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**Contact:** Kaylin Dunnett  
**Phone:** (219) 241-1663  
**Email:** [kaylin@evolveprandmarketing.com](mailto:kaylin@evolveprandmarketing.com)

## **Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation Funds 4,492 Moments of Joy for Foster Youth**

*2025 Light the World Giving Machine Initiative Collected Donations for Driver's Licenses, Clothing, Books, Enriching Activities*

**PHOENIX** – [Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation](#), a Phoenix-headquartered nonprofit dedicated to addressing resource and financial barriers faced by the state's foster community, recently received a donation collected during the 2025 Light the World Giving Machine initiative, a charitable holiday campaign sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. From Nov. 14, 2025 through Jan. 1, donors could contribute to AFFCF at seven 'vending' machines across the state, with choices to fund a book, cover fees associated with a foster youth getting a driver's license, contribute towards costs of clothing, pay for a youth to participate in activities like sports or dance lessons, or fund pantry essentials for an older youth aging out of foster care.

Thanks to the Light the World Giving Machine campaign, AFFCF collected enough monetary donations to cover costs associated with 654 driver's licenses, 2,644 books, 190 pantry staples, 227 enriching activities for children, and 877 clothing items for foster youth. In total, the nonprofit was able to facilitate 4,592 "moments of joy" for foster youth, or requests for financial assistance from older youth and caregivers.

"Thanks to the community's incredible generosity, AFFCF is able to continue its work of not just meeting the basic needs of foster youth, but going above and beyond to ensure young people can express themselves, engage in hobbies and extracurriculars, sharpen literacy skills, and maintain reliable transportation," said Luis De La Cruz, president and CEO of AFFCF. "It's about more than just the one-time cost of a book or the article of clothing itself; these donations are empowering and influence a trajectory of success and stability for foster youth, both during and after the foster care experience."

"It is our distinct pleasure to support Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation. A simple, fun act of Christlike giving at the Light the World Giving Machine Initiative brings joy to the giver, and will bring over 4500 'moments of joy' to our foster friends now and make a difference in all of our lives. Thank you Arizonans for giving. Thank you AFFCF for all you do, and God bless our foster friends. We hope you feel the love from all of us," said Steve and Fran Lowder, area managers for the Light the World Giving Machine Initiative.

The Light the World Giving Machines, sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, started in 2017 and have raised more than \$50 million in worldwide donations for local and global charities. Generous Arizonans have donated more than \$8 million to local and global charities through Giving Machines.

AFFCF is a Phoenix-based 501c3 that serves to enrich, educate and empower the lives of Arizona's children and youth in foster care. For more information about AFFCF's various supportive programs, eligibility requirements for enrollment with AFFCF, resources for foster parents, or to make a donation online, please visit [affcf.org](http://affcf.org).

### **About AFFCF**

Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF) provides foster care support by closing critical funding and service gaps. AFFCF has over 40 years of experience ensuring Arizona's foster care population can participate in the same activities as their non-foster care peers, achieve self-sufficiency through employment, education, and housing programs and pursue post-secondary success. AFFCF is dedicated to changing the story of foster care in Arizona and qualifies for the Arizona Foster Care Tax Credit. Visit [affcf.org](http://affcf.org) for more information.

### **About Light the World Giving Machine Initiative**



The annual Light the World Giving Machine Initiative is a global phenomenon sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In the time it takes to swipe a credit card, anyone can donate much-needed items, such as clothing, food, hygiene products, school supplies, and even livestock (goats, pigs, chickens) for those in need. Most importantly, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints covers all operational expenses, so one hundred percent of every donation is given to the participating nonprofit to purchase and deliver the selected item. To learn more about this global Initiative, visit [GivingMachine.org](http://GivingMachine.org).

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