO AGING OUT, ALL THE WHILE HELPING HER NAVIGATE A REPAYMENT PLAN FOR HER SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS.

KUDOS TO LAURA ASHBROOK FOR HELPING HER KIDS HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME WITH THEIR FATHER AT THE YAVAPAI COUNTY FAIR!

KUDOS TO JANET McDONALD, KAREN KNECHT, STEVE AND ROBERTA HATCH FOR TAKING NEW CASES!

KUDOS TO RANDY KALOTA FOR KEEPING EVERYTHING GOING FOR THE 3 SIBLINGS ON HER CASE WHILE HER CO-CASA WAS HEALING UP!

KUDOS TO EARL & MISTY MOSS AND JANET McDONALD FOR SEEING THEIR CASES THROUGH TO GUARDIANSHIP!

KUDOS TO KAREN KNECHT AND JANICE MAUZ FOR SEEING THEIR CASES THROUGH TO REUNIFICATION!

KUDOS TO DIANE J. FOR PARTICIPATING IN CASA IN THE COMMUNITY.

KUDOS TO GENA B. FOR TAKING A NEW CASE.

KUDOS TO LYNN M. FOR TAKING AN ADDITIONAL CASE WHERE THE CHILD IS PLACED OUT OF COUNTY.

KUDOS TO JB BIRDT FOR ALL HER TIME AND EFFORTS IN SUPPORTING HER CASA YOUTH AS SHE AGED OUT OF FOSTER CARE AND SIGNED UP FOR EXTENDED FOSTER CARE.

KUDOS TO PAT MCKAY AS HE SUPPORTED HIS CASA CHILD TRANSITION BACK TO HIS MOTHER.

KUDOS TO DIANE MCCLURE FOR ADVOCATING FOR HER CASA CHILD DURING ISSUES WITH THE CHILD'S PLACEMENT.

KUDOS TO MELINDA MITCHELL FOR COMPLETING HER VERY FIRST COURT REPORT!

KUDOS TO JULIE STROVAS FOR ATTENDING HER FIRST COURT HEARING AND SPEAKING BEFORE THE JUDGE!

Who is that sweet pupper I see around the CASA office on occasion?



If you have been at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) recently, you may have noticed a very special visitor, Eden, my personal dog who also happens to be a fully trained and certified Facility K9. Eden is a four-and-a-half-year-old Standard Goldendoodle, petite in size for her breed, but with a presence that fills the room. Though she is not employed by CASA, Eden has quickly become a recognized and beloved presence at the JJC.

Eden made her debut appearance during the May 9th Adoption Day celebration, where she helped bring joy and happiness to the families in attendance. Since then, she has been invited back to Juvenile Detention twice, where she has interacted with detained youth in a variety of settings: playing basketball in the gym, sitting in on school sessions, and spending time with the youth in their pods. Each visit has offered an opportunity for Eden to connect, comfort, and create an environment where healing and hope are possible.

Eden has also provided support in the courthouse. During one particularly stressful and traumatic hearing, siblings who were fearful of seeing a parent from their past found solace in her presence. Both children described Eden as their “new best friend.” One sibling was so comforted that she was able to relax and take a nap in the visitation room within the courthouse, a sign of how safe she felt with Eden by her side.

What makes Eden’s work unique is her specialized training. As a Facility K9, Eden has unrestricted access to public buildings and is task trained to detect two stress hormones, cortisol and adrenaline. When she senses elevated levels, she responds with one of four trained tasks designed to trigger feel good hormones such as dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin, and endorphins.

Her tasks include:

- **Cover:** Eden gently places her 50-pound frame across a lap, acting like a living weighted blanket.
- **Touch:** She offers her paw for hand holding, applying real pressure with her pads and nails so the recipient feels truly held.
- **Hug:** Eden gently places her paws on a child's shoulder, giving them the chance to wrap their arms around her for comfort.
- **Crawl:** She lowers herself onto her chest and slowly puppy crawls forward, approaching submissively to ease fear for those uncomfortable around dogs.

