

100+ Women Who Care Invests in Brighter Futures with ICAN

BY KIM TARNOPOLSKI



Pictured from left to right: Amy Richardson, Shelby Pedersen, JR Robertson, Stephanie Millner, Liz O'Neall, children from the youth program



In August, something beautiful unfolded in Ahwatukee. At their Q3 Giving Circle, the women of 100+ Women Who

Care Valley of the Sun – Ahwatukee gathered with open hearts, united by a shared desire to make a difference. Out of that circle of generosity came a

powerful choice: to support ICAN: Positive Programs for Youth, an organization transforming lives across the East Valley.

Founded in 1991, ICAN exists for one reason: to provide access to free, out-of-school time programs that empower youth and families to pursue what is most meaningful to them. Every day,

ICAN creates safe, nurturing spaces where kids can learn, grow, and thrive.

But ICAN is far more than a place to “keep kids busy.” Their Youth Development Program equips young people with resilience, positive character, and community connection—skills they need to navigate challenges and build a bright

future. Through homework help, tutoring, enrichment activities, and career exploration, ICAN strengthens not just the student but the entire family. At its core, ICAN’s message is simple yet profound: *you matter, you belong, your future is bright.*

This quarter, Ahwatukee members donated \$14,287.50 to expand and sustain ICAN’s Youth Development Program across five East Valley sites. These dollars mean more youth will gain access to safe, structured, and hope-filled after-school programs.

The need could not be greater. Nearly 493,000 youth and families in Arizona lack access to quality after-school programs. Without safe, constructive spaces, too many young people face barriers that limit their potential. ICAN’s vision is to change that story—one child, one family, one community at a time.

The women of Ahwatukee came together to make this possible, and their giving will ripple for years to come. Each dollar represents more than financial support; it reflects love in action, belief in brighter futures, and a commitment to lifting up the next generation.

“We are so grateful to the women of 100+ Women Who Care – Ahwatukee for believing in our mission. Their generosity is more than a gift. It’s an investment in the potential of every young person we serve. Together, we’re not only creating safe, enriching spaces for youth, but also building a stronger, more connected East Valley community,” shared Shelby Pedersen, CEO, ICAN.

Since their first gathering in 2015, 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun has given more than \$1.5 million

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to local nonprofits. Their next Giving Circle will be held October 28, 2025, at Foothills Golf Club. Guests are always welcome. Learn more or register at 100wwcvalleyofthesun.org.

To learn more about ICAN, visit icanaz.org.



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