

Happy
4th of July



Kiwanis
CAREFREE

CLUB CONNECTION



KIWANIS CLUB OF CAREFREE NEWSLETTER

KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG

JULY 2025

A Message Executive Director Sandra Carrier

Hello Kiwanis Friends,

Thank you for your continued commitment and support of Kiwanis of Carefree. It's because of dedicated members like you that we're able to live out our mission of serving the children of our community. For those of you who recently joined our Club, welcome to our Family!

Last month, I encouraged everyone to enjoy summer and travel safely, especially our "snowbirds" who migrate with the seasons. I hope you're all having a restful and refreshing summer wherever you may be!

As we look ahead, budget planning for the 2025–2026 fiscal year is already underway. Thank you to those involved in this important process—it's a vital step in ensuring we remain strong, focused, and prepared to support our community's needs.

I am also excited to announce that our Marketplace Thrift Store will be expanding its hours! Beginning August 5, the store will be open **Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** This reflects a new extended closing time—one hour later than our previous 5:00 p.m. closing—giving customers more flexibility and helping us to relieve a very congested parking lot!

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." — Mahatma Gandhi

Working together as a team, we continue to make a meaningful difference. Thank you for all you do to support our mission!

July MEETINGS

Be There!

July 2 - No Meeting

July 9 - "Our Gang"
Biff Miller, Aktion Club Chair
& **SPECIAL ELECTION**

July 16 - Cam Kuniej,
Kiwanis President

**July 23 - Brent Downs &
Steve Woods - Volunteer
Training**

July 30 - Club Business



NEW MEMBERS

ROBIN COCHRAN

MAXX ANDERSON

ANDY FREW

HOLLY MCCREA GULLY

DAMIEN BARR

2025-2026

BOARD CANDIDATES



TREASURER
CLUB

OPEN

9
JULY

BOARD MEMBER
FOUNDATION

Mike Poppenwimer
Linda Wright
Jim Niles
Jeff Zorn



The Election will be *July 9th 2025*, at Harolds Corral from 11am - 1pm

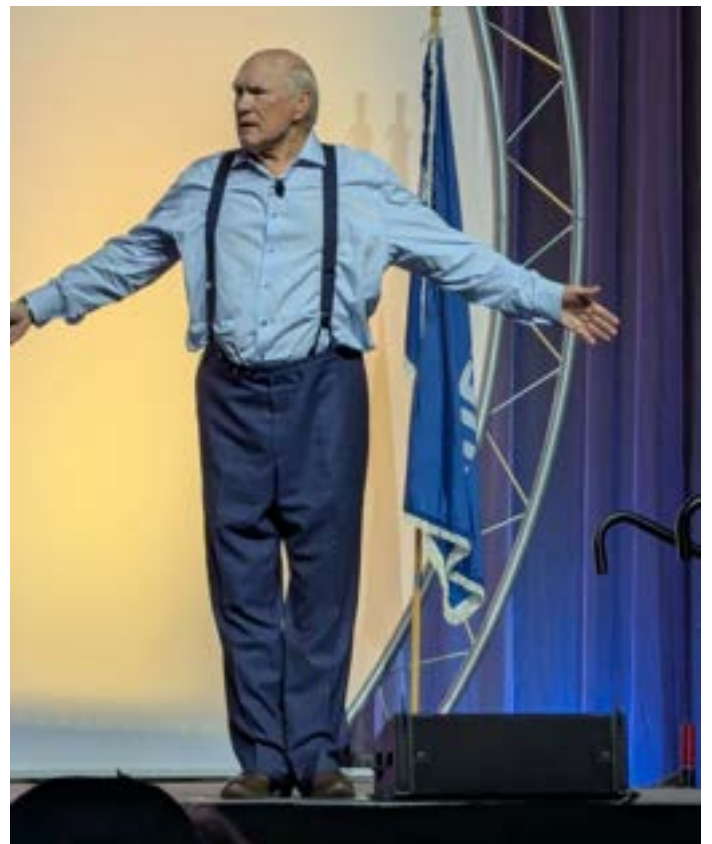
Kiwanis Convention

KIWANIS CONVENTION IN PENNSYLVANIA

Sandra, Linda, and Gordon proudly represented our club at the Kiwanis International Convention in Pennsylvania, connecting with fellow Kiwanians and bringing back fresh ideas to serve our community!