Eden's training equips her to provide comfort in scientifically grounded ways, but it is her gentle spirit and intuitive presence that make the biggest impact. She is more than a dog. She is a source of calm, a bridge to healing, and a reminder of the power of connection.

If you would like to meet Eden, she is scheduled to appear at the upcoming Adoption Day celebration on November 7th.



LOOK for information about the annual Toy Drive and Distribution in the next Newsletter

THE COSTUMES FOR KIDS SK & HALLOWEEN FEST IS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION (FREE FOR ALL FOSTER/KINSHIP FAMILIES AND YOUTH 16 AND UNDER). PLEASE SEE THE FLYER ON PAGE 18 FOR MORE INFORMATION AND THE LINK TO REGISTER.



THE FOUNDATION IS ALSO LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE DAY OF THE EVENT. PLEASE EMAIL DEVELOPMENT@YAVAPAIASAFORKIDS.ORG IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP OUT WITH THE EVENT.



Please join us Friday, October 3, 2025

10 am to 12 pm

3298 N Bob Drive, Prescott Valley

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.**

Topic: Workgroups to accomplish FY26 Yavapai Best for Babies Court Team Goals

Stay after the meeting for the webinar:
“Arizona Best for Babies and Your Role in Protecting Children by Strengthening Families”

Normally \$30, the webinar is free to attendees of the Oct 3 B4B meeting!

Presenters:

Prevent Child Abuse
Arizona Executive
Director Claire Louge
and Statewide Safe
Babies Court Teams
Coordinator Marshall
Marquez



Facilitator: Shawn
Singleton, MD, FAAP,
Medical Director,
Children At Risk
Evaluation (CARE) team,
Banner Children's
Hospital, and AzAAP
Trauma-Informed Care
Ambassador

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

Ideas for future topics? Email meghan@pcaaz.org
Prevent Child Abuse Arizona | 928.445.5038 | pcaaz.org

Nature Niños



2025-2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

One Saturday a month

Go Explore!



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

Vigil Park

1701 Saranna 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

PRESCOTT
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



CITY OF PRESCOTT
ARIZONA

YAVAPAI
COUNTY
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES



NATURAL
HISTORY
INSTITUTE



Cooperative Extension
Yavapai County



for
stepUpkids



girl scouts
LEAVE
NO TRACE



CFSS | CHILD & FAMILY
SUPPORT SERVICES

MEET & GREET

PRESCOTT DCS & CASA

Supporting
relationships
between
DCS & CASA to
create the best
outcome for our
youth

**NOVEMBER 17, 2025
12:00PM - 2:00PM**

**PRECOTT JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
HEARING ROOM**

**RSVP AND SUBMIT ANY DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS TO AMBER MARTIN AT
928-771-3165 OR
AMARTIN@ COURTS.AZ.GOV**

**LUNCH PROVIDED BY YAVAPAI
CASA FOR KIDS FOUNDATION**



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN



CASAs

connecting

CASAs Connecting

in person at the JJC

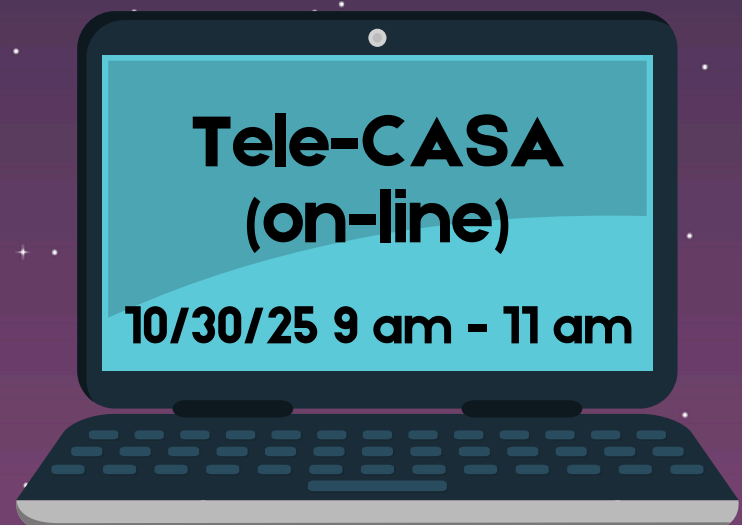
10/8/25

9 am to 11 am



Attend CASAs Connecting Peer support group to help you be successful on your case.

