



KIWANIS CLUB OF CAREFREE NEWSLETTER

KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG SEPTEMBER 2025

A Message from President Cam Kuniej

As we enter the final month of our fiscal year, there's a lot of exciting momentum within our club. Our board retreat is scheduled and ready to prepare the incoming board for success, and our strategic plan is nearing completion. Once the board reviews it, we'll share it back with the membership and committees in early September.

We'll also be closing out the year with a special celebration at the Holland Center on September 9th from 4:30–6:30 p.m. During this event, we'll recognize our accomplishments, introduce the new officers and board members for both the club and the foundation, and set the tone for the year ahead. Light refreshments will be served.

Most importantly, thank you to every member for your participation and commitment this past year. Together, we've accomplished a great deal—through service projects, fundraising, and community connections—and it's because of your energy and contributions that our club continues to make an impact. Your efforts have not only strengthened our programs but also created meaningful experiences for those we serve and for each other.

Looking further ahead, planning has already begun for our annual Christmas for the Kids initiative, ensuring we carry our tradition of service forward into the holiday season.

Cam Kuniej



September MEETINGS Be There!

Sept 1 - Happy Labor Day!

Sept 3 - No Meeting

**Sept 9 - YEAR END
CELEBRATION**

**Sept 10 - Jeff Zorn -
Kiwanian**

**Sept 17 - Stephanie Siete,
Educational Consultant**

Sept 24 - Club Business

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

JAMES JENTGES

DEBRA SCHAEFER

ROBERT SALZWEDEL

BLUE STREET

BRITT EHRICK

ALEX MADSEN

In Case You Missed

CAREFREE CLUB SHINES AT SWD CONVENTION

Sandra and Linda attended DCON August 22nd to 24th with sessions on a variety of topics and an opportunity to meet with fellow Kiwanians from our district.



Governor Don Townsend
"pinning" Governor
Designate, Erica Stephens
for 2025/26 SWD Governor.

At the Southwest District Kiwanis Convention, our Carefree Club had the honor of presenting on the incredible success of our Marketplace Thrift Store in Cave Creek. With 115 Kiwanians in attendance, we shared how the dedication of our 151 club members makes it possible to raise significant funds that directly impact our community. The response was overwhelming — attendees were amazed at the size of our club and the difference we're able to make through the Marketplace. We are proud to represent the spirit of service in action!



SW District was packed with training sessions. Here's one of Sandra and Linda attending Youth Protection Services.

In Case you Missed



Aug 13
DEBBIE SULLIVAN
Meals of Hope



Aug 27
ALEX PEREZ
Kiwanis Marketplace

50/50
WINNERS

BRENT BOWLES
Aug 13
\$98 Winner

ALAN TANNAZ
Aug 27
\$90 Winner

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



Carefree Christian Academy
Key Club

KEY CLUB

Key Club members in our community are building leadership skills and giving back through service with Kiwanis. From volunteering at the Kiwanis Christmas and the Pancake breakfast, to helping at the Kiwanis Marketplace & Scully Learning Center Foundation, students have the chance to make a real difference while working side by side with local leaders.



Cactus Shadows
Key Club

EVERY TEACHER/EVERY STUDENT

On August 11th, the Every Teach/Every Student committee visited Our Lady of Joy Preschool, issuing \$200 Walmart gift cards to each teacher.

OUR LADY OF JOY PRESCHOOL



This rounds out the final schools and group of teachers to receive the gift cards within our area!

In Case You Missed

MARKETPLACE VOLUNTEER LUAU & 11 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Join the fun and most rewarding thing you will do, and volunteer at the Marketplace. Whether it's for one hour or several, there is a place for you! Stop by and fill out an application.



Just for fun

This August we celebrated 11 amazing years at the Marketplace! Take a look back at some fun snapshots from the garage sale and flea market days that started it all.



You Should Know

MISSION

Kiwanis empowers communities to improve the world by making lasting differences in the lives of children.



VISION

Kiwanis will 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.



POSITIONING

Kiwanis connects people around the world with opportunities to passionately pursue club volunteerism, service and fundraising that make a positive, lasting impact in the lives of children.

KEY MESSAGES



PURPOSE

Kiwanis focuses on serving children around the world so that future generations will thrive.



RELEVANCE

Kiwanis unifies generations with opportunities to make transformational differences that leave a legacy in communities around the world.

SERVICE DIVERSITY

Kiwanis values the enthusiasm of members to pursue creative ways to serve the needs of children in their communities.

MISSION CONNECTION

Kiwanis is a global community of clubs, members and partners dedicated to improving the lives of children.



Many Thanks

A special thank you from the kiddos in the Desert Foothills Theater's Summer Program! We are proud to help over 325 kids enjoy a fun and creative summer!



CLICK TO WATCH



Thank you so much for sponsoring our Keystone teens this past year! The conference was incredible, and the merchandise you generously provided has accompanied us to every community service project we've done.

Here are a few highlights to show your impact:

- Our high school members completed a cumulative 3,473 community service hours this year.
- Kiwanis was recognized at each of our service events, as we proudly shared that your kindness made our work possible.
- We served across five different cities, expanding our reach and community impact.