They even had the chance to hear from keynote speaker Terry Bradshaw, who inspired the crowd with his energy, humor, and message of leadership and service.



District Convention Cont...



Gordon had the honor of presenting the Kiwanis Marketplace during the Education Block, sharing with clubs from around the world how we built a successful fundraising model that supports our community year-round.

Thank you, Gordon!



They also enjoyed a special dinner with fellow members of the Southwest District—sharing stories, building friendships, and celebrating the impact of Kiwanis across the region.



To wrap up the fun, they enjoyed a Roaring '20s gala with great music, vintage style, and lots of laughs and memories!



Kiwanis®

THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT CONVENTION

Laughlin, NV from August 22 - 24

Join your fellow Kiwanians at the 2025 Southwest District Convention for growth, education, and fun.

[**CLICK HERE**](#)

**CLICK TO READ A
MESSAGE FROM OUR
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**

[**CLICK HERE**](#)



In Case you Missed



June 4
SANDY CARLL
Desert Foothills Theater



June 11
OUR GANG RON BELL
AND RALPH SPURGEON
Accountability Committee

They explained what the committee does on a regular basis to ensure that all grants are utilized as intended, and that all funds are accounted for.



June 18
TERRI ALEXON
AZ Corporation Commission



June 25
ALEX PEREZ & VOLUNTEER RAY
Kiwanis Marketplace Updates
Ray shared his experiences volunteering at the Marketplace



JOHN SKARDA
June 11
\$178 Winner

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



FOOTHILLS CARING CORPS

Funds committee member Shelley presented a check to Brent, Executive Director, to help them continue to address socialization, health, wellness, and mobility to promote physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being.



In Case you Missed



CAVE CREEK MUSEUM

Funds Committee members Tom and Ed had the pleasure of delivering a check to the Cave Creek Museum Director, Jo Ann, to continue another year of Kiwanis Family Fun Days! Keep watching to find out what fun events the Museum has in store once they re-open for the season on October 1st!

CACTUS FOOTHILLS LITTLE LEAGUE

Funds Committee member Ed had the pleasure of presenting a check to the Cactus Foothills Little League during Community Days at the Kiwanis Marketplace Thrift Store this past Saturday. These funds will help them buy two pitching machines! We are excited to find out how their season goes!



SPIRIT IN THE DESERT

Funds Committee member Tom P presented a check to Eric Simonson, Executive Director of Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center, supporting their veteran rehabilitation program. Their once-a-year program is designed to assist veterans with mental health issues, including PTSD and suicidal tendencies.

Summer Fun



KIWANIS SPLASH PARK IN CAREFREE

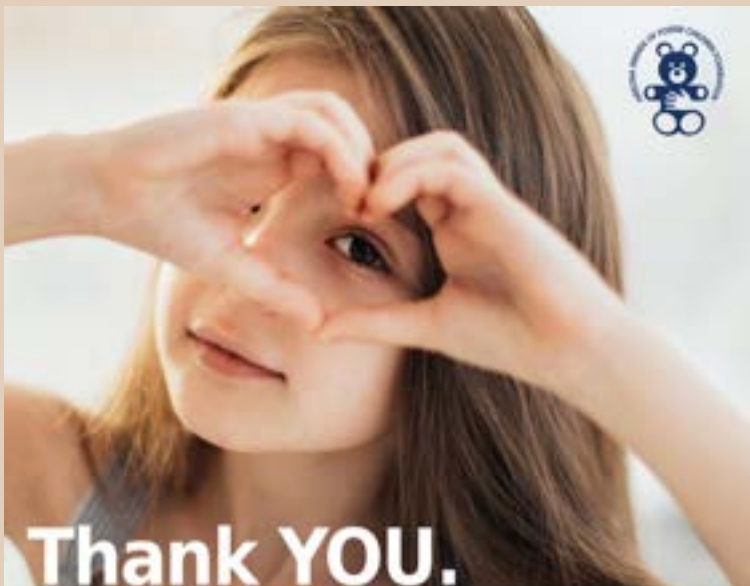
Did you know the Kiwanis Club of Carefree funded Carefree's splash pad in 2015? It officially opened in April of 2016, and hundreds of kids splash with "Kiwani," the oversized scorpion. Kiwanis Splash Park is open from 9 am to 7 pm from April through October.



Photos by Tom P

Many thanks

ARIZONA FRIENDS OF FOSTER CHILDREN FOUNDATION



Thank YOU.



