

Keli May Foundation



Keli Ariana-Renee Rutledge



Warren and Cynthia Rutledge

Developed in 2017 in Gilbert, Arizona, the **Keli May Foundation** started as a way to remember the life of Keli Ariana-Renee Rutledge. A local musician, a woman of faith, and a beloved daughter and friend, whose life was tragically cut short at 18 years old due to a head-on collision caused by an impaired driver. After finding out she aspired to attend school to major in social work, her parents, **Warren** and **Cynthia Rutledge** decided to devote their time and energy to create a foundation that assisted local foster youth in aging out of the system and gaining their independence. What started as a way to honor Keli's passion for her community, The Keli May Foundation, has grown into a source for positive change in the lives of local youth.

Upon meeting Warren and Cynthia Rutledge, you immediately note their uplifting energy and passion for what they are doing. They approach each challenge and obstacle with a positive attitude and a belief that it can be overcome. Turning tragedy into a movement for good, every year, they dream bigger for the organization and move closer towards the development of the Keli May Campus. A center that will include eight residential buildings, inspiring outdoor spaces, transportation, laundry facilities, cafeterias, education spaces, staff, and more for foster youth into navigating the new obstacles of adulthood. Always recognizing the importance of individual acts of kindness, you can always find the Rutledge's distributing food and other necessities on the streets and food pantries. The organiza-

tion's heart and soul are easily the people behind it and how they take generous community donations and turn them into the assistance the communities need.

With Rutledge's hands-on distribution of supplies to foster pantries, hosting career events for youth, involvement in community events with Foster Arizona and Rock Point Church, and the implementation of a music scholarship, bring the Keli May Foundation closer towards accomplishing their vision.

"To provide care and services that complement the unmarried individual's efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to accept personal responsibility while preparing for and making the transition into adulthood."

Warren and Cynthia Rutledge inspire their community to make this cause their own and continue to be the driving force behind the organization's growing success. Their work serves as a reminder that strong community ties and a belief in an important cause can make drastic changes in the lives of the next generation, one act of kindness at a time.

Due to the epidemic of at-risk young adults exiting the foster care system who have limited to no direction, support, or stability, The Keli May Foundation's goal is to be the "Roots" to develop the possibility of a brighter future for young adults. By equipping those young adults with life skills and a connection through community, love, and support.

If you would like to help support the Keli May Foundation and learn more about their cause, please visit www.kelimayfoundation.org. **az**