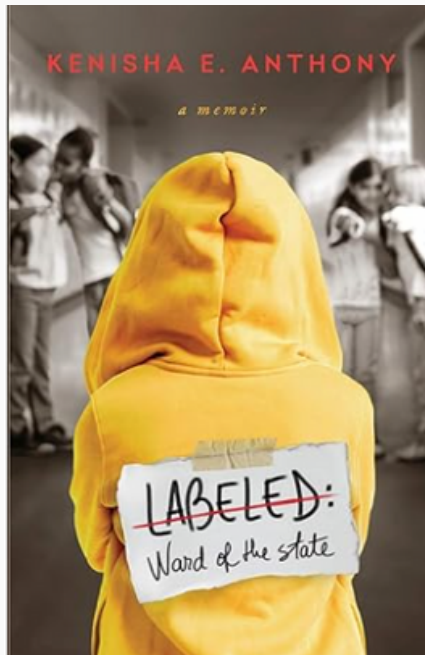
Because the work of a CASA is confidential, it is important to have a safe place to talk about your case. ALL CASAs are highly encouraged to attend a CASA support group. This support group provides lively and informative discussions. The attendees include a mix of veteran and new CASAs and CASA staff.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



The link for Tele-CASA will be sent via email the Tuesday before the meeting.

Book Club

LABELED: WARD OF THE STATE BY KENISHA E. ANTHONY



An abandoned child of drug-addicted parents and Florida's broken child-welfare system, Kenisha E. Anthony was left to wonder if anyone would ever want her. As a young girl, desperate for love and belonging, she bounced from one unstable home to the next, packing only resentment, abandonment, and heartbreak to take with her. Still, Kenisha found her way, ultimately breaking barriers and shattering statistics.

Against advice to "just get a GED," she earned both an undergraduate and graduate degree with the aid of tuition exemption per Florida Statute 1009.25(1)(d), a resource for children aging out of foster care. As an advocate for change in the child welfare system, she found her voice in the presence of state legislators and earned a name as a dynamic professional and change-maker in the field of social work.

Kenisha shines a spotlight on life through the lens of a survivor with a vivid portrait of her journey from victim to victor, rising above hardships that could have easily left her defeated and destitute. This is a story of triumph, redemption, and the will to become more than just a Ward of the State. Teeming with vulnerability, candor, and wisdom, this unfiltered reflection of Kenisha's life is, fittingly, more than a memoir. It is a social awareness tool for anyone who's faced adversity, beat the odds, and refused to be labeled.

**Books
Available
IN THE CASA OFFICE**



MEETING

Oct 16th

9:30am JJC

Yavapai CASA For Kids Foundation's

COSTUMES FOR KIDS

Benefits Local Foster Youth

5K & HALLOWEEN FEST



SATURDAY

OCTOBER 25, 2025

PRESCOTT COURTHOUSE SQUARE

REGISTRATION AT 9:00 AM

5K STARTS AT 10:00 AM



Costume Contests, Raffles, Music, Games
Prizes, & More



REGISTRATION & MORE INFORMATION

Foster Families and Youth Under 16 Run for Free

YavapaiCASAforKids.org/Annual-5K



NORTHERN ARIZONA SCHOOL SAFETY SUMMIT

We are excited to invite you to
our upcoming event, where we
aim to make a significant
difference in the lives of those
who need it the most.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Award Winning Bully Fighters Movie Presentation

Hosted by Patricia Mckenzie,
Award winning
Actress/Producer/Singer

Featured Presenter

Bobby Kipper, School Safety and
Discipline Expert, Best-Selling Author

Summit Topics Will Cover:

- Learn the new behavior-based school safety model
- Learn effective strategies to deal with student aggression
- Learn proven strategies to build a safe and positive school culture and climate using "Actively Caring for People" and "Green Zone"

