



# Kiwaniis

CAREFREE

## CLUB CONNECTION



### KIWANIS CLUB OF CAREFREE NEWSLETTER

[KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG](http://KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG)

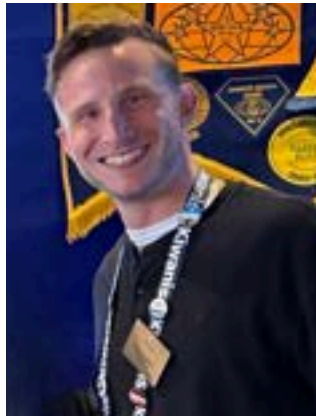
JANUARY 2025

# 2025

### A YEAR OF IMPACT AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

From Our President Cam Kuriej

In 2024, the Kiwanis Club of Carefree made a significant difference in our community, with a number of key achievements. We proudly awarded over \$560,000 in scholarships to local students, helping to support their educational dreams, and over \$620,000 to local school programs and programs supporting other local nonprofits. Through our "Adopt-A-Family" program, we sponsored 37 families and distributed 80 gift cards to those in need during the holiday season. Our annual Kiwanis Christmas for the Kids event saw a record-breaking turnout, with over 2,600 attendees enjoying this completely free event for families in the area.



As we look ahead to 2025, we're excited to continue growing our mission. To better engage with the community, we're planning to hold monthly meetings at offsite locations, making it easier for local families and business owners to get involved. If you're looking to make a positive impact and connect with like-minded individuals, there's no better place than Kiwanis. Join us in making a difference!

### January MEETINGS

**Be There!**

January 8 - Steve Greenberg, Cave Creek Museum

January 15 - Vicki Preston, Desert Foothills Land Trust

January 22 - Charles Underwood, Rackensack Mine

January 29 - Club Business

## Welcome

**NEW MEMBERS**

Kathi Tran

Riley Jandrew



# Happy New Year





# In case you missed

## KIWANIS CHRISTMAS FOR THE KIDS

On November 30, the Kiwanis Club of Carefree hosted its annual Kiwanis Christmas event, drawing over 2,600 attendees, including 838 children and 1,838 adults, to a festive afternoon in the Town of Carefree. Families enjoyed free holiday cheer with live entertainment, hayrides, bounce houses, and visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Memorable highlights included animal encounters featuring Zeke the Camel, mini horses, donkeys, raptors, and exhibits from Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium. The event also delighted attendees with balloon artistry, a cowboy singing performance by Gary and Dusty, and the giveaway of 60 brand-new bicycles.

Dedicated volunteers from local high schools, including members of Key Club, Ambassador Club, IB Club, and Falcon Basketball Team, along with participants from AKTION Club and Scully Learning Center, contributed to the event's success. Barb Pearse, a Christmas Committee member, praised their efforts, saying, "The high school kids did a fabulous job and were a great addition to the event. They are stars in my book!"





# In case you missed

## KIWANIS CHRISTMAS FOR THE KIDS





# In case you missed

## ADOPT-A-FAMILY

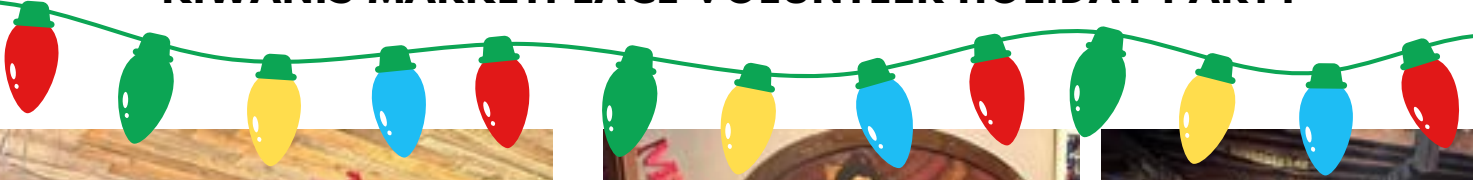
Lisa Savage-Black and her team of elves shopped for 37 families within the community. Toys, Bikes, and gift cards were dropped off at the Desert Foothills YMCA and the CCUSD. We also provided gift cards to the Foothills Caring Corps, Brain Puzzles, Blankets, and Walmart Gift Cards to the Foothills Food Bank.



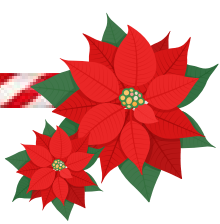


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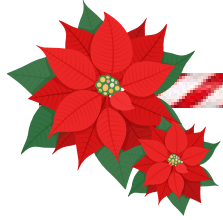
## KIWANIS MARKETPLACE VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY PARTY







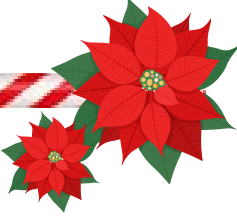
# Celebrating The Holidays



## HOLIDAY MEMBER DANCE







# Celebrating The Holidays



## HOLIDAY MEMBER DANCE





# In case you missed

## GRANT TO PVCC FIRE SCIENCE DEPT

This contribution will fund critical equipment and resources necessary for the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) assessment, enhancing students' preparation for careers in firefighting.

[CLICK TO READ THE ARTICLE](#)



## RIBBON CUTTING & OPEN HOUSE AT THE HOLLAND CENTER

December 9th

It was the official unveiling of the remodel of The Holland Center and a special thank you to our club for the grant to make it all possible.



## DISCOVERY DAY WITH DESERT FOOTHILLS LAND TRUST

November 16

Kiwanis Club supported this event with many rental items needed. There were 350 in attendance





# In case you missed



## HOLIDAY STORIES AND FUNNIES WITH "OUR GANG" RALPH SPURGIN

December 4th



**50/50 DRAWING WINNER  
DECEMBER 4**

**RON BELL  
\$80 Winner**

**We draw a winner each week but you must be present to win!!**

## UGLY SWEATERS

December 11th



**WINNER  
SHELLEY HUTCHENSON**



## BLACK MOUNTAIN CHOIR

The Black Mountain Elementary School sang Christmas Carols at our December 11th Luncheon.





HAPPY  
*Birthdays*

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

8th Matt Owsley  
9th Diane Dunseath  
28th Mark Woods  
31st Paul Axberg  
31st Linda Wright

*More Holiday Fun!*



**SEND YOUR PICTURES TO  
COMMUNICATIONS@KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG  
WE WOULD LOVE TO SHARE THEM!**

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

★ **WANTED** ★

**If you know of someone who would  
be a great speaker at a luncheon  
email Darlene Carter!**

**ADMINISTRATION@KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG**



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