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Helping The Homeless **Get Back On Their Feet**

The Furniture Bank, an Ahwatukee charity providing furniture and household items for Valley families in need, received an exciting gift to kick-start its sixth year. The Ahwatukee group of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun chose to give its first donation of 2018 to the charity. The women donated \$11,200 to this local nonprofit.

"We were crying tears of gratitude and joy when we heard the news," said Ahwatukee resident Tami Jackson, who founded The Furniture Bank in 2012. She runs the charity with her husband, Pastor Mark Farley, and a handful of dedicated volunteers. "This generous donation will allow us to help so many people in need."

Whether it's a family emerging from homelessness, a grandparent welcoming a child from the foster care system or a veteran getting back on his or her feet, the charity provides gently used furniture, furnishings and household items to help 200 local families and individuals each year.

Jackson, who is passionate about helping the homeless, says those working hard to get back on their feet can often only afford the rent to get into housing, and not the furnishings and items needed for a functional home. Her hope is that the charity fills the gap by creating a positive and comfortable environment where each child has a bed to sleep in and families have everything they need, including a kitchen table where everyone can congregate each day.

100+ Women Who Care is an international network of informal groups of women and men who want to give back to their local communities. The Valley of the Sun chapter has four groups that meet quarterly to give their donations directly to a charity of their choosing. Their next meeting is on April 17th at 6:30 pm at the Foothills Golf Club.

"There are so many great causes in our community that deserve funding and there are so many women who want to help, but simply don't have the time," said Kim Tarnopolski, who serves on the executive team of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun. "This group brings the two together in a magical way."

The Furniture Bank welcomes donations of gently used furniture and household items. Monetary donations are eligible to receive the dollar-for-dollar Arizona tax credit. To qualify for the 2017 tax credit, donations must be received by April 17. http://www.furniturebank.us/arizona-tax-credit.html



