

100+ Women Who Care Provides Vital Support for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

BY KIM TARNOPOLSKI

In Arizona, aging out of the foster care system can be a daunting prospect for young adults. The transition from state care to independent living is fraught with challenges. However, amidst these challenges, there shines a beacon of hope: Foster Your Future (FYF), an organization dedicated to empowering and supporting youth as they navigate this critical phase of their lives.

At the heart of FYF's approach is the recognition that a one-size-fits-all solution simply doesn't suffice when it comes to addressing the multifaceted needs of foster youth. As such, the organization adopts a holistic and personalized approach, tailoring its support services to meet the specific needs and aspirations of each foster youth who commits to working with the nonprofit for at least one year.



Cindy Jarvis, Ginny Paulsen, and Crissy Haidos

One of the organization's flagship programs is its housing support initiative, which helps young adults transitioning out of foster care secure safe and affordable housing. Recognizing that stable housing is a cornerstone of independence and self-sufficiency, FYF works tirelessly to connect youth with housing resources, provide rental assistance where needed, and offer ongoing support to ensure that they can maintain their housing arrangements successfully.

Education is another key focus area for FYF, recognizing that access to quality education is instrumental in unlocking future opportunities. Through partnerships with educational institutions and scholarship programs, the organization assists youth in pursuing their educational goals, whether that involves completing high school, enrolling in vocational training programs, or pursuing higher education degrees.

In April, Cindy Jarvis shared the mission of FYF with her 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun group in the East Valley. The members were moved by her presentation and selected the charity to receive their quarterly donations totaling \$11,400.

"This very generous donation will support several young adults' housing funds as they study at college for a career that will allow them to be successful. Many of these adults are pursuing demanding careers, such as engineering, medical, and IT, and this support will enable them to work less than 40 hours/week while they study," shared Ginny Paulsen, Founder of FYF.

Since the chapter's inception in 2015, 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun has donated over \$1.2 million to local charities. To learn more or to register for their upcoming giving circle on August 6, 2024, visit 100wvvalleyofthesun.org. Guests are welcome.

If you have questions or would like to know more about FYF, please call Ginny 602-478-5850 or e-mail Ginny@FosterYourFuture.org.

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