



Love Them Where They're At

ARIS FOUNDATION

philanthropy rising
Story and photos submitted by Susan Barlow and Leann Landberg

The statistics are both staggering and heartbreaking; one out of every seven youth will run away from home before their 18th birthday. Thankfully, the generosity of a local non-profit is here to help.

In 2016, the Aris Foundation was established to care for homeless young adults in the East Valley. While that remains their focus, they have expanded their mission to include all individuals, homeless or housed, who need care. They provide food, clothing, and hygiene items, but what really sets Aris apart is their passion to provide their clients a connection to the loving volunteers who care about their well-being. Their goal is not to change the individuals they help, but instead to “love them for who they are.” One of the individuals

who received services reflects, “They believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself.” A new sense of self-worth was provided to this individual and that’s what it took to change their life.

Many of those who have benefited from the generosity of Aris Foundation have mentioned that depression, challenges at school, family conflict, and abuse have led them to where they are today. Statistics show there are presently over 1.3 million homeless youth sleeping on the streets. A strong support system with friends and family was not evident to them, and once they leave home, that feeling of alienation becomes stronger. Life on the street is difficult at best, and 63% of homeless youth experience physical violence or other victimization. Many of these children move on to become homeless adults.

To care and provide for these individuals, Aris Foundation provides a warm meal every Tuesday evening, rain or shine, at Jaycee Park in Tempe, Arizona at 5 pm. Approximately 150 adults, between the ages of 18 and 65, attend regularly. They also receive donated items and necessities, such as basic hygiene items, including soaps, shampoo, and toothpaste. Above all, these individuals receive kindness and companionship to help fulfill a basic need that each of us has.

The wonderful women of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun in the East Valley donated over \$7,000 to Aris Foundation in early March. This donation



will go directly to the Foundation’s clients to help support basic human needs, such as food, clothing, medication, glasses, and blankets. 100+ Women Who Care also had the pleasure of helping serve a meal at the park where their souls received as much as they gave. If you’re interested in volunteering with Aris Foundation or donating items mentioned above, you can learn more ArisFoundation.com.

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. The ladies are leveraging their resources so their small quarterly gifts of \$100 per member add up to a significant donation to a local charity. Since the chapter’s inception in 2015, the organization has donated over \$550,000 to local nonprofits. The chapter is comprised of three sister groups: East Valley, Ahwatukee, and Scottsdale.

To learn more or to attend their next giving circle on April 16, visit 100wvcValleyOfTheSun.org. The giving circle is held at Serrano’s Mexican Restaurant in Downtown Chandler and begins at 6:30 pm.



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