

# Love Them Where They're At

## THE ARIS FOUNDATION



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By Kim Tarnopolski

*The statistics are both staggering and heartbreaking; every night, 1.3M homeless youth are sleeping on the streets around our country. It is estimated that 5,000 unaccompanied youth die each year because of assault, illness, or suicide. Thankfully, the generosity of a local nonprofit is here to help.*

Aris Foundation provides assistance to 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.

To care and provide for these individuals, Aris Foundation provides a warm meal every Tuesday evening, rain or shine, at Jaycee Park in Tempe at 5 p.m. Approximately 250 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 Ahwatukee members of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun donated \$16,000 to the Aris Foundation in May. This donation will give the gift of sight and fund their optical program that provides an eye exam and two pairs of eyeglasses at no charge to the people they serve. If you’re interested in volunteering with Aris Foundation, you can learn more at [ArisFoundation.com](http://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 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 \$910,000 to local nonprofits. The chapter is comprised of three sister groups: East Valley, Ahwatukee, and Scottsdale.

To learn more or attend their next giving circle on Aug. 16, visit [100wccvalleyofthesun.org](http://100wccvalleyofthesun.org). The giving circle is held at Foothills Golf Club and begins at 6:30 p.m.