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Pima County Juvenile Court  
Blueprint for the Future

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# VISION

We enhance the quality of life in Pima County by providing leadership, resources, and the commitment by our staff to strengthen our community and services for children and families.

# MISSION

We are an independent branch of government constitutionally entrusted by the people to advance and protect the rule of law. We maintain jurisdiction over all children under the age of eighteen and their families who are referred to us for the fair and just resolution of disputes. Therefore, in accordance with the due process of law, our mission is to promote and facilitate community safety through:

- the protection of abused and neglected children through the provision and oversight of services to children and families involved with the court
  - the restoration of victims, families, and the community;  
and
  - the reduction of delinquent behavior by holding juveniles accountable through a continuum of prevention, rehabilitation, and transition programs.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING JUDGE

HON. SARAH R. SIMMONS



Amazing! That is the most descriptive word I can find for the work that our 600 employees and almost 200 volunteers do every day. Despite budget woes, a vacancy rate of over 70 employees, a third straight year of more than 1,000 dependency cases, in 2010, every employee continued to find new ways to make the lives of Pima County children and families better and the residents of our County safer.

We celebrated our first Reunification Day, honoring the families who overcame enormous obstacles of drug or alcohol addiction, lack of education and other barriers to be reunited. We had another successful Adoption in the Park, with almost 100 children who became a permanent part of a new family. The Tucson Adoption in the Park always ranks among the most successful in the nation. We held another happy Sibling Exchange Picnic and the annual March for Children (in 2010, honoring Keith Smith, a

long-time child welfare advocate and worker). All these events required countless hours of work by employees, from judges to information technology workers to probation and detention officers to Children and Family team members. These employees volunteered to serve outside their regular duties.

On the probation front, we had three successful graduations from our new YARDS (Youth Applying Resource Development Skills) program. In this program, youth on probation develop skills in landscaping over a nine-week period of classroom instruction from experts in the field. They also utilize their “book learning” in practical application of this knowledge throughout the course. Funded by a grant from the Wolslager Foundation, this program is operated with the very capable cooperation of Tucson Clean and Beautiful. Our youth who work in this program become certified landscape technicians upon graduation, and many have been inspired to find jobs in this field and to continue their educations.

In addition to this new program, our standard probation and juvenile intensive probation officers continued to help youth in trouble through their hard work and careful attention to a variety of alternatives to detention programs.

While detention numbers were down again in 2010, the juvenile detention officers (JDO) continued their good work with their average daily population of 71 (down from 82 in 2009). The JDO role modeling, the programs to aid those in detention and the commitment of the entire detention team combine to make our facility a state-wide example of the right way to do things. Despite the decline in detention population, juvenile crime also continues to go down.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING JUDGE

## HON. SARAH R. SIMMONS

Whether we are talking about child welfare or juvenile justice, the Juvenile Court continues to be a leader in all phases of our work with youth and families. For this success, I have to give credit to the employees of the court and to our many community partners. These include our County Attorney and Public Defender, the Attorney General's Office, our contract attorneys, the Office of Children's Counsel, our Child Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), the schools, Child Protective Services (CPS), Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA) and health care providers, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and all the organizations who support our program in so many ways.

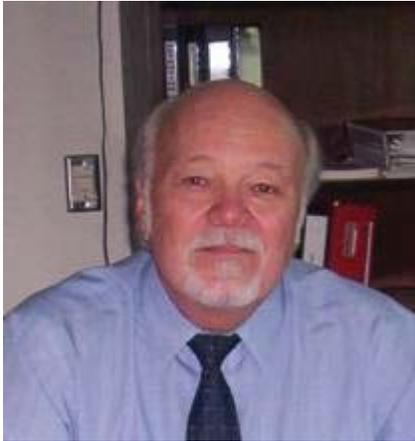
Behind the scenes, we had innumerable other people making sure all of this works. Whether in information technology or finance or part of the calendaring groups or sitting as a mediator or facilitator, we all work together with a true dedication to helping children. Our able receptionists, the folks who work to keep our facilities functional, our human resource team and so many others come to work every day to make things better. I have been so proud to be the Presiding Judge of Pima County Juvenile Court.

There were and will be changes in the Juvenile Court 2011, but I am confident that the Court will only get better under the leadership of the new Presiding Judge. I am moving back to the Superior Court in 2011. Fortunately, Judge Karen Adam, with her great experience and even greater devotion to children and families, will become the Presiding Judge. She will be a marvelous leader and is the perfect person to assure that the Pima County Juvenile Court continues to improve and to be recognized as an innovator and a place where our children, our families and the public all benefit from the good work performed daily by every employee.

*Judge Simmons*

# DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

## RIK SCHMIDT



We are pleased to provide the Blueprint for the Future, reflecting some of the successes and challenges from 2010. It is amazing to me to think that this 2010 version is the eighth edition since the Blueprint was first conceived in 2003! Time does fly, but the work of the juvenile court remains challenging, rewarding and critical to the well-being of our Pima County children and families.

Over the last several years we've made reference in our Blueprints to diminishing resources, including budget, staffing and fewer community service providers. However, resource shrinkage is a reality that may well be evident for at least several years to come, so we have used this reality as an opportunity to evaluate what is crucial to court operations, what programs and services are effective and efficient, as well as legally mandated, and how we can re-think resource distribution. While these organizational exercises can be emotionally and physically draining, the end result has been a strengthening of our commitment to serve those in need. Thanks to our extraordinary Bench, court employees and agency and community partners, the Pima County juvenile justice and child welfare systems remain strong and effective.

As we've also referenced in previous Blueprints, we have been actively engaged in several initiatives for a number of years. These include addressing Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), the Juvenile Justice Model Court (JJMC) as well as the Model Dependency Court (MDC) Initiative. While we remain committed to these innovative practices and resulting outcomes, as well as our continuing partnerships with the W. Haywood Burns Institute, the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) respectively, we believe we've matured collectively to the point that these activities are no longer "initiatives" but, instead, have become simply the "way we do business". The work is too important to be time limited or solely leadership driven, so we have been deliberate in our efforts to institutionalize the fundamental concepts to help ensure sustainability. We believe we are well on our way, although we remain realistic with the knowledge that there are continuing challenges that we must identify and address as we proceed. Fundamentally, however, there has been a paradigm shift over time and we are proud of and pleased with the progress to date and anticipate additional positive outcomes in the future.

Our Probation and Detention divisions continue to provide quality services to children and families. Our Alternatives to Detention remain critical to our juvenile justice reform efforts and, consequently, we have adjusted programming and staffing to facilitate this reform. We remain committed to the concept and, consequently, I'm sure we will continue to be creative and responsive to changing circumstances and client needs. Our detention population for 2010 was once again

# DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

## RIK SCHMIDT

reduced, to an average daily population (ADP) of 71. This is a testament to the good work by probation, as well as detention programming, with a focus on youth self-development, community-based alternatives and transition planning.

