



Shoreview ladies' giving group multiplies again and again

By Sara Marie Moore/Editor

Dec 11, 2018



Dena Ehrich, left, and Lisa Mattson, right, of The Power of 100 – Twin Cities Women Who Care present a check to Tamarisk board member Karen Ho and Director of Programming Shelly Palaschewski. Tamarisk provides respite services to caregivers.

A philanthropic effort started by a group of Shoreview women about six years ago has gone national.

The Power of 100 – Twin Cities Women Who Care began as a grassroots effort in 2012 by a group of 10 Mounds View Public Schools moms, most of whom lived in the Shoreview area, according to Press archives. Co-founder Diane Kuehn said the women were school volunteers. One day, friend Pam Maccani voiced her idea for a giving group.

The group aimed to gather 100 women to donate \$100 together to a charity with the idea that they could make a big difference together. By the second meeting, 100 women had already joined. The meaning of the group's name shifted from referring to 100 women to the power of giving \$100. The group was modeled after similar organizations in other states, said Lisa Mattson, one of the co-founders.

In the ensuing years, the group grew into three chapters in the Twin Cities and more than 200 members, Mattson noted. The organization has raised nearly \$500,000 for 25 charities to date.

The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation also joined the group in 2014 with a matching gift program. Schulze is the founder of Best Buy. This year, the partnership with the foundation was rolled out nationwide.

“Schulze identified the Power of 100 Women Who Care structure as a meaningful way to partner with local philanthropists and give back to the many communities that have helped Best Buy,” Mattson said.

The matching funds, up to \$5,000 per quarter, will go directly to the nonprofit organizations chosen by eligible Power of 100 chapters. Each meets for one hour four times a year to vote on where to donate. Members then each write a check directly to the chosen charity.

Twenty-three official chapters are currently located in Minnesota, California, Colorado and Florida. The program is expected to soon have 200 chapters nationwide.

The local chapter meets at the Shoreview Hilton Garden Inn. Its most recent donation was about \$21,000 to courageous heARTS, a nonprofit youth art studio. Previous charities include Tamarisk, Ruth’s House of Hope, Options for Women East, Jack’s Basket, Mobile Loaves Twin Cities, Breast Milk for Babies, Ampersand Families, Hope 4 Youth, Second Stork, Canvas

For more information, visit thepowerof100twincities.com.