



community impact

by Kim Tarnopolski
Submitted photos

BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE®

Keepers of the Children®



Bikers on motorcycles elicit different responses – intrigue, respect, and fear, to name a few. In reality, bikers come from all different backgrounds and professions. Bikers Against Child Abuse, Inc. (BACA), is a nonprofit that exists to provide aid, safety, and support for children who have been sexually, physically, and emotionally abused. They are dedicated to the principle that one of the basic rights of childhood is to be safe and protected.



Jax

The bikers of BACA are all volunteers. They go through background checks and prove themselves as worthy advocates of children. Once a biker makes the grade, they earn the ultimate BACA patch.

Jax has been a volunteer for four years. “I originally learned about BACA from an article in the *Arizona Republic* in 2012. It’s truly an honor to be able to empower these children.”

BACA exists to fill gaps in our criminal justice system. Even with court involvement to protect children from further abuse, the



perpetrators can continue to access and wound the children. Law enforcement officials cannot protect these children from their perpetrators on a continual basis. BACA members are willing to show up outside a home, school, or other location where the child is feeling threatened. The members will stay as long as necessary to make the child feel safe and the abuser gets the message they no longer have control over the child.

In addition to becoming a presence in the life of wounded children, BACA also provides for the children by attending court proceedings and parole hearings with them. When a child is able to take the stand and point out their abuser in court, the likelihood of a conviction rises.

BACA started as an idea to help one wounded child. Today, there are chapters in 48 states and 22 countries around the world.

In February, Jax had the opportunity to present her BACA chapter to the Ahwatukee group of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun. She won the hearts of the women with her stories of how many children have been impacted in Maricopa County. As a result, \$10,250 was donated to BACA to aid in the efforts of protecting more children.

To learn more about BACA visit BACAWorld.org. The next giving circle for 100+ Women Who Care in Ahwatukee is April 14 at 6:30 pm at the Foothills Golf Club. Register or learn more at 100wwevalleyofthesun.org.

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