



community impact

By Kim Tarnopolski

MonaLou Callery, Founder of National Advocacy & Training Network, and Sheri Tapia, member of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun

100+ Women Who Care

SUPPORTS VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are survivors living amongst us – SHERos who have paved the way for females of all ages to escape abuse, find their voice, and thrive again. 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun recently met one of those women when they delivered \$10,000 to the Executive Director and Founder of the National Advocacy & Training Network, a local nonprofit working to end violence against women and children.

Thirty-five years ago, MonaLou Callery was disfigured and broken to her core after years of physical and mental abuse. As she was on her journey to leave her abuser and permanently relocate to Arizona, she found her authentic self and life's work. In Arizona, MonaLou met other survivors and advocates who wanted to make a difference. In 2002, she created the National Advocacy & Training Network (NATN). A key to their success is their SEEDs (Support, Education, Empowerment, and Direction) program, addressing the unmet needs of battered and sexually abused women in recovery.

MonaLou understands that it takes months, if not years, to put your life back together, especially when children are involved. Based on her expertise and experience with co-occurring issues, MonaLou is asked to educate law enforcement, healthcare providers, community agencies, and professional service agencies on how abuse is intertwined and cannot be treated in a silo. She even spoke at Parliament.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has had an impact on how NATN delivers their programs. Their support groups are meeting online; some of the women in their homes have lost their jobs; and their Cup O'Karma community café closed. Cup O'Karma was a job training and social venture program. They are in search of a new location once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Thanks to Sheri Tapia, the nominating member who introduced this charity to 100+ Women Who Care, the charity will have funds to support their homes. "You have no idea how amazing this donation is at this time. Because of COVID, we have lost so many of our funders," shared MonaLou Callery. "This donation allows us to keep our homes open for at least three months. That is a long time to house 26 women. It could not have come at a better time."

To learn more, visit NATN-AZ.org. 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun welcomes guests to their April 20 giving circle. Learn more at 100WWCvalleyofthesun.org.

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