



ANGEL HEART
PAJAMA PROJECT



www.angelheartpajamaproject.org



Mission Statement

The mission of Angel Heart Pajama Project is to provide new pajamas and books and to foster literacy development to children who are abandoned, abused, removed from homes and placed in foster care, or living in homeless shelters in the City of Tucson, South Tucson, and surrounding counties in Southern Arizona including Pima, Cochise, Yuma, Pinal, and Santa Cruz.

History

- Angel Heart Pajama Project is the vision of the late Graciela Lopez, mother of the co-founders, Maria Patterson and Marty Croissant.
- In 1963, these three Cuban-born women immigrated to the United States to escape from political, religious, and economic distress.
- During their early years adjusting to a new language and culture, Graciela always found the means to provide new pajamas and books to enrich her children's lives.
- Today, her vision has blossomed into an esteemed nonprofit entity, Angel Heart Pajama Project.
- "Nana" and her daughters were able to realize their dream of
- "paying it forward" by sharing with needy children the same gift that had brought them such joy and comfort when they were young.



Why Pajamas and Books are needed in southern Arizona?



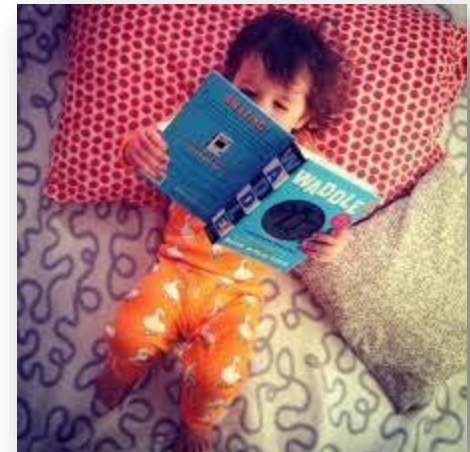
AHPP primarily serves the 9,200 square miles of Pima County. In addition, AHPP provides outreach to families with children living in the Tohono O'odham Nation, Pascua Yaqui Nation, socio-economically depressed areas such as the 29th Street corridor, refugees, I-19 corridor to Nogales, and we are fortunate to fly pajamas and books to Yuma.

Why the need for Pajamas and Books?

- According to Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count report, one in five Arizona children live in poverty. The report ranked Arizona as one of the worst states—46th in the nation for child well-being. Talkpoverty.org reported in 2020, a poverty rate of 18.8% for children.
- Arizona Department of Child Safety, "Child Welfare Reporting Requirements Semi-Annual Report for the Period of January, 2021 through June 30, 2021", reported that the Child Abuse Hotline received 22,265 calls that met the statutory criteria for a DCS report.
- DCS of AZ reported over 14,000 children were in foster care in 2021. These children transition to foster care or shelters often with only the clothes they are wearing. (<https://www.azcourts.gov/casa/Child-Welfare-Stats.aspx>)

Why Pajamas and Books?

- Pajamas Represent Comfort: "New pajamas are a necessary part of promoting good health and preventing infections and disease, as well as providing psychological benefits" says Sheldon H. Cherry, MD, Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NYC.
- Pajamas are not an available part of the bedtime routine for all children.
- Children's pajamas are in pleasing colors and patterns and are typically designed for sleep comfort and safety.
- Bedtime Is Book Time: The enjoyment and pleasure of a bedtime story before sleep is indisputable.
- Bedtime reading is associated with emotional warmth, a sense of well-being, and sleep readiness, but for children in crisis, living in shelters or group homes, books, like pajamas are frequently an inaccessible luxury.



How does AHPP receive Pajamas and Books?



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- Pajama and Book Drives with local partners and businesses
- Individual Donations
- Grant Funding
- Partners
(Barnes and Noble, Long Realty, State Farm, TJ Maxx, Rotary Clubs, Lions Club)



2013-2022 Dashboard

- 35,000 estimated pajamas gifted (an increase of about 10,000% in our first year we gave 270 pairs of PJs)
- 35,000 books distributed
- 7 actively utilized Little Free Libraries with several more in process of placement
- 86% Hispanic, 5% African American, and 9% children of color ranging in age from infant to 21 have received support
- Dedicated volunteers collect, sort, assemble, and distribute new pajamas and books to our recipient agencies / families. Volunteers find us through Justserve.org, churches, businesses, civic and philanthropic organizations, student service learning club



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2013-2022 Dashboard



- 40 local businesses, corporations, schools, churches, medical/dental groups, and non-profit organizations support our work through grant awards, drives, and donations
- 75 local non-profit organizations serving children living in foster care facilities or homeless shelters are gifted each year.

2022-2023 Goals*



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- To increase the number of children served
- To increase the number of nonprofit agency distribution centers from 75 to 80 through additional funding to meet the needs of the organizations on our waiting list.
- To continue to provide books through utilizing the Free Little Libraries in needy neighborhoods on a quarterly basis.
- To provide six literacy development activities to foster care parents and adults working with needy children.
- To enhance infra-structure and find a permanent site
- To increase financial stability for sustainability (grants, donations, estate planning)

What others say about AHPP



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1. Testimonial: "We can tell you the impact they have on our children from seeing the look on their faces when they receive the new pajamas. The children in foster care often have hand-me-down clothing; most do not own their own books. -- **A Place to Call Home**

2. Testimonial: "It has been my great pleasure to give our **Ronald McDonald House** families the gift of your beautiful pajamas. One little girl was so happy she didn't take them off for 3 days! She didn't bring long pants with her, so it was a real joy for her to have her knees covered when she was scooting around the house! I must confess that she got 2 pairs!"



Lullaby and Children's Book



- Tucson's Lo Bros Musicians produced, recorded, and gifted a Lullaby to capture the mission of Angel Heart Pajama project.
- A 16-page children's book with water-color illustrations based on this lullaby has been written and is currently being sold online and in printed form to gain revenue for AHPP.
- We also are working to underwrite and to advertise in future printings.



In closing, why support AHPP?

- Angel Heart has a belief in the concept of Cradle to Career.
- We are investing in our young children by providing pajamas and books and thus supporting their socio-emotional, physical and learning needs.
- Angel Heart wants all children to know that they are important and loved.



Lullaby

Rest my child
It's time to say goodnight.
Lay down your fears
And I will hold you tight.
Your future is bright.
Tomorrow is anew.
I am here for you.
One day you'll see
What I see in you,
A gift to the world
A gift to me too.
With love and care
Your dreams draw near.
We'll be with you always
From crib to career.

Arullo

Descansa mi niño
Es tiempo de decir
buenas noches.
Pon al lado tus miedos
Y yo te abrazaré apretado.
Tu futuro es luminoso.
Mañana es un día nuevo.
Estoy aquí para tí.
Algún día verás
Lo que yo veo en tí,
Un regalo al mundo
Un regalo a mi también.
Con amor y cariño
Tus sueños se acercan.
Estaremos contigo siempre
De cuna a carrera.

