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100+ Women Who Care Supports House of Refuge

BY ANGIE RAMIREZ

Last year in Maricopa County there were 19 new people experiencing homelessness for every 10 people finding housing. This June, one thousand nineteen households experienced homelessness for the first time. For families with children, homelessness is especially devastating. The children often experience hunger, health issues, and disrupted school attendance. They often struggle emotionally, socially, and academically.

House of Refuge, located in Mesa, provides transitional housing and support programs to families experiencing homelessness. They offer safe, stable housing and professional staff who work with families to help them regain dignity, heal from trauma, and ultimately obtain permanent housing. In addition to housing, House of Refuge provides home furnishings, clothing, food boxes, and employment and education support. The House of Refuge community includes eighty-eight 2-bedroom homes.

House of Refuge operates by offering a hand UP, not a handOUT. Eligibility for the program requires an income of \$1,170 per month minimum or an agreement to gain employment. Residents pay \$400 per month including utilities. In 2022, House of Refuge helped 403 individuals; 62% of those they serve are children.

They have a 90% success rate of moving families to self-sufficiency. Visit houseofrefuge.org for more information.

In October, House of Refuge was chosen to receive a quarterly donation from the East Valley members of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun. They donated \$10,950 to this local nonprofit. Kayla Kolar, President and CEO of House of Refuge, stated, “These funds will enable us to provide education and employment services, a community center and teen center, and a donation center for our families to receive basics, such as food and clothing. All of this will give our families the hand UP they need on their journey to self-sufficiency. We are forever grateful to 100+ Women Who Care for their support of our families!”

100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun meets in Chandler at the Forum Event Complex at 2301 S. Stearman Drive each quarter. Their first quarterly meeting will be held on Monday, January 30, 2024, at 6:30 pm. Visit 100wwcvalleyofthesun.org for more information.

100+ Women Who Care has donated over \$1.2 million to charities since its inception in 2015. The chapter is a group of women who meet quarterly to learn about local nonprofit organizations, and then vote on which charity will receive their quarterly donation. Each member donates \$100 to the chosen charity. It’s that simple!