



**Kiwaniis**  
CAREFREE



## CLUB CONNECTION

**KIWANIS CLUB OF CAREFREE NEWSLETTER**

**KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG**

**MAY 2026**

### A Message from the Communications Committee

Our Pancake Breakfast was once again a wonderful success, bringing our community together for a memorable morning. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Barb Pearse and her incredible team for the time, energy, and dedication it took to make this event such a success. A total of 762 attendees gathered under beautiful blue skies for a picture-perfect Arizona morning, enjoying more than 2,000 pancakes, 1,600 sausages, and 1,000 cups of coffee. That is nearly 20 pounds of coffee, keeping both our guests and hardworking volunteers fueled throughout the morning. It was truly a community effort and a wonderful example of Kiwanis in action.

Be sure to take a moment to read through the thank you letters included in this newsletter. They are heartfelt, meaningful, and a powerful reminder of the impact we are making together. We also want to thank everyone who attended the New Member Mixer at Brent Bowles' home. It was a great evening filled with conversation, connection, and plenty of laughs as members and guests had the opportunity to mix, mingle, and build new relationships in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

Looking ahead, one of our most inspiring events of the year is just around the corner - **A Night of Excellence**. On May 4th, we will proudly award 45 graduating seniors with more than \$550,000 in scholarships, helping to shape the future of these remarkable young individuals. We hope you will join us for this special evening to celebrate their achievements and witness firsthand the difference Kiwanis makes in our community.

#### May MEETINGS

**Be There!**

**May 4 - Scholarship Awards Ceremony**

**May 6 - Erik Haney - Carefree National Bank**

**May 13 - Steve Woods - Tech 4 Life**

**May 20 - Tom Pozarycki - Our Gang**

**May 27 - JD Wander - Phoenix Children's Hospital**



# A Flippin' Success

The breakfast was made possible by an incredible team effort, including 45 Kiwanis volunteers and 72 student volunteers from local organizations such as Cactus Shadows Football, Cave Creek Jr. Falcons Baseball, Girl Scout Troops, Key Club, and more. Their energy and dedication played a huge role in the event's success.



Guests also enjoyed live music from a saxophone and flute quartet from the Desert Hills Community School of Music, while local leaders, including Carefree Mayor John Crane and Cave Creek Vice Mayor Kathryn Royer joined in the celebration.



# Thank you to our Sponsors

And Roy Colosimo, the Communications Committee donations guru, went the extra mile and was able to generate sponsorships for the Pancake Breakfast totaling over \$12,000.

**Well done, Roy!**



## \$500 SPONSORS

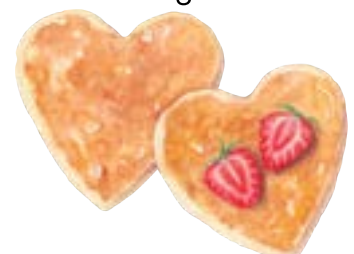
Colosimo Real Estate Coldwell Banker  
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 Kiki Rae  
 Office Depot - Gerardo Parra  
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 Hugh Reed



# New Member Mixer

Our recent New Member Mixer was a wonderful evening of connection and community! The perfect way to welcome new members and strengthen the bonds that make our club so special.



