

Debbie Moak, Director of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

Debbie Moak was appointed by Governor Douglas Ducey as the Director of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family.

"For more than three decades, Debbie has been doing exceptional work to educate, inspire and empower youth, families and communities throughout Arizona and across the nation," said Governor Ducey. "Her passion for serving others -- especially those most vulnerable in our society -- will be a tremendous asset to GOYFF, our administration and the state."

As Director of GOYFF, Debbie oversaw state and federal funds, as well as 8 statewide councils and commissions including, substance abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, juvenile justice, faith based initiatives, youth, service and volunteerism. The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family provides oversight, funding, technical assistance and resources to coalitions and non-profits throughout the state to support some of Arizona's most vulnerable populations.

During her tenure in the Governor's administration, Ms. Moak served as the Co-Chair of Governor Ducey's Substance Abuse Task Force along with AHCCCS, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Sara Salek. After seven months of convening community stakeholders, the Task Force submitted 104 recommendations on prevention, access to treatment, medication assisted treatment and neo-natal abstinence syndrome back to Governor Ducey.

Additionally, Ms. Moak served as the Co-Chair of The Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership along with Mr. Bill Montgomery, the Maricopa County Attorney. ASAP is the single statewide council on substance abuse, prevention, treatment and recovery.

Debbie Moak is co-founder of the non-profit organization, notMYkid, where she has worked since 2000. In this role, Ms. Moak has created prevention-based programs for six common behavioral health issues facing children, including substance abuse, bullying, dating violence, internet safety, depression and eating disorders. Her notMYkid peer based education programming currently is being modeled in more than 300 Arizona schools.

Additionally, Ms. Moak has personally presented substance abuse education programs to thousands of parents and faculties in Arizona, as well as numerous other states and internationally in Scotland, Thailand and Guatemala. She also has spearheaded two national annual drug awareness campaigns focused on educating hundreds of thousands of adults in cities across the United States.

Previously, Ms. Moak worked for ten years as an elementary classroom teacher and a special education resource teacher in Arizona, Ohio and Kentucky (1986-1996). Debbie volunteered as a librarian and was a board member and donor for the Thomas J. Pappas School for the Homeless (1996-1999).

Debbie continues to serve Young Life in a variety of roles, served on the Joe Foss Institute Board, and in 2010 was awarded the Social Venture Partners Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Ms. Moak obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Northern Kentucky University (1985). This year, Ms. Moak was awarded the university's Inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award from her alma mater.

She has previously cited raising her two adult sons as both the greatest joy and challenge of her life. This year Ms. Moak became a grandmother for the first time and now says her grandson is the greatest blessing of her life. This past year Debbie and her husband Steve celebrated 40 years of marriage and is looking forward to 40 more. Debbie continues to bring family members personal struggles with substance abuse as her primary source of motivation in all that she does on prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery. "There has been no greater teacher than my earned life experience on substance abuse" shared Ms. Moak.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to continue serving the youth and families of Arizona through the office of GOYFF," said Debbie Moak. "I am grateful to Governor Ducey and his administration for their enthusiasm and vision to meet the needs of all of Arizona's families."