

community impact

By Stephanie Millner

100+ Women Who Care

Donates \$10,000 to Support Valley Teachers



Kim Tarnopolski, Chief Community Builder for 100+ Women Who Care, and Barbara Blalock, Founder & Executive Director of Treasures 4 Teachers

Do you have a favorite teacher? Did you know that Arizona teachers spend on average \$500 to \$1,200 annually to stock their classroom with basic needs? Students cannot learn and become productive members of society without the essentials for learning, such as paper, pencils, and other basic school supplies. Treasures 4 Teachers bridges the gap between the need for school supplies and available resources in our Phoenix community.

In 2004, Barbara Blalock, Founder, was visiting a 2nd-grade classroom when the teacher asked her students to get out a piece of paper and pencil. Barbara watched as a 7-year-old student named Sandy walked up to the teacher and gave her a shoe. The shoe was in exchange for the pencil in hopes to secure its availability the next day. This pivotal moment prompted Barb to be a change maker. She started Treasures 4 Teachers as a place for teachers to get the supplies needed for free or low cost. Her mission was to amplify the opportunity for students to enhance and expand their learning process.

Today, there are two locations in the Valley. Barb believes, **“Teaching is the one profession that teaches all others.”** With that said, it is obvious why she strongly advocates for their support and success. When she was asked what the \$10,000 donation from 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun means to the organization, she responded with enthusiasm and a contagious smile, **“100+ Women Who Care are absolutely taking care of 100 teachers...100 teachers are going to benefit, but then if you think about all the individual children’s lives each teacher touches, it is an amazing community impact.”**

Barb encourages all teachers to come out for a personal tour. In addition, anyone from the Valley can shop in their thrift store that supports the nonprofit. **“I loved the Treasures 4 Teachers tour from the book section to the learning decorations. As a parent whose child is now in college, I am personally inspired to support teachers and this cause,”** stated Kim Tarnopolski, Chief Community Builder.

To learn more about Treasures 4 Teachers, visit treasures4teachers.org. 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun meets quarterly and always welcomes guests who have a heart for giving. Register to attend their upcoming giving circle on January 25th or learn more at 100WWCValleyoftheSun.org.

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