



Kiwanis[®]

CAREFREE

CLUB CONNECTION



KIWANIS CLUB OF CAREFREE NEWSLETTER

KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG

AUGUST 2025

A Message from President Cam Kuniej

This month, we resumed planning for our annual Kiwanis Christmas Event and have officially secured our usual date in coordination with the Carefree Tree Lighting Ceremony. It's shaping up to be another great tradition in the making.

I am pleased to announce Alan Tannaz has been nominated for Club Treasurer. In compliance with our bylaws, the Election will be held on August 13th. At that time, if anyone else wishes to become a nominee, that would be the time to do so. **BE THERE – YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**

As we look ahead to next year, we're finalizing budgets and preparing for a smooth leadership transition. The incoming President will soon begin confirming committee chairs for the coming term.

On a lighter note, mark your calendars for our Year-End Celebration on September 9th at 4:30–6:30 PM at the Holland Center. We'll recap the past year, enjoy each other's company, and introduce next year's leadership team.

Finally, we're excited to share that we've begun working on a partnership initiative with the Foothills Caring Corps to provide accessible transportation for our aging members. The goal is to help members attend Kiwanis luncheons without the hassle of arranging their own rides. At this stage, we're looking to gather volunteer drivers as we begin assembling routes.

We look forward to highlighting more about this effort—and much more—in the weeks to come. Stay engaged and stay inspired!

Cam Kuniej



August MEETINGS

Be There!

Aug 6 - No Meeting

**Aug 13 - Debbie and Greg Sullivan - Meals of Hope-
SPECIAL ELECTION**

Aug 20 - Tonya Piatte and Renee Hoffa, Youth for Troops

Aug 27 - Club Business

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

**VICKI BUROW
JASON SMITH
JEANNE SMITH
JILL MCNALLY**

A Message from Executive Director

Sandra Carrier

Dear Kiwanis Family,

I hope this message finds you enjoying a relaxing and joyful summer-wherever your travels may take you!

Last month, I had the honor of attending the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, along with our Past President Linda Wright and President-Elect Gordon Minns. It was an energizing experience full of education, fellowship, and inspiration from Kiwanians around the world. It reminded me how powerful our global network truly is.

Looking ahead, the next Kiwanis International Convention will take place June 25-27, 2026 in Manila Bay, Philippines-a beautiful destination and a perfect gathering spot for learning, leadership, and fun. I encourage everyone to consider saving the date and stay tuned for more details. It's sure to be an unforgettable event!

Much closer to home, I'm thrilled to share that I'll be hosting and guiding this year's Southwest District Convention as the event's MC, happening August 22-24 in Laughlin, NV at the Don Laughlin Riverside Resort and Casino. This year's theme, "Together, We Move Forward," highlights the unity, collaboration, and future-forward vision of our Southwest District. I'll also be speaking about one of our club's proudest achievements-our Marketplace Thrift Store-and the incredible impact it continues to have in our community. The convention will feature engaging sessions, networking opportunities, and some surprise special guests. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow Kiwanians, learn, grow, and celebrate the great work we're all doing. Join us! Learn more and register here:

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT CONVENTION

Laughlin, NV from August 22 - 24



Whether you're traveling or staying close to home this summer, I hope you're staying safe and feeling inspired. Let's keep doing great things together.

With gratitude and service,

Sandra Carrier



In Case you Missed



July 16
CAM KUNIEJ
Kiwanis President



July 23
BRENT DOWNS &
STEVE WOODS
Shared about Desert
Foothills Volunteers GIG



July 30
ALEX PEREZ
Kiwanis Marketplace Updates



July 30
LARRY KEY & JIM NILES
Financial Update



OUR FRIENDS AT HAROLD'S!



Dallas helped draw the door prizes with Cam



Sam, our long time Kiwanis server, shared she is headed to Sturgis!



DARLENE CARTER
July 23
\$155 Winner



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

In Case you Missed



THE HOLLAND CENTER

Major projects chair Tom P presents to Jennifer Rosval, Executive Director, the final payment for the major project refurbishment of Holland Center

DESERT FOOTHILLS LAND TRUST

Funds Committee Member, Shelley H, presented a check to Vicki Preston, Executive Director, to help support Family Fun Day in the Desert.

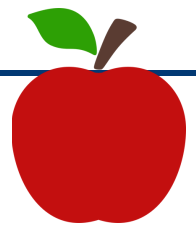


DESERT FOOTHILLS YMCA

Our Funds Committee provided funding for the Desert Foothills Family YMCA Safety Around Water program. Building confidence, safety, and strong swimmers for life for the kids in our community.

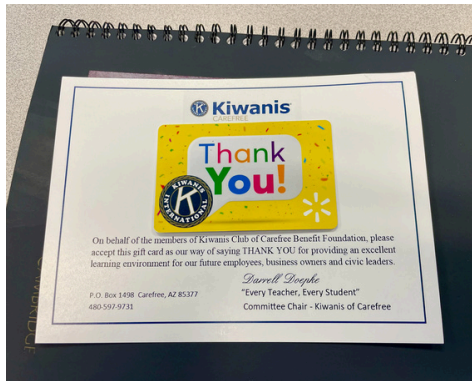
In Case you Missed

EVERY TEACHER/EVERY STUDENT



CAVE CREEK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monday, July 28, the Every Teacher/Every Student Committee spoke at the Cave Creek Unified School District's meeting and announced that each teacher in the district would receive a \$200 Walmart gift card from the Kiwanis Club of Carefree. It was an exciting event and we look forward to supporting our teachers with this gift.



