



Stuart Olson, Candy Olson, Daradee Olson, and Paul Norris.

As fate would have it, Daradee met Dan and Margaret Majetich at an event and formed a lasting bond. The Majetichs suffered the life-altering loss of two sons to heart defects. To honor the lives of their only children, the Majetichs created the Nick & Kelly Children's Heart Fund in 1985. The organization seeks to minimize the financial and emotional burden on families and enable children with heart disease to enjoy an active, fulfilling life.



Daradee shared, "For many of these children, it's the first time they've spent a night away from home." Together, LoveIAM and the Nick & Kelly Children's Heart Fund are creating special memories for the kids.

In November, Daradee shared LoveIAM with the members of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun. Her personal story touched the hearts of the women present that evening and the charity was awarded donations totaling \$10,900. This donation will allow several children to attend camp next summer, free of charge. Daradee expressed her gratitude by saying, "The camp is changing lives one heart at a time. This donation is a huge blessing."

One way they do this is through their annual Heart Camp. One hundred kids go to the camp each year along with 50 volunteers comprised of camp counselors, doctors, and nurses. The camp is held in Prescott and, like most camps, offers an opportunity for the kids to swim, boat, ride horses, create arts and crafts, climb rock walls, and much more. The full-time staff of professional and medical volunteers allows the kids the confidence to go and have FUN.

**“The camp is changing lives one heart at a time. This donation is a huge blessing.”**

*- Daradee Olson*



Visit [www.LoveIAM.org](http://www.LoveIAM.org) and [www.100wvcvalleyofthesun.org](http://www.100wvcvalleyofthesun.org) to learn more about these important organizations. LoveIAM's annual fundraiser is on April 19. 100+ WWC's next giving circle is on April 16.

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**community impact**

By Kim Tarnopolski | Submitted photos

# A Child's Legacy

## LoveIAM

Congenital heart defects are the most common birth defect and affect about 1% of births per year in the U.S. Ten years ago, Ahwatukee resident Daradee Olson gave birth to a boy named Liam. Liam had a congenital heart defect and lived a precious 26 days before his little body could fight no longer.

During those critical days in the hospital caring for Liam, his family began to see how their grief could be turned into a promise to support other families faced with similar challenges. The Olson family formed a charity, LoveIAM, to honor Liam and raise awareness and funds for families affected by heart defects.



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