

100+ Women Who Care helps Ryan House

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Ryan House provides support for children with life-limiting conditions and their families.

This exceptional organization has profoundly impacted the community through its innovative and compassionate programs, offering a sanctuary of respite, care, and support during some of life's most challenging moments.

Founded in 2010, Ryan House was established to fill a critical gap in

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Celebrating the gift to Ryan House from the East Valley Chapter of 100+ Women Who Care are, from left, Karena Fisher, Alyssa Tidwell, Brittney Ramos, Tracy Leonard-Warner, Maria Beltran, Mitch Cohen, and Crissy Haidos. *(Kim Tarnopolski)*



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care for children with complex medical needs.

The facility provides palliative and respite care in a home-like environment, focusing not just on medical needs but on the holistic well-being of children and their families.

This approach distinguishes Ryan House as a pioneer in the field of pediatric care.

One of the core programs of Ryan House is its respite care, which offers families a much-needed break from the intense demands of caregiving.

Respite care is crucial for families who often face the dual challenge of managing a child's medical condition while maintaining their own emotional and physical well-being.

By providing temporary relief, Ryan House allows parents and caregivers to rest, recharge, and attend to other aspects of their lives, all while knowing their child is receiving top-notch care in a safe and nurturing environment.

At Ryan House, children and families can receive up to 28 days of respite care per year free of charge.

The facility itself is designed to be a haven of comfort and joy. With its child-friendly environment, including playrooms, sensory gardens, and art spaces, Ryan House creates a setting where children can enjoy moments of normalcy and happiness despite their medical conditions.

This focus on creating positive experiences is a testament to the organization's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for both children and their families.

While a child is staying at Ryan House, they participate in life-enhancing therapeutic activities.

Certified child life specialists and trained volunteers provide activities that address the isolation, pain, and fear children and their siblings face with diagnosis.

They also improve overall quality of life by providing opportunities to experience new sensations, develop skills, and gain confidence. Activities include legacy building, art, music, pet, sensory, recreational, and hydro-therapeutic activities.

In August, Rushell Wreschner shared the mission of Ryan House 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 of \$10,875.

"Ryan House is grateful to 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun for their incredible support of Ryan House children and families," said Ryan House Executive Director Tracy Leonard-Warner. "Their gift will enrich the quality of life and create cherished memories for children with life-limiting conditions while providing a much-needed break from 24/7 caregiving for their families.

"This break allows families to focus on self-care and rejuvenate themselves as they face the unimaginable challenges of caring for their child."

Since the chapter's inception in 2015, 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun has donated over \$1.3 Million to local charities. To learn more or to register for their upcoming giving circle on Oct. 22: visit 100wwcvalleyofthesun.org. Guests are welcome.

To learn more about Ryan House: ryanhouse.org.