2010-2020 AZGA
A decade of compassion
2010 AZGA

Started in 2010 by 5 grandmas in Tucson, who met at support group at KARE Center.

Their children's benefits were cut due to recession; still they knew grandparents everywhere needed help.

The decided to make a change, by starting the AZGA, together.
“Some were struggling financially, some needed help with medical, legal or other resources, and they all needed other grandparents to share their stories; to cry, to vent and more importantly, to laugh and feel good about their grandchildren.”
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

KARE Center connected the grandmas with Children’s Action Alliance CEO/President Dana Naimark, Southern Director, Penelope Jacks, and Kelly Griffith with SW Center for Economic Integrity.
CHAIRPERSONS
STEERING COMMITTEE
AZGA GENERAL ACTIVITIES

• Annual Statewide Summit for networking, education, and advocacy
• Group organizes AZGA legislative priorities from Summit surveys
• Annual “Day at the Capitol” for education & advocacy
• Meet with lawmakers, Governor, Congress, policy makers
• “Testify in committee; share stories; press conferences
• Host workshops on computer skills, grassroots organizing, advocacy, fundraising, leadership.
2011 AZGA FIRST STEPS

• The Tucson grandmas began community outreach and education by having tables at events, meeting and developing relationships with local politicians at city and legislative levels

• Recruited new members in Phoenix to start chapter
AZGA hosted first annual “Outreach and Advocacy Summit” in Casa Grande with 175 participants statewide, including representatives from tribal communities. Summit became an annual event and has been held every year since 2012.
2012

• AZGA becomes go-to organization for media stories on grandfamilies and kinship care

• Provided guidance to Primavera’s Kinship Family Housing Project
Children’s Action Alliance hired a part-time professional consultant, Tory Roberg.
AZGA — 2013

Senator Landrum Taylor creates “Grandfamilies Place” — a new affordable housing for grandfamilies located in South Phoenix

AZGA began working with Senator Landrum Taylor to pass the grandparent stipend which passed in 2014
Southern AZGA organized a large resource fair for Grandparent and Kinship Caregivers at El Rio Community Center in Tucson

Voter outreach and education

Computer training and computers for kinship caregivers
AZGA Hosts first “Grandfamily Day at the Capitol” to educate and advocate.

The Day at the Capitol became an annual event.
AZGA participates in national Neighborworks Conference on grassroots organizing, fundraising and advocacy
AZGA - 2015

Awareness campaign to cities and towns to declare September “Kinship Month” which resulted in receiving 33 proclamations
Continuing AZGA’s awareness campaign; Senator Debbie Lesko sponsors a statewide resolution declaring September as Grandfamily-Kinship Care Month.
AZGA - 2016

First mention of kinship care in the Governor’s State of the State!

Successfully passed their first bill to remove the TANF “Kid-Cap” for kinship families

HB2452
Southern Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors met with Congressman Raul Grijalva and Congresswoman Martha McSally to discuss grandparent raising grandchildren's issues and declaring September as Kinship Month.

Sponsored an advocacy workshop on the Arizona State Budget.

Annual summit.
Met with Governor’s office regularly to discuss:

- Non-legislative needs for kinship care
- Adding kinship training to the DCS CORE training
- Governors Public Service Announcement
- Creating an “Office of the Grandparent Advocate”
Governor Ducey addresses the Ambassadors at the Grandfamily Day at the Capital event
Started the “Cookies from Grandma” legislative advocacy campaign.

Legislative advocacy: expand Grandparent Stipend and TANF to all DCS kinship and fictive kinship placements; goal achieved as part of budget SB1522
GRANDRALLY IN WASHINGTON DC
Strengthened kinship care for kids – requiring DCS to prioritize kinship over a licensed foster home. **SB1473**

Added fictive kin to the definition of kinship; created requirement for annual kinship report. **SB1518**
New website launched with statewide focus

AZGA developed email list under MailChimp

Educational workshops held throughout the year

Summit participation continued to increase

AZGA - 2018
SB1306 was introduced by Senator Kate Brophy McGee to remove barriers to DCS kinship families receiving TANF; bill passed Senate and House Committees but did not make it into the budget or to the Governor’s desk.

SB1391 was introduced by Senator Lela Alston to increase the kinship stipend. It did not make it past Senate Appropriations.

WINS: Removed the application and income requirement from the kinship stipend; kinship stipend is now automatic for all kinship families! This was done in the budget HB2747
AZGA Day at Capitol had largest attendance yet – 75 kinship families!

Day at Capitol included press conference, meeting with Governor’s office, meeting with Speaker’s office, individual lawmakers, and participating in advocacy training.
Celebrating 10 years!

Steering Committee voted to change name to “Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors and Kinship Caregivers”

3 Legislative Priorities moving unanimously

- Increase kinship stipend \[SB1315\]
- Remove barriers to DCS kinship accessing TANF \[SB1323\]
- Restore the TANF “child only” provision for non-DCS families \[SB1569\]

Increasing stipend was included in Governor’s budget and State of the State
AZGA LOOKING AHEAD

Develop Leadership Academy to train next generation of AZGA leaders and empower kinship caregivers to create change.

WE NEED YOU!