



community impact

By Kim Tarnopolski • Submitted photos



Dwan Katz and Reginald Russell, founder of Empowerment Through Sports



Donation to Maggie's Place – Jenel Moline, Laura Magruder, Leslie Cory, Katherine Katz, and Susan Barlow

100+ WOMEN WHO CARE DONATES OVER \$115,000 DURING THE PANDEMIC

COVID-19 has drastically affected nonprofits and individuals across the county. As social distancing became a daily reality, annual fundraising events were put on hold, reconfigured to be held virtually or, ultimately, canceled. Fortunately, giving circles – like 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun – were able to step up and rapidly respond to the needs of our community using their combined dollars and advocacy efforts.

Giving circles are a group of people who pool charitable donations and collectively decide where to allocate their money. Members leverage their dollars to do something bigger – and perhaps better – than they could on their own. This model of philanthropy brings people together to accomplish some serious good in a joyful way.

100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun members typically meet, in person, four times per year. The chapter has three sister groups: Ahwatukee, Scottsdale and East Valley. The groups were able to meet in person for their Q1 meetings. After COVID-19 began to spread in our community, the chapter leaned into technology and utilized Zoom to continue meeting virtually for the remainder of the year.

“We didn’t skip a beat,” shared Stephanie Millner, Chief Charity Officer for 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun. “Cancelling

our giving circles was never a consideration for us. We knew the need in the community was significant, and we knew we could help.” Aside from adjusting their meeting format, the chapter made concessions for members who needed to skip a donation or contribute less due to personal circumstances.

In 2020, 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun members donated over \$115,000 spread across twelve charities. The East Valley group donated to **Aris Foundation**, an organization that cares for all individuals, homeless or housed, who are in need; **Arizona Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America**, a non-profit that champions and honors veterans of the USA; **Maggie’s Place**, a community that provides houses of hospitality and ongoing support to help pregnant and parenting women; and **Empowerment Through Sports**, which builds and maintains a support mechanism for the young men and women who possess the ambition and drive to be successful in life through sports.

Since the chapter’s inception in 2015, almost \$700,000 has been given to local charities. This group of women has learned that giving back is better together. To learn more about 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun or to register for an upcoming giving circle, visit them at 100wvvalleyofthesun.org.



Who in the community is making a difference? Send in your nominations of the organizations and individuals who are stepping up to make Ocotillo a great place to call home – jen.petz@n2pub.com.

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