# In Case you Missed



**April 15**  
**HARRY MINNIER**  
**Our Gang**



**April 22**  
**JANET BUSBEE**  
**Scholarship Committee**

**50/50**  
**WINNER**

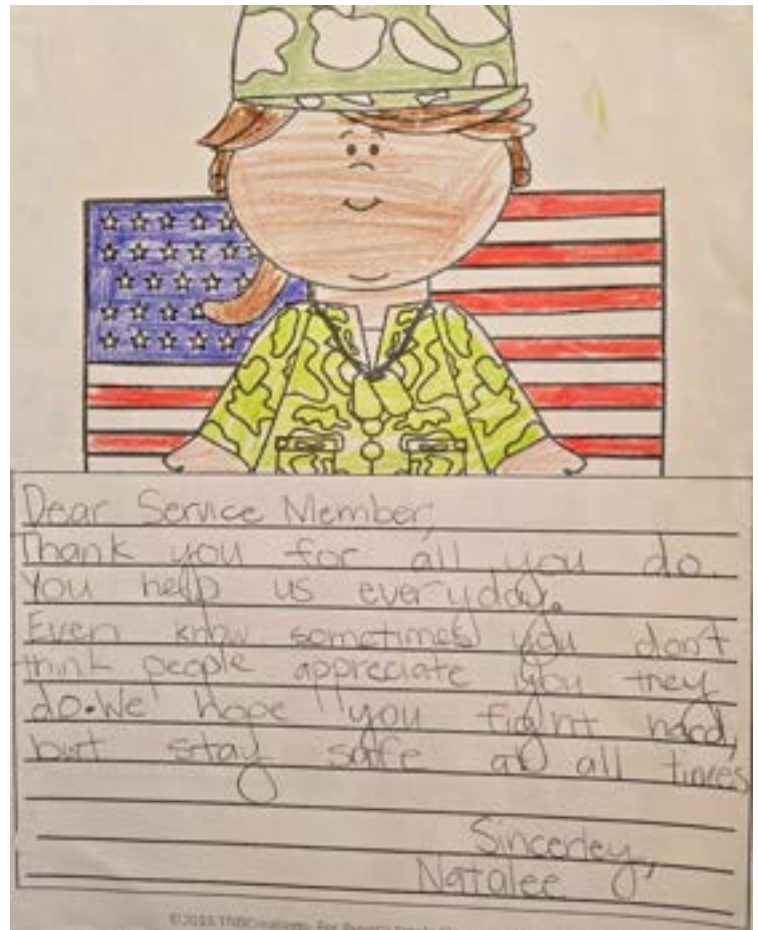
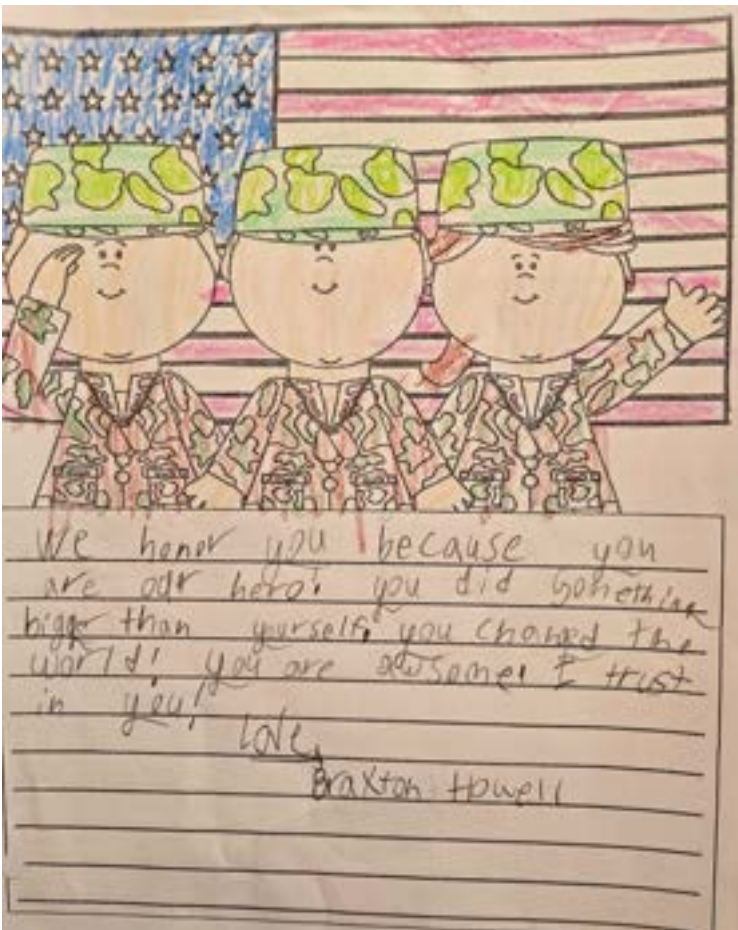
**APRIL WINNER!**

**DAVE GORDON**  
**\$238**

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

## K-KIDS

The K-Kids at Horseshoe Trails Elementary School wrote letters to Honor Flight Veterans. Future leaders writing to real-life heroes, now that is something special! Thank you, Gordon & Shelley, for sharing these with us!



