

SUPPORTED BY  
# FIRST THINGS FIRST



# First Teeth First

August 2018  
Newsletter

## Creating Healthy Smiles Across Maricopa County *One Screening at a Time*

First Teeth First, is a grant funded program funded by *First Things First*. Our program provides basic oral health screenings and fluoride varnish applications to children five years and younger. Our program also provides oral health screenings to expectant mothers. First Teeth First provides its services at Maricopa County WIC Offices, Immunization Clinics, Family Resource Centers and other Community Partner Locations. Our services are provided by Registered Dental Hygienists and we have Spanish speaking Bilingual Site Assistants to help families who do not speak English.

First Teeth First, has become the largest fluoride varnish program in the state and recognition of the program's services has become well known within the community by providers and patients alike. Since inception of the program in 2011, FTF has provided over 132,000 oral health screenings to children and 5,300 expectant mothers. As we continue to expand our services, our goal is to assist families in establishing a dental home for the whole family. To learn more about our program, please visit our website at [www.firstteethfirst.org](http://www.firstteethfirst.org)



**More than 18 million low-income children went without dental care, including routine exams, in 2014**

-U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



## Culturally Grounded Case Management - Jimmy's Story

A success story with a very interesting cultural and unique linguistic case from a Guatemalan family. In 2017 the FTF staff attempted to assist an urgent oral health case of a child named Jimmy from Guatemala. Originally, Jimmy was screened with possible decay on nine teeth. However, due to non-response of the parents his case went unresolved. Fast forward to April of 2018, Jimmy was re-screened by our program with possible decay on 16 teeth and he was in-pain. Our new Social Worker immediately assessed and intervened in the case and provided the family the support they needed. Jimmy is receiving dental care at *The Parsons Center for Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics* and the family of seven has made strong progress with both their dental and medical needs, despite their immigration status and limited income.

In June, the social worker had the pleasure of meeting Jimmy for the first time. The social worker observed that Jimmy was not speaking, his father explained that Jimmy's first language is Mayan with Nam sub-dialect\*. Social worker noted that the dad is fluent in Mayan, Spanish and limited English.

The social worker also learned that Jimmy's mother did not feel comfortable speaking Spanish in public and prefers Mayan interpretation. This information has been very valuable to provide culturally grounded case management. This case illustrates the multiethnic and multiracial groups that exist among the Latino/Hispanic community, and how access to care can be impacted.

\*According to the CIA, 31% of the Guatemalan population speaks a Mayan dialect (~5 million)

# Find Help Phoenix

*Free and Almost Free Services by Maryola Blancas, MPH*

How many times has a mom or dad canceled last minute for an appointment or not shown up? Do you ever wonder what occurred to prevent the family from receiving much needed care? Life is so unpredictable, with many families not having support systems or not knowing where to seek help. Find Help Phoenix was created to help families find a myriad of resources in their community, from housing to dental care. This website is user-friendly and offered in Spanish as *Encuentra Ayuda Phoenix*. Maricopa County, Department of Public Health maintains the site with support from partners such as, Maricopa Family Support Alliance, First Things First, and Strong Families AZ. Find Help Phoenix is constantly growing in the number of resources offered throughout the valley. As a health provider or concerned person in your community, it is helpful to become familiar with these resources. To learn more about this service please visit [www.findhelpphx.org](http://www.findhelpphx.org)



## Note From FTF Social Worker

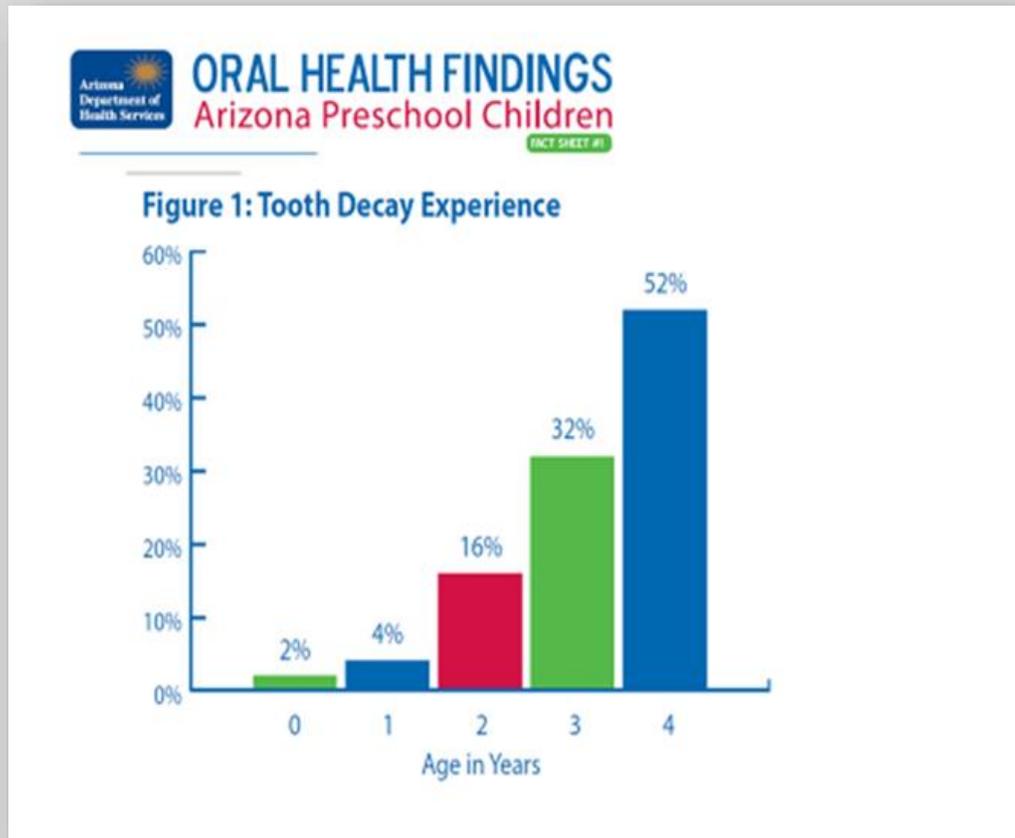
Jahaziel (Hazel) Linare, MSW

Resilience is the ability to meet and overcome adversity in ways that maintain or support well-being. It incorporates attributes like purpose, tenacity, creativity, and courage. As a parent and social worker, I am a firm believer in the concept of resilience in kids, and I guide my practice by empowering parents to face obstacles, take risks, and grow from failure. Thus, in what ways could your resilience positively help other people in your community?

*"It always seems impossible until it's done." - Nelson Mandela*

# Taking a Bite Out of School Absences

Children's Oral Health Report 2016



As displayed above, only 4% of our kids in Arizona have tooth decay at age one. By age four, 52% have experienced tooth decay. We can make a significant difference and reduce these numbers by simply providing oral health education, applying fluoride varnish and encouraging the parents to establish a dental home by age one. Unfortunately, 52% of Arizona's kindergarten children have experienced dental decay versus 36% nationwide.

Source: [AZFTF.gov/oral-health-report-2016](http://AZFTF.gov/oral-health-report-2016)

## We Can All Help

The First Teeth First Fluoride Varnish Program (FTF) is dedicated to helping **uninsured children**, who are unable to afford care like Jimmy, keep their teeth healthy. If you would like to partner with us or reaffirm your pledge to increasing access to dental care for young children, please contact FTF Social Worker (Hazi) at 602-372-1418 or via e-mail: [Jahazi.Linare@maricopa.gov](mailto:Jahazi.Linare@maricopa.gov)

*Together we all can help eliminate the nation's No. 1 chronic childhood illness: pediatric dental disease*