Kiwanis
CLUB OF CAREFREE

Moments of joy for children and youth in foster care are made possible by our amazing partners like the Kiwanis Club of Carefree, AZ. Thank you for supporting AFFCF's Childhood Activities program, because every child deserves the chance to play, learn and just be a kid.

Thank you, Kiwanis!

This grant will provide clothing, bicycles, swimming and equine lessons to the foster children in their program.



Kiwaniis®

Kiwanis Club of Carefree
Attn: Ms. Janet Greer Busbee
P.O. Box 1498
Carefree, AZ 85377

June 24, 2025

Dear Janet, Scholarship Committee & Carefree Kiwanians:

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Your generosity and willingness to include our local Mingus Union High School students in your scholarship pool this year is commendable and sincerely appreciated by the students, our local Kiwanis chapter, as well as the Verde Valley community. The awards ceremony was quite impressive with Mr. Ricky Watters and the reception that followed.

We are proud of our youth for their continued involvement in our community, as well as their persistence to achieve academic, athletic, and personal excellence. We know many of these students and their families personally – and have for most of their young lives. However, for you to acknowledge these deserving youth, and invest in their future (our future!) after taking the time to read their application materials and interview them, is quite admirable.

Kiwanis mission reminds us that, “Kiwanis empowers communities to improve the world by making lasting differences in the lives of children. Kiwanis strives to be a positive influence in communities worldwide – so that one day, all children will wake up in communities that believe in them, nurture them and provide the support they need to thrive.” Carefree Kiwanis has chosen to look outside of your boundaries to uphold this mission and indeed influence the larger community.

We can assure you, the actions of your Scholarship Committee and Carefree Kiwanis members have been shared with far more people than you likely imagined. But perhaps more importantly is to recognize the impact you have made on four bright young stars from a smaller sister community to Carefree.

On behalf of Mauro DePasquale, Witten Armstrong, Sabrina Zunitch, and Felix Rodriguez, we thank you for acknowledging their accomplishments and validating their efforts with these scholarships.

Please accept our sincere gratitude for your generosity and supporting future leaders from a neighboring chapter. We hope you will include MUHS students in your scholarship cycle again next year.

Sincerely,

Randy Garrison, President, Clarkdale/Verde Valley Kiwanis
Toby Payne, Member, Clarkdale/Verde Valley Kiwanis (formerly of Carefree Kiwanis)
Barbie Duncan, Member & MUHS Key Club Liaison, Clarkdale/Verde Valley Kiwanis

Member Spotlight



KATHY HAUGNER

Kiwanis of Carefree is very lucky to have some key members who saw, participated, and enjoyed “the old days of Kiwanis”, and Kathy Haugner is one of them.

Kathy Haugner actively partook in Kiwanis events locally, regionally, and nationally with her husband, Alan, who was an early president, and then she rose through the ranks and became president herself in 2005 when we had a huge membership of 294 and she seems to remember most of them! She was truly an early “glass ceiling” breaker as the first female Carefree Kiwanian president! She went on to serve as a Lt. Governor in the Kiwanis Southwest Region.

Her strongest area of interest, having been a teacher, continues to be children where she was involved with founding and actively engaging in a range of our Kiwanis’ programs, including sponsoring nine youth groups like the Key Club, the Aktion Club, and the Builder’s Club.

One of her major contributions was committee forming and transitioning Kiwanis toward supporting many of the outside projects and local charitable organizations that we provide grants and funding for today. She truly supported the Kiwanis Mission, “Changing the world, one child and one community at a time.” Kathy Haugner is very proud of the wonderful things being accomplished by our club and she appreciates the support from the entire Foothills Community.

She, of course, remembers very well the original “garage sales, the old “warehouse” sales, which came before the Marketplace where she continues to volunteer. Come and join Kathy and other Kiwanians who contribute their time and experience to supporting the needs of our local community.

Happy Birthday

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1st - Tom Pozarycki
5th - Steve Woods
8th - Theresa Holmes-Stecyk
8th - Daniel Stone
9th - West Hunsaker
15th - Patricia Carter
15th - Jessica Ryder

17th - David Court
20th - Dennis Barkley
22nd - Janet Busbee
22nd - Bill Dolezal
22nd - Carole Nelson
24th - Laura Johnson
30th - Ron Bell



**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



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
TO SEE MORE!**

@KIWANISCAREFREE

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR
EVERYTHING KIWANIS!**

KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG