

100+ Women Who Care Helps Local Kiwanis Chapter

BY KIM TARNOPOLSKI

Service to one's community is at the heart of Kiwanis International. This global community of clubs, members, and partners is dedicated to improving the lives of children one community at a time. Each community has different needs, and Kiwanis empowers members to pursue creative ways to serve the needs of children.

Ahwatukee has a local Kiwanis chapter, Kiwanis Club of Ahwatukee, founded in 1982. They are passionate about making a difference. Helping kids grow and succeed is at the heart of everything they do. But how they do it is just as important. They believe our neighborhoods and our world are best served when people of all ages and different backgrounds work together to share their time and talents.

One of their main priorities of the Ahwatukee chapter is to support kids in the foster care system. They provide back-to-school shopping, school supplies, and Christmas presents to foster teens living in group homes. They also organize a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for foster group homes.

Our local Kiwanis Club is best known for hosting the Annual Easter Parade in Ahwatukee.

In April, Charissa McCarron shared the need for funds to support the back-to-school shopping spree with her 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun group in Ahwatukee. The members were moved by her presentation and selected the charity to receive their quarterly donations. Kiwanis Club of Ahwatukee was awarded \$15,600 which will provide clothes for over 100 foster teens.

"In the past we have done back-to-school shopping for one or two group homes (8-10 kids each), but this awesome donation will make it possible to do back-to-school shopping for many more group homes," shared Andi Pettyjohn, Treasurer. "Life is hard enough for these kids without needing to wear the same two to three t-shirts every day. Having new clothes to wear will help their self-esteem and help them fit in with their classmates. We so appreciate the help of the members of this organization. They are helping us help kids!"

Since 100+ Women Who Care's inception in 2015, over \$1,103,000 has been donated to local charities. To learn more or to register for their upcoming giving circle on August 15, visit <https://100wwcvalleyofthesun.org/>. To learn more about Kiwanis Club of Ahwatukee, visit <https://ahwatukeekiwanis.org/>.



Andi Pettyjohn and Kim Tarnopolski

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