



# transitions



NEWS, EVENTS AND INFORMATION ABOUT FLORENCE CRITTENTON

[www.flocrit.org](http://www.flocrit.org)



## New GLAAZ Athletic Program

See the Lady Warriors...  
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## 12th Annual Teaming Up For Girls Luncheon

Photo spread on page 6



## Heels for Healing

The big day is on the way!  
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# GIRLS RANCH PHOENIX OPENS

### IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE AGENCY'S

**VISION** of serving all girls in need, Florence Crittenton opened a new Girls Ranch facility in February 2014, located in Phoenix. As a part of Florence Crittenton's programming, Girls Ranch adheres to Arizona's Behavioral Health Residential Facility (BHRF) licensing

standards and provides supportive housing and comprehensive services for girls, ages 12 to 18, who are in need of independent living. The original Scottsdale location experienced heightened demand for services, largely prompted by a disturbing and monumental rise in child abuse and neglect in Arizona. As of July 2013, more than 14,600 children were in out-of-home care due to abuse or neglect—the highest number in Arizona history and a 43 percent increase since 2010 (AZ Department of Economic Security). Over the past year, Girls Ranch Scottsdale has consistently run well over full capacity and maintains a constant waiting list of a minimum of 12 girls in desperate need for services. By adding the additional facility, the agency anticipates the Girls Ranch program to serve more than 45 girls annually.

"We are really excited about the opening of Girls Ranch Phoenix! There is such a high demand in our community for safe and stable housing where youth can develop independent living skills," said Ashley Faye, Florence Crittenton's Clinical Case Manager. Historically, Girls Ranch has served both

*"Being at Girls Ranch Phoenix, I am learning how to live successfully on my own and how to stay sober. I believe that in this environment, I can achieve my goals of getting my own apartment and continuing my education."*

pregnant and/or parenting teens as well as non-parenting clients. "With a second facility, we are able to dedicate Girls Ranch Scottsdale for our pregnant and parenting clients and the Phoenix location for non-parenting clients. With

this expansion, we are able to better serve our clients with their specific needs," Faye said.

The program offers a hands-on approach for clients to learn essential skills ranging from job-readiness, fiscal responsibility and

*(continued on page 4)*



# FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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TRANSITIONS is published twice a year by Florence Crittenton. We value your input. If you have any questions or comments please email [info@flocrit.org](mailto:info@flocrit.org).



#### DEAR FRIENDS OF FLORENCE CRITTENTON SERVICES OF ARIZONA,

As our agency enters into 118 years of service, we celebrate our continuation to hold true to our mission of providing safety, hope and opportunity to Arizona's girls and young women. Decades before Arizona became a state, this agency was dedicated to providing a safe haven and an array of social services to women in crisis.

It has been a year of growth and notable accomplishments for the Agency. As the community's needs evolve, so

do the programs and services offered at Florence Crittenton. In keeping with the newly created Strategic Plan, the Agency increased its service capacity by opening Girls Ranch Phoenix in February 2014. The Girls Ranch is a safe and structured home for girls to obtain the necessary independent living skills and tools to create a healthy successful future.

Another notable accomplishment was the success of the 2014 Teaming Up For Girls Luncheon, which featured author and kidnapping survivor Elizabeth Smart as the keynote speaker and the presentation of the HOPE Award to motivational speaker and author Mr. Derek Clark.

I am excited to announce that Elexia Torres has been appointed to serve as the Chief Operations Officer, providing oversight to the daily operations and community-based programs and services for the Agency. Elexia's background and passion for empowering young girls and women in the community will undoubtedly take our agency to new

heights as we constantly seek fresh, innovative ways to make a positive impact.

The late Maya Angelou once said "When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed." The dedication from our donors, community partners, employees, and the stewardship of our Board of Directors are all gifts for which we are very grateful. Thank you for your understanding, compassion, time and support, which has allowed this Agency to grow and flourish as the foremost expert in gender-specific services and national leader in changing the future for girls.

