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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2014 R1

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SEASON FOR SHARING



CHARLIE LEIGHT/THE REPUBLIC
Dave Clark, a staff member at Phoenix Crisis Nursery, gets stickers on his face as he plays with a 2-year-old child. The nursery, which opened its doors in 1977, is the Valley's longest-serving children's shelter and a non-profit dedicated to stopping the cycle of child abuse and neglect.

REVISITING THE IMMIGRATION PIPELINE

One found a haven, the other found hell

Brother and sister faced different fates after surge

DANIEL GONZÁLEZ AND BOB ORTEGA
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

PORT ARTHUR, Texas — Dora Lina Meza got the call last March. The U.S. Border Patrol had captured her 11-year-old son and 18-year-old daughter crossing illegally near the Rio Grande in south Texas. The brother and sister from Honduras were headed for their mother's apartment in Port Arthur.

The paths of Meza's children diverged quickly after that. Her daughter, legally an adult, was deported to Honduras, where gangs had threatened her before she left. Her son was turned over to his mother after spending two weeks in a shelter for unaccompanied migrant children.

They were among more than 68,500 unaccompanied minors, and almost as many families with children, who arrived at the border in the past year, most from Central America. The surge, chronicled by *The Arizona Republic* in the series Pipeline of Children, created a humanitarian crisis for the U.S.

Today, beginning on Page A8, *The Republic* looks at the fates of young people like Meza's daughter who have been returned to Central America. On Wednesday, we report on those like her son who remain in the U.S.

More online

Go to azcentral.com for an interactive graphic showing where the children were dispersed. Also find frequently asked questions, a video, additional photos and a link to the series "Pipeline of Children."

CHANGING LIVES MINUTE BY MINUTE

From the very young to those in their final years, the Valley's neediest are helped by agencies that make a difference, every day.

ANNE RYMAN, MARY BETH FALLER AND CONNIE CONE SEXTON THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

It's 9:15 a.m. at Phoenix Crisis Nursery, and a 3-week-old baby girl who weighs just 6 pounds slumbers in a crib. ¶ Five toddlers play in an adjoining room. A staff member washes sippy cups and another puts away snacks. ¶ Most of the children who come to the shelter have been removed from their homes by state child-protection officials and are awaiting placement in foster homes. A shortage of foster families means the shelter could be their home for several months. As soon as one child leaves, another is waiting to get in, shelter director Michelle Joy said. The nursery is among the many agencies that have benefited from funds provided by the annual Season for Sharing campaign sponsored by *The Arizona Republic*, 12 News and azcentral.com. ¶ Today and in the coming weeks, *The Republic* examines how the generosity of Valley residents who donate to the campaign each year touches every stage of life, from the very young to those in their final days. ¶ For the very young, groups such as Phoenix Crisis Nursery, the Boys & Girls Clubs and the Wesley Community Center step forward to help keep the children fed, nurtured, safe and off the streets.

See SEASON, Page A15



About Season for Sharing

Season for Sharing is an annual holiday-giving campaign sponsored by *The Arizona Republic* and 12 News to help the communities we serve. Last year, 130 local agencies received \$2.69 million to help children, families and older adults. Since 1993, more than \$53 million has been distributed.

MORE COVERAGE

» A letter from *Republic* Publisher and CEO John Zidich inviting you to participate. **A15**

» Donation coupons can be found on **A4** and **A16**. A coupon will appear on **A4** every day until the end of the campaign.

» To donate online and to read additional stories, go to sharing.azcentral.com.

THE SERIES

From now until the end of the year, *The Arizona Republic* and azcentral.com examine how the generosity of Valley residents who donate to the campaign each year touches every stage of life.

Today: The youngest in need.

Next Sunday: Teens on the edge.

Nov. 30: Adults and families.

In December: Later in life.

AZCENTRAL SPORTS



AP

ASU looked to keep championship dreams alive in a late, frigid game Saturday at Oregon State. Get the full story at sundevils.azcentral.com.

