



Kiwanis[®] CAREFREE CLUB CONNECTION



KIWANIS CLUB OF CAREFREE NEWSLETTER
KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG

OCTOBER 2025



A Message from our new President Gordon Minns

Shortly after my wife of 53 years passed away, Cam, our Past President, invited me to attend our annual Pancake Breakfast. I was so taken with the friendliness and eagerness of members and young volunteers to help Kiwanis carry out our primary mission to help Kids that I joined that day.

I quickly made many new friends and joined several Committees, including Hospitality, Membership, and our Service Leadership Program (SLP) which works directly with young people in our local schools.

Becoming a member, and now President, has dramatically changed my life for the better. As Chair of SLP, I plan to increase our direct contact with young people not only as mentors, but also by helping them learn leadership and community involvement as volunteers. I'm happy to announce that SLP has several new members and is starting a new Builder's Club for kids in middle school.

I'm both honored and grateful for your choosing me as your new President. My door is always open, and my ears are always "on", so feel free to share your thoughts on how I'm doing and how our Club can get better than we already are. We need new members, especially younger folks, to help our efforts continue into the future.

Best..

Gordon Minns



October MEETINGS Be There!

Oct 1 - David Court -
Sonoran Arts League
Veterans

Oct 8 - Gordon Minns &
Cannon Dart

Oct 15 - Dave Karsten

Oct 22 - Ralph Spurgin

Oct 29 - Club Business

GORDON'S MANY HATS



A Message from Executive Director Sandra Carrier

Dear Carefree Kiwanians,

Happy October and welcome back Snowbirds!

I am excited to share some personal news with you. As of September 8th, I began serving as the Executive Director for the Southwest District of Kiwanis International. This part-time role allows me to support our District leadership to ensure our clubs across the district continue to grow and thrive.

Please know that I remain fully committed to my role as Executive Director of the Carefree Kiwanis Club. Our club and community will always be my home base, and I am grateful every day for the incredible impact we make together through our Marketplace, youth programs, scholarships, and community involvement.

This opportunity is not a step away from Carefree, but a way to bring back more knowledge, resources, and connections to strengthen our work locally. I am excited about the future and deeply thankful for the encouragement, trust, and support I continue to receive from this club.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." ~ Winston Churchill

With gratitude,

Sandra Carrier



**WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
OCTOBER 22ND & 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



Welcome 2025/26 Board Members & Committee Chairs

NEW CLUB AND FOUNDATION BOARDS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ARE IN PLACE WITH THE START OF OUR NEW FISCAL YEAR, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Gordon Minns - President
Brian Kunkel - President Elect
Larry Key - Treasurer/Foundation
Allan Tannaz - Treasurer/Club
Lisa Savage-Black - Secretary
Cam Kuniej - Immed. Past President

CLUB DIRECTORS

Ed Edling
Geno Orrico
Bob Moore
Paula Scully
David Court
Tom Pozarycki
Brent Bowles

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

Ed Edling
Geno Orrico
Barb Pearse
Bob Moore
Brent Downs
David Court
Brent Bowles
Mike Poppenwimer
Bill Hollingsworth
Jeffrey Zorn

**CLICK TO VISIT MEMBERDAY
FOR ALL INFORMATION**

Login to MemberDay and view
2025/26 Committees



In Case you Missed



Sept 10
JEFFREY ZORN
Navy Helicopter Pilot



Sept 17
STEPHANIE SIETE
Educational Consultant

50/50
WINNER

NO WINNERS

Pot is at \$119

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



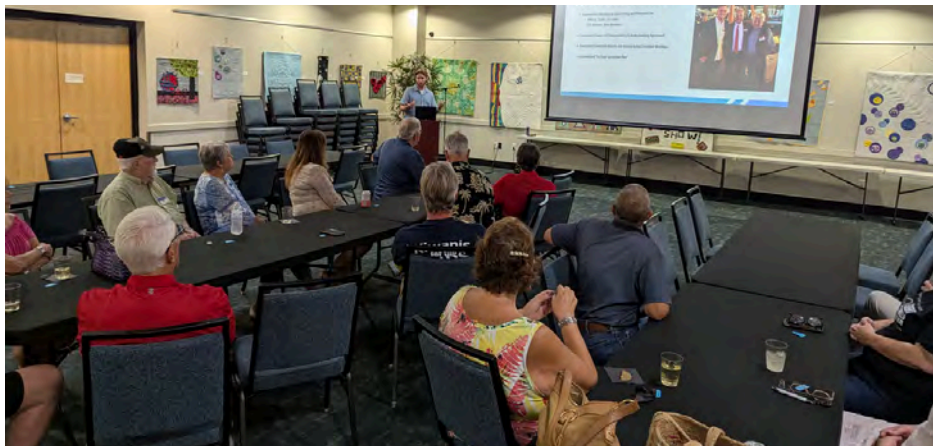
Ralph gifted our designated joker, Ted, a signed copy of his book.

