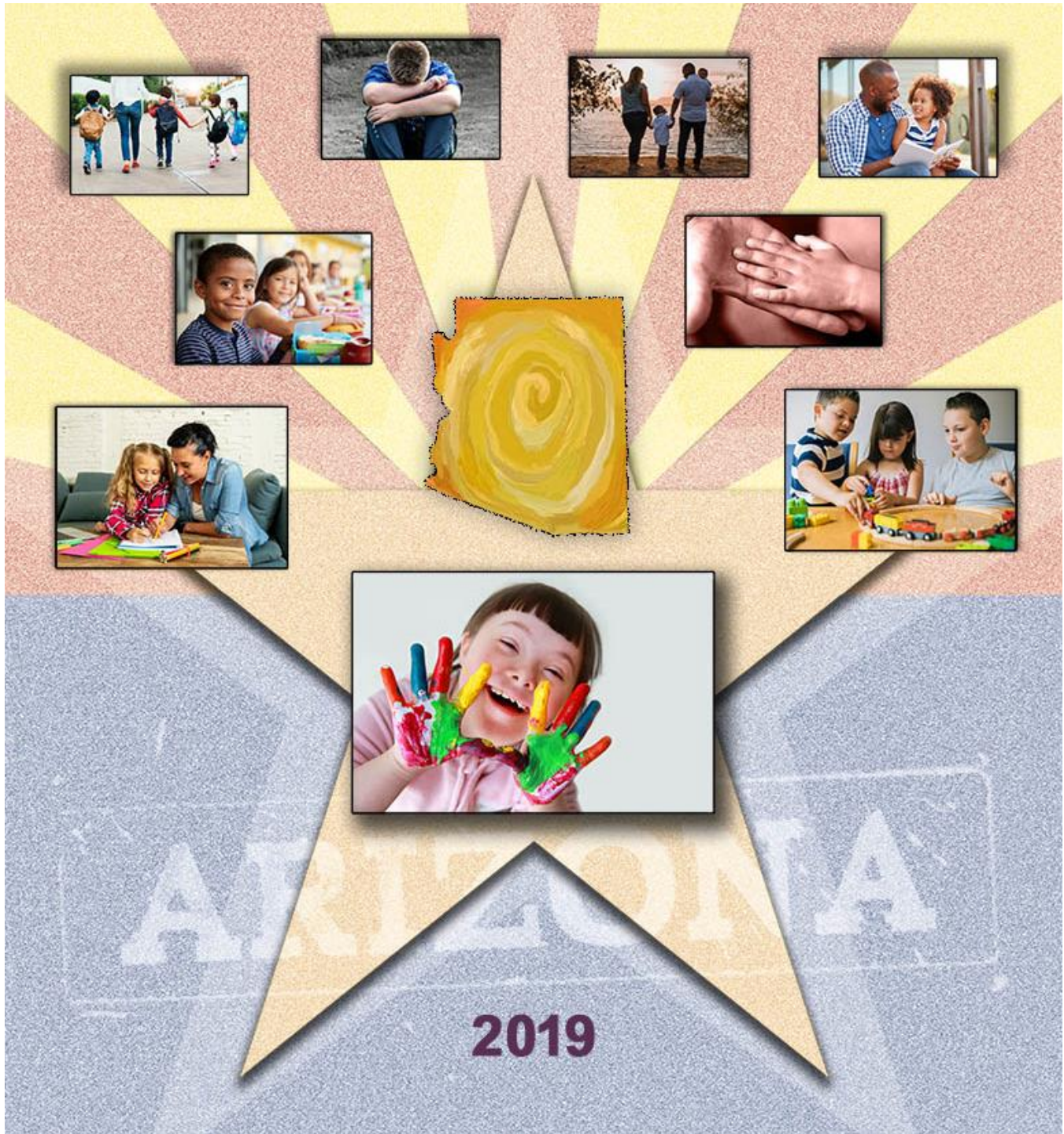


# “Strong Families Thriving Children”

Maryvale Community Town Hall Report

Phoenix, AZ – October 10, 2019



# **STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN**

**Maryvale Community Town Hall Report  
Thursday, October 10, 2019 – Phoenix, AZ**

Participants of the October 2019 Maryvale Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONG FAMILIES AND THRIVING CHILDREN**

Define family broadly to reflect the current society we live in. Family may include caring adults or others in the community who provide loving support.

Strong families have love, respect, humor, ties to their cultural identity, strong values, work/ life balance and opportunities to thrive. They have dedicated time and good communication with each other. They listen to and respect each other, including gender identities. They have responsible, caring adults who know how to emotionally support their children. They are resilient and able to creatively address challenges that arise.

Their basic needs are met, including financial stability, safety, housing, education and healthcare (including mental health). They have access to affordable, high quality childcare and other information and services as needed.

Strong families feel connected to their community and comfortable reaching out for help when needed. Having services provided in multiple languages allows resources to be more accessible. There is access to needed resources within the community, including education, information and services for substance abuse and recreation opportunities for the family.