In addition to our ongoing program evaluation activity, another exciting development in our juvenile justice reform efforts is the work our research team is engaged in to develop a DMC Intervention Model. This comprehensive effort is intended to design a specific model that will identify the causes that contribute to DMC at every decision point in the justice system, as well as the solutions. This ambitious, three-year endeavor is supported by a grant from the Governor's Office of Children, Youth and Families, for which we are extremely grateful and appreciative. This is yet another example of the collaborative nature of the work necessary to achieve the intended outcomes.

The Children and Family Services division also remains fully engaged and innovative with our work in Dependency, CASA, Adoptions, Mediation, Family Drug Court and the senior Model Dependency Court. The rate of dependency petitions remains alarmingly high, but our staff is up to the challenge to provide, effective, comprehensive services for our vulnerable youth and needy families. We are also working diligently, with tremendous Bench leadership, to identify and implement measures to remove silos and provide coordinated services to those youth involved in both the dependency and juvenile justice court processes.

Much of the fine work by our juvenile court could not be accomplished without the expertise of other court divisions, including Calendaring and Assessment Services, Information Technology, Human Resources and Administrative Support and Finance. I am personally privileged to work with such a tremendous management team. It is also appropriate to recognize the support and planning provided by our funding partners, including state and county officials as well as the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), who have tried to minimize the negative fiscal impacts during such difficult economic times.

The year 2010 has been another example of "a job well done!" by the dedicated staff of PCJCC. Together we will continue to strive to strengthen current services and create new responses to address the needs of our children and families.

Finally, I would like to thank our Juvenile Court Presiding Judge, The Honorable Sarah Simmons, for her extraordinary leadership. As she indicated in her opening Message, she will be moving to the Superior Court in 2011. While we will miss her tremendously, she will now become the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, which certainly bodes well for the entire Court. Also, we are extremely fortunate to have the Honorable Karen S. Adam as our new Presiding Judge. She will undoubtedly be exceptional in this new role. The entire Juvenile Court looks forward to her leadership.

Thank you for taking the time to review our 2010 Blueprint for the Future!

*Rik Schmidt*

# JUDICIAL OFFICERS

Pima County Juvenile Court is fortunate to have an outstanding group of judges and commissioners who are all dedicated to the vision and mission of the Court and to the service of the children and families of the community.

## **Presiding Judge**

Hon. Sarah R. Simmons

## **Associate Presiding Judge**

Hon. Gus Aragon

Judge Karen Adam

Judge Hector Campoy

Judge Javier Chon-Lopez

Judge Leslie Miller

Commissioner Suzanna S. Cuneo

Commissioner Peter Hochuli

Commissioner Danelle Liwski

Commissioner Kathleen Quigley

Commissioner Stephen M. Rubin

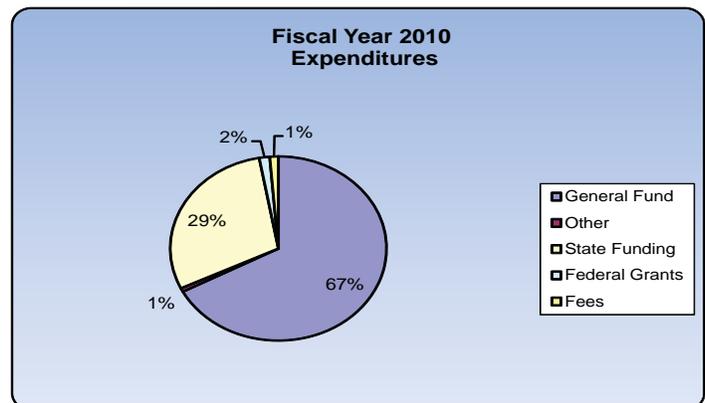
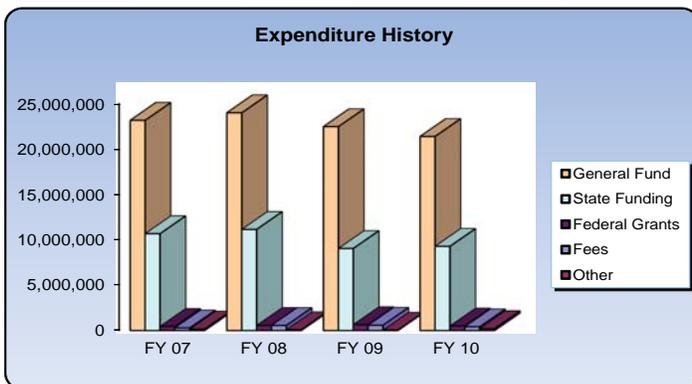
Commissioner Joan Wagener



# BUDGET AND FINANCE

Juvenile Court’s primary source of funding comes from the county general fund which provides the majority of funding for the Administration, Detention, and Judicial divisions.

The Court’s secondary source of revenue is appropriated by the state through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). This funding supports a variety of probation functions, including intensive probation, standard probation, diversion, family counseling, and treatment services for court involved youth. The AOC also provides funding for the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, the Court Improvement Project, and Family Drug Court.



The Court’s fiscal year 2010 ran from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Total funding from all sources for fiscal year 2010 was \$31.7 million. This was a reduction from fiscal year 2009 of \$1.0 million. In spite of continued cuts in funding, the Court continues to move forward with court initiatives to meet the needs of our children and families.

# PROBATION DIVISION

The probation division has 217 full-time employees. We receive financial support through county, state, and grant funding. On any given day, Pima County Juvenile Probation Officers supervised 684 adjudicated youth who were placed on probation by the court. Of the 684 youth under daily supervision, 138 were on Juvenile Intensive Probation Supervision (JIPS). However, these probationers represent only 9.5% of all youth referred to the juvenile court and served by the probation division. The majority of youth have an opportunity to handle their referral without being placed on probation. Approximately 68% of all juvenile referrals were diverted from the formal court process. These juveniles received a diversion consequence and the opportunity to avoid a delinquent adjudication.

From January through December 2010, the division received 11,430 referrals for delinquent or incorrigible allegations. Each one of the 7,147 youth involved in these referrals was individually interviewed, and in all cases where there was an admission or adjudication, consequences were assigned based on individual risk and need. For juveniles referred for relatively minor charges, the consequence might consist of 20 hours of community restitution work and participation in an educational program.



Others with more severe referrals might be referred to treatment or educational programs, ordered to pay restitution or complete community restitution work. These juveniles could be placed on Standard Probation, Juvenile Intensive Probation Supervision, committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections or transferred to the adult court system.

As a Model Delinquency Court of excellence, we continually examine our practices, policies and programs to ensure the fair and appropriate resolution of all cases. In January, we completed judicial and probation staff training of our PCJCC Disposition and Probation Decision Framework. The framework is a guide to assist probation officers in making dispositional (juvenile sentencing) recommendations to the court in a consistent, fair and equitable manner. The framework attempts to outline the appropriate juvenile justice response for specific offenses focusing on community safety, accountability and competency development as it relates to safety.

Over the past several years, our entire court has focused on the issue of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). Through extensive data review, we have examined DMC at every decision point within the delinquency process and through the assistance of a grant, this year our research

# PROBATION DIVISION

department will be developing an Intervention Model. Probation staff will be participating with other juvenile justice stakeholders in examining the causes of DMC and determining if disparity exists. A DMC training curriculum developed by probation staff and administration has been implemented with the goal of training all probation and detention staff by the end of 2011.

