

MEDIA ADVISORY – Please contact Jeanene Fowler, 602-722-1806 or [jeanenefowler@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:jeanenefowler@mail.maricopa.gov)

## **Increasing Community Resiliency: Preventive Health Collaborative to Host TED-Talk-Like Event for Agencies Serving Children and Families**

PHOENIX (Oct. 17, 2016) - At nearly 60 years old and self-admittedly without all of the skills needed to raise five children, Juanita knows just how important support services are in keeping families together and children out of foster care.

Years prior, her grandson's four brothers and sisters were going to be placed in foster care. To prevent that from happening, Juanita took them all in. During this stressful period, her 14-year-old grandson was rebelling and she felt that a spanking would help get him on track. She was wrong. All five children were taken away by the Department of Child Safety.

Not knowing who to turn to for help, Juanita landed at Family Involvement Center (FIC), a local community organization that works closely with parents and caregivers to help them access resources, information, and support networks. At FIC, Juanita began taking classes and networking with other families, and it was here where Juanita learned the skills needed to gain back custody of her grandchildren. With the adoptions ready to be finalized this November, Juanita is still attending classes and is now volunteering at FIC. She says that every day she is still learning how to parent these young children and even when she is feeling overwhelmed, "Family Involvement Center listens and helps guide me wherever I may need to go to find help."

FIC is an organization that is part of the Preventive Health Collaborative (PHC), a network of more than 100 partners, representing over 70 organizations and led by Maricopa County Public Health. The PHC is working to create a streamlined preventive health system to improve services and care for children ages birth to five years and their families within Maricopa County. This is done by improving collaboration within the preventive health system for young children and their families.

**WHAT:** Join agencies from across Maricopa County in *Re-imagining Prevention: Big Ideas to Improve Childhood Wellness*, a TED-talk style event to hear from residents impacted by local community-based organization and leaders committed to improving child well-being in Maricopa County

**WHERE:** Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. 1375 E. Broadway Rd., Phoenix 85040

**WHEN:** October 18, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**MEDIA OPPS:** **Pre-day interviews** with Juanita (story above) and Family Involvement Center - call to schedule **Day of interview availability** with Family Involvement Center and a resident impacted by community support services