I invite you to come to tour our facility and Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona to see first-hand the positive impact we are making on the girls and young women in our community. To schedule a tour, please contact our office at (602) 274-7318.

Sincerely,

Kellie M. Warren, Psy.D.

**ABOUT US...** Since 1896, Florence Crittenton has served Arizona girls and young women. Our mission is to give every girl whose life we touch safety, hope and opportunity. We offer a comprehensive continuum of care that builds responsibility, accountability, academic success, job readiness, parenting capabilities and financial literacy. The programs are designed to help at-risk girls ages 10 to 21 overcome issues of abuse, neglect, poverty, homelessness, teen pregnancy/parenting and behavioral and/or mental health problems.

# IN HER WORDS

**THE GIRLS OF FLORENCE CRITTENTON** recently held a writing competition. The staff reviewed amazing entries. The winning entry is below...

*Sixteen and a half years ago, a child was born  
A child named Augustine  
That child was me*

*Listen to my story,  
This is no fairy tale  
But a series of  
unfortunate events*

*I wish not for sympathy,  
But you do wish to know  
And I will tell*

*I was born on a July  
afternoon,  
To a mother who cared  
very little  
I was a basket  
Place to place  
This person that person  
I never really knew where  
I would sleep*

*It was hard to see  
But not really understand  
until later  
What the needle in my  
mother's arm was*

*What was this guy,  
That always came around  
Sometimes he's ask me  
to sleep with him  
And it would hurt real bad*

*Then there was this nice  
lady,  
Who always gave me  
toys and candy  
Was she my new friend*

*I am four,  
This is my life  
My friend, I call her the  
toy lady  
Came for me one day  
"Pack your suitcase" she  
told me  
"You're going for a trip"*

*I went to this nice lady's  
house  
Stayed for a few days  
How long was this trip  
When do I get to go  
home?  
Where's my Mommy?*

*I went to another house  
With other kids  
They saw their parents  
Why not me?*

*Oh I was far too young  
to get that  
Mommy wasn't coming  
for me,  
She wasn't my Mommy  
no more*

*I went to another place,  
They had a nice garden  
The toy lady came  
around  
And tried to tell me lies*

*That everything was ok  
That I would have a  
home soon*

*Before long though I did  
A mom and dad  
They wanted me  
And I went with them*

*My name became  
Danielle, Danni  
A named I picked myself  
At five years old*

*Things were supposed to  
be fine from here  
But they weren't  
You see  
After the days of  
Never really knowing  
where I would sleep  
I got used to it  
And expected it*

*I fought this thing called  
family  
Running away  
The police knew me well*

*Doctor after doctor  
Therapist after therapist  
No one could seem to  
thwart my mind  
I was stuck*

*Enough was enough  
fifteen and still fighting  
First hospital  
Led to eight more  
Out of sate  
The best of the best*

*Came back to a  
place called Florence  
Crittenton  
A last chance they told  
me  
Next step  
Jail*

*Slowly my heart started  
to thaw  
It had been two years  
and I really was missing  
home  
And realized family had a  
place in my heart after all*

*In a month I expect to  
leave  
Leave with a brighter  
future*

*Maybe in the fall  
I'll go to the girls'  
leadership academy  
Take some street jazz  
classes*

*I'll have a job  
Some friends  
And will always have a  
place to come back to  
Home*



*Not actual client's image and Danni's name has been changed to protect her identity.*



## CAMELBACK MOVING PARTNERS WITH FLO'S ON 7TH!

Camelback Moving Company will be donating furniture and other household goods to the agency's resale store, Flo's on 7th. "We've needed a place for non-childproof items as other charities could not take things such as glass, exercise equipment, oversized furniture and other similar donations," said Chad Olsen, president of Camelback Moving Company. We are grateful for this partnership and encourage our supporters to stop by Flo's on 7th to view the new inventory.

# GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLORENCE CRITTENTON IS GRATEFUL FOR OUR GENEROUS AND COMMITTED COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS. WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION DONORS THAT HAVE HELP CHANGE LIVES THIS YEAR.**

- **Boeing's Employees Community Fund (ECF) of Arizona** has supported Florence Crittenton since 1992. The Boeing ECF granted \$5,000, which will support our Therapeutic Group Home (TGH) Program.
- **Arizona Foundation for Women's SHE Counts!** The program focuses on **S**afety, **H**ealth and **E**conomic security for women and their children. Florence Crittenton received \$15,000 from the Foundation to benefit TGH. TGH also received support from **Sundt Foundation, Arizona Cardinals Charities** and **Avnet**. The support will help provide nearly 1,200 hours of one-on-one mentoring, over 250 life skills trainings, and over 6,000 hours of individual and group therapy.
- Thunderbird Charities recently awarded \$35,000 to benefit the expansion of Girls Ranch Phoenix. Girls Ranch Scottsdale received support from the **Allyn Family Foundation, Bank of America Charitable Foundation** and the **Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation**.
- The **Dollar General Literacy Foundation** awarded a grant to purchase library books for residential clients in the D.R.E.A.M (Diamondbacks Residential Education and More) program.
- **12 News** and the **Arizona Republic's Season for Sharing** provided crucial support for both Therapeutic Group Home and Community Based Services programs.
- **Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation** provided \$40,000 for Girls For A Change, a community program serving 280 girls (11 to 18 years) from low income families and communities throughout Maricopa County in predominately Title I schools.
- **Desert Schools Federal Credit Union** awarded a grant to Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona to acquire and implement a creative, technology-based academic intervention designed to improve literacy.

**BY SUPPORTING FLORENCE CRITTENTON** and our programs, you can empower girls to reach their full potential. Please use the enclosed reply envelope to continue your support or visit [www.flocrit.org](http://www.flocrit.org) to donate online.

## *Girls Ranch Phoenix Opens (continued from page 1)*

preparing healthy meals. Clients continue their education by attending a local school or GED classes. They also may take additional classes to assist with credit recovery.

Due to the proximity of Florence Crittenton's main campus, Girls Ranch Phoenix has become a natural transition for clients in the Therapeutic Group Home in need of a lower

level of care. "Many of the girls who have graduated from the Therapeutic Group Home Program are still in need of a program that helps them develop independent living skills. They are often placed in another group home and the change can be challenging. With Girls Ranch Phoenix, girls who completed the Therapeutic Group Home Program often work with the same staff and the program is very similar. The continuity is very beneficial

for the girls' transition," explained Faye.

"Being at Girls Ranch Phoenix, I am learning how to live successfully on my own and how to stay sober. I believe that in this environment, I can achieve my goals of getting my own apartment and continuing my education," shared Serenity, a 17-year-old Girls Ranch client.

# ATHLETIC PROGRAM

## INTRODUCED AT THE GIRLS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OF ARIZONA

**THE GIRLS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OF ARIZONA** is excited to formally introduce an athletic program as a part of the school's menu of extracurricular activities. The school, which opened in the fall of 2011, has provided the opportunity for students to dictate their own high school experience. Many of the clubs and afterschool activities have been created by the efforts and interests of the motivated student body. "The girls shared how important it was for them to have a sports program, so the staff listened and asked the students if they could guarantee 20 athletes for a softball team. We now have 23 athletes on our roster," said Patt Jackson, director of curriculum and education, and newly appointed athletic director.

The athletic program was funded through the generous donations of the school tax credit drive. "We have noticed so many positive changes for our students since this program has been introduced. Our student athletes have seen an improvement in their grades and have really embraced the new leadership opportunities that result from being on a team. School spirit has been contagious; our students have even started a Pep Squad," said Jackson.



*"We are only as strong as our weakest player."*

Warriors softball team were selected as members of the Division 1-2A All-Star Honorary Team.

"Being on the softball team has really helped my time management skills, and I am able to focus better on my academics. I am also learning how to communicate better with my classmates and am learning essential skills in teambuilding. We are only as strong as our weakest player," said Arlene Perez, junior and softball team captain.

