



# Hope Happens Here

News and updates from

# ARIZONA JUSTICE CENTER

(602) 377-9013  
www.azjusticecenter.org

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## A Message from our President,

### Dave Mitchell

The Arizona Justice Center provides legal consultations in Arizona for people with limited access to these valuable resources.

Legal problems can be stressful and potentially life-altering to less fortunate people. For a widow seeking guidance, a veteran needing support, or someone who has lost a loved one and doesn't know where to turn, AZJC is here to offer support in navigating legal troubles, including landlord/tenant disputes and child guardianship issues.

The Justice Center also offers a wide range of social services for those who face challenging situations in life. Homelessness amplifies such challenges.

Help us give hope to the homeless and working poor...

- Volunteer with us.
- Donate. We are a 501(c)3 organization.

**Your financial help is needed and appreciated. Scan this QR Code to donate.**



## Phil's Story

I became homeless in September of 2022. Having never experienced anything like that, I was lost. Thank the good Lord above, I ran into a group of guys at the Velma Teague library.

Two of the guys quickly realized my situation and took me in. They took me to different places that offered services. One of those places was "The Justice Center," as everyone called it.

To this day, the one thing that sticks in my mind, is how friendly the receptionist was. Glen greeted me like a long-lost friend. He walked me through the intake process and explained the services they provided and gave me a quick tour of the center. Everyone he introduced me to was very welcoming and friendly.

I had been going there for about 18 months when one day it was very busy with clients. Glen handed me the phone! Another time, the staff was having a luncheon or something and Glen asked me if I could watch the front desk while they did their thing. After that I was an unofficial volunteer. I make copies, serve coffee, heat food, etc. I love giving back to this organization that helped me so much!

What I really appreciated was they were faith based. I went back to church and stopped drinking and to have that support, at such a low point in my life was a blessing.

The Arizona Justice Center has been a true blessing!

## SUMMER IS COMING

### So how do the homeless cope in the summer months?

Homeless individuals in Phoenix face severe challenges during the summer months due to extreme heat, which can be life-threatening. Here are some ways they cope and the resources available:

**Seeking Shade and Water:** Many homeless individuals prioritize finding shade and water to survive. Some drink large amounts of water daily, often relying on donations or

food stamps. Others resort to using exposed water valves or rivers when resources are scarce.

**Minimizing Activity:** To avoid heat exhaustion, many try to stay still in shaded areas during the hottest parts of the day. Movement increases body temperature, which can lead to heat-related illnesses.

**Using Tents:** Tents provide privacy

and protection but can become unbearably hot, resembling ovens.

**Nighttime Vigilance:** Nights bring challenges such as safety concerns and lack of sleep due to constant vigilance against threats like violence or theft.

*Despite these efforts, the homeless population faces increasing risks. In 2024, Maricopa County recorded 602 heat-related deaths, highlighting the deadly impact of summer heat on unsheltered individuals.*

Proverbs 31:9 "Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

**Help AZJC get the word out about our important ministry. Forward this newsletter to your friends.**

# Community Action Network (CAN)

AZJC sponsors the Community Action Network. It is a group of businesses, churches, government, individuals, and social service agencies joining together to meet the needs of our community.

The primary goal at each meeting is to share information with each other and assist the population with their needs.

Our community needs are constant and we meet to explore how we may better help those in need: homeless, veterans, elderly, working poor, seniors, and youth.

Stay informed. Come to our monthly CAN meetings to hear great speakers, relevant information, and resources to share with like-minded organizations— from individuals, churches, government entities, social service agencies and more.

Mark your calendar for the 4th Thursday of each month (off summer months) from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Meetings held at United Methodist Church 7102 N 58th Dr- Glendale Arizona. Light lunch provided.

See you Thursday, April 24th, 2025.

Featuring:

April 24th: Karen w/ Hospitality Training & Christopher Lopez w/ FOCUS.

May 22nd: Todd Lingel w/ Kares Foundation.

June/July: No meetings. Summer Break.

Questions?

Call Joe 602-377-9013 or Rhonda 602-370-1534.



***The need is great  
the workers are few  
If you have a heart  
we'd like to meet you!***

AZJC is about to begin a new program for volunteers to help the homeless. This is your chance to make a BIG impact in the life of a homeless person.

We include training. Don't worry about what to do or what to say. All that's required is a heart to help.

At the end of this one-year commitment you will have knowledge and experience to use in any life situation.

Information coming soon!

## Legal Lessons of Judge Tolby

### *Child Abuse? – You Make the Call*

The couple before me had divorced a year ago. They had a four-year-old daughter. The Superior Court had given custody to the mother with visitation rights to the father.

Three weeks ago the mother had come to the court and told me that the father had hit the four-year-old and she had taken the child to the hospital immediately, the child had a mild concussion and headache, there was slight bruising on the forehead, the police were called and Child Protective Service's was called.

After what she told me I issued an Order of Protection, ordering the father to have no contact with the mother or the four-year-old child. I also told the mother that she needed to go to Superior Court and ask the judge there to change the father's visitation rights. The lower courts do not have the right to make custody decisions. I can only issue a temporary order if I believe the child to be in danger.

The father had ask for a hearing regarding the Order of Protection. Under oath, the mother testified the child was returned to her with a severe headache and some bruising on the forehead. I asked for pictures, a hospital report, and the CPS report she did not bring anything with her. She

testified the four-year-old said daddy hit her. But she did not bring the child to court either.

He testified their daughter had a headache when he picked up the child from the mother but never noticed any redness of the forehead. He said the mother brought the child back to see him a few days later but never mentioned that she had taken the child to the hospital.

The girl said to her father "Daddy hit me."

The father asked her, "Who told you to say that?"

She replied, "Mommy."

He then said, "Things are not good between us and I believe she is trying to set me up."

Did daddy hit the child, or did mommy set daddy up? There was no way to be sure. Who was telling the truth? Why did she not bring the hospital reports to court? Why had she waited 21 days and still had not gone back to Superior Court to obtain a permanent custody change? It would have been nice if I could have talked to the child.

It was a close call but I dismissed the order and said he could go back to the court ordered visitation schedule.

**Lesson:** I remember what a domestic relation judge said to me one time, he said, I must make terribly important decisions that will affect children for the rest of their lives, and I usually make those decisions on the testimony of two liars.

*Printed with permission by Judge Quentin Tolby*