ALSO

Councilman wants police chief fired: Phoenix City Councilman Sal DiCiccio calls for the ouster of Police Chief Daniel V. Garcia, calling comments that Garcia made about an officer who committed suicide a year after being fired "disgusting." **A5**

USA TODAY

Ferguson on edge: The residents of Ferguson, Mo., wait to find out whether Officer Darren Wilson will be indicted in the shooting death of Michael Brown. **B1**

INSIDE



Mostly sunny
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Season for Sharing

Season

Continued from Page A1

Trying to end abuse, neglect

10 a.m.
Dave Clark, a staff member for two years at Phoenix Crisis Nursery, is helping a 2-year-old boy into a plush Winnie the Pooh costume.

"When he puts this on, the kids think he's the real thing," Clark says. "You ready to give out hugs?" he says to the child.

The five toddlers in the room have been up since about 6 a.m. The shelter serves children ranging from babies to about age 8.

The emergency shelter cared for 299 children last year.

While at the shelter, the days are scheduled to include lots of play time.

This morning, the kids peel off stickers and affix them to whatever surface happens to be handy.

One toddler heads for Clark, planting an Easter egg sticker on his nose.

"Thanks for sharing," Clark says.

10:25 a.m.

"Guess what, little angels? I have something for you," says Selma Segura, who has worked at Phoenix Crisis Nursery for 26 years.

She hands out paintbrushes, then sprays blobs of shaving cream on the table.

"You guys can create anything you want," she says.

A toddler dabs his brush at Clark's face.

"Not the eyeball," he warns.

Volunteer Ruth Phillips places her palm on one toddler's forehead.

"Do you want to take her temperature? Feel how warm she is," she says to Segura.

The volunteers don't take temperatures or change diapers. It is especially a blessing on this day. A couple of kids are dealing with bouts of diarrhea.

Segura returns with the child a few minutes later.

"98.3," she says.

11 a.m.

The children sit at small tables and eat beans, rolls, cantaloupe and shredded cheese for lunch.

A 2-year-old girl is nearly falling asleep at the table.

She heads to the bedroom where comforters decorated with zoo animals cover the miniature beds. The little girl pulls the comforter over herself.

Clark holds another boy in a chair, rocking him to sleep.

11:45 a.m.

The children are asleep. Quiet descends. The fish tank bubbles. A staff member taps away on the computer keyboard.



ROB SCHUMACHER/THE REPUBLIC
Mentor Chaantia Coleman (left), 10, reads to Lesly Gonzalez, 7, during an after-school program at Wesley Community Center in Phoenix.

About Season for Sharing

We'll send 100 percent of your donation to local non-profits.

Who is helped?

Last year, 130 local agencies received \$2.69 million to help at-risk children and families, improve educational skills, aid victims of domestic violence and serve older adults. Since 1993, more than \$53 million has been distributed through Season for Sharing.

Where does the money go?

It all stays here in Arizona. 100 percent of your donation and the matching funds go directly to non-profit agencies in the Valley and state. All overhead and fundraising costs are paid for by *The Arizona Republic* and 12 News.

How do my dollars help?

The Gannett Foundation and our community partner, the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, will multiply your generosity by matching your gift 50 cents on the dollar until donations reach \$800,000. That's an extra \$400,000 to local agencies. If you donate \$50, it becomes a \$75 contribution.

Who makes this possible?

The Arizona Republic, 12 News and the Gannett Foundation. Season for Sharing is a donor-advised fund of the Arizona Community Foundation. To donate, go to sharing.azcentral.com or use the coupon on A4 of *The Arizona Republic* and mail your donation to Season for Sharing, P.O. Box 29616, Phoenix, AZ 85038-9616.

Johanna Garcia, who has worked at the shelter for eight years, rocks a 3-week-old baby to sleep.

For staff members like Garcia, it can be sad to know the children have been abused or neglected. Staffers get attached to the children, and the children become close to them.

Once they leave, she rarely sees the children again. Only a few will come back to visit.

