

# Kiwanis Club members think kids 'terrific,' want to help them

*Editor's note: The following is the second in a series of five articles examining the work of local clubs and how their activities help others outside of the Sun Cities.*

By PEG KEITH.  
Sun Cities Independent

Put 10 local Kiwanis Club members in a room together -- what will come of it?

In all likelihood, there will be some program or project of one kind or another, designed to benefit young people.

Want to know what Kiwanians think of area young people?

"They're pretty terrific," says Dewane Lamka, the district's lieutenant governor, who is a member of the Kachina Club of Sun City.

Kachina Kiwanis Club President Bob Schendel, says two of the club's major projects have to do with the Dysart and Surprise school districts.

The members have programs for mathematics and reading at Dysart Elementary



*Sun Citians Reach Out Through Youth Projects*

School and have put \$700 into a reading program at Surprise.

"It has a phonics approach," says Mr. Schendel.

Another project is making slates, says the club president. He reminisces. "We've gone full circle ... remember the old slates we had, when we were kids?"

The members also have initiated a recognition program for outstanding kids in high school classes at Dysart. Whether it's in dramatics, math, or whatever area, the student is given a plaque for his or her work.

In addition, there's a larger plaque in each homeroom,

and the names of outstanding students are added to it, to enhance the achievement, says Mr. Schendel. The homeroom plaques are set up on a 10-year program.

The Sun City/Youngtown Kiwanians and the Kachina group sponsor a junior Kiwanis organization, the Key Club, at Dysart. One of the Kachina members, Susan Poland, teaches at the high school and serves as sponsor of the organization.

There are about 45 members in the Kachina club. The

See *FACE*, page 16



**RAISING FUNDS FOR YOUTH PROJECTS.** Each year, local Kiwanis Clubs conduct a number of different projects designed to raise funds for area youth. Earlier this year, Ray Peterson, of the Sun City West Kiwanis Club, presented a check for \$500 to the Dysart High School National Honor Society. Jan Amator accepts the donation for the high school.



group has two main money-making projects: ticket sales from the six Kiwanis Travelogue programs presented at Sundial Recreation Center and the major spring rummage sale.

"It's a lot of hard work, but that's part of the fun," the president says.

The Sun City Youngtown members work with a junior high group, the Builders.

Particularly during this time of year, Kiwanis clubs have been in active with college assistance and scholarships for students.

Throughout the year, individual club members work at tutoring and help with a program of English for migrant farm workers, according to the organization's district lieutenant governor.

Area Kiwanis clubs have supported a variety of programs in Avondale and Peoria and developed programs for the handicapped at Camp Easter Seal, says Mr. Lamka.

The campground project receives support from Kiwanians from Arizona, including

towns along the Colorado River, as well as members from New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas. The camp is located on a huge campground near Gallup, N.M.

Brayton Willis, president of the Sun City/Sun Sky Kiwanis Club, says Kiwanis clubs regularly have four or five standing committees, which serve area youth programs.

Club members from his organization monitor (and fill) clothing bins in the nurses' stations in the Dysart School System. The club stocks the bins with shoes, socks and underwear.

"We put nearly \$1,000 a year into this, and we sponsor several other programs as well," Mr. Willis says.

One year, the club sponsored a girls softball team which was competing in a tournament in Flagstaff.

The Kiwanis club sponsors Boy Scout Troop No. 98, in Surprise, and contributes to summer school activities at the community center.

"We pay tuition for two students at South West Indian

School," says Mr. Willis. "This sponsorship continues at all times."

Another project for the Sun Sky members involves contributions to the Mingus Mountain girls school, located

"It's a lot of hard work, but that's part of the fun."

Bob Schendel  
Kachina Kiwanis Club

in the Camp Verde area.

He continues, "We have taken a busload of kids to a pre-season baseball game, and have sponsored (and provided T-shirts for) a young T-ball team. Still another project is sending two children each year to the Salvation Army summer camp."

In Sun City West, the Ocotillo Kiwanis Club has assisted the Dysart School

program for the hearing impaired. Betty Saunders, district coordinator of the hearing handicapped program in that school district, recently accepted a \$1,025 contribution from the Kiwanis Club members, which will go toward the purchase an auditory training device.

