



# # FIRST THINGS FIRST

2019 IMPACT REPORT 

## Phoenix North Region



Early experiences build the foundation for a lifetime



# of a child's brain growth happens before kindergarten

From birth to age 5, a child's brain develops more than any other time in life. Research shows that the quality of a child's early life experiences shape how their brain develops.

First Things First partners with families and communities to help our state's youngest children prepare for kindergarten and beyond.

“I believe that all families should have access to quality early childhood education and resources regardless of socio-economic standing, and that we can achieve this through community partnerships and collaborations.”

**Josh Stine**

Member-At-Large for FTF Phoenix North Regional Partnership Council

## Fiscal Year 2019 Phoenix North Region Impact Highlights

Here are a few highlights of the proven programs and innovative strategies from this region.



### Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

**1,875** Families or caregivers served by receiving referrals or by participating in activities at family resource centers.

**4,970** Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.



### Quality Preschool and Child Care

**1,183** Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high quality preschools and child care programs.

**10,347** Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.



### Preventive Health

**2,153** Children monitored to receive appropriate screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

**1,379** Children received fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

## Additional strategies:



### 143 Early childhood educators

received college scholarships to improve their qualifications for working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.



### 8,925 Books

were given to families with children ages birth to 5 years to encourage parent-child interaction and reading.



## Phoenix family resource center provides support to young boy

Gaby Martinez first noticed that her 3-year-old son Julian was struggling with his speech when he would point to objects, instead of telling her what he wanted.

“He would mumble his words,” Martinez said. “I couldn’t understand anything he would say.”

The mother of four children was motivated to find her son support for his speech, so she started looking for preschools and early learning programs for help. She was frustrated when she couldn’t find a program the family could afford, but an online search led her to the Washington Resource Information Center, a First Things First-funded family resource center in Phoenix.

FTF funds family resources centers throughout Maricopa County to help support parents as their child’s first teacher. At these one-stop centers for families of kids birth to age 5, families and caregivers can attend parenting classes on topics such as early literacy, the importance of play to children’s learning and how to deal with challenging behaviors. All at no cost.

Martinez began by taking Julian and his younger sister Mykaela, 2, to story time at the center, which is part of the Washington Elementary School District. Twice

a week for a year, Martinez and her young children participated in story time activities that involved sign language, numbers, letter recognition, pronunciations, eye-hand coordination, small motor skills and more.

“Julian loved the pop-up books during story time and the interactive storytelling,” Martinez said. But his favorite activity was at the end of story, which always included a hands-on activity relating to the story he would hear, such as making masks, using play-dough and creating caterpillars with pom-poms and pipe cleaners, Martinez said.

Soon, Martinez and others noticed the improvement in speech in her children. “I was able to see improvement with his speech after a couple of weeks when he was able to express his emotions and there was progress in his social skills,” she said. “Family and friends start noticing his improvements and would tell me they could understand him better.”

After spending a year attending story time at the center, Martinez said she is confident that Julian will be ready for kindergarten.

“Julian is now 4 years old and speaks clearly in English and Spanish, and I can understand him now,” Martinez said.

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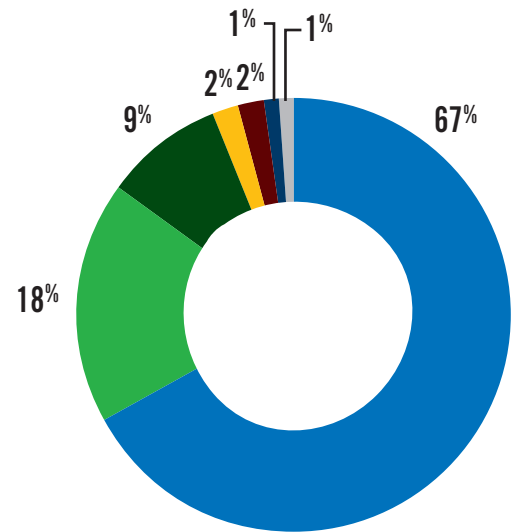
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# FTF Phoenix North Regional Council

The FTF Phoenix North Regional Partnership Council is made up of volunteers who study the unique needs of the local community and decide how funds will be used to best support the development, education and health of young children birth to age 5. FTF invests in proven programs and innovative strategies through grants to community organizations that provide services to children and families.

## FY19 Total Regional Program Expenditures

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Quality Child Care and Preschool   | \$9,479,362         |
| Strengthening Families             | \$2,536,448         |
| Preventive Health                  | \$1,308,194         |
| Research and Evaluation            | \$392,917           |
| Workforce Development and Training | \$265,218           |
| Parent and Community Awareness     | \$136,645           |
| Coordinating Care                  | \$56,421            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>\$14,175,204</b> |



## FTF Phoenix North Regional Partnership Council

*Chair*  
Wendy Resnik

*Vice Chair*  
Lyn Bailey

*Members*

Tyron Ivy

Katie Sprute

Matt Jewett

Ana Stigsson

Sarah Krahenbuhl

Josh Stine

Martin Perez

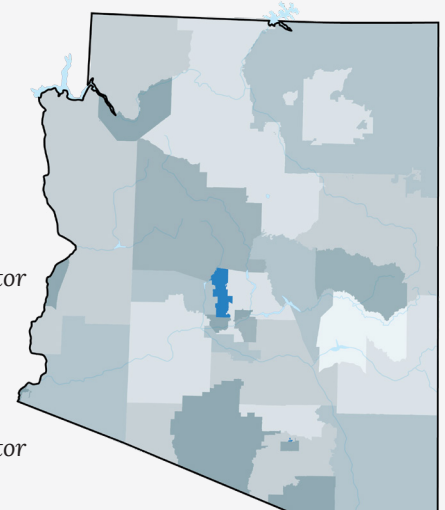
Kathryn Wauters

Connie Robinson

Karen Yearwood,  
FTF Regional Director  
kyearwood@firstthingsfirst.org  
602.771.5056

Nicole Berndt,  
FTF Community Outreach Coordinator  
nberndt@firstthingsfirst.org  
602.771.5073

Shontel DixonMulato,  
FTF Community Outreach Coordinator  
sdixonmulato@firstthingsfirst.org  
602.771.5049



The Phoenix North Region is primarily the city of Phoenix north of Thomas Road. The region also includes the unincorporated communities of Anthem and New River to the north. Note that the Phoenix neighborhoods of Ahwatukee and Paradise Valley Village are assigned to the East Maricopa Region, and some Phoenix neighborhoods adjacent to Glendale are assigned to the Northwest Maricopa Region. The Phoenix North Region includes Legislative districts 1, 15, 20, 23, 24, 28 and 30. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at:  
[FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Phoenix-North](https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/Regions/Phoenix-North)