



WELCOME TO OUR

NEW!

Monthly Newsletter

We're so glad you're here!



We want to know!

Welcome to our first issue!

Arizona Mad Moms has a lot of exciting news that we will share in our monthly newsletter.

PLEASE Join us through our website with your contact information and join our Monday evening Zoom meetings. (See Page 3.)

WWW.ARIZONAMADMOMS.COM



Exciting Announcement



ARIZONA MAD MOMS FIRST IN-PERSON SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

We are excited to announce Arizona Mad Moms first in-person support group meeting, held **weekly every Friday from 6-8 pm (Phoenix AZ Time) will start on January 10, 2025.**

The location is *Grace Outreach Center, 1530 W. Elliot, Gilbert, AZ, 85233*. Moms and family members can speak of their experiences with their loved ones. This forum allows you to speak freely in a non-judgmental space and connect with others who experience similar journeys or are "Moms In A Pickle." You can gain valuable insights from these meetings that will help you feel more prepared and empowered on this journey. You are not alone in this journey. Mad Moms is here to support you. Whether your loved one is living with you, in a group home, incarcerated, or on the streets, this is the place for you.



The location:
Grace Outreach Center
1530 W. Elliot
Gilbert, AZ 85233



Contact:
Twila Lake
(602) 550-3158
hello@arizonamadmoms.com

MAD MOMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY Strength in numbers - the more voices, the louder we howl.



Colorado Mad Moms

Colorado Mad Moms made the news as they became a force for mental illness treatment changes patterned after Arizona Mad Moms. If enough states join Mad Moms, we can enact change at a national level. www.comadmoms.org
[CLICK \(HERE\) FOR ARTICLE](#)





Mad Moms Services and Educational Fund (MMSEF) will become the Mad Moms Non-Profit organization, and so by this time next year, the 501c3 non-profit status should be completed.

If you have any questions, please email us at hello@arizonamadmoms.com.



Insane Consequences by D. J. Jaffe

It highlights the failures of our mental health system.

Picnic/Potluck MAD MOMS BI-ANNUAL



On 12/7/24 Arizona Mad Moms had our bi-annual picnic/potluck at South Mountain and it was a great success. Over fifty members, moms, dads, family members, and loved ones attended. It was a beautiful day, thanks to all who brought a dish to share, the food was great. Some loved ones who had not attended a social event in years made new friends. It was a day of smiles. For several loved ones, it opened a door for them to want to be social again, and together, the moms were able to plan additional social outings. The next picnic/potluck date is March 22, 2025, at South Mountain Park, from 11 am to 2 pm. Mark your new 2025 calendar!!!! While you mark the picnic date, mark our support in-person and Zoom meetings too. You and your loved ones are not alone.

Mad Moms **MISSION** Advocacy in Motion

During the 2024 Arizona Legislative session, Mad Moms was instrumental in passing mental health bills by testifying their life experiences during committee meetings. We plan to do the same in 2025. Join us at the Arizona Capitol in Phoenix, AZ to demonstrate our passion for improvements in the treatment of mental illnesses. We need to prove mental illness treatment is important to us to enable bill support of Legislators. It is important to have as many Mad Moms involved as possible – even if you just show up at the Capitol and wear the T-shirt. As a grassroots organization, each of us is an advocate to create changes in Arizona's services and treatment for SMI. You are the catalyst for change. Your voice needs to be heard. Nothing happens without you.

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NOTE: We will be communicating the legislative schedule and events in the upcoming months during the legislative session which runs January through April in 2025. Please be alert for communications.

The Angry Moms, one of our "sister" groups on 11/19/24, converged on the FDA to testify about the clozapine REMS. Members from across the country including several Arizona Mad Moms, made the journey to Washington DC to testify in front of an FDA panel to remove the barriers to the use of clozapine, the only FDA-approved medication for schizophrenia. *Caregivers and families testified along with others on the discrimination of this drug, and how the special certification requirements for doctors to prescribe and pharmacists to dispense create barriers to the effective use of clozapine.* The vote at the end of the FDA panel hearing was 14 to 1 to modify or change the REMS for clozapine. It will be several months before the FDA will take action on the panel's recommendations. Please support the effort by joining the "army" of "The Angry Moms" by going to their website at www.theangrymoms.com.



CLOZAPINE

Word of the Month

The most effective antipsychotic and the only medication FDA-approved to treat treatment-resistant schizophrenia (TRS).

It is also the only medication to receive FDA indications for reducing suicide. Clozapine is wrongly underutilized because of FDA-monitored blood testing requirements and cumbersome FDA-mandated administrative tasks known as REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy).

Many individuals on Clozapine become well enough to return to family, work, college, and society.