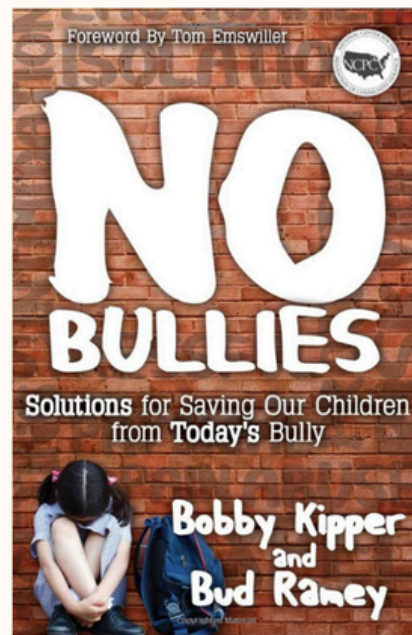
"School and community violence is a process
and not an event. Early behavior without
consequences leads to a tragic ending"
Bobby Kipper

Contact Us:

Director Jerald Monahan
gerald.monahan@yc.edu



**More
Information/Registration**
www.yc.edu/ji



9 AM - 4 PM

29

OCTOBER

**YAVAPAI
COLLEGE**

PRESCOTT CAMPUS
BUILDING 19 ROOM 147

COURT REPORT WRITING

*Wednesday, November 5th · 9:00pm-11:00am
JJC Hearing Room*

This is a comprehensive Court Report Writing class for all CASA advocates.

All new advocates are highly encouraged to attend this training to learn the requirements for Court Report Writing for Yavapai County. We will also address your concerns and issues with using the dashboard system for writing reports.



Veteran advocates are encouraged to attend this training as a refresher course and to offer your experience to the discussion.

You are welcome to bring your own lunch or snacks. Coffee and water will be provided.

(training credit given to all CASAs)



Come Have Fun!

with our Grand-Hearts for Grand-Kids

Free monthly event for foster kids, underserved and at-risk kids in a safe, nurturing environment at 8944 East Sommer Drive, Prescott Valley, AZ Registration is required and can be done at the door.



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

**free for kids
ages 4-10**

Call - 928-899-8372

www.grandparentchamps.org

NEW

WRAPPED IN LOVE POTTY TRAINING KITS!

Wrapped in Love (WiL) Diaper Bank's mission is to alleviate the cost of diapers, period products, and incontinence supplies, and strengthen resource use of programs and services for struggling families. Currently, WiL serves 322 children each month with diapers or pull-ups, ointment, and a tub of wipes.

WiL recognizes that the cost of diapers can strain a family's budget, making it a struggle to purchase this vital part of hygiene care. Additionally, potty training is not limited to a specific age and is one of the most challenging and messy milestones for a child.

To assist families, WiL created a potty-training kit that can be ordered through the agencies we work with to deliver diapers. The kit saves families approximately \$150 per month and reduces the number of diapers and pull-ups in landfills. It also helps prepare children for preschool and kindergarten. Our kit includes a potty chair OR toilet training seat, step stool, bed protector, training pants, leak-proof pants cover, a book for the child, a book for parents, (both available in English or Spanish), and a prize of new 'big kid underpants or underwear'. Each kit comes in a storage bag that can be reused for easy transportation, which is especially important for the homeless population. In addition, we send an order of pull-ups to help with the transition and a card congratulating the child on their success.

WiL can process up to 5 orders for kits each month, which are placed through the agency serving the family. Case managers and home visitors report that families are thrilled to be able to obtain the necessary items for transitioning their child out of diapers.

Please contact your coordinator if you would like to order one of these fabulous potty training kits.

Thank You

To Lori from WiL for
this great
information!