We continue our focus on community safety as we also continue to ensure that all services and detention alternatives are considered for referred youth who can appropriately remain in the community. This has led to a continuing decline in the number of youth detained along with a continued reduction in the number of delinquent referrals. Our average daily detention population in 2007 was 118 declining to 95 in 2008, to 81 in 2009 and to 71 in 2010. Delinquent referrals to the court also declined with 11,500 in 2007 compared to 11,205 in 2008, 10,369 in 2009 and 8,983 in 2010. We continue our collaborations with other community agencies and providers to develop appropriate services to meet the needs of the population we serve.

We continue our Community Support Program (CSP) which opened in December 2007. CSP is an evening reporting center for youth on probation who require additional supervision and might otherwise be in detention. CSP is a collaborative effort between the Sunnyside School District, community providers and Pima County Juvenile Court. The program, located at Star Academy, is staffed by juvenile court officers with programming provided by community providers. Participants receive homework assistance, tutoring, recreational opportunities, training in life skills, cognitive skills and healthy relationships. Late in 2010, we contracted with Lutheran Social Services to open our second evening reporting center. This program, similar to our CSP program, provides services to probationers residing in the northwest region of Pima County.



Our Domestic Violence Alternative Center (DVAC) which opened in August of 2007, continues to be a valuable alternative for law enforcement officers and for youth arrested for certain misdemeanor domestic violence offenses. From August 2007 through December 2010, 840 domestic violence referrals involving youth who otherwise would have been physically referred to detention were diverted to DVAC. Within hours of their arrival at DVAC, these youth received services to address issues which led to their arrest.

# PROBATION DIVISION

During 2010, we extended the hours of operation at DVAC and by May of 2011, we expect to have the center available to law enforcement 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We continue to enhance the services provided to these juveniles. In 2010, probation officers provided domestic violence educational presentations to 346 juveniles. We have also secured grant funding to hire a masters' level therapist who will provide an additional therapeutic element to our existing DVAC process and assessment.

In addition to our detention alternative programs, we continue to operate our Community Renewal and Enrichment through Work (CREW) program and our Restitution Accountability Program (RAP). The CREW program provides youth with an opportunity to participate in structured and supervised community service. Participants are supervised by juvenile surveillance officers and are provided with instruction and guidance emphasizing development of work ethics, responsibility and basic job skills. Participants receive credit toward their court obligation of community restitution. RAP provides younger or unemployable youth who owe victim restitution an opportunity to earn that restitution. RAP participants work with our CREW program completing community service and the hours worked are converted to dollars paid directly to the victim. RAP receives funding from contracts with the Pima County Parks and Recreation Department and the Department of Transportation graffiti abatement program. During 2010, CREW participants completed 16,821 hours of community restitution with 6,955 RAP hours which converted to \$34,773.75 paid to restore victims.

In 2009, our CREW program in collaboration with Tucson Clean and Beautiful, obtained a grant from a private foundation to begin a landscaping training program for court involved youth. The first class of the Youth Achieving Resource Development Skills (YARDS) program began in January 2010. A total of 27 youth participated and 25 graduated from the class. Several of our YARDS graduates have found employment as a result of their participation in the program.

In 2010, we developed a new position within the Probation Division to assist YARDS graduates and other juvenile court involved youth with employment challenges. Our Employment Training and Job Development Specialist developed an Employment Readiness Program which assists juveniles in identifying their strengths and interests and prepares them to complete employment applications and interviews. This new position is also responsible to work with employers within the community who are willing to consider hiring court involved youth.

Another identified goal of our initiatives during the past couple of years has been on assuring that our relatively small female population is receiving gender appropriate services. We continue our collaboration with the Girl Scouts of America which led to our moving our Girls Power group weekly meetings to the Girl Scout facility. Probation officers continue to be involved in the meetings that are organized by the Girl Scouts and provide court involved girls with a positive environment where they participate in educational and motivational pro-social activities. Hopefully through this positive link with a community agency, the participants will choose to remain with the Girl Scouts following completion of their court involvement.

# PROBATION DIVISION

Our officers continue to expand their involvement with community agencies and continue to provide additional services to our youth and families. In 2010, several of our officers participated in the Community Prevention Coalition and one of our experienced officers began teaching “The Power of Parenting”. The course is offered here at the court center once a month for interested parents who may or may not be court involved.

Ensuring that we support and provide excellent service to victims is a very important part of our mission. Our Victims’ Services Unit and probation officers assure that victims receive appropriate notification of court hearings and other issues concerning their case and that they have an opportunity to provide a statement to the court to be involved in Victim Offender Mediation if desired. Surveys completed by victims during fiscal 2010, indicate 93.0% satisfaction with the service provided during their court involvement.

Data collection and analysis continues to be an important element in our work. The accuracy of our data is crucial as it is used to identify progress and areas of concern. In order to ensure the accuracy of Probation cases, an annual statewide audit is required by the Administrative Office of the Court. In both 2009 and 2010, we completed a perfect audit with no discrepancies found between our Probation data base and our hand count of Probation cases.



# PROBATION DIVISION

Performance measures from our closing reports for calendar year 2010 indicate the excellent service provided by our officers. During that time, youth under the supervision of Probation achieved the following:

**91%** of all youth assigned Diversion consequences in 2010 **completed** those consequences, exceeding the expected 90% statewide outcome.

**77.8 %** of all youth completing Diversion in 2010, **did not incur new charges** within 12 months of completion.

**100.0%** of Diversion eligible youth **paid restitution as required**, exceeding the expected 70% statewide outcome. This resulted in *victims receiving \$27,191.00 restitution*.

**97%** of all Division fees assessed during 2010 were paid, exceeding the expected 70% statewide outcome.

Diversion eligible youth **completed 21,721 hours** of community restitution work. These hours convert to \$157,477.25 based on the current minimum wage.

Probationers (standard and intensive) **completed 22,425 hours** of community restitution work. These hours convert to \$162,581.25 based on the current minimum wage.

Probationers (standard and intensive) **paid a total of \$162,386.00** restitution to victims.

During calendar year 2010, Juvenile Intensive Probation Supervision (JIPS) officers completed an average of 2,885 contacts per month with youth assigned to JIPS. Of those 2,885 contacts, 69% were completed between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

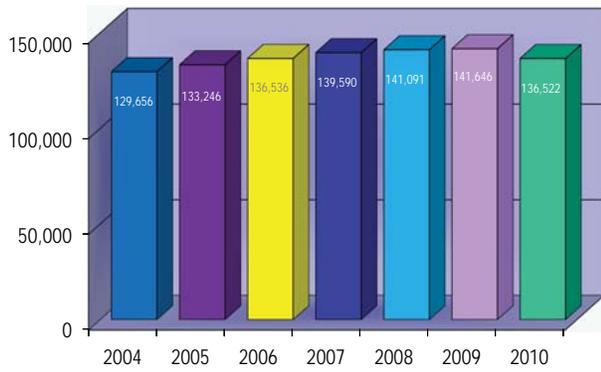
Probationers assigned to JIPS during calendar year 2010 achieved a **drug free rate of 93.43%**.

