By Leann Landberg and Susan Barlow

100+ women WHO CARE

Donates $10,800 to Positive Paths

Ellen Tadman, nominating member

"I believe that in empowering women, you empower everybody else. When you lift up a woman, she lifts up the rest of her family and her community and her society and her economy." It's a powerful quote by Melinda Gates, and one that resonates with so many women because of the many roles they play while at the same time trying to manage a career.

Positive Paths, a local nonprofit supporting East Valley women, operationalizes this message by providing a life bridge for women to achieve economic stability, personal growth, and professional achievement. Positive Paths believes that empowering women is a key change agent and is an essential element to achieving a world that works for everyone. Studies show that when women are supported and empowered, all of society benefits – families are healthier, more children complete elementary and high school and go on to trade school or college, productivity improves, and incomes increase. In short, communities are strengthened.

Since 2014, approximately $250,000 in scholarships for post-secondary education have been awarded by Positive Paths to over 90 women in the East Valley. Each recipient receives one-on-one mentoring by a professional, often in the same or similar career path as the scholar. In addition, the recipients attend networking events to create academic and career-related connections, along with professional education events that focus on areas such as resume writing, time management, and financial skills.

In March, 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun presented Positive Paths with a donation of $10,800 on behalf of their East Valley members. Chapter member Ellen Tadman is a volunteer with Positive Paths and nominated the charity. Ellen mentors a young woman who has turned her life around and is now the primary caretaker of her grandmother, has completed her associate's degree, and is attending ASU to become a veterinarian. Ellen says, "I'm her mentor, though I think she's mine. I am learning about overcoming challenges, facing life with positivity and grace, and not giving up on your dreams."

100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun is a group of like-minded, passionate women who want to connect to one another and to their communities. Since the chapter's inception in 2015, over $850,000 has been given to local charities. This group of women has learned that giving back is better together. Visit ***100wwcvalleyofthesun.org*** *to learn more or register for their upcoming giving circle on April 14.*

To learn more about Positive Paths, visit ***positivepathsaz.org.***