

Speaker Bio



Luis De La Cruz

President and Chief Executive Officer

Arizona Friends of Foster Children
Foundation

About Luis

Luis De La Cruz joined Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation ("AFFCF") in July 2022 as its President and Chief Executive Officer. While originally from Arizona, prior to leading AFFCF, Luis lived in Chicago and worked for Deloitte Consulting and Deloitte Tax, advising corporations on the strategy and economics of their global operations. During his time at Deloitte, Luis was the United States Representative for Deloitte's Executive World Impact Council and also worked closely with Deloitte's U.S. Leadership to develop eminence and insights on global topics and subject matter. He is a proud ASU alum and earned two business degrees from the W.P. Carey School of Business. He also received his Master's in Public Policy from the University of Michigan.

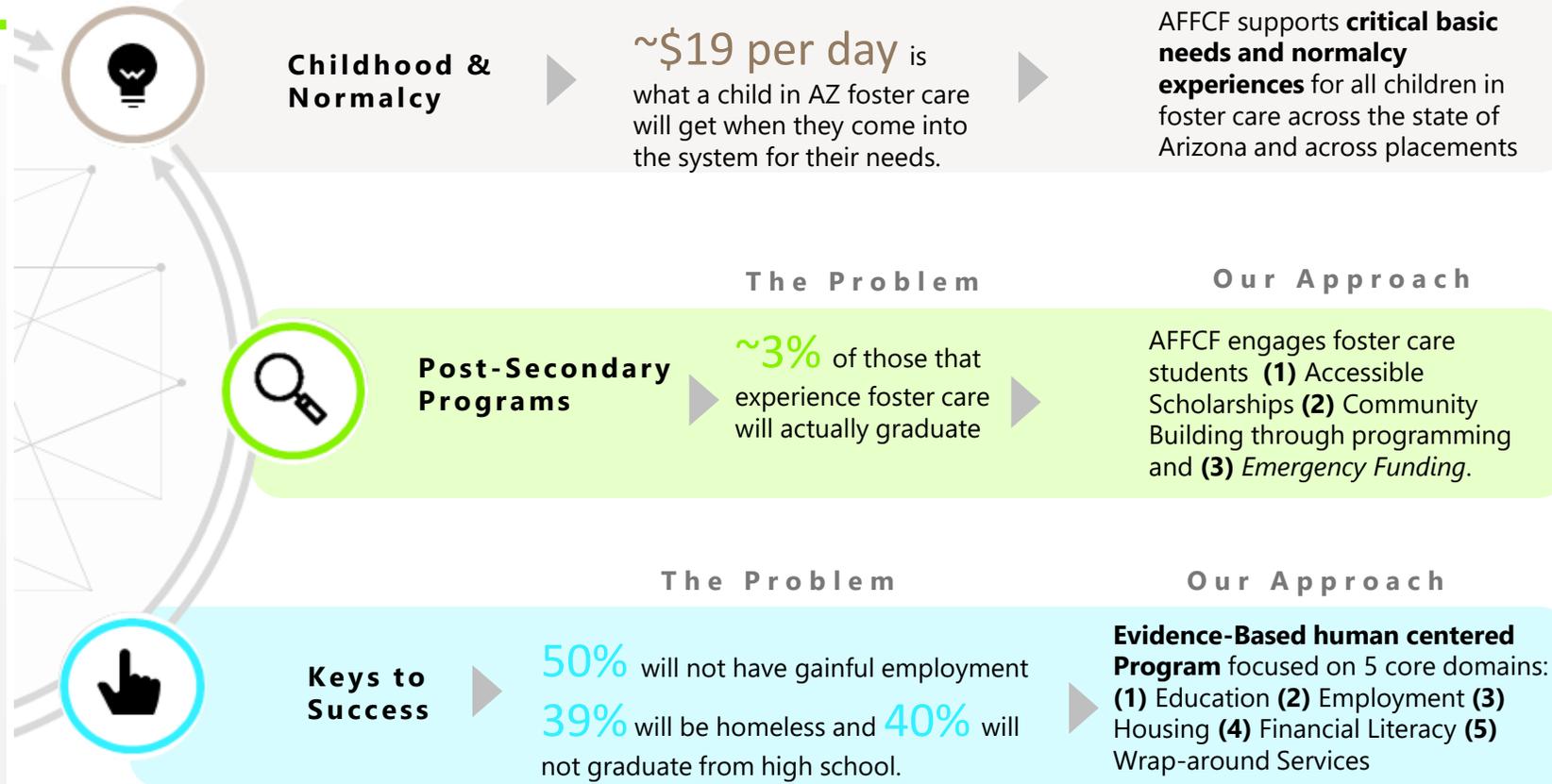
Luis is happily married to his wife Nataly and is a proud father of two boys-- Mateo (4 years) and Sebastian (1 year). Luis is an alumnus of the Arizona Foster Care system.

About Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation

Background

- In 1984 Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (“AFFCF”) was founded by 4 members of the Foster Care Review Board. Those of prominence include David Byers and Barbara Polk.
- AFFCF is a **private foundation** dedicated to impactful programming. **87 cents of every dollar goes toward our programs.** AFFCF also works closely with government and community partners to engage viewpoints on key issues that will impact the children in foster care.
- Our founders were compelled to form an organization to help address the **persistent and wide gap in funding** given their direct experience. AFFCF has evolved over the years to focus on **changing the outcomes** of those that experience foster care.
- Today, AFFCF has three core impact areas. **We serve approximately 40-50%** (~5,000 – 6,000 children) of the total system across the State of Arizona.
- Our **three impact areas are:**
 - Childhood & Normalcy Funding (Serves ages 0-20)
 - Post-Secondary Education (Serves ages 18- 26)
 - Keys to Success (Serves ages 16-26)

Our Impact Areas



Thank you!

Additional Information Appended

AT A GLANCE 2023 AFFCF IMPACT



10,096

Children and youth in foster care in AZ*

16,688

Number of times help was requested

9,800

Number of times help was provided

4,857

Unique clients served across 3 key impact areas

*Arizona Department of Child Safety Monthly Operational Report, January 2024

\$.87 of every dollar donated to AFFCF used directly for programs.

CHILDHOOD ACTIVITIES

4,357

Unique children served

“Dance is one of my passions that completes me. Everytime I get on that dance floor, I put everything into my work to make me a better dancer each time. I am so very thankful for the donation you have given to me and many other children. Thank you for making kids’ dreams come true.” - Aubrey



KEYS TO SUCCESS

350

Unique youth served

JUNE 2023 Expanded services to Pima County

“Keys to Success has helped me through a lot. I didn’t have any idea on how to get a job or what I was looking for with budgeting...They’ve helped me with so much for school and helped me stay on the right path through it all.” - Caleb



POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS

144 Unique students served

“I want to be a social worker to help improve the lives of young teenagers who are in a similar situation or worse than I was...Every day I am reminded that my past does not define me or my future. The AFFCF scholarship has truly made my dreams of going to college a reality and I’m so thankful.” - Jazmin



Scholarships - 104

Focus Forward Fund - 159*

*Some Focus Forward recipients are AFFCF scholarship students, but not all Focus Forward students receive an AFFCF scholarship.

CHANGE THE STORY

Join our mission to transform the lives of children and youth in foster care!

affcf.org/give



Keys to Success Impact Evaluation Executive Summary

In summer 2023, Morrison Institute conducted a survey ($n = 108$) and focus group ($n = 4$) with Keys to Success participants to explore the outcomes and impacts of the program. Morrison Institute also analyzed administrative data tracking Keys to Success performance outcomes. The findings below provide evidence of the meaningful impacts of Keys to Success on youth transitioning out of the foster care system.

Since 2017, Keys to Success has **graduated over 850 youth**. According to program data, all target **performance outcomes were exceeded**.

88% of youth secured employment within 1 year [*target = 80%*]

86% of youth retained employment for 30+ days within 1 year [*target = 75%*]

86% of youth gained a skill or aptitude within 6 months of enrollment [*target = 70%*]

80% of youth enrolled in post-secondary education or vocational training, or established an industry-specific career pathway within 6 months of enrollment [*target = 65%*]

76% of youth increased their Self Sufficiency Matrix score by 3+ points within 1 year [*target = 65%*]

In particular, survey participants said **Keys to Success** made them better at...

90%

Setting goals

89%

Planning for my future

88%

Money management

87%

Telling others what I need to achieve my goals

86%

Making decisions

Participants cited **supportive staff, job support**, and **financial education** as the most helpful program components. They also said that **education support, goal setting, job support**, and **general help and support** contributed most to their success. In addition, participants commonly noted the valuable relationship established with their caseworker/specialist who served as a **trusted adult** they could rely on.

“...the person I have right now, she's very helpful...let's say I need something, like, she'll be like right there and say, 'Alright we got it.' And then I'll have it within a couple weeks of that. They're always helpful, even if I need to talk to somebody. They're still there to talk to.”
– Focus group participant

91%

of survey participants would recommend **Keys to Success** to others.

89%

of survey participants felt their needs were met by **Keys to Success**.

A majority of participants indicated that the program met their needs and that they would recommend Keys to Success to others. Overall, participants consistently highlighted the benefits of participating in the program and how it has helped them achieve their life goals. Findings show that participants found great value in the program – they appreciated the financial, logistic, and practical support and guidance as well as the unique relationship with their specialist who empowered them toward a successful future.

“[Keys to Success] helped me with school and getting a job. [They] helped me get my driver's license and more. They changed my mind on how the world should look.”
– Survey participant