# DELINQUENCY HISTORY 2004-2010

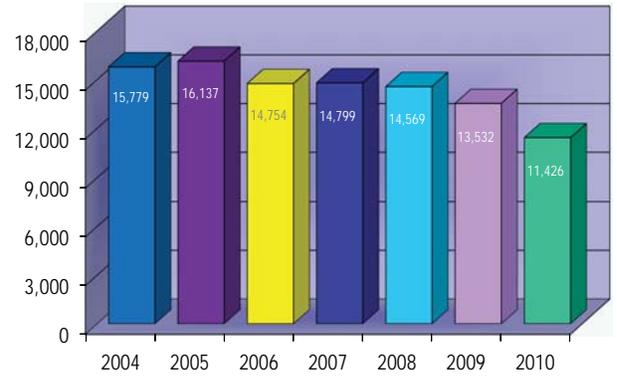
SEVERITY CODES	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	% chg 04-10
Population ages 8-17	129,656	133,246	136,536	139,590	141,091	141,646	136,522	5.3%
Felony-Violent Crimes Against Person	376	421	365	352	343	312	223	-40.7%
Felony-Crimes Against Property	847	840	931	744	766	554	431	-49.1%
Obstruction of Justice	1,688	1,614	1,549	1,501	1,438	1,249	1,028	-39.1%
Misdemeanor Against Person	1,701	1,872	1,653	1,577	1,362	1,344	1,274	-25.1%
Drug Offenses	2,051	2,108	1,937	1,995	1,928	1,946	1,734	-15.5%
Public Peace	3,575	3,722	3,323	3,478	3,415	3,148	2,716	-24.0%
Misdemeanor Against Property	2,066	1,712	1,561	1,854	1,953	1,834	1,575	-23.8%
Status Offenses	3,473	3,847	3,432	3,298	3,364	3,145	2,445	-29.6%
Administrative	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	-100.0%
<b>Total Complaints</b>	<b>15,779</b>	<b>16,137</b>	<b>14,754</b>	<b>14,799</b>	<b>14,569</b>	<b>13,532</b>	<b>11,426</b>	<b>-27.6%</b>
<b>Number of Youth Represented</b>	<b>9,613</b>	<b>9,585</b>	<b>8,868</b>	<b>9,065</b>	<b>8,588</b>	<b>8,150</b>	<b>7,143</b>	<b>-25.7%</b>
<b>% Youth Population</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>-29.4%</b>
<b>DETENTION REFERRALS</b>								
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>% chg 04-10</b>
<b>Brought to Detention</b>	5,036	4,988	4,712	4,412	3,871	3,264	2,868	-43.1%
<b>Detained</b>	3,599	3,389	3,288	2,583	2,100	1,794	1,535	-57.3%
<b>% Detained</b>	71.5%	67.9%	69.8%	58.5%	54.2%	55.0%	53.5%	-25.1%
<b>Average Daily Population (annual)</b>	173	136	127	118	95	82	71	-59.0%

# DELINQUENCY HISTORY 2004-2010

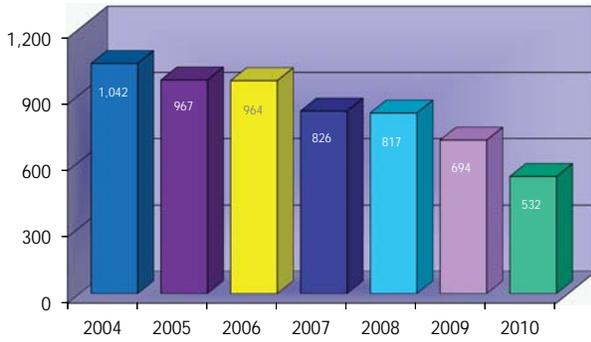
Population of Minors Ages 8-17  
2004 - 2010



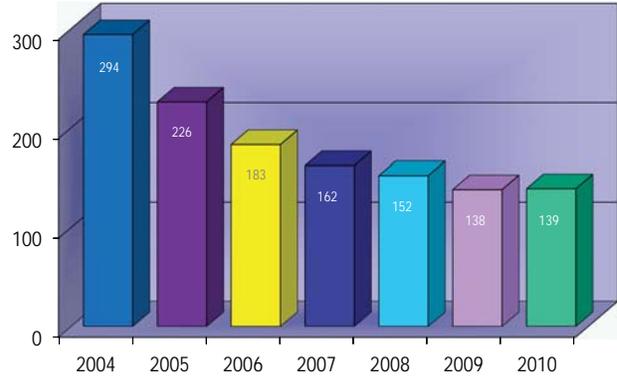
Delinquency Referrals  
2004 - 2010



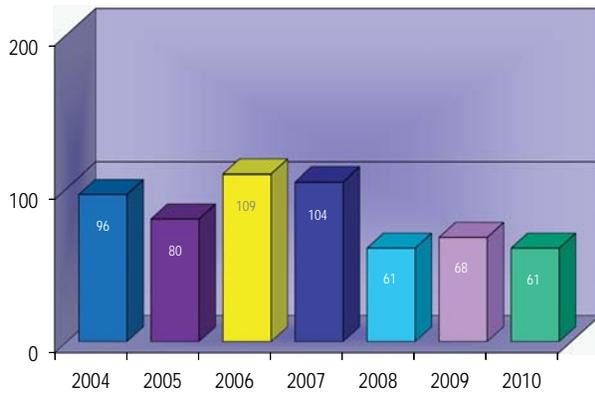
Average Caseload on Standard Probation  
2004 - 2010



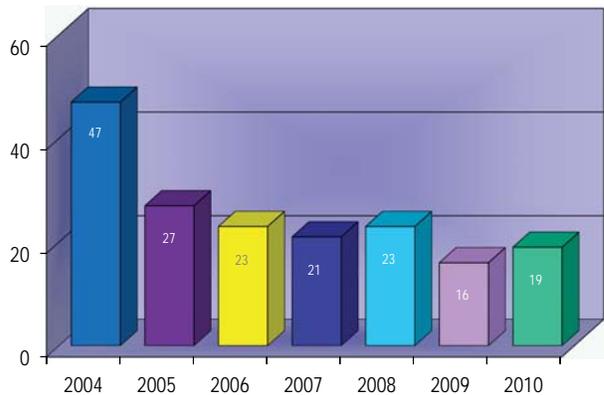
Average Caseload on JIPS  
2004 - 2010



Youth Committed to ADOJC  
2004 - 2010



Youth Re-Committed to ADOJC  
2004 - 2010



# DETENTION DIVISION

2010 was a year of the stretching resource, both human and financial. We successfully met this challenge without increasing risk to the community or dangerously reducing detention's services. Detention's education program achieved reaccreditation through North Central Accreditation. The A+ curriculum was adopted and it provides three different paths for youth to advance educationally. The three pathways are: credit recovery, remediation, and General Education Diplomas (GED) preparation and testing. During 2010 eight detained youth earned their GED. Vocational programming that enhances a youth's chance at employment in the restaurant industry continues to be provided by the Kitchen Manager in conjunction with the Pima County Health Department. This program provides vocational training and certification testing for the Food Handler's Certificate. In 2010 nine youth received this pre-employment certification. Detention's health unit received our third three-year accreditation by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). This is the only juvenile detention facility in Arizona to have such a certification.