"You have to set your mind to the fact that they're going to be gone," she says. **1:40 p.m.**

The toddlers start emerging from their rooms. One by one, they are ready for diaper changes.

"Who's next?" Clark asks, wearing rubber gloves. "I've had my poop quota for the day."

Continued on Next Page

JOHN ZIDICH
PUBLISHER & CEO



Thanks for 21 years of overwhelming generosity by you

In our community, people young and old struggle to meet life's basic needs and turn to local non-profit agencies for help. These organizations provide a much-needed safety net for Arizona's children and most vulnerable residents, and they rely on our support to keep up with the increased demand for services.

Today, *The Arizona Republic*, 12 News and azcentral.com continue a tradition of giving with the launch of our annual Season for Sharing campaign. Because of your overwhelming generosity over the last 21 years, Season for Sharing has distributed more than \$53 million to agencies that help at-risk children and families, improve educational skills, aid victims of domestic violence, and assist older adults. Last year alone, we were able to provide \$2.69 million in funding to 130 agencies right here in Arizona.

Your donation to Season for Sharing will make an even greater impact because **we'll match your gift 50 cents on the dollar until donations reach \$800,000**, thanks to support from the Gannett Foundation and our community partner, the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. Plus, *The Republic*, 12 News and azcentral.com will cover all administrative and fundraising costs, so **100 percent of your donation, plus the matching funds, go directly to local agencies.**

All of this has been accomplished because of a true partnership between you and all of us at Republic Media. Over the next six weeks, you will learn about those who have been, and will continue to be, helped through your generosity. When you give to Season for Sharing, you enrich the lives of people whose courage and gratitude far outweigh their misfortune.

Thank you, and may you have the happiest of holiday seasons.

John Zidich
Publisher & CEO

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¹ Source: online.barrons.com/report/top-financial-advisors/women/2013

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Season for Sharing

Continued from Previous Page

1:55 p.m.
As his shift draws to a close, Clark gets down on the floor with a couple of the toddlers and tells them he's leaving for the day. They start to cry.
"It's OK. Don't be sad," he says. "We'll have a good day tomorrow."
Before he leaves, he warns the staffer coming in for him, "Basically, every 20 minutes, you're changing diapers."
Then he exits through a door where a poster hangs with a simple message: "Sometimes the smallest things take up the biggest place in your heart."

A place to learn and grow
2:50 p.m.
It's still so empty and quiet that shoes squeak on the gym floor.
Soon, 300 kids will descend on the Grant Woods Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs in Mesa.

They arrive on buses from neighborhood schools and from a charter school that's housed in the building, the Mesa Arts Academy.
Chris Quasula, the branch executive, walks through the halls, checking that everything is ready.

The club is more than a place to play games after school. He ticks off the programs and services available, including academic tutoring, homework help, character development and leadership training. There are also summer programs.
Parents pay \$25 a year, although it costs the club \$500 per student. Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley must raise the rest. "We don't turn anyone away," Quasula says. "If a family can pay a dollar a week, I do that."

3:31 p.m.
The gym is filling up as kids fling their backpacks to the floor and start running. Their squeals bounce off the walls.
Some throw soccer balls through basketball hoops and others kick playground balls through Hula-Hoops. One girl is using a jump rope to lasso another girl.

After several minutes of chaos, the staff starts dividing the students by age, with older kids going off to start homework. The kindergartners and first-graders stay in the gym. Teenage staffers begin to herd them together.
One of the kindergartners, 5-year-old Robert Snodgrass, places his head on the floor and begins to quack like a duck.
Then he jumps up and runs around in circles.
Angel Tovar, 17, looks over and smiles at him. "Robert, sit down."
Robert tries to throw his jacket through the basketball hoop and then pulls his backpack off and spins it in circles.

"Hey, Robert." Angel taps him on the shoulder. "Let's sit."
The kindergartners are coaxed into a

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SEASON FOR SHARING

Season for Sharing is a donor-advised fund of the Arizona Community Foundation

A4

wavy line. The teenagers describe the game they'll play, called "fish, ships, shore." It involves a lot of running and whipping around. And yelling.