Trivia fun with Poppy and Tammy for a bottle of Kiwanis wine!



YEAR END CELEBRATION

A year in review and introduction to new officers and Board members, club and foundation. The new fiscal year begins Oct 1.



In Case you Missed



FOOTHILLS FOOD BANK

Tom P, had the pleasure of dropping off a check to the Foothills Food Bank which will provide support for their Snack Pack and School Micro-Pantry program.

With the Kiwanis investment, the food bank was able to distribute nearly 7,200 weekend snack packs and more than 36,000 pounds of food through school micro-pantries, providing school-aged children with consistent, nutritious food for weekends and school breaks.

K-KIDS AT BLACK MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY

Sandra had a fun morning! She visited the Black Mountain Elementary School K-Kids. She talked about Kiwanis of Carefree and how there are Kiwanis Clubs all over the world doing great Service Projects to raise money to support Kids! They even talked about the Kiwanis Marketplace, they are all hoping to put together a field trip to the Marketplace and to come to a Harold's membership luncheon! How fun! Did you know that they pick up garbage around their campus on the 3rd Wednesday of the month - Great job, kids! Look at all of the wonderful "love" notes they colored for her!



K-KIDS AT HORSESHOE TRAILS

Gordon took a fun picture of the first K-Kids meeting at Horseshoe Trails Elementary School. It was the kick-off to what will be a great year!

In Case you Missed



DESERT FOOTHILLS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Sandra and Alex had a wonderful time speaking with the Desert Foothills Leadership Academy on Thursday. They shared the inspiring history of the Kiwanis Marketplace Thrift Store and highlighted the incredible impact the Kiwanis Club of Carefree makes—thanks to the support of those who shop, donate, and volunteer at the Marketplace. We hope the attendees walked away with new insights and are inspired to join us in making a difference!

JUBILATE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Funds Committee members Steve M. and Ed E. proudly presented a check to Laya Fields of Jubilate Conservatory of Music to help fund scholarships that will assist students with tuition costs this Fall semester. These students attend their “Littles on Fiddles” class.



DESERT FOOTHILLS CHORAL FOUNDATION

Funds Request Committee member Shelley H. had the pleasure of presenting a check to The Desert Foothills Choral Foundation. They are a non-profit organization based in Cave Creek that provides music scholarships and supports vocal music programs for students in our local community.



In Case you Missed

MARKETPLACE HOSTED THE CAREFREE CAVE CREEK CHAMBER MIXER

- It was a gathering of local business owners, nonprofit leaders and Kiwanis Club members.



THE HOLLAND CENTER

Sheryl B. had the pleasure of delivering a check to Jennifer at The Holland Center to help cover costs for the Foothills Caring Corps neighbors' luau on September 17.



CAVE CREEK FALCONS

The Cave Creek Falcons baseball team sent a special Thank You for funds to purchase equipment that will substantially help their athletes not only grow, but continue to learn in a safe space.



Many Thanks

PURSE-IMPRESSIONS

I wanted to take a moment to share this heartfelt letter of gratitude from Community Bridges for the Back to School Backpacks that were so generously funded through the Kiwanis grant.

Because of your support, we were able to impact the lives of children in sober living facilities and bring much-needed relief to their moms during this back-to-school season. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

We are so grateful for your grants and look forward to continuing our partnership.

Patricia Brusha
President



FILL A SHELL, FUND A HOME
Fundraiser at Stumblina's Cantina

Thank you, Desert Foothills Community and Scully Learning Center family and friends.

Fill A Shell, Fund A Home was a GREAT success! With 100 tickets sold and a little more than 30K raised, we took another giant step forward in making Preserving Families Home a reality.



Just for fun



JUST TESTING...