This is the fourth auditory unit the club has provided, since it adopted the program in 1986. (Mrs. Louella Mehne, club pianist, also donated one, last year.)

Bob Bennett, Ocotillo's publicity chairman, explains that by utilizing radio frequencies, the auditory training unit consists of separate pieces of equipment: a transmitter worn by the teacher (much like a necklace) and the hearing device worn by the student.

Twelve units are currently in use only in the district's elementary schools. The director says that at least 15 more are needed, to adequately equip other students.

The pancake breakfasts sponsored twice each year in

Sun City West are a major fund-raising event. Mr. Bennett praises the generous support of the community, in aiding the club to generate needed funds which put the "active" in special activities.

Recognized as the "Singing, Friendly Club," Sun City West Ocotillo members have helped with recreational care for residents of the Americare-Sun West Nursing and Rehabilitation Center; have rung bells for the Salvation Army, helped to beautify the community, and made traffic safety surveys for Maricopa County.

The members also spend countless hours in support of churches, local hospitals, the Posse, the Prides, the library, PORA, Interfaith Services and are active in many other area organizations, Mr. Bennett says.

The Agua Fria Club, the Royal Oak Club and two Kiwanis groups in Peoria also support tutoring, farm-worker programs, camp and college scholarships in addition to their other service projects.



# Group opens book on reading

## Migrant youths benefit from Kiwanis charity

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

EL MIRAGE — Four-year-old Gladys Levario clung tightly to her new book as a Kiwanis volunteer wrote the child's name on the cover.

"I like this book because it's pretty," Gladys said in Spanish about her selection, "Caperucita Roja" — "Little Red Riding Hood." "The wolf is going to eat her just like he ate her grandmother," Gladys said.

Nearly 80 migrant children ages 3 to 5 got to choose a book of their own to take home Wednesday as a part of a Kiwanis-supported Reading Is Fundamental program at El Mirage School.

Sun Citian Leo Sasseville, coordinator of the effort, said 13 Kiwanis clubs in the Northwest Valley have donated \$4,250 to purchase books for 611 migrant students in areas such as El Mirage, Tolleson, Peoria and Goodyear.

Sasseville, former Kiwanis lieutenant governor, said he contacted the various schools and got a list of books the children would like.

"Seeing how happy the kids are to get the books and knowing how they will help is what this is all about," Sasseville said. "They melt our hearts."

Kiwanis members from Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West and Youngtown attended the book giveaway, which was highlighted by a special appearance by Anne Richardson, chairman of the RIF national board of directors in Washington, D.C.

RIF, a private, non-profit program, is celebrating its 26th year of encouraging children to read.

Richardson said the partnership that RIF has formed with Kiwanis clubs throughout the nation has been indispensable to the program.

"I'm impressed with the quality of the program here and the great many of you who have volunteered with the children. If you can catch the children right in the beginning and get them started wanting to read you have a good chance of seeing that they grow up as fully literate citizens who can contribute to the country and economy," Richardson said. "Having them take books home also makes the parents more involved so they feel that they are an important part of their children's education."

There are 4,000 RIF programs throughout the nation that have given 110 million books to children since January 1991.

In Arizona there are 86 RIF programs with 3,500 volunteers providing 33,400 children with 112,000 books this year.

"We have several very innovative RIF programs that reach beyond the reading and books," Richardson said. "Many Kiwanians and others help give children shots, make them tables and chairs."

After Richardson spoke to the group of about 35 Kiwanians, educators and others, the children marched into the room singing songs in Spanish and in English.

For their finale, the children sang, "RIF books are fun to read ... read one to me."

And so the Kiwanians did.

After the children went up to a table covered with books and made their selections, they brought it to a Kiwanis volunteer who in turn wrote the child's name on the book and read to them.

"These are very special children for us because they are children who have many needs and much potential," said Jane Hunt, director of Migrant Children Education Programs for the Department of Education. "The availability of books in the homes of our migrant students is not there because they have to move around so much and have

limited resources."

The department estimates that there were 21,000 migrant children in the state in 1991, 90 percent of whom are of Hispanic origin.

Gerry Smith, of the Sun City

West Kiwanis Club, helped coordinate the first Kiwanis-RIF program last year.

"What we invest in the children of today is what will benefit them in the future," Smith said.