The Detention Center's Programs and Volunteers work actively to provide a wide range of helpful services, which support the youth's physical, emotional, and social development and promote justice, education, and the prevention of delinquency and abuse. Our mentoring program continues to develop and expand. We moved from the Davis Monthan Air Force Base Mentoring Program to the Community Mentoring Program looking for mentors from all walks of life to help our youth continue to grow and progress in the community.

Our detention population is comprised of youth who have been accused of committing a delinquent offense, a probation violation, or are a subject of a warrant. Many of these youth have experienced traumatic life impacting events, they abuse substances, and almost 70% are diagnosed with a mental illness and/or a learning disability. Given this youth profile detention is committed to providing training to our officers that will enhance their skills in addressing the challenges these youth present.



Our team members have been trained in Motivational Interviewing techniques, mental health issues and effective responses, and will be receiving trauma informed care training during this upcoming year. We are in the process of developing a garden program to enhance learning and offer therapeutic opportunities for the youth in our care that will also strengthen their connection to our community.

# DETENTION DIVISION



Engaging parents through the Make A Change orientation/education program, Child and Family Team meetings and Team Decision meetings has provided parents/guardians additional opportunities to engage with their child and the systems involved in providing services while the youth is detained. We are teaming with the Probation Division to advance the Engaging Families principle of Model Delinquency Court initiative in 2011.

In 2011, we will embark on our second Annie E. Casey Foundation sponsored Juvenile Detention Self-Inspection to evaluate the conditions of confinement in our facility. The self-inspection team consists of youth, parents, community providers, educators, medical and mental health professionals, and court personnel. We are looking forward to the three day process and the inspection results. The outcomes will guide us toward improving conditions of confinement and developing and modifying current practices and programs.

We are dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment through positive role modeling and programming. Youth are given opportunities to restore victims and to make healthy changes in their lives for the betterment of our community's future.

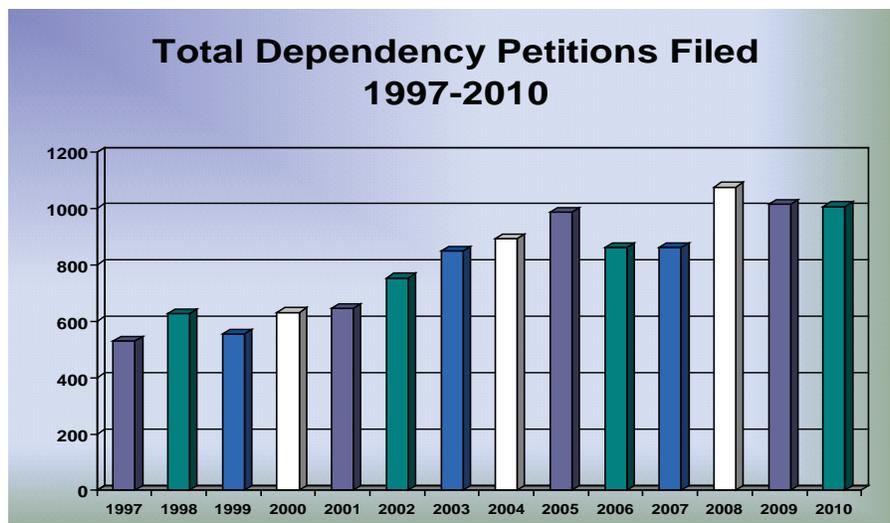


# CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

The Children and Family Services Division of the Pima County Juvenile Court is comprised of the Dependency Unit, Adoption and Guardianship Program, the Mediation/ADR program, the Court Appointed Special Advocate program (CASA), and the Family Drug Court program. The CFS Division ensures that parents and children have competent legal counsel, tracks hearing data to ensure statutory compliance and monitor case flow, provides extensive alternative dispute resolution opportunities, educates families and stakeholders, provides special advocates to children who need a voice in court, provides adoption services to families, and offers a Family Drug Court program for families affected by parental drug and alcohol abuse. Collectively, these programs serve to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and families in Pima County.

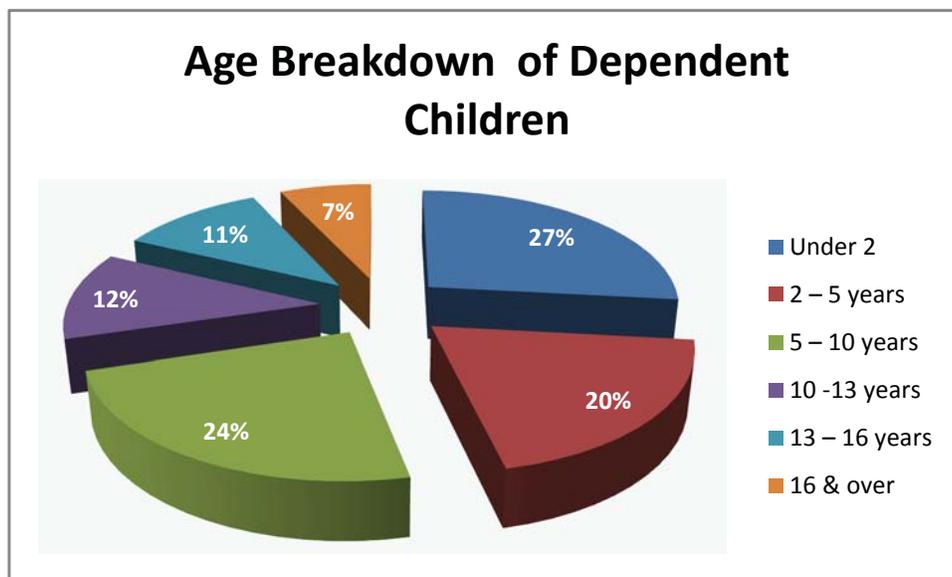
As 2010 ended, there were:

1,761 open dependency cases in Pima County  
3,037 dependent children in Pima County



# CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

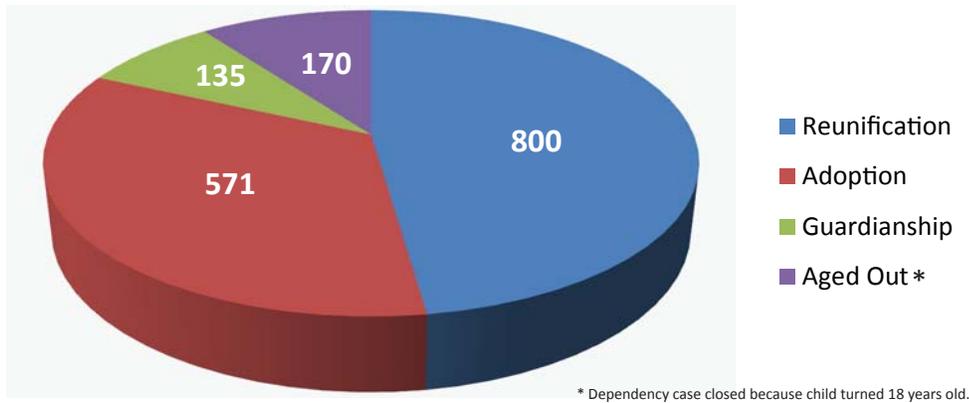
Dependency court cases begin when a petition is filed with Juvenile Court alleging abuse or neglect of a child. 93% of these petitions in 2010 were filed by Child Protective Services. Most of the children named in these petitions had been removed from their homes. Nearly 70% of all petitions allege parental drug or alcohol abuse. Of the 1,698 children who were the subject of a dependency petition in 2010, nearly half were five years old or younger:



