

100+ Women Who Care help student emergency fund

BY KIM TARNOPOLSKI
Guest Writer

In the East Valley, generosity once again became a steadying force for students working hard to build a better future.

This quarter, 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun members came together with a shared belief that education should never be derailed by a moment of crisis.

Their collective giving is supporting the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation, with the donation designated specifically for GateWay Community College's student emergency fund.

For many GateWay students, the path to a degree is anything but simple. They are balancing coursework with jobs, family responsibilities, and limited financial margins.

An unexpected expense – a car repair, a medical bill, a childcare emergency, or a sudden housing challenge – can quickly push a student to the brink. Too often, these moments force students to pause or abandon their education altogether, not because of lack of motivation or ability, but because help arrives too late.

The student emergency fund exists for these exact moments. It provides immediate, short-term financial assistance to GateWay students facing urgent and un-

foreseen hardships.

These funds step in quietly but powerfully, covering essential needs that are often invisible yet deeply impactful. By addressing emergencies as they arise, the fund helps students remain enrolled, focused, and on track to complete their education and move toward long-term stability.

The East Valley members' collective donation of \$7,300 will directly support this vital fund, allowing GateWay Community College to respond quickly when students need help most.

This support is not about long-term aid or scholarships – it is about timely intervention. It is about ensuring that a broken-down car doesn't mean missed classes, that a medical bill doesn't mean dropping out, and that a temporary setback doesn't become a permanent detour from a student's goals.

This investment reflects a deep understanding of what student success truly looks like. Persistence often hinges on stability, and stability is fragile when resources are limited.

By funding the student emergency fund, 100+ Women Who Care members helped remove barriers that stand between students and their education. They invested in resilience, determina-

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Celebrating a gift from 100+ Women Who Care. Valley of the Sun to Gateway Community College's student emergency fund were, from left, Crissy Haidos, Kara Medlock, Lisha Dunlap and Katherine Katz. (Kim Tarnopolski)

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tion, and the belief that with the right support at the right time, students can keep moving forward.

“As the need for student support increases, we also are working to rise to the challenge of meeting those needs, but we cannot do it alone,” said Dr. Amy Diaz, president of GateWay Community College.

“We are grateful to 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun for giving so gen-

erously towards the most critical needs of our students. The success of many will be tied directly to their vital contribution.”

Since their first gathering in 2015, 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun has donated more than \$1.5 million to local nonprofits across the Valley. Each gift reflects the power of women coming together with intention, pooling resources to strengthen lives and communities in meaningful ways.

Those interested in being part of this

impact are invited to attend the next East Valley Giving Circle on April 14 at Kiln at San Tan Village in Gilbert. Guests are always welcome, and every participant helps expand the circle of possibility.

Together, these women are ensuring that a moment of hardship does not define a student’s future—and that education remains a pathway forward, even when life becomes unpredictable.

To learn more and register, visit 100wwcvalleyofthesun.org. 