

AZ Giving Spotlight: Sharon Knutson-Felix of 100 Club of Arizona

Written by Samantha Giunta

Monday, 09 September 2013 14:38 - Last Updated Monday, 09 September 2013 15:24



The 100 Club of Arizona is an incredible organization that provides support and financial assistance to the families of fallen public safety officers and firefighters in the state of Arizona. This passionate club has been the aid for many, and we are lucky to have spoken with and learned more about the 100 Club from the Executive Director, Sharon Knutson-Felix.



What is the history behind the 100 Club of Arizona and the mission of the organization?

The mission of the 100 Club is to provide immediate financial assistance to the families of seriously injured and fallen officers and firefighters, and to provide resources to enhance their safety and welfare. Incorporated in 1968 by a group of local businessmen and adapting through the years, today the 100 Club of Arizona serves more than 50,000 public safety officers, firefighters, their agencies and their families throughout the state of Arizona. All sworn and/or certified police, corrections, probation and parole officers, firefighters, and federal agents who are serving and protecting the citizens of Arizona are eligible for benefits through the 100 Club. This includes all city, county, tribal, state and federal levels.

What does "100 Club" stand for?

The term "100 Club" was adapted from an organization in Detroit, after a local officer died, leaving a pregnant widow behind. To support his family, Pontiac Dealer William H. Packer asked 100 friends to donate \$100 and received 100 percent response. We are not nationally affiliated with any other 100 Club concepts, although there are many across the nation.

How does the 100 Club provide support for families of fallen public safety officers and firefighters?

Within 48 hours following a line of duty death, the 100 Club responds with \$15,000 to the officer or firefighter's family. However, the 100 Club's programs extend far beyond financial assistance following a line of duty death. The 100 Club also responds after a non-line of duty death and line of duty injury. In addition, more than \$1 million has been paid out in both Scholarships to children/spouses of first responders, and in safety equipment to agencies in need. The 100 Club also addresses mental health awareness and life-altering situations not related to the job, such as loss of a spouse or illness.

How does the 100 Club raise money for the organization and public safety officers and firefighters?

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The 100 Club is solely based on contributions and memberships, with two fundraising events per year.

How does one become a member?

Memberships range from \$25 and up and are open to anyone and everyone. Even Fido or Fluffy can become a member! Visit www.100club.org or call 602-485-0100.

Are there any upcoming public events that the community can attend?

The 100 Club hosts two fundraising events a year – The Annual Banquet & Meeting honors our fallen heroes, and is held each year in March. The Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament and Ball is held to raise funds for the Scholarship Program, and will be held on September 27-28 at the Arizona Grand Resort. These events are open to the public. In addition, many great statewide businesses and organizations host an array of fun events to benefit the 100 Club's mission. Visit www.100club.org for more information.

For more information on the 100 Club of Arizona, click [here](#)

Tweet the 100 Club of Arizona at, @AZ100Club

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