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Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee Honors National Adoption Month with a Special Surprise for a Local Family

*Adoptive Family Surprised with a \$529 Contribution Toward Their Child's Future Through an
AZ529 Education Savings Plan*

PHOENIX, AZ – In celebration of National Adoption Month, Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee surprised a local adoptive family by contributing \$529 to open an AZ529 Education Savings Plan for 12-year-old Zoey. This special gift was made in partnership with Hope & A Future, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting children in Arizona's foster care system. Zoey's parents currently have 4 adopted children and 4 foster children under their care, exemplifying the compassion and commitment that strengthens our communities.

There are currently more than 10,000 children in Arizona's foster care system, and each year, over 800 of them age out without permanent families or the support they need to thrive. The challenges they face are significant: only 33% of youth in foster care graduate from high school with a diploma, and just 3% will go on to earn a college degree. The AZ529 invites all families, whether they are biological, adoptive, or blended, to learn more about saving for their children's future educational journey.

"National Adoption Month is a wonderful time to celebrate the families who open their hearts and homes to precious children in need, giving them a forever home," said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee. "Families like Zoey's, have already taken significant steps towards building a brighter future for their children with a pathway to accomplish their dreams. By investing in this child's future through the AZ529 Education Savings Plan, we are recognizing all of the remarkable adoptive families in our state, while also sharing the important message that every child should have endless opportunities for their future education."

This generous contribution will support Zoey's future educational journey, whether she chooses college, community college, vocational training, or an apprenticeship program. In a gesture aligned with Zoey's love for her pet goldfish and cat, Treasurer Yee surprised her with meaningful gifts and books to spark inspiration for her dream career. Among the items, were a book about fish and a marine biologist-themed coloring book, encouraging Zoey to explore her passion and imagine the possibilities ahead.

"We are so grateful for this incredible gift and for recognizing National Adoption Month in such a meaningful way," said Zoey's mom. "This contribution doesn't just support Zoey's future, it gives her the chance to dream beyond high school, to imagine college or any path she chooses. It brings hope, stability and the belief that there's something more ahead. For kids like Zoey, that kind of encouragement means everything."



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Zoey has participated in summer camps hosted by Hope & A Future, an Arizona nonprofit that has supported thousands of children in the state's foster care system since 2004. From teaching life skills to helping youth graduate college, the organization provides consistent, compassionate support to children who have experienced abandonment and neglect. Through its reliable programs, Hope & A Future offers acceptance, stability, and a path forward for foster youth. Zoey was nominated for today's special recognition by the organization's President & CEO, Michael Brewer.

"We're incredibly thankful for Treasurer Yee's thoughtful surprise today. It's a meaningful investment in Zoey's future and a powerful reminder of what community support can achieve," said Michael Brewer. "With over 10,000 children currently in Arizona's foster care system, and only 3% of those who age out ever graduating from college, we must continue finding ways to uplift these youth. Every effort counts, and today's gesture shows how we can all play a role in helping children like Zoey thrive."

The AZ529 Education Savings Plan offers a tax-free approach to setting money aside for college, community college, vocational training, trade school and other educational avenues for high school graduates. Arizona residents can receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax deduction for contributions made to an AZ529 account each year, of up to \$2,000 per beneficiary or \$4,000 per beneficiary, depending on filing status. Funds earned over time will remain tax-free when used for a wide variety of covered educational expenses. Additionally, AZ529 Plan beneficiaries can now rollover unused funds into a Roth IRA, up to a \$35,000 lifetime limit free of income tax or tax penalties. Friends and family members may also add to a child's AZ529 Plan at any time and earn the same tax benefits for themselves.

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