Jeffrey Warner

Teen Development Specialist



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER SCOTTSDALE**



Many Thanks

INSTITUTE FOR HEALING OF MEMORIES

I am sure that Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center has sent you an official acknowledgement of the generous gift by the Carefree Kiwanis Club for partial funding of the Healing of Memories Workshop for Women Veterans on November 21-23, 2025, but I want to send a personal thank you, your leaders, and members for this generous donation.

We have been conducting this workshop at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center since October 2013. Both the qualitative and quantitative evaluation results continue to be consistently positive with over 90% saying that the workshop was a good or excellent step in their healing journey. As you know many veterans have come back home suffering from the psychological and spiritual wounds of their military experiences. This is especially true of women veterans, many of whom suffer from the effects of military sexual trauma (MST).

This workshop is one of the few in the country that deals with the purging of buried memories of pain that have been controlling many veterans' lives. We know from the research that unless these wounds are healed, the person's family, especially the children, are affected negatively. In fact, the mental health and suicide rate for children of veterans with PTSD is much higher than the national average.

Because of your donation and that of other generous organizations and people, we are able to continue to offer this workshop free of charge to our women veterans.

With my sincere appreciation,

Mike Wold

US Navy Veteran

Regional Coordinator, Arizona



CLICK TO VISIT
HEALING-MEMORIES.ORG

Mark your Calendar

YEAR-END CELEBRATION

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

MIXER HOST



Cave Creek

CAREFREE CAVE CREEK CHAMBER MIXER

Come join the fun and the Marketplace
Chamber mixer

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH
AT THE MARKETPLACE
FROM 5:30 PM TO 7 PM

Items in the store will be 50% off that day
We'll have appetizers and drinks.



WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY
OCTOBER 22ND AND 23RD
5 PM - 9 PM

JOIN THE FUN!

Community Outreach Committee is
looking for volunteers to be at our Kiwanis
booth. Please contact Sandra!

Sandra.Carrier@KiwanisCarefree.org



Fun finds on Facebook

THE KIWANIAN WAS HONORED AS A KEY CLUB ALUM WITH EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP QUALITIES.



Jeffrey Eble, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Medina, Ohio, U.S., received the Marc H. Litwack Legacy of Leadership Award in July during the 2025 Key Club International Convention.

The Litwack Award recognizes a former Key Club member who exemplifies extraordinary leadership qualities and has made significant contributions to their profession and community.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

SCULLY LEARNING CENTER PARTNERS WITH SONORAN ARTS LEAGUE

Kiwanis Club of Carefree Aktion Club members and participants of Scully Learning Center Foundation team up with Sonoran Arts League to create greeting cards that will be for sale on their website soon!



In the News

DESERT HILLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC RECEIVES KIWANIS GRANT



The Desert Hills Community School of Music (DHCSM) recently received a grant from the Kiwanis Club of Carefree. The funds were used to buy equipment and supplies for the recording studio, ukulele and drum circle electives for the school's summer band camp. That took place from June 3 to June 7.

Classes will also continue in the fall, allowing students to enjoy the items purchased with the grant in the future.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

A Fun Event

This tasty fundraiser benefits the participants of Kiwanis Club of Carefree Aktion Club and Scully Learning Center Foundation.

CLICK IMAGE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS AND FIND OUT MORE!



FILL A SHELL FUND A HOME



Scully Learning Center
FOUNDATION

Raising funds for Preserving Families Home

\$50 per person

Saturday, September 13

TACO BAR • LIVE MUSIC • SILENT AUCTION

Lunch: 1 pm - 4 pm with Live Music by Ray Tigerman

Dinner: 5 pm - 8 pm with Pianoman Andy Anderson (sing-along)



TO FIND OUT MORE & PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS VISIT
SCULLYLEARNINGCENTER.COM

Stumblina's Cantina

6268 E Cave Creek Rd | Cave Creek



Member Spotlight



LISA SAVAGE BLACK

Growing up, Lisa Savage-Black saw firsthand the impact Kiwanis could have on young adults. Her brother was a Key Club member during high school, an experience that gave him a sense of direction and mentorship during a time of need. Her sister was awarded a Kiwanis Scholarship, enabling her to attend college.

Lisa and her husband have two daughters and four grandchildren.

When Lisa and her husband retired, she joined Kiwanis, a decision that has helped her transition to living in the foothills full-time. She immediately joined the Hospitality Committee and was elected to the Board of the Kiwanis Foundation.

As part of the Hospitality Committee, Lisa works to ensure the weekly member meetings run smoothly and helps raise money for the Club through her work on fundraising events like the Annual Pancake Breakfast. On the Foundation Board, she sees first-hand the substantial impact Kiwanis has on local non-profit organizations and children in the area. As part of her Board duties, she has approved thousands of dollars of grant funds that support children's programs, including those at the Valley of the Sun YMCA and the Desert Foothills Library.

During her career, Lisa served as a Master Sergeant in the Washington Air National Guard, both as a traditional guardsman and a full-time military technician. She deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and performed military training in Spain, Korea, England and Japan.

Lisa has seen firsthand how joining Kiwanis is a great first step in meeting new people, giving back to the community and learning of other non-profit organizations with volunteer opportunities. "Join Kiwanis. Then join a committee," Lisa stated. "Take the first step and put yourself out there."



Happy Birthday!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7th - Poppy Peterson
14th - Carolyn Kirkendall
16th - Gary Hayward
19th - Carolyn Birney



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



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

ADMINISTRATION@KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG



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