Research indicates that the best outcome for dependent children is to be reunified with their parents. The Court works with Child Protective Services toward this goal whenever it is safe and possible. As a Dependency Model Court, so designated by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Pima County Juvenile Courts works collaboratively with Child Protective Services, community behavioral health providers, and other agencies to implement evidence-based practices that lead to improved outcomes for children and families. Through efforts such as Family Drug Court, engaging fathers, using Reunification at Risk mediations sessions to address barriers early in a case, supporting and educating relatives, looking closely at over-represented minority groups, and other “Model Court” initiatives, Pima County has seen significant and increasing success in improving reunification outcomes.

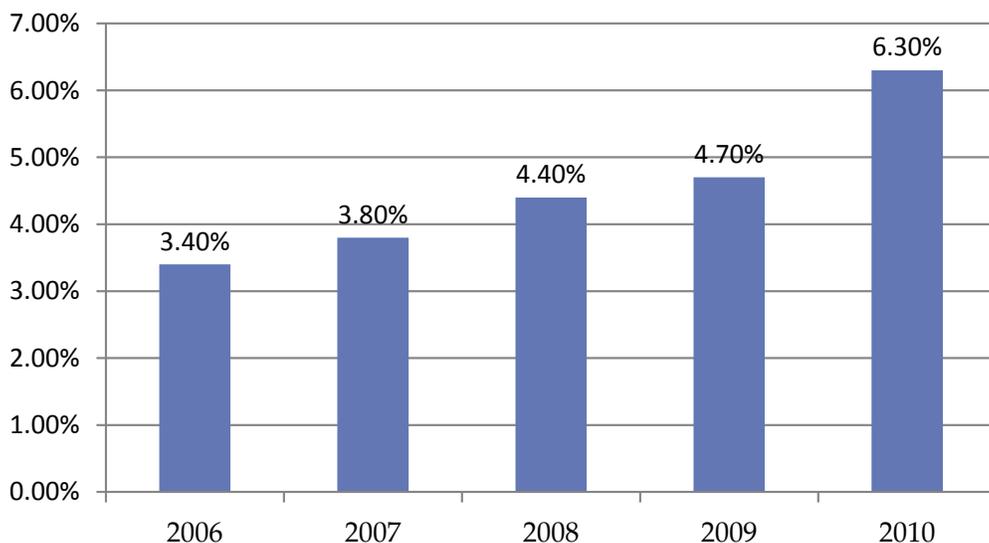
# CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

## Number of Cases Closed (by child) in 2010



Dependency court cases involve multiple hearings over a lengthy period. Dependency cases that closed in 2010 had been open an average of 715 days. While relatively few dependency hearings are contested, there has been a steady increase in contested matters (trials). Of the 12,599 dependency court hearings held in Pima County in 2010, 6.30% were contested.

## Percentage of all Contested Hearings- Dependency



# CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

## Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA Volunteers) continue to be the eyes and ears for the judge and the voice for the children going through the Dependency process.

CASA Pima County Advocates spent 18,113 hours on their assigned cases and drove a total of 187,427 miles in 2010. They served 300 children.



All of the CASA Volunteers were recognized at the Super Star Celebration in January and the CASA Recognition Luncheon in April. The CASA Recognition Luncheon is an annual event that honors all the volunteers that are giving of their time, energy and generous spirits.



*2011 CASA of the Year, Nancy Gruhl with CASA Coordinator, Vanessa Ponce-Maez.*

CASA Volunteers have participated in outreach and recruitment efforts by hosting a CASA resource table at Pima Community College North and the library fairs that have been offered through the year.

CASA Pima County Baby Brigade is going full force with our specially trained CASA Volunteers. Baby Brigade CASA Volunteers work with babies birth through three years old. We have trained 30 Baby Brigade CASA Volunteers. Currently 14 CASA Volunteers are assigned 23 cases serving 23 babies.

We ended the year fully staffed and ready to go!

## Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

The three full time mediators continue to contribute to the resolution of the multiple and complex issues that characterize child welfare cases. From the facilitation of settlement conferences at the onset of cases to the mediation of parenting plans for reunified children, or guardianship plans, or terminations, they create an environment within the court setting that allows for confidential talks on case related issues. Although the settlement of cases is not the only measure of success of our ADR program, in 2010 over 870 trial hours were vacated as a direct result of sessions conducted by the mediators.

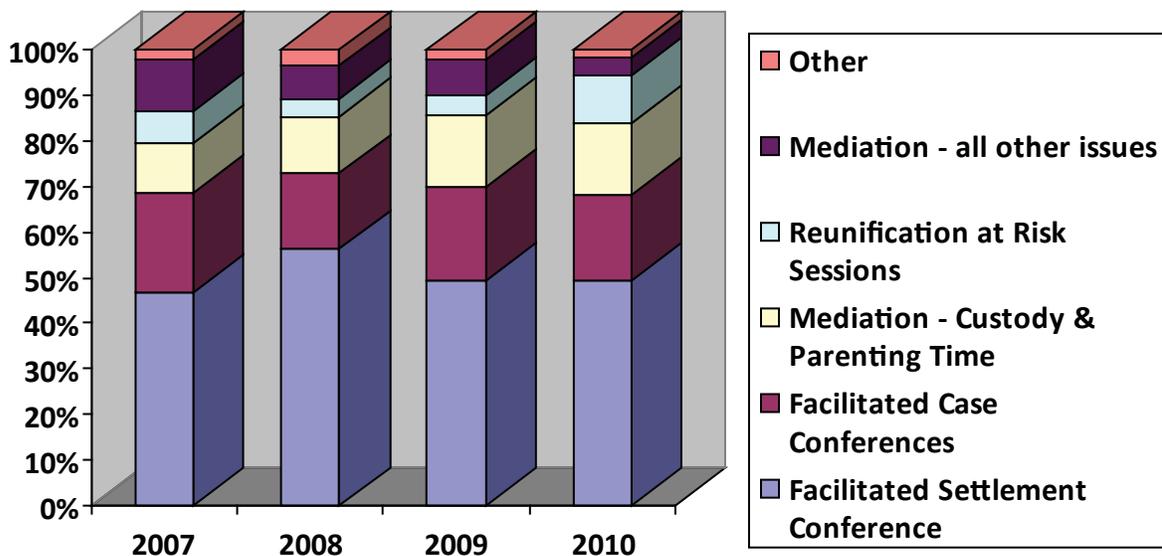
# CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

In 2009, we began implementation of a special session called a Reunification at Risk session. In cases in which reunification is at risk, these sessions invite the family, the case manager and others involved with their case to engage in an open, honest assessment of what must happen in order to shore up the possibility of reunification while at the same time involving the parents in the conversation on options for a contingency plan for their children. In 2010, the number of these sessions more than doubled over the previous year. We hope to see an additional increase in sessions in 2011.

