



# Kiwanis<sup>®</sup>

CAREFREE

## CLUB CONNECTION



**KIWANIS CLUB OF CAREFREE NEWSLETTER**  
**KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG**

**NOVEMBER 2025**

## A Month of Gratitude!

### FOOTHILLS FOOD BANK

Kiwanis has recently awarded a major grant to the Foothills Food Bank to address the urgent issue of childhood hunger by providing essential nutrition to students facing food insecurity when school meal programs are unavailable over the weekend. Every week during the academic year, the Foothills Food Bank distributes discrete, pre-packaged bags containing two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, and a variety of nutritious snacks to children identified by school staff as food-insecure. This program ensures that no child has to face a weekend wondering when they'll eat next.



### November MEETINGS

#### Be There!

**Nov 5 - Commissioner Kevin Thompson**

**Nov 12 - James Riedl**

**Nov 19 - Sheriff Jerry Sheridan**

**Nov 26 - NO MEETING**

*Happy Thanksgiving*

### CLUB AND FOUNDATION UPDATE

Due to unforeseen circumstances Gordon will not be our President this year and Brian Kunkle has stepped into the position. Also, Sandra has resigned her position as our Executive Director. We wish her well at the Southwest District.

# Welcome

### NEW MEMBERS

**Ronda Ebert**  
**Wilhelm (Willy) Nowotny**  
**James Hutchinson**

# In Case you Missed



**Oct 1**  
**TOBY PAYNE & STEVE KING**  
Founding Marketplace  
Members



**Oct 1**  
**DAVID COURT**  
Sonoran Arts League



**Oct 8**  
**CANON STEVEN DART & GORDON MINNS**  
Neurocoach System  
Brain Mapping



**Oct 15**  
**DAVE KARSTEN**  
Karsten's Ace Hardware



**Oct 23**  
**Beth Udisky & Ralph Spurgeon**  
Karsten's Ace Hardware



**Oct 29**  
**Alan Tannaz & Larry Key**  
Financial Report



**50/50  
WINNER**

**JANET BUSBEE**

**October 8th  
\$200**

**BIFF MILLER**

**October 29th  
\$152**

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



# In Case you Missed



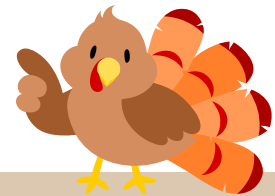
Gordon with Curtis Cripe PhD, the developer of the Neurocoach System used to detect brain abnormalities.



Some of our ladies enjoying lunch together.



All the birthday "kids" at the club attempting to answer Ted's deft historical questions.



## Exciting Happenings at the Marketplace

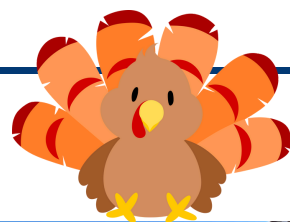
A new monument sign is being installed!  
Coming soon!





# In Case You Missed

## YOUTH FOR TROOPS AT MARKETPLACE



The funds committee provided financial support to Youth for Troops. They give back by providing holiday care packages for deployed troops.

They visited the Marketplace for Community Days.



## TRUNK OR TREAT IN CAREFREE



It was all smiles (and plenty of candy!) as our Kiwanis Club members joined the Town of Carefree and Desert Foothills YMCA Trunk or Treat! We had a blast handing out treats to all the little ghosts, goblins, and superheroes who stopped by. What a great way to celebrate community and kick off the Halloween spirit!





# In Case you Missed

## TASTE OF CAVE CREEK

Members enjoying the festivities. Gordon was even able to recruit a new member and two volunteers for the Marketplace!



## COMMUNITY FEST

Club member Darrell hosts a fundraiser for 8 of our local nonprofits, including: Kiwanis Marketplace, Foothills Food Bank, Foothills Caring Corps, Desert Foothills Library, Scully Learning Center, Cave Creek Museum, The Holland Center, and Purse- Impressions. It is a gathering of the community for a night of fun at Harold's Corral!





Mark your Calendar!

# Kiwanis Christmas

For the kids

FREE  
FAMILY EVENT!

**SATURDAY, DEC 6TH**  
**10 AM - 4 PM**  
**DOWNTOWN CAREFREE**

- Games & Prizes
- Exotic Animals
- Hay Rides
- Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus
- Hot Dogs, Cotton Candy & Popcorn
- Christmas Tree Giveaway



Find out more at [kiwaniscarefree.org](http://kiwaniscarefree.org)



RAFFLE DRAWING  
FOR 50+ BIKES!

\* Must be present to win

## Member's Holiday Lunch

Join us for our annual Member Holiday Lunch—a fun, festive tradition filled with great food, laughter, and holiday cheer shared among friends.

*Wednesday, December 17*

*11:30 am*

*Harold's Corral*

Lunch will be \$15 at the door, and we'll be enjoying prime rib and more delicious favorites on the menu! Bring a guest and join the fun—please RSVP by December 8 to [Administration@KiwanisCarefree.org](mailto:Administration@KiwanisCarefree.org). More information coming soon!



# Member Spotlight



**POPPY PETERSON**

Yes, “Poppy” is her real legal name—though her mother never said why. Maybe it’s because when you meet her, a smile just pops onto your face. Poppy has a gift for making people happy through her kindness, service, and upbeat personality.

As a Navy child, she moved often—Boston, Panama, Portales, and Albuquerque—learning early how to connect easily with others, a skill that led to great success in her sales career. When she and her husband settled in Rio Verde, AZ, they opened their five-bedroom home to foster children, eventually adopting five—four girls and one boy. Their love for kids extended to their church and community, caring for children in need from infancy on.

Their home was always full of life—kids, horses, dogs, cats, and more—teaching responsibility and compassion. Today, Poppy is a proud grandmother, and one of her grandsons volunteers at the Kiwanis Marketplace, helping donors unload their treasures.

After her children were grown, Poppy joined the Foothills Caring Corps, where she’s spent the past eight years as Medical Transportation and Loan Closet Manager, coordinating up to 75 rides a week for community members and helping distribute essential medical equipment. She also volunteers with Kiwanis, serving on the Education Committee and as Site Representative for Black Mountain Elementary School.

Poppy joined Kiwanis to continue her lifelong passion for helping children—and she encourages others to do the same. Whether you can give a few hours a month or more, Kiwanis has a place for you to make a difference. You’ll be glad you did.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3<sup>rd</sup> - Ed Edling  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Debra Lay  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Jeanne Smith  
4<sup>th</sup> - Debbie Keller  
6<sup>th</sup> - Jill McNally  
7<sup>th</sup> - Sterling Johnson  
8<sup>th</sup> - Jason Smith  
11<sup>th</sup> - Geno Orrico

16<sup>th</sup> - Marty Ellison  
19<sup>th</sup> - Michelle Bergman  
21<sup>st</sup> - Mary Adrian  
21<sup>st</sup> - Sandra Carrier  
21<sup>st</sup> - Bob Moore  
22<sup>nd</sup> - Cam Kuniej  
24<sup>th</sup> - Alan Tannaz

*We are Thankful for You!*



**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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