## **GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING ARIZONA FAMILIES AND CHILDREN**

Create an environment where parents feel supported and there is no stigma associated with asking for assistance.

Keep families together. Repeal SB1070 and eliminate the racial profiling and cultural biases that can lead to families being separated. Provide additional training to police and first responders so that they can respond more empathetically to situations and be more of a community partner.

End mass incarceration which also separates families. Make changes in workplace policies to allow families to take time off when needed.

Reduce substance abuse through programs that focus on prevention and are available and affordable to all. Reduce bullying, domestic violence, racial profiling and discrimination. Provide leadership opportunities for our youth.

Families would be stronger if we had greater gun control measures in place, jobs that pay better, and resources matched to those in need. Break down silos that create barriers for accessing resources. This includes working in collaboration with government and other sectors to leverage existing resources to better serve our families. It also includes making resources more available and accessible to those in need.

Maximize the opportunities available within our schools by having trauma-informed staff, and partnerships that enhance what schools provide. This includes parent education about child development, support for struggling parents and support for teachers and others who work directly with our children.

Share and highlight the positive aspects of our community, not just the challenges. Our community has many things to be proud of.

### **WHAT I WOULD TELL ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS**

Pledge allegiance to our children. Listen to our kids and put **all** children first. Have the courage to listen to conversations like this.

Be transparent and accountable. Focus less on the interests of corporations and more on the needs of your constituents, the people you serve. Be courageous and speak up for the needs of the community, including the undocumented members of our community.

Spend more time in your communities and embrace them. Provide opportunities for youth and diverse people (including diverse families) to stay connected, and to have pride in their communities. Provide activities and opportunities that allow families to thrive.

Put more dollars toward prevention, especially for early childhood. Fund education the way it needs to be funded. Spend more on education and less on incarceration. Provide opportunities for criminal records to be expunged so that people can find jobs. Spend less on police and invest more in community activities, like town halls, that actually make the community safer.

Address the needs of the people who really need to be helped. Provide safe, affordable housing and change the laws so that families can stay together.

### **INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS**

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Maryvale Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

#### ***I WILL...***

- Keep working with my community.
- Ask my friends, family and school to embrace support groups.
- Educate the community's youth to understand helping people in need.
- Be more mindful of the struggles my neighbors face that may be foreign to me, enabling me to advocate for the collective well-being of our community.
- Strive to invite diverse voices to the table as all voices have value. Diversity invites creativity, problem solving and the opportunity for success.
- Be present, active and connected to my community and encourage others to do the same in their own capacity.
- Yo voy a ser uncambio en mi conunidad compartiendo esta valiosa información.
- Yo voy hacer madre temporal y dar amor y cuida-do a ninios que nesesitan.
- Llevar esta informacion al a comunidad.
- Que la comunidad este informuda y conosca sus derechhos, porque como gente de color é indocumentada tumbien tenemos derecho a tener Acceso a Medicos desalud.
- Educate my community, be transparent and hold legislature accountable to speak up for our community and healthy and happy families.
- Share the information with our leadership team.

- Look of opportunities to host community discussions at City of Phoenix Community Centers.
- Ask our young patients what we can do to make their healthcare better.
- Be a patient, loving, courageous and supportive parent and role model
- Daily challenge myself to act on strengthening families and children. What did I do Today?
- Advance ACE's in my job, as a parent, and as a voter.
- Tell my elected officials to put child well-being at the center of their decision-making.
- Keep my courage up and speak out against efforts to harm children.
- Do what I can to help organizations deliver resources and awareness to underserved communities.
- Educate my community n ACE's, resources and how to advocate for children and families.
- Inform patients here and anyone I know about community resources.
- Work more closely with other community organizations and schools to stand stronger and more united.
- Educate and advocate for agencies to promote their resources to at-risk communities to be more accessible.
- Use my resources to improve communication within our target area of resources available to the community and encourage others to do the same.
- Develop relationships with other social service organizations to learn more about how we can better serve families together.
- Empower youth to be strong, informed leaders in their communities.
- Invite colleagues to attend future town halls and voice their opinions.
- Help decision makers understand all perspectives of the communities they serve.
- Encourage more concern and assistance with affordable housing across the state of Arizona.
- Encourage more support for quality education, increase wages for all in the field of education – who work hard to educate, protect our children and our future.
- Listen and continue to put children at the center of my work and decision making.
- Make sure that I am an ally to those that experience barriers and provide resources to those in need.
- Continue to educate others about the importance of early brain development and the impact Adverse Childhood Experiences can have – Education leads to resiliency.
- Do more good for Arizona's children and families.
- Be the voice of my community.
- Continue pushing for Healthy Communities policies and access to resources for those in need.
- Work to bridge partnerships/connections that will help develop opportunities for progress and improvement.
- Share with my colleges the information shared tonight.
- Share information learned at this town hall at my next village planning meetings.
- Seek opportunities to understand the needs of my communities I serve and interact.