

100 Women Who Care supports local charities

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ELK RAPIDS – It was a sand box, a very large sand box. Actually it was a sand pit, but years ago Ellsworth's Gerald Drenth donated the land. Good Samaritan Family Services built their Moms and Tots Center on the land and now welcome women and children seeking a wide variety of services, but there is nothing as much fun as a big sand box on the site.

That will change soon with the construction of a playground and picnic area giving a place for parents to 'teach as they talk' and for children to learn while they play, sing, and read. "It is one more way we can invest in our children," says Gayle Kron, Moms and Tots Director. The project will be funded completely with donations from women across the county through 100 Women Who Care Elk Rapids.

More than 200 women belong to the 100 Women Who Care Elk Rapids Area and many of these members live outside of the Village. Their goal is to make a positive difference throughout Antrim County and according to Steering 'Crew' members Peg Asmus and Carol Heels, Women Who Care Elk Rapids is already exceeding expectations.

"We are building community as we build awareness of what



Courtesy photos

Do a Little Good stocks local elementary schools with new warm coats, shoes,

is needed right here in Antrim County. Through presentations about local charitable organizations at each meeting, we are educating our members and assisting these groups," says Asmus. This 'assistance' is delivered as each Women Who Care member writes a \$100 check directly to the charity selected at their one-hour meetings. It is 'a brilliantly simple way to raise money efficiently and quickly for local charities.'

In May, 'Do a Little Good' was the first charity to benefit from Women Who Care. Its founder, Glori Crowell, established a Student Lunch Fund that pays outstanding student lunch debt in Antrim County. A Book Fair Fund allows teachers

to assist students in selecting books to take home from those special events. Do a Little Good shops for shoes for both elementary and high school students, as well as hygiene items, clean underwear, and warm clothes. Bellaire High School bicycle shed has received funds from Do a Little Good.

And this all began with friends needing to get together safely during the pandemic. While walking—and talking—Heles and Asmus, along with Kelly Jensen, Karen Somers, Cindy Zarow were looking to find a way to do something. Something good. To make a difference.

They explored giving circles



One of Do a Little Good's favorite projects is collecting donated yarn and machine knitting hats for the homeless, foster care kids and anyone else who needs them

and charity projects, but it was Asmus' experience with 100 Women Who Care Lansing that brought them to support the idea of collective action. The model of 100 Women Who Care began in Jackson, Michigan, when Karen Dunigan and 100 local women, at their first one-hour meeting, raised \$10,000 to buy 300 new baby cribs for an organization in their city. Since then Women Who Care chapters have formed across North America.

"I am never sure about how much good I can do as an individual," said Nancy Muehlig, a retired teacher and school administrator, 'but when people, when women get together to do something, we can move mountains.'

For more information about 100 Women Who Care Elk Rapids, email them with questions: 100womenelkrpids@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/100womenwhocare-elkrpids