Kiwanis Club member and Kiwanis Marketplace Thrift Store volunteer Mark W. was recently caught having a little fun on the job! Mark proudly claims it's his duty to "test" all the electronics that come through the Marketplace — and we believe him. As a talented musician with the band Whiskey Lizard, Mark has entertained us at Marketplace volunteer parties at Harold's, so when this musical donation arrived, we knew he was the perfect person to give it a try.



RIDING IN TO THE MARKETPLACE

Kiwanis President Gordon Minns pictured in front of the Kiwanis Marketplace with sister and fellow Kiwanian, Shelley Hutchenson. Shelley's BMW motorcycle serves as a point of conversation on a busy Saturday morning at the Marketplace.



KIWANIS ICE CREAM

Brent Downs shared this picture he took in Charlotte Town, Prince Edwards Island in Canada while on vacation.



A Fun Event

A fun community event to raise money for the Kiwanis Marketplace and 7 of our local nonprofits. We hope you can attend!

CLICK IMAGE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS!



2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY FEST

OCT 29
5 PM - 8 PM

PRESENTED BY
DD DARRELL DOEPKE

AT HAROLD'S CORRAL
CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

WHERE NEIGHBORS, NONPROFITS, AND LOCAL BUSINESSES COME TOGETHER FOR ONE UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT!

\$25 PER PERSON
BACKYARD BBQ • GAMES • RAFFLES
LIVE MUSIC BY 

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THESE NONPROFITS

 FOOTHILLS FOOD BANK & RESOURCE CENTER	 THE HOLLAND CENTER <small>COMMUNITY, ARTS AND EDUCATION</small>	 Kiwanis MARKETPLACE <small>THRIFT STORE</small>	 CAVE CREEK MUSEUM
 PURSE-IMPRESSIONS	 Scully Learning Center FOUNDATION	 Desert Foothills LIBRARY <small>enriching your community</small>	 FOOTHILLS CaringCORPS

SPONSORED BY

 CAREFREE SPIRITS <small>Distillery</small>	 DESERT STATE ROOFING LLC.	 TECH4LIFE LLC <small>business home community personal</small>	 HAROLD'S <small>CAVE CREEK MUSEUM</small>
 Karsten's ACE Hardware	 Desert CAR CARE CENTER <small>1954-1984</small>	 PARKWAYBANK <small>Word & Community Build. Shared by.</small>	Printed by: The UPS Store® Carefree

SCAN OR VISIT
KIWANISMARKETPLACE.ORG
TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS

Member Spotlight



CHRIS CONTINO

Born and raised in Massachusetts, Chris Contino has a New England commitment to working hard toward success, in work, in family, and giving back to the community where he lives. Chris and his family have lived in Carefree for over three years and is an active youth sports coach volunteer in support of his two children, aged 8 and 6. He makes sure to set aside time from his work and community activity for his children.

Early in his life he made a significant contribution to his country, having won a ROTC scholarship to the College of William and Mary. He graduated in 2003 with not only his degree in History, but also a ROTC Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army. This is where he first developed his leadership skills, having been on active duty for 5 years, rising to the rank of Captain in the 7th US Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He directed combat assignments over 14 months in Mosul, Iraq, during the Surge campaign from 2006 to 2007, where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal. Chris is also a proud graduate of the US Army Airborne School, Air Assault School, and Rappel Master School.

He departed active service in 2008 and began his private sector career, joining Kraft Foods as a Maintenance Engineer and Operations Supervisor. He then shifted his professional life to international financial responsibilities in Singapore and then to the Executive Search sector in Hong Kong, where he ran their China operations from 2014 to 2016 and served as General Manager.

Along the way, he “recruited” his college sweetheart Emily, and they began their family, so their children were born in International settings.

Chris has been traveling to Arizona for many years and has family here, and his wife, Emily, graduated from ASU with an MBA, so it was natural for them to settle in Carefree. He joined Kiwanis and has already volunteered for significant contributions on the Marketplace and Membership Committees.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd Chris Contino
5th Wes Cooper
7th Shelley Hutcheson
7th Paula Scully
9th Tom Dicke
9th Ted Dimon
9th Renea Kindred
9th Jennifer Rosvall
19th Kelly Pope

22nd Wade Keller
22nd MariaElena Rizzo
23rd Cannon Dart
25th Justin Cooper
26th Scott Brown
30th Sheryl Brown
30th Darrell Doepke
30th Robert Swan



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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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