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

Mad Moms at Court Hearings for SMI Individuals People with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) often face legal consequences for actions that stem directly from their mental health conditions. By wearing Mad Moms T-shirts and attending court hearings for people with SMI, we are standing up to advocate against the criminalization of mental illness. Our goal is to help Judges, Prosecutors, and Defense Attorneys better understand the complexities of mental illness, so they can make more informed, compassionate decisions.

People with SMI deserve treatment, not punishment, and our presence in the courtroom highlights the need for the justice system to recognize mental illness as a medical condition that requires care, not criminal charges. Our participation in these trials sends a clear message that we are fighting for the rights of those with mental health challenges, advocating for their well-being and ensuring they receive the support and treatment they need rather than being punished for their condition. Joining us at these hearings shows that we are united in working toward a more just and informed legal system for individuals with SMI.

News you Need | St. Luke Psychiatric Hospital Reopens. As the owners of St. Luke Hospital filed bankruptcy, the Department of Health Services removed the licensing of the Hospital which closed the doors and left many psychiatric patients discharged without services.

**LATEST
NEWS**

This was a loss of over 100 psychiatric beds when there was already a bed shortage. A California company is in the process of buying St. Luke and reopening it. New owners hope to be operating at full capacity by the end of January 2025. Arizona Mad Mom expressed outrage in local News interviews at the loss of this much-needed hospital.



If you have an immediate psychiatric problem in your home or family, please call 988 to be connected to local crisis services.

If you must call for your local police, be sure to let dispatch know you are dealing with a psychiatric situation and ask for crisis-trained officers.

Call 988 for basic advice on a mental illness issues.

ZOOM every Monday Night AZT 6 to 7pm
Fall Daylight - PST 5:00 | MST 6:00 | CST 7:00 | EST 8:00



MEETING ID: 278 888 6237
PASSCODE: FAMILY

OR



BY PHONE:
DIAL IN - (345) 248-7799

The information in Mad Moms newsletters are not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional legal, medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

ABOUT US

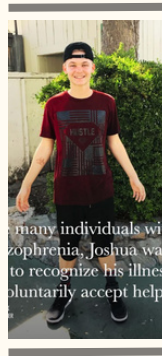
Arizona Mad Moms ~ The Beginning

Services for Serious Mental Illness (SMI) in Arizona are difficult to access and navigate. For years “mothers” have come together to provide this support and guidance that was missing in the system. Organizations like the Association for the Chronically Mentally Ill (ACMI), The Angry Moms and P82 Homes uniquely supported SMI families and caregivers in Arizona. Many of these mothers simply called themselves “mothers who are mad.”

Arizona Mad Moms formalized with a common thread – Joshua Fox. After several years of substance abuse treatment, it became apparent to Joshua’s mother, Crystal Fox, and his father, John Fox, that Joshua’s problem was psychiatric illness, not substance abuse. John Fox and Rachel Streiff had become friends at one of Joshua’s recovery programs. In 2021, in a state of psychosis, Joshua stabbed his dad multiple times, resulting in John’s death. At age 20, Joshua Fox, untreated for his psychiatric symptoms, was jailed on charges of murdering his father, John Fox.

Due to her friendship with John Fox, Rachel Streiff contacted Joshua’s mother, Crystal Fox, and the two became close friends. Rachel, along with several mothers and supporters whose loved ones suffered from SMI, began attending Joshua’s court hearings. They saw a small, frail, skinny kid who was very ill with severe psychosis symptoms. A connection was established between the Fox family and the mothers attending the hearings.

After 2 1/2 years in jail, being too incompetent to stand trial, receiving a schizophrenia diagnosis, multiple suicide attempts, and periods of seclusion/isolation, Joshua was sentenced to prison. His plea agreement had him serve approximately 4 1/2 years in prison and, upon release, he would engage in psychiatric services.



When Joshua was transported to prison, none of his jail suicide attempts or psychiatric history accompanied him. He was placed in a standard cell, without a suicide watch. After 30 hours of imprisonment, Joshua hung himself from a bunk bed in his cell. He died on 12/23/23.

The “mothers” who supported Joshua throughout the trial were outraged and became more determined than ever to change the system in Arizona. Too many of our loved ones are untreated, criminalized, incarcerated, homeless, or left to die. Their families have been routinely excluded and ignored from the treatment process.

The outrage became a grassroots movement. Arizona Mad Moms was born in January 2024. We began our journey at the Arizona State Legislature, supporting and testifying to Legislative committees to reform current laws or create new laws to address system gaps and failures. One new law, John’s Law, in honor of John Fox, requires evaluators at psychiatric intake centers to collect pertinent and historical information from family members during court-ordered evaluations.

Arizona Mad Moms, along with several “Angry” and “Mad” mothers’ groups are working to affect change by bringing SMI conditions, often serious degenerative brain disorders, out of darkness and into the light. ✨



LOGO Inspired by Twila Lake, Grandmother of Joshua Fox