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!**



acebook

September in Yavapai County

9

New Cases filed

11

Children taken
into DCS custody

214

Total number of
children in DCS Care

75

Number of CASAs

105

Children with
a CASA

**Kids who still
need a CASA**

109



Contact Information

www.casaofyavapacounty.org

Prescott Office

(928) 771-3165

Amber Martin, Dependency Court Manager

email: amartin@courts.az.gov

Jessica Hines, Program Coordinator II

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 I

email: lagray@courts.az.gov

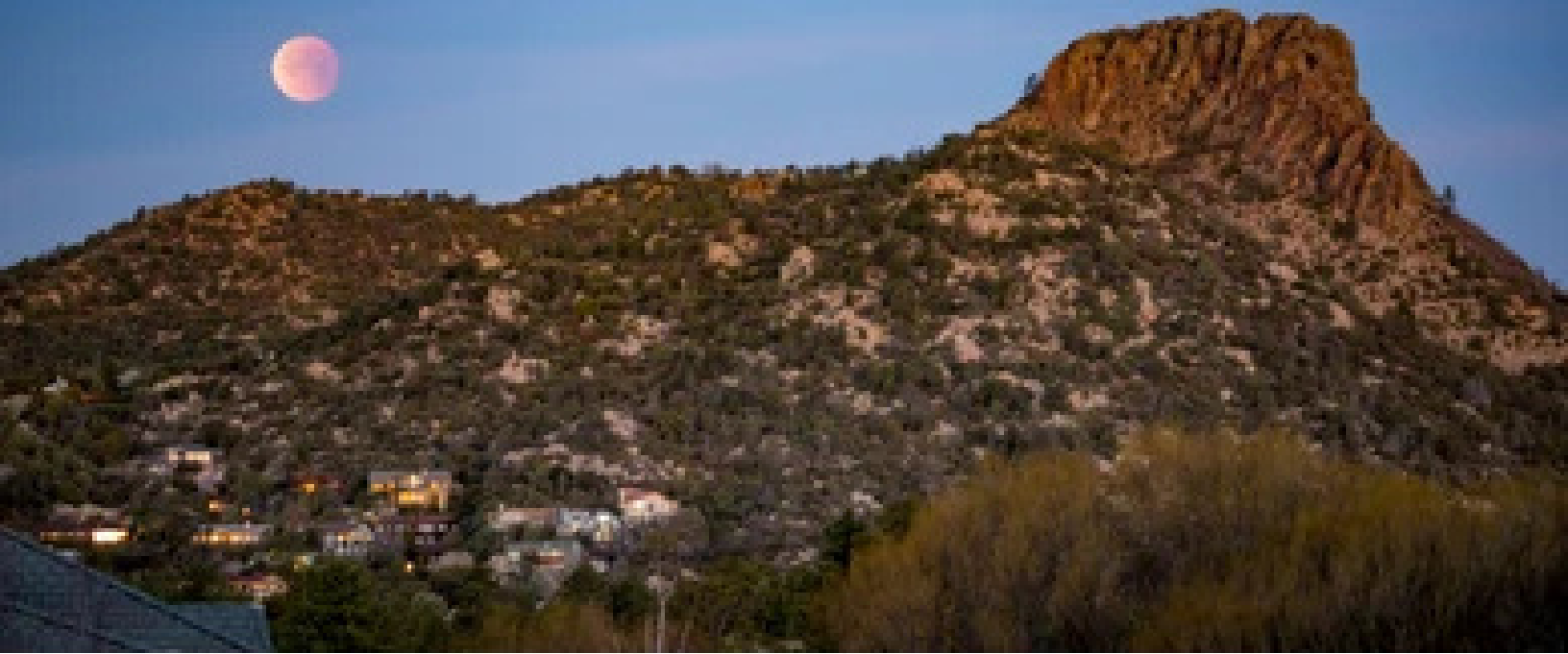


www.YavapaiCASAforKids.org

P.O. Box 28070

Prescott Valley, AZ 86312

(928)445-0800



Board Members:

Lisa Watts, President

Greg Byrum, Vice

President/Secretary

Luke Lewis, Treasurer

Cheryl Micholofki

Eileen Bond, Emeritus Member

Jayne Schwantes

Marlene Joy



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

Mona Stephens, Development

Questions about YC4KF?

email: info@yavapaicasaforkids.org