100+ Women Who Care Supports GateWay Students Through Emergency Aid

BY KIM TARNOPOLSKI

In the East Valley, generosity is doing more than making a statement—it's creating stability in moments that matter most. This quarter, 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun came together with a shared belief: a temporary setback should never determine a student's future. Their collective donation is supporting the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation and is designated for GateWay Community College's Student Emergency Fund.

For many GateWay students, the path to a degree is layered with responsibility. They are balancing coursework, jobs, and family commitments—often with little financial margin. When an unexpected expense arises—a car repair, medical bill, childcare need, or housing disruption—it can quickly threaten their ability to stay enrolled. Too often, these moments force students to pause or abandon their education, not because they lack drive, but because help arrives too late.

The Student Emergency Fund exists for these exact moments. It provides immediate, short-term financial assistance to students facing urgent and unforeseen hardships—stepping in quietly but powerfully when it matters most. By addressing barriers as they arise, the fund helps students remain enrolled, focused, and on track to complete their education.

The East Valley members contributed $7,300 to this effort—an investment rooted in timing and trust. This is not long-term aid or traditional scholarship funding. It is rapid-response support that ensures a temporary setback doesn't become a permanent detour.

This kind of giving reflects a deeper understanding of what student success truly requires. Persistence depends on stability—and stability is fragile when resources are limited. By funding the Student Emergency Fund, members are removing barriers in real time and reinforcing the belief that students can keep moving forward.

"As the need for student support increases, we 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 generously toward the most critical needs of our students. The success of many will be tied directly to their vital contribution."

Since launching in 2015, 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun has donated more than $1.5 million to local nonprofits across the Valley.

Those inspired to be part of this impact are invited to attend the next East Valley giving circle on August 4 at Kiln at San Tan Village in Gilbert. Guests are always welcome—and every person in the room helps expand what's possible.

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

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