

## News Release

Timothy Jeffries, Director

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## DES Child Support Services Hosts 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Connection Fun Day at Salvation Army Kroc Center

DES on the Go Vehicles to be Unveiled





**PHOENIX** – The Department of Economic Security's (DES) Child Support Services Division is hosting its 4th Annual Family Connection Fun Day today from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Held at the Salvation Army KROC Center at 1375 E. Broadway Road in Phoenix, the event will kick-off Child Support Awareness Month.

The Department will also unveil its "DES on the Go" vehicles, which will serve as mobile outreach units for rural and Tribal areas throughout the state, focusing on the northern and southern regions. It will provide access to all DES services for individuals and families in remote locations.

"I'd like to thank the Salvation Army Kroc Center for hosting this great event to collaboratively serve our treasured children and families in our communities," said Director Timothy Jeffries. "A community that cares for its children is investing in its future. Outreach to parents is key in helping this generation of children achieve their hopes and dreams. With the Family Connection Fun Day and the deployment of our mobile outreach units, we will be able to reach more Arizonans than ever before."

"The DCSS Family Connection Fun Day provides the community an opportunity to receive school supplies, allows parents the opportunity to make child support payments and enjoy a fun-filled morning at the Salvation Army's KROC Center," said DCSS Assistant Director Gerald Richard. "We also appreciate the collaboration with our Office of Community Engagement and the 'DES on the Go' vehicles that will assist Our Great DES in reaching out to our rural communities and making a positive difference in the lives of Arizona citizens."

"The need for this kind of service in rural Arizona communities is of the utmost importance," said Tribal Chairman Roland Maldonado of the Kaibab Paiute Tribe. "Our rural communities are underserved and many times fall under the radar. The ability to be able to give same-day approval will help, not only with

expediting needed services, but also in maintaining the human dignity aspect of providing services and assistance. These are the immeasurable intrinsic benefits that are many times overlooked."

This year's event is sponsored by Chase Bank who is donating 2,500 free backpacks and school supplies. Vendors will be providing free services such as haircuts for kids and dental screenings. There will also be snacks, drinks, music and dancing, interactive games and more. Other community partners and vendors will also be providing services at the event, which includes a resource fair for parents. Community partners include: NATIVE HEALTH, Friendly House, ITT Tech, Lowes, Carrington College, Father Matters, Goodwill and Health Net.

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The Arizona Department of Economic Security makes Arizona stronger by helping Arizonans reach their potential through temporary assistance for those in need, and care for the vulnerable.

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