

Arizona Teen Court Association Celebrates 13 Years **“Changing Lives, Supporting Teen Courts, Investing in Youth”**

1st Corinthians 13:13 – And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and LOVE and the Greatest of these is LOVE.”



Kate Gallego, Mayor of the City of Phoenix & C.J. Jorgensen School Teen Court

Jackie DeShannon made this song popular and later Dionne Warwick sang it best, “What the World Needs Now is LOVE Sweet LOVE.” In the song it says LOVE is the only thing that there is just too little of in the world and LOVE is needed for everyone not just for some. The Arizona Teen Court Association is proud to say that we are Spreading the LOVE Embracing the Change to come in 2020 and Preparing Youth Leaders to serve within their schools and the community.

On Friday, November 8, 2019, the Arizona Teen Court Association held its 13th Annual Youth Summit for Teen Court at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Phoenix, Arizona. This year’s Youth Summit was truly a Labor of LOVE and Collaborative partnerships were the key to this year’s Successful and Impactful Youth Summit. Thanks to City of Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego and Assistant City of Phoenix Police Chief Sandra T. Renteria along with City of Phoenix Police Officers, Fire Fighters for Christ and Forensic Science Unit Staff for partnering with Pastor Terry Mackey, Elder Jerry Barnes and Dr. Patricia Neff of Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church and Arizona Teen Court Association to make this year’s Youth Summit a Huge Success. Mayor Kate Gallego surprised the youth and adults in attendance by presenting a Proclamation and making November 8th, 2019, “Arizona Teen Court Association Day”.

The Arizona Teen Court Association used their Mission Statement as the Theme: **(CSI)**, **C**hanging Lives, **S**upporting Teen Courts, **I**nvesting in Youth. The day was filled with Faith, Hope and lots of LOVE as the youth took part in workshops on Bullying/Internet Safety, Career Exploration, Current Drug Trends, Deadly Distractions, Forensics and Crime Analysis, Kaity's Way for Domestic Violence, Sex Trafficking 101 and a Sex Trafficking Presentation by Survivor Sharee Hendrix. Mr. Mike Vega facilitated a session on the Teen Program to empower youth to Create Change within their Schools, Communities and the State of Arizona through Restorative Justice and Teen Court. Youth Leader, Landon Montgomery was the Master of Ceremonies. Landon did an Excellent Job of welcoming and encouraging his peers through his years of Teen Court service to continue the work within their schools, communities and the State Of Arizona. Keynote Speaker and Sex Trafficking Survivor, Ms. Sharee Hendrix who traveled to Phoenix from Dallas, Texas provided invaluable information to all Youth Summit attendees. In addition, International Speaker, Ms. Shanna Parker facilitated the Sex Trafficking 101 session. Over 300+ youth and adults attended the Youth Summit from around the State of Arizona.

Teen Court is a Global Professional Diversion Program. Youth are trained to serve as judges, attorneys or jury members to divert cases out of the formal court process by providing Restorative Justice Consequences to their peers for crimes committed within the school and/or community.

The Arizona Teen Court Association wishes to thank the City of Phoenix, Ms. Charlsie Cordova, Director, Maricopa County Teen Court Program, Mr. Jaime Sandoval, Maricopa County Teen Court Supervisor, Arizona Supreme Court, Mr. John Armendt, Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education, Judge Carol Berry, Judge Bill Graham, Attorney Genene Dyer, Mr. Jacob Steinbach with the City of Phoenix, Kate Spaulding and Pima County Teen Court, Safe Schools "Focus On Excellence", Dr. Quintin Boyce, Superintendent of the Roosevelt School District, Milinda Crawford, Principal of George Gervin Prep Academy, Nicholas Lodato, Principal and Social Worker Bernadette DUGUAY of Emerson Elementary School, Shannon Royal, Director Vision Leadership Academy, Beau Wagner, Teacher Washington High School, Zel Fowler, Teacher Whittier Elementary School and everyone who has served and supported this 13 year **C**ollaborative **S**uccessful, **I**mpactful Arizona State Teen Court Association Youth Summit!

As our lives and this world rapidly change and we step over into 2020, "What the World Needs Now is LOVE Sweet LOVE no not just for some but for everyone." The Arizona Teen Court Association is still here after 13 years because we Collaborate, have Faith, Hope and lots of LOVE for all the children, youth and families we serve. Thank you all. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

For more information on the Arizona Teen Court Association please visit our website at www.azteencourt.org or contact the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education at www.azflse.org for more information.