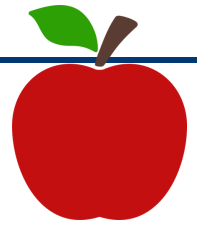
Thank you, Darrell Doepke, for spearheading this and also for creating this video!

[CLICK TO WATCH](#)



In Case you Missed

EVERY TEACHER/EVERY STUDENT



Thursday, July 31, the Every Teach/Every Student committee visited two more schools, issuing \$200 Walmart gift cards to each teacher.

CAREFREE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



There were even two Key Club students in attendance for this group picture!

ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL



“

I cannot thank you enough for this amazing gift to our teachers. They are all thrilled and grateful. Many blessings to all of you at Kiwanis!

”

*Dr. Sharon Pristash
Principal*

**256 GIFT CARDS TOTALING MORE THAN \$50,000 WERE
AWARDED BY KIWANIS OF CAREFREE.**

Many Thanks

A special thank you from a scholarship recipient.

Dear The Kiwanis Club of Carefree,

The heart
remembers
kind deeds
and thoughtfulness.

My heart
remembers
special people
like all of you.

I am writing to thank you for choosing me to be one of your 2025 Kiwanis Scholarship recipients. It was an honor to attend A Night of Excellence and listen to keynote speaker Ricky Watters. Mr. Watters presentation was meaningful to me because it showed me that no matter what level of success you achieve, there will always be new challenges that you need to persevere through. I know that ASU will challenge me in new ways, but I am grateful for the support of the Kiwanis and will work hard to succeed. I want to thank each Kiwanis club member and the Scholarship committee for your generosity, service, and commitment to kids.

Thank You So Much

Sincerely,

Aubrey Reiserer



A SPECIAL THANKS!

Member, Andy Frew, donated his 2008 Toyota Camry to the Kiwanis Marketplace. It is now available to buy!

The Marketplace is accepting Cars, Trucks, UTVs, and Golf Carts!

Many Thanks

THANK YOU FROM SAGUARO CAMP CEDARBROOK

We had an AWESOME week at camp this year in large part due to the generosity of Kiwanis Club of Carefree! Your support is not lost on us. Your substantial donation clearly enhanced each camper's experience this year.

I want to thank you on behalf of all the staff, counselors, and campers at Saguaro Camp Cedarbrook for your continued support. Your commitment to our cause is invaluable. We look forward to partnering with Kiwanis Club of Carefree next year!

David Schomaker



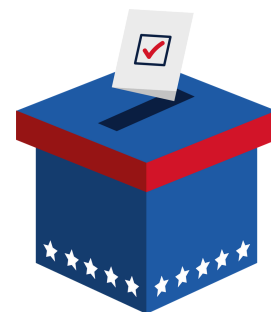
This grant to Saguaro Camp Cedarbrook, included 11 camp scholarships, T-shirts, and a variety of activities such as Paintball, waterslide, canoe rentals and indoor activity crafts.

CLICK TO WATCH

Save The Date!

SPECIAL ELECTION

AUGUST 13TH AT OUR MEETING



TRESURER NOMINEE

VOTING FOR 1

Alan Tannaz

Nominees still being accepted

DIRECTOR FOR THE FOUNDATION

VOTING FOR 1

Jeff Zorn • Linda Wright
Tom Pozarycki • Jim Niles

YEAR-END CELEBRATION

**SEPTEMBER 9TH AT 4:30-6:30 PM
AT THE HOLLAND CENTER**



You are Invited Volunteer Appreciation

11TH YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

LUAU

**Monday, August 25th
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
at the Marketplace**

You and one guest will enjoy:

Plenty of Food & Drink
Raffles & Games
Fun Entertainment



RSVP
by August 18

Pull out your Hawaiian shirt
and your grass skirt and
get ready for an evening
of food, fun, and friends!

[**CLICK TO RSVP**](#)

Member Spotlight



BRENT DOWNS

As busy as Brent Downs is as Executive Director for the Foothills Caring Corp, he still has made time to join and volunteer at Kiwanis.

His non-profit organization provides a wide range of 11 different services across 8 zip codes with a footprint of 256 square miles. Last year, they provided 28,000 “touch points” of service to over 1,000 individuals, including delivering over 20,000 meals! Their services range from Mobile Meals, Non-emergency Medical Transportation, and Recreational Van Outings. They call the people using their services “Neighbors”.

Brent Downs is very well prepared and well suited for this job, as he spent the last 20 years in the non-profit sector in the Valley, first with “Crossroads” and then with “St. Joseph the Worker” in downtown Phoenix and surrounding areas.

This is after he spent 15 years in a “for-profit” family business and graduated from Louisiana State University with a BS in business.

His goal is to develop and expand “Community Awareness” of the needs of our community and illustrate the range of services the Foothills Caring Corp provides to the most vulnerable members of our community, the homebound seniors... it is far more than “a closet” of mobility assistance equipment. They are also in the process of building close relationships with other organizations to provide greater service to their “neighbors” in the community.

He feels that his goals and objectives are addressed well by the Kiwanis of Carefree, and he is already contributing time, energy and years of experience to a number of Kiwanis committees; and he just joined us less than a year ago. It is hard to ignore his outgoing personality and quest for serving the community.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2nd - Julie Sallee
5th - Glenn Fahringer
7th - Holly Gulley McCrea
8th - Craig Mathiesen
15th - Ralph Spurgin
16th - Chuck Maranto
22nd - Bob Hesselgesser

23rd - Greg Gardner
24th - Vicki Burow
25th - Penny Nicholas
27th - John Dionne
27th - Lara Lewis
28th - Biff Miller
31st - Karen Mackiewich



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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