



**Kiwanis®**  
CAREFREE

**CLUB CONNECTION**



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

**SEPTEMBER 2026**

## **A Message from the President** **Brian Kunkel**

With just 31 days left in my term as President, I've been reflecting on what has truly been a rebuilding year for our Club. I stepped into the role unexpectedly after our previous president had to step down, and I'm incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together. This year, we provided more than \$550,000 for CCUSD projects and over \$500,000 in scholarships, while continuing to support nonprofits throughout our community. We also added support for GCU foster youth, funded the Digital Citizens Academy, helped fund neonatal training at Paradise Valley Community College, supported professional development for CCUSD teachers, and provided every teacher in the district with a \$200 gift card.

I'm especially proud that we were able to honor the Don Filer family with a scholarship in their name, as well as recognize Bill and Paula Scully with a scholarship honoring their contributions to our Kiwanis Club. My final order of business will be recognizing some of the incredible people within our own organization at our End of Year Awards Banquet on September 30. On October 1, Brent Bowles will take over as President, and after preparing for this role for the past year, I know he'll hit the ground running. I'm excited to see what comes next. Great things are ahead for the Kiwanis Club of Carefree!

### **September MEETINGS**

**Be There!**

**September 2 - Sandy Carll,  
Desert Foothills Theater**

**September 9 - NO MEETING**

**September 16 - Jacob Bettin,  
Grand Canyon University**

**September 23 - JoAnna  
Shipe, Where Hope Lives**

**September 30 - End of the  
Year Banquet**



**Welcome New Members!**

**Anjali Tierney  
Alley Stewart  
JoAnn Stuckey  
Steve Jouflas**

**Scott Biller  
Mitch Love  
Gorial Yaro  
Eric Jackson**

**Linne Warner  
Patricia Hawley  
Douglas Hawley  
Katy Saxer**

**Cheryl Rebottaro  
Dr. Nicole Regan  
David Wheeler  
Sue Force**

# In Case you Missed



**August 12**  
**PETER GENTALA**  
Center for AZ Policy



**Aug 26**  
**CHUCK LEE**  
SkyRanch Airport



**50/50**  
**WINNERS**

**Aug 19**  
**Steve Jouflas**  
**\$314**

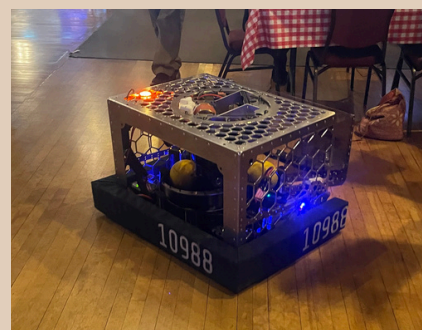
**Aug 26**  
**Anjali Tierney**  
**\$85**

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



**DESERT STORM ROBOTICS**  
**August 19**

The Kiwanis Club of Carefree is proud to support Desert Storm Robotics with a grant to help inspire the next generation of innovators! Based in New River, Desert Storm is a FIRST Robotics Competition team that brings students, parents, mentors, and volunteers together to provide hands-on STEM experiences. Through robotics, students build skills in science, technology, engineering, teamwork, and problem-solving while having plenty of fun along the way.







# In Case You Missed



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

What do you think of the Red Ribbons?



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY SAM!

We sang Happy Birthday to Sam during our luncheon on August 26



# In Case You Missed

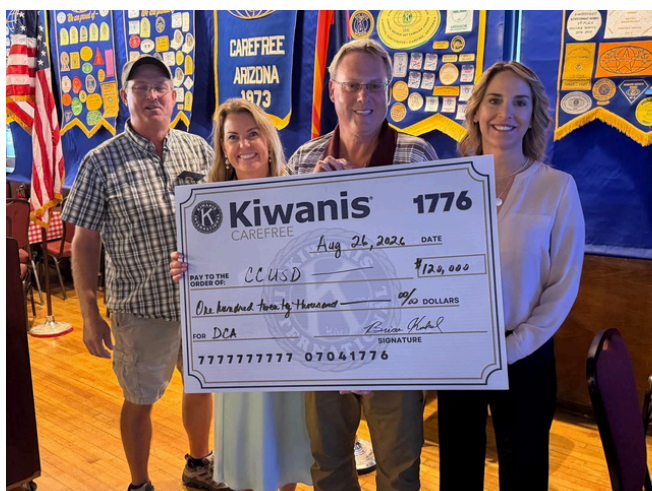


## CAREFREE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Every Teacher, Every Student Committee visited Carefree Christian Academy and presented each teacher with a \$200 Walmart gift card to help offset out-of-pocket classroom expenses.

## OUR LADY OF JOY PRESCHOOL

School and Education Committee member Ted Dimon recently had the pleasure of presenting a grant to *Our Lady of Joy Preschool*. We are honored to support their mission of providing a nurturing environment where children grow in faith, kindness, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning.



## CAVE CREEK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

We are proud to provide a grant to the Cave Creek Unified School District to help bring the Digital Citizen Academy to local students with fellow Kiwanian Dr. Lisa Strohmman, founder of the program.



# Southwest District Convention

ALBUQUERQUE - AUGUST 7 • 8 • 9



Kiwanis Club of Carefree members Brent Bowles (Incoming President) and Bob Moore recently represented our club at the Southwest District Convention, where several of our programs and projects were submitted for recognition.

We're proud to share that the Kiwanis Club of Carefree received awards for Membership Growth, our Scholarship Awards Program, and Geno's short film sharing the value Kiwanis has brought to his life!

Our club also submitted John Skarda's program supporting foster children at GCU, a membership recruitment piece, and memorial tributes honoring Pete Carpenter and Bill Hollingsworth.

These awards are a wonderful recognition of something our members see every day ... the time, heart, and commitment our volunteers put into serving kids and strengthening our community. Congratulations to everyone who helped make these programs possible, and thank you to Brent and Bob for representing us!





# A Celebration!

## KIWANIS MARKETPLACE HOEDOWN!

12<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

Kiwanis Club members, Marketplace staff, and volunteers came together to celebrate the Kiwanis Marketplace's 12th Anniversary with a good old-fashioned Hoedown! It was a wonderful evening filled with great food, fun raffles, plenty of laughs, and most importantly, the friendships that make our Kiwanis family so special.



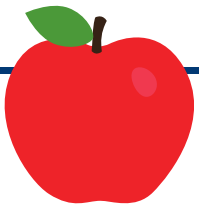
### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO GENO!

Geno received a special volunteer recognition for all the time and hard work he gives to the Marketplace. We also enjoyed the special video he created, beautifully sharing the story of Kiwanis and the impact it continues to make in the lives of local kids.

Click to Watch







# In Case You Missed

## EVERY TEACHER, EVERY STUDENT COMMITTEE

Through our Every Teacher, Every Student Committee, chaired by Darrell Doepke, we presented every teacher with a \$200 Walmart gift card to help offset the out-of-pocket classroom expenses so many educators generously cover each year.





# CAREFREE KIWANIS FCAP

## Student Success Stories

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 2 • SEPTEMBER 2026



SERVING THE CHILDREN  
OF THE WORLD®

KIWANIS CLUB OF CAREFREE



### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

#### ✦ Celebrating Partnership and Promise! ✦

##### FCAP / GCU FOSTERING FUTURES STUDENTS

Carefree Kiwanis is proud to partner with Grand Canyon University's Fostering Futures program to support students as they pursue their education and build a brighter future.



#### A MAJOR STEP FORWARD!

Pictured above, GCU foster students and GCU staff accept the first payment from Carefree Kiwanis for the first semester room and board for three new FCAP students.

*Thank you to our members and supporters who make these life-changing opportunities possible!*

### ABOUT FCAP

FCAP (Foster Children Assistance Program) is a Kiwanis Club of Carefree initiative that partners with Grand Canyon University's Fostering Futures program.

FCAP and GCU provide **room and board for as many students as their funds allow**. These students have experienced foster care and are working hard to build a better future through their education.



Room and board is provided every day of the year including times when school is closed for breaks.



### YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES

The average annual cost of room and board for one GCU student is approximately **\$12,825**.

*Together, FCAP and GCU provide room and board to as many students as their funds allow.*

### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Your donation helps provide stability, encouragement and life-changing opportunities for students.

#### TO MAKE A DONATION, PLEASE CONTACT:



📞 **John Skarda**  
(402) 297-6761  
✉ [azjohn1934@gmail.com](mailto:azjohn1934@gmail.com)



KIWANIS CLUB OF CAREFREE  
SERVING THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD®

Changing the world one child and  
one community at a time.





# Many Thanks

**DESERT  
FOOTHILLS  
THEATER**



**Kiwanis®**  
CLUB OF CAREFREE

**THANK YOU**





THE KIWANIS MARKETPLACE PRESENTS

THE  
**DUSTY**  
*Diamond*  
**GALA**

*In gratitude for our Kiwanians Employees,  
Volunteers and Club Members*

OCTOBER 24 • 5 PM - 8 PM

UNDER THE STARS

SANDERSON LINCOLN PAVILION

101 EASY STREET | CAREFREE

*An Evening of Celebration with Glamour & Desert Magic*

BEER • WINE • LITE APPETIZERS

*• Cocktail Attire •*

DRESSES & JACKETS REQUIRED

RSVP FOR YOU AND A GUEST AT

KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG

*Kiwanis*  
MARKETPLACE  
THRIFT STORE

 **Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF CAREFREE

[CLICK TO RSVP](#)



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7<sup>th</sup> - Poppy Peterson

19<sup>th</sup> - Carolyn Birney

14<sup>th</sup> - Carolyn Kirkendall

21<sup>st</sup> - Mitch Love

16<sup>th</sup> - Gary Hayward

WISH YOU A HAPPY  
LABOR DAY

SEND YOUR PICTURES TO [COMMUNICATIONS@KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG](mailto: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](mailto:ADMINISTRATION@KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG)



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