The mediation of custody and parenting time issues for consolidated family law cases is another significant part of the Mediation Unit's workload. We are very proud to say that the local rule developed as an outcome of the Model Court Working Committee subcommittee on Family Law Issues has been adopted as a statewide rule. Thus, the goal of having every child depart the dependency system with valid custody, parenting time and child support orders in place has now spread from our court to the whole state.

The conflict resolution skill-building program for juvenile detainees has continued to develop. In addition to the presentation of the program's modules (on Emotions, Needs and Positions, Diversity, Problem Solving, Intergenerational Communication, and Goal Setting), the mediator/trainers began providing one-on-one conflict resolution sessions for youth having particular difficulties with peers in detention and adults in their lives. Another development in this program is the specialized program for children with severe mental health and behavioral issues.

**Trends in ADR Activity: 2007 through 2010**



# CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

## Family Drug Court

Family Drug Court (FDC) continues to thrive as a voluntary program for parents who have struggled with substance abuse and are involved with dependency cases. FDC specializes in extra support through intensive case management and extra accountability through frequent court hearings. Coincidentally, these are also the two main reason parents give for choosing to join FDC.

Pima County FDC was honored to receive two major grants in 2010. The first grant is from the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention through the Governor's Office for Children, Youth & Families. The second grant is from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and it focuses on children affected by methamphetamine. Both of these grants have allowed FDC to become a true Family Drug Court, serving the family as a whole.



The Parents Commission grant allowed FDC to collaborate with Compass Health Care to provide Celebrating Families!™, a 16-week, evidence-based program for substance-affected families. FDC contracts with Latrikunda Transport Services to transport the children (age 4-17) from their placements to Compass. They have a meal with their parents and then everyone splits into age-appropriate groups to learn a curriculum that includes topics such as: communication and expression of feelings, boundaries and refusal skills, choosing safe and trustworthy friends, problem solving, facts about how substance addiction affects families, etc. The sessions end with a group/family exercise that strengthens communications skills. Almost all of the families that have completed the program have been reunified or are in the process of reunification. Celebrating Families!™ is very popular with the FDC families and FDC is the only program in Tucson that offers it.

Families Enrolled in Celebrating Families!™ in 2010	20	--
Families Successfully Completed Celebrating Families!™	14	70%
Families in Celebrating Families!™ Reunified or Pending Reunification	15	75%

# CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION



The Parents Commission grant allows us to continue to contract with Arizona’s Children Association/Las Familias for evidence-based, specialized trauma therapy. A vast majority of FDC clients have survived some type of trauma (sexual abuse, physical abuse, domestic violence, etc.) and addressing the effects of the trauma has been crucial to their long-term substance abuse recovery. For those willing and able to successfully complete this difficult work, graduation from FDC and reunification with their children occurs a vast majority of the time.

Parents Enrolled in Las Familias Trauma Therapy in 2010	28	--
Parents Successfully Completed Trauma Therapy	8	29%
Parents Still Attending Trauma Therapy	6	21%
Parents in Trauma Therapy Reunified or Pending Reunification	21	75%

The “Children Affected by Methamphetamine” SAMHSA grant has allowed FDC to start offering the services of an FDC Child Case Specialist, who assesses the children of the parents in FDC for mental health - especially trauma - and developmental issues and advocates for services to address these at Child and Family Team meetings.

Family Drug Courts are often recognized by drug court professionals as having the most complex clients due to multiple issues that often include: history of trauma, involvement with the child welfare system as children, legal problems, financial instability, mental illness, lack of parenting skills (or role models), unhealthy and unsafe relationships, lengthy history of substance abuse, medical issues, lack of safe and stable housing, etc. In the 10-year history of Pima County FDC, approximately 45% of parents have graduated, 10% have been voluntarily terminated (i.e., left FDC in good standing—usually because reunification had been achieved and their dependency was closed) and 45% have been unsuccessfully terminated. Below are the statistics for those who joined in 2010. With the new programs FDC was able to implement in 2010, it is expected that the graduation and reunification rates will continue to increase. The current reunification rate for all families with dependencies at PCJCC (including the FDC families) is approximately 46%.

# CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

PCJCC held its first annual National Reunification Day event on June 18, 2010. Three of the featured parents were Family Drug Court graduates and they received front-page newspaper coverage for their achievements. Many FDC parents are committed to reducing the stigma of substance addiction, and they are doing their part to spread the word that recovery is possible.



Statistics for Parents Who Joined FDC in 2010		
Parents Joined FDC	91	--
Parents Reunified or Pending Reunification	71	78%
Children Reunified or Pending Reunification	116	--
Parents Graduated	15	17%
Parents Voluntarily Terminated (i.e., left FDC in good standing—usually because reunification had been achieved and their dependency was closed)	14	15%
Parents Unsuccessfully Terminated	35	38%
Parents Still in FDC	27	30%

# CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

## Adoptions and Guardianship Program

In keeping with the Court's mission of safe, permanent placements for children, the Adoptions and Guardianship Program offers adoption home studies and certifications for families who wish to legally adopt stepchildren, grandchildren, or other children already in their care. This program also completes home studies for new private guardianship petitions and on-going reviews of Title 8 Guardianship cases. The Adoption and Guardianship Program partners with the County Attorney's office, enabling Pima County families to access adoption services for an income-based fee. In 2010, these community services generated \$32,686.00 in revenue.

The Adoptions and Guardianship Program provides support to families who are petitioning the court for private severances. A staff member of the program is present for all private severance hearings in order to provide information to the petitioners about birthparent consent and how to proceed with adoption once the severance has been granted.

The majority of families served by the Adoptions and Guardianship Program are those in which a stepfather is petitioning to adopt stepchildren.

In 2010, the Adoptions and Guardianship Program partnered with the Mexican Consulate to assist those who were seeking adoption of family members who are Mexican citizens. The Adoptions and Guardianship program developed referral forms and protocols for working with families seeking inter-country adoption while upholding the requirements of The Hague Convention process.

### **2010:**

Adoptions: 86

Certifications: 9

Guardianships: 7

# COURT EVENTS

## Sibling Picnic

In 2005, a group of dedicated individuals representing the PCJCC; In My Shoes/ Arizona Children's Association; the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Protective Services; Foster Care Review Board; and the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona recognized the unfortunate reality for children who enter the foster care system is that they are sometimes placed separately from their siblings. The opportunities for regular, meaningful contact between siblings does not always exist. When siblings do have contact, it is often in the context of supervised visitation with parents, therapy sessions or staffings. The chance to just hang out with each other and have fun are limited if they exist at all. The Sibling Reunion Picnic was designed to get siblings separated by foster care together for a day of fun and festivities.

