

Child Crisis Arizona's Mixtape Magic Gala Raises Over \$1 Million

Written by Mallory Gleich
Tuesday, 14 April 2026 11:29 -



The community showed up in full neon flair and nostalgic spirit on March 21 as [Child Crisis Arizona](#) hosted its 49th annual fundraising gala, raising more than \$1 million to support the organization's comprehensive continuum of care for children and families across Arizona.

Held in the Paradise Ballroom at the JW Marriott Camelback Inn Resort & Spa, this year's "Mixtape Magic" theme transported more than 500 guests back to the bright energy of the 1980s. The evening blended high-energy entertainment, immersive activations and powerful storytelling in support of the nonprofit's prevention, intervention and wellness programs.

"Child Crisis Arizona was built on a simple but powerful belief that children are safest, strongest, and most likely to thrive when families are supported," CEO Torrie A. Taj said. "What we have created over nearly five decades is not a single program, but a connected, intentional continuum of care that meets families where they are, whether they are facing crisis, working toward stability, or building long-term wellness."

Guests were welcomed by a vintage arcade featuring classics like Ms. Pac-Man and Whack-A-Mole, while a DJ spun iconic 80s hits alongside roaming performers channeling music legends of the era. Glamour Shots-inspired photo stations added a playful throwback touch, complete with big hair energy and bold poses, while custom hat stations and themed cocktails added to the nostalgia-driven experience.

Following a gourmet dinner and live program emceed by auctioneer Bobby D., fundraising momentum continued with raffles, storytelling and a spirited paddle raise. The celebration carried on into the night as the arcade reopened, a prize booth offered wine and spirits, and the dance floor filled with a high-energy performance by Rock Lobster.

"Every element of the evening was designed to create connection, joy, and a shared sense of purpose," said Taj. "When people come together in this way, not only do we raise critical funds, but we build a community that is deeply invested in ensuring children and families have the support they need to thrive."

As Child Crisis Arizona nears its 50th anniversary, the organization continues expanding its reach and deepening its impact across the state. For more, visit [Child Crisis Arizona - Child Crisis](#).