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100+ Women Who Care Chapter Raises Money For ICAN

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By Leann Landberg

Guest Writer

In August, the East Valley women of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun presented a charitable donation totaling \$5,700 to ICAN Positive Programs for Youth, a local nonprofit located in Chandler.

Founded in 1991, ICAN is a nationally-accredited organization that provides free, comprehensive programs that empower youth to be productive, self-confident, and responsible members of the community.

ICAN understands the community's immediate needs and has created research-based programs designed to reduce the risks that greatly influence the student's daily lives. The nonprofit's goal is to teach youth the skills to avoid juvenile delinquency, substance abuse and gang involvement – and attain their high school diploma while setting goals for their future.

ICAN serves over 1,300 youth and 200 parents annually living in low-income Chandler neighborhoods. It partners with Chandler Unified School District's Nutrition Program to serve healthy and nutritious hot meals to more than 200 children registered daily for ICAN programs each day.

ICAN CEO Shelby Pedersen appreciated the gift, stating, "ICAN will utilize the funds raised by 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun to deliver Youth Development Programming, a critical need for ICAN's service area."

ICAN goes beyond just being an after-school program for at-risk youth. The organization works with youth on the critical skills they need to be productive and responsible members of the community. ICAN has several buses and vans that pick-up students from schools in the Chandler area and bring them back for after-school programs.

Around 3 p.m., the halls of ICAN are filled with children excited to be there and happy to see their friends. They are offered a healthy snack and then participate in a variety of life skills classes such as conflict resolution and communication skills; time is carved out for homework as well.

The kids spend approximately three hours a day at ICAN; many of them are provided dinner before hopping on the bus for the ride home.

Among the structured classrooms indoors, you will also find an indoor gym and library full of donated books for the children to enjoy. On the grounds, you will find a community garden, sport court and beautiful grassy area for outdoor activities and games.

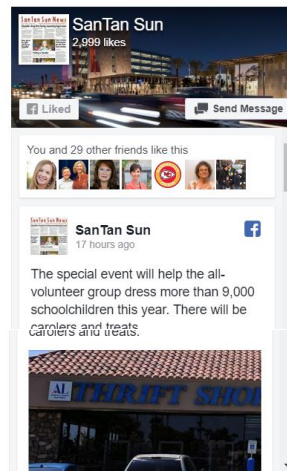
ICAN is open Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the after-school programs beginning at 2:30 p.m. ICAN operates during the time of day when potentially dangerous juvenile activities are most likely to occur.



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