On October 16, 2010, with a backdrop of hay bales, pumpkins and falls leaves, the Sibling Reunion Picnic reunited fifty-two (52) siblings representing seventeen (17) sibling groups for the day. The siblings enjoyed game booths, face painting, and balloon art. Prizes at the game booths were abundant and liberally dispensed. The brothers and sisters were able to enjoy lunch together and simply spend time talking with each other. The siblings played, laughed and talked with each other on this sunny Saturday. They enjoyed themselves immensely.



Many children and youth in foster care do not have family photos. A portrait of each sibling group was taken at the beginning of the picnic. Each child left the picnic with a sibling portrait. Each sibling group was provided a disposable camera to memorialize the fun through photos they took of each other enjoying the day. The photos of each sibling group was developed, placed into an album and provided to each sibling. Goodie bags filled with lots of fun stuff were provided to each child who attended the picnic.

This wonderful event is not possible without the diligent work, commitment and passion of a number of community collaborators. We have already begun the planning process for 2011's Sibling Reunion Picnic and it will be terrific!

# COURT EVENTS

## Passport to Adulthood

The PCJCC was selected as one of five jurisdictions nationwide to receive technical assistance from the Center for Court Innovations to create a checklist for judges working with youth in foster care as they prepare to discharge from foster care and into adulthood.

The project was kicked off with a retreat in February 2009 where participants from the community, including case managers from the Arizona Young Adult Program (AYAP) of the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Protective Service, attorneys representing youth in foster care, alumni of foster care, educators, behavioral health providers, CASA volunteers, representatives from placements for youth in foster care, and judges gathered to identify areas of need and resources for youth as they prepare to age out of the foster care system.

Work groups were convened and created a checklist/passport. The passport is an accountability tool judges will use at regular intervals to ensure youth are prepared to transition out of foster care. The mission of the PCJCC's Passport to Adulthood is to assist judges and agencies in their efforts to focus on all areas of an adolescent's life to ensure that needs are met, resources are garnered and young adults are prepared to leave foster care. The goals of the passport include:

1. Providing information and guidance and expanding resources/support systems for youth in foster care.
2. Encouraging prevention and proactive planning instead of crisis plans.
3. Developing and encouraging lifelong supportive connections while continuing to search for permanency.

A checklist (passport) was created that covered domains important for youth to address as they mature into adulthood. The areas include:

- |                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| ICWA                             | Immigration |
| Health care                      | Housing     |
| Education                        | Employment  |
| Connections                      | Life skills |
| Culture, heritage and traditions |             |



A follow up retreat was convened in October 2009 to unveil the Passport to Adulthood, the implementation plan and the evaluation plan and begin a pilot to "test" the checklist and its use in court proceedings. A pilot began in December 2009. In October 2010, focus groups of AYAP case managers, youth in foster care and those who recently aged out of foster care who participated in the pilot, attorneys representing youth who engaged in the pilot and the pilot judges were contacted. The Committee is now modifying the passport/checklist as a result of feedback received from the focus groups.

# COURT EVENTS

## Passport to Adulthood

It is intended that the implementation of the Passport to Adulthood will expand to include any youth in the AYAP unit regardless of the judge assigned in Phase II of the implementation plan.

The feedback from youth and alumni who participated in the pilot was overwhelmingly positive. Many of the youth indicated that the passport should be used with much younger youth. In Phase III this should become a reality for youth as young as twelve under certain circumstances.

## Education Fair

On January 27, 2011, the sixth annual Youth Career Day was held at the downtown campus of Pima Community College. We had the biggest turnout ever with over 130 youth attending. As always the staff at Pima Community College pulled out all the stops with abundant snacks and Egees; tours of the campus; informational goodie bags and 15 vendors to provide the youth with information about enrollment, programs, and opportunities at colleges throughout the state. The afternoon finished with an interactive game "Who Wants To Be A College Student?" which the youth really enjoyed.



# COURT EVENTS

## Reunification Day

Of the 1,437 dependent children whose cases were closed at Pima County Juvenile Court last year, 645 were reunified with their families after spending time in out-of-home care for a variety of reasons-most commonly allegations of neglect.

Reunification of children with their parents can and does happen. When parents are able to successfully address the concerns that brought about the family's separation, children can return to safe homes.

The Pima County Juvenile Court hosted the Reunification Day event, along with Child Protective Services, Pima County Child Abuse Prevention Counsel, and AVIVA Children's Services on June 18th, 2010. The event was held to commend the parents, the resource families, social workers, court personnel, behavioral health experts and others involved in the efforts needed to bring children and parents back together.

Parents spoke to the large group about what contributed to making their family's whole again and what the community can do to support a reunified family. The Honorable Sarah Simmons, Pima County Juvenile Court Presiding Judge also spoke to the group.



# COURT EVENTS

## March for Children

The 6th annual Keith Smith March for Children was held on March 26, 2010. Pima County Juvenile Court's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, in conjunction with Pima County Child Abuse Prevention Council (PCCAPC), and Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA) led the annual march from the front courtyard of University Physicians Hospital to Juvenile Court to call attention to child abuse and neglect in our community, and the positive effects of prevention efforts. The theme for this year's march was *Caring for Children One Child at a Time*

Presiding Judge Sarah Simmons brought the community up to date on Juvenile Court's most recent collaborative efforts. Ramon Valadez, Chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors spoke in addition to Jackie Elliott, college student and foster care alumni. Jackie "aged out" of foster care and told her compelling story of the people involved who helped have a stable and productive life.



The Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) awards were presented by Bobby Rich of 94.9 MIX-FM to individuals and groups who have made extraordinary efforts toward the prevention of child abuse and neglect in our community. This year's recipients were:

**Individual: Susan Kettlewell**

**Group: Casa de los Niños**

**Keith Smith Foster Parents of the Year (tie):**

**Amanda & Mark Bosley**

**Rudy & Carmen Cordova**



# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Among the almost 600 employees of Juvenile Court are some of the most exceptional and professional people in the state of Arizona performing outstanding work on behalf of the children and families of our community. Each year the Chief Probation Officers' Associations (ACPOA) sponsors awards for the employees of the juvenile and adult probation departments throughout the state. This year the employees who represented Juvenile Court in the statewide competition were:

Arizona Chief Probation Officers' Association (ACPOA)

## **Detention Officer of the Year**

**Marta Ortiz**

Marta's nomination is packed with meaningful descriptions of her extraordinary work in Detention with the goal of promoting the success of youth and families. She was Detention's Employee of the Month for September 2010.

## **Employee of the Year**

**Tom Deneke**

Tom was nominated for performing his lead duties for Court and Calendar Services with integrity, creativity and dedication. As a volunteer, he spends much of his time giving motivational presentations and helping others see their potential.

## **Line Officer of the Year**

**Susan Towne**

Susan's nomination describes her as an exemplary probation officer. Her volunteer service in the community earned her the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award. Susan's keen survival skills and grace under pressure were tested last year in a critical incident that ended with the proper law enforcement action and no serious injuries to those involved.

## **Supervisor/Manager of the Year**

**Dodie Ledbetter**

Dodie was nominated for her exceptional, consistent leadership in creating a learning and growing environment for youth and fostering a total team effort for staff. She has met the changes and challenges of a state-of-the-art Detention facility with enthusiasm and professionalism.