



making a difference

By Susan Kricun

Our Family *Is Your Family* *And Our Home Is Your Home*

Every year hundreds of children in Arizona are diagnosed with a life-limiting condition. In an instant, life changes dramatically, forever. Instead of play dates and sleepovers, there are doctors' appointments, surgeries, and critical care around the clock. It quickly becomes a frightening, lonely and exhausting routine for everyone.

The Board of Visitors Ryan House is a lifeline for Arizona children and families navigating life-limiting and end-of-life journeys. Since 2010, they have provided world-class care to medically fragile children at their beautiful home in the heart of Central Phoenix. The home allows parents to take a much-needed break from caregiving and receive the emotional, spiritual and social support they desperately need.

Their 12,500 sq. foot home has eight creatively themed bedrooms for children. Families can unpack and stay in one of three family suites. Everyone has fun in the great room, the family kitchen and dining room, and playing on the colorful and fully accessible playground. Guests can go swimming in their indoor hydrotherapy pool and enjoy sensory, art, music and legacy-building activities in specialized rooms.

Many happy memories are created at Ryan House, where kids can be kids and families can be families.

Generous community support permits Ryan House respite services and end-of-life care to be provided at no cost to families. A national leader in pediatric palliative care, Ryan House is the only organization of its kind in the Southwest and one of two in the country.

Supporter, Kristi Hall, recently had the opportunity to share Ryan House with the members of her 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun group. The mission touched the hearts of the women present and Ryan House was awarded donations totaling \$9,050. This donation will provide 10 days of respite care to families.

100+ Women Who Care is a philanthropic group of women committed to making an impact in their community. They meet four times per year with the goal of donating \$10,000 to a local charity at each quarterly event. "The 100+ Women Who Care model has allowed us to cast a wide net into our community and do something for the common good," explained Kim Tarnopolski, Executive Team Member. "We've donated over \$200,000 in three years. Our goal is to create a legacy of giving that exceeds \$500,000 in five years."

If you are looking for a way to fit philanthropy into your 2018 schedule, check out their meeting schedule online. Visit www.ryanhouse.org and www.100wwcvalleyofthesun.org to learn more about these meaningful organizations.



Do you volunteer for a charity that you would like to feature in Pinnacle Living? Please write to us at marlene.johnson@n2pub.com.



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