*For more information on the Lady Warriors, please visit [www.glaaz.org](http://www.glaaz.org).*

*The Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona (GLAAZ), a Florence Crittenton initiative, is the first and only public single-gender school in Arizona, whose mission is to provide traditionally underrepresented young women an opportunity to achieve high school and college academic success simultaneously while nurturing self-confidence and developing leadership skills in an academically rigorous environment.*

# EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS



*Event Co-Chairs, Larry & Tracey Lytle with Dr. Kellie Warren, Florence Crittenton's CEO*



*Dream Bag Co-Chairs, Mari Lederman and Jill Krigsten*



*Emcee, Carey Peña interviews Keynote Speaker, Elizabeth Smart*



*Singer, Moriah Paynes, wows the crowd with her performance*

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS** whose generous support made the 12th Annual Teaming Up For Girls Luncheon a huge success! The luncheon raised more than \$490,000 to support Florence Crittenton's programs!

## PRESENTING SPONSOR

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## BUILDING COMMUNITY

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Phoenix Magazine  
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ABC15  
Dawn Anderson  
AZTV7/Cable 13  
Arizona Foothills Magazine

AZ Lifestyle  
AZ Redbook  
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KDKB  
King Asset Protection Services  
Latino Perspectives Magazine  
Prisma Graphic  
Sheryl Rayner  
Sacks  
Marion Rhoades Photography  
Trends  
White House Design Studio

## SPECIAL GIFTS

Ellen Steele Allare  
Arizona Biltmore



*Attendees Theresa Dwyer-Federhar and Felicia Rotellini*



*HOPE Award Recipient, Derek Clark*



*Guests at Tracey & Larry Lytle's table*

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**JOIN THE  
 2015 TUGG  
 COMMITTEE!**

Volunteer your time, talents and energies as a committee member of the 2015 Teaming Up For Girls Luncheon! We are looking for volunteer committee members to help with the following: securing silent auction and raffle items, designing and creating event décor, selling individual seat tickets and table sponsorships, and marketing. No better way than to have fun, meet new people and support a great cause!

*For more information, please call Amanda Lasita at (602) 288-1555 or email [alasita@flocrit.org](mailto:alasita@flocrit.org).*

# BE THE ONE TO CHANGE LIVES!

Did you know that supporting Florence Crittenton could be as easy as joining your employer's United Way Campaign? Well, it is.

Florence Crittenton is proud to be a partner agency with Valley of the Sun United Way since 1998. Our programs and services align with their community objective to ensure children and youth succeed.

Giving through payroll deduction is easy. With a single one-time gift or recurring deductions, you can designate your donation to Florence Crittenton by using our name and address.

Also, it's a great way to become a Crittenton Society member. Just divide your \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000 or more by the number of pay periods your company has, and enter the designated amount on the form.

You can **be the one** to help change lives!



Florence Crittenton

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Whether you donate, race or shop, there isn't anything more fashionable than giving back!

## HEELS FOR HEALING



**ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27,** Flo's on 7th will host its sixth annual Heels for Healing fundraiser where shoppers can find fantastic, designer shoes and handbags at a fraction of the original cost. The upscale resale store will offer a huge selection of donated designer, vintage, casual and dressy shoes and handbags for one day only. Best of all, all proceeds from Heels for Healing will benefit Florence Crittenton's programs.

This year will also feature the return of the Diva Dash, a

high-heeled relay race where participants not only test their speed but their agility in heels. The race entry fee is \$25, and there are plenty of giveaways, prizes, and fundraising incentives offered to participants. You

can register by visiting [www.floson7th.com](http://www.floson7th.com).

To help us prepare for the big day, Flo's on 7th is accepting donations of new and gently used

shoes and handbags now until August 15. Help make Heels for Healing a success and receive a tax deduction at the same time!

**Call (602) 254-7861 for more details.**



Diva Dasher Keith Taylor accepts his prize for highest heel