# In Case you Missed

This month Kiwanis Carefree awarded grants to the following organizations:

- Desert Hills Community Little League (pitching machines for girls' softball)
- Save the Family Foundation (emergency assistance to families in need)
- Purse Impressions (backpacks loaded with school supplies to kids in need)
- Circle the City (medical supplies to address the homeless)
- Saguaro Camp Cedarbrook (camp supplies for kids summer camp)
- Care for the Caregivers (financial assistance to families suffering with disabled and challenged kids)
- Holland Center (kids' supplies)
- Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation (MCLEF) (classroom studies for kids honoring Honor Flight Veterans)



Desert Hills Community Little League  
Girls Softball



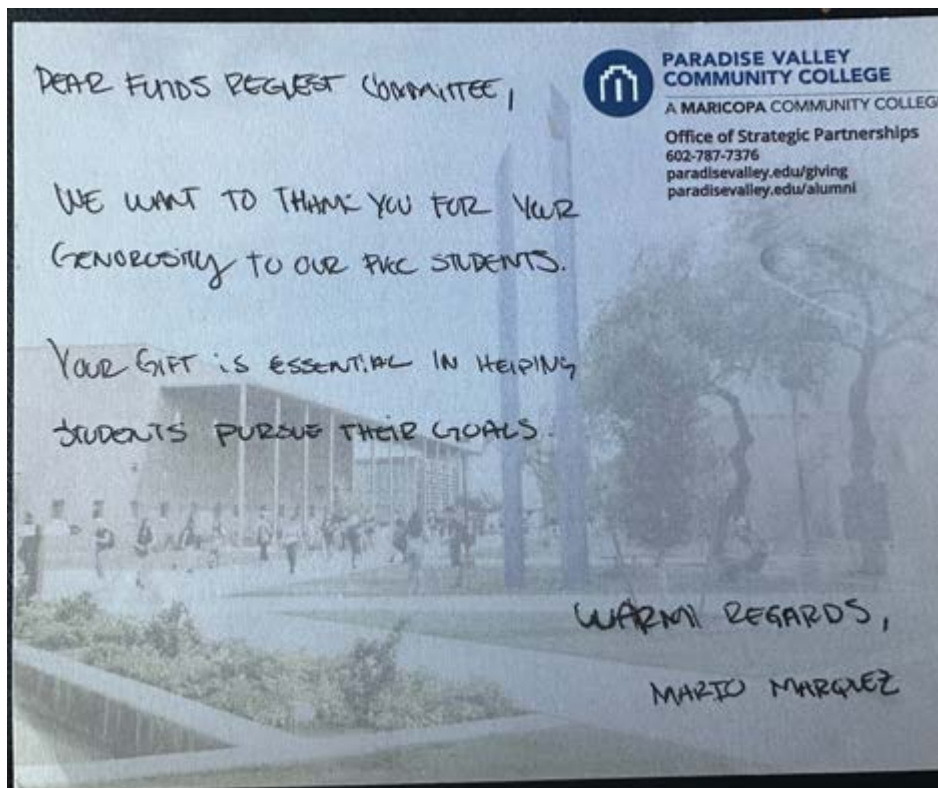
Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation  
(MCLEF)

## GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

Kiwanis is supporting two students transitioning out of foster care by covering their room and board for a full year, giving them the stability and security of a place to call home. We shared their story at the Pancake Breakfast.



# Many Thanks



# YOU ARE INVITED

The Kiwanis Club of Carefree  
invites you to attend our:

## ANNUAL NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE

Featuring our  
2026 Scholarship Awards Ceremony

This free event celebrates our 40th anniversary of providing local students with funding to pursue their education, now expanded to include both college and vocational training, an essential part of Arizona's growing economy.

Last year, we funded over \$500,000 in scholarships, and this year we plan on doing the same or more.

Please, put this event on your calendar and help us celebrate these student awardees' accomplishments. You are welcome to bring a guest. Light refreshments will be served.

**MONDAY, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 6 PM**  
**CACTUS SHADOWS FINE ARTS CENTER**  
34250 N. 60<sup>th</sup> Street | Scottsdale

*Brian Kunkel*  
President







# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

3rd - Heidi Schuler

4th - Karen Acker

4th - Kathleen Haugner

5th - James Riedl

7th - Andrew Frew

13th - Howard Dicke

13th - Jacquelyn Perry Brown

15th - Tina Leazier

17th - James Jentges

20th - Patty Jensen

22nd - Lisa Savage Black

23rd - Michael Moore

24th - Marla De La Cruz

24th - Alexis Sterling Popovich

24th - Jeffrey Zorn

25th - Leisa Grgual

25th - Amy Taylor

27th - Gary Newman

27th - Debra Schaefer

29th - Craig Raby

30th - Alec Madsen



**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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