On Angel's signal, the line of kids runs and screams, a moving wall of sound. Robert runs, but not in the line. Angel looks over. "Robert. Please get in line."

Back and forth the children run, from line to line in the gym.

As the excitement begins to wane, the snack cart is wheeled in. More shrieking. But now the children plop down eagerly.

A decade ago, Angel attended this same Boys & Girls Club after school. Now a senior at Highland High School, he spends every afternoon wrangling kids in the gym where he once played.

"I like to treat the kids the way I wanted to be treated when I was here as a kid. With patience."

Then he turns and trots after Robert.

5:20 p.m.
In one of the classrooms, a dozen students fidget on the floor, waiting for special guests to arrive.

Once a week, adult volunteers visit to work with kids who need extra attention. The mentors read to the children, work on craft projects and puzzles, and super-

vised athletic time.

Today, there are guest speakers.

The door opens and two young women stroll in, decked out in maroon and gold Arizona State University gear. Katie Hempen and Promise Amukamara are on the ASU basketball team.

The young women are here to talk about character traits.

"My character word is 'attitude,'" Katie tells the kids. "What's good attitude?"

Six arms shoot up.

"It's when you say 'good game' when you beat someone and don't brag," one boy calls out.

Promise says, "My character word is 'focus.' I focus on doing schoolwork before I go out with my friends."

Katie and Promise show the students how to make an ASU pitchfork symbol with their fingers, and Promise dazzles them with her dribbling skills.

Katie picks up a basketball and spins it on her fingertip.

"Teach us!" the kids yell.

Playing and learning

3:36 p.m.

Chaantia Coleman, 10, is at a table against a back wall of the Wesley Community Center in Phoenix, flipping

through pages of "A Tale of Two Princes."

She stops and flattens the book to make it easier for 7-year-old Lesly Gonzalez to see. The pair are among three dozen children from Silvestre Herrera Elementary who have come for an after-school program at the center near 10th Street and Buckeye Road. The program has been running since 1950.

Chaantia, or "Tia" as she is called, reads a sentence aloud to Lesly, moving her finger slowly across the page, sounding out each word. Lesly bends forward intently listening, repeating each syllable. After a few minutes, Lesly sits back in her seat with a triumphant smile.

Fifth- through seventh-graders help mentor. It helps the younger children and gives confidence to the older kids.

3:50 p.m.
Center Director Becky Kerr moves through the room, stopping to check on each table of children who must do homework before being allowed to play in the gym or work on crafts, games or puzzles.

Two first-grade boys are sprawled on a carpet remnant reading a copy of Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary.

3:58 p.m.
The quiet of the room is interrupted. About a dozen children scramble from seats to line up in front of a closed door, the one that leads to the gym. Promptly at 4, the doors open and they rush in.

4 p.m.
Craft time begins. Today, they glue beans into the outline of a maple leaf. Kamila Delgado, 5, picks up the bottle of glue and squeezes out a dollop.

"That's good that you didn't use so much," her sixth-grader mentor Mia Chavez says softly.

Other girls take seats at the crafts table and scoop out handfuls of beans for their creations.

"Why don't you use your brown beans?" Mia asks Kamila. "But it's still very beautiful."

Kamila laughs and raises her hands, now covered in beans and glue.

"No more glue, Kamila," Mia says.

4:29 p.m.
Time now for games. For the next hour, the number of participants at the center will decrease, as parents come to collect their children.

4:58 p.m.
Someone opens the cabinet doors to the big-screen TV, and two children start to dance to a Wii game.

One of the after-school program assistants lifts chairs off the floor, placing them upside down on the tables.

5:31 p.m.
The second-to-last child leaves. Kerr walks around the room, ensuring that everything is in its place.

The side door to the room opens, and the final child is collected.

Kerr sighs.
A couple minutes later, she too, is out the door.

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