OVER





Jacque Pappas/Daily News-Sun

Three El Mirage School children hold banners while they sing songs during a book distribution program Wednesday sponsored by Reading Is Fundamental and local Kiwanis clubs. Kiwanis clubs in the Northwest Valley donated money to buy books for 611 migrant children.



Jacque Pappas/Daily News-Sun

Bob Orser of the Royal Oaks Kiwanis Club reads a book that migrant student Grisela Gaspar picked out Wednesday. Kiwanis members from Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West and Youngtown read to the students during the giveaway program.



# Kiwanis clubs unite to form one chapter

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Staff writer

When membership in the Sun-Sky Kiwanis Club dwindled to 14, members could have thrown in the towel.

And when the oldest Kiwanis club in the Sun Cities — the Sun City-Youngtown Club — lacked the energy and enthusiasm to get things done, members could have surrendered their 34-year-old charter.

Instead of giving up, the two clubs found each other, agreed to a merger and are in the process of building a more vibrant club to continue the Kiwanis tradition of community service.

Kathryn Stroy, a Sun City accountant who will become president next month of what will be called the Kiwanis Club of Sun City, Arizona, said she believes the combined club will be able to fulfill its philanthropic aims and recruit and retain new members.

"I think this is going to cause people to be re-enthusiastic and to get active again," she said.

"I've seen a lot of good cooperation from everyone, so I know it's going to work."

The merger has gained wide acceptance among members of both clubs, Stroy said.

"I'm real excited about the fact that the bulk of the people are staying. Only a couple are leaving, but they had other reasons to start with."

The new club will retain the Sun-Sky club's meeting schedule — lunch on Thursdays at Nancy's Country Cupboard restaurant. The Youngtown club was meeting at Nancy's at lunchtime on Mondays.

Stroy and other longtime members of the Sun-Sky and Sun City-Youngtown clubs said it has become increasingly difficult to replace Kiwanians who die or resign because of poor health. New-member recruitment is a problem that's universal to all service clubs, they said.

"Something is not attracting people anymore. I'm not sure what people expect. We expect them to work and participate in club projects," said veteran Kiwanian Al Lee.

Merging the two Kiwanis club has lightened the workload for the few members of both clubs who were doing most of the work, Lee said.

"With the merger taking place, I have found there's a lot of new energy in the club," he said.

Schedule conflicts, the cost of membership and apathy are the primary reasons given when guests decline membership invitations, club members said.

"People aren't getting involved in service clubs anymore. When people come to Sun City, they've been involved in their hometowns, and here, they want to back out so to speak, join a hobby club and do something different," Stroy said.

Younger people and women are



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Kathryn Stroy will take over as president of the Kiwanis Club of Sun City, Arizona, next month. Robert Terry is the outgoing president of the Sun City-Youngtown club.

especially hard to recruit, Stroy said, often because they're involved in other activities or aren't interested in "doing behind-the-scenes community work."

Stroy said she joined Kiwanis in 1992 at the invitation of a friend. "A lot of people don't realize the needs the community has until they get out there and get involved in it," she said.

"We understand that everyone's busy, but at some point you have to give some time of yourself."

Veteran Kiwanian Harry Hess said it will take strong leadership to keep the new club going. He said club officers must set an example early by recruiting new members, participating in club activities and motivating others to do the same.

Despite the difficulty Kiwanis and

other service clubs are having retaining new members, Hess said he believes such organizations are here to stay.

Volunteering for children's immunization clinics and the Salvation Army's holiday kettle drive, advising high school and junior high Kiwanis Club affiliates and collecting money for a nationwide campaign to prevent iodine deficiency disorders are among the community service projects on tap for the new club in the coming year.

In addition to Lee and Hess, who will serve as secretary and treasurer, respectively, the following people will help Stroy rebuild and rejuvenate the new club: President-elect Joan Worsham; vice president, Lorin Senn; and assistant secretary-treasurer Thomas Williams.

Kathryn Stroy



SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT AUGUST 8-14, 2001

# KIWANIANS AID STUDENTS

## Club sponsors literacy assessment program

By **MIKE RUSSO**  
Independent Newspapers

A group of Peoria students may soon be reading better thanks to an assist from the Sun City Kachina Kiwanis Club.

A pilot literacy assessment program will be unveiled at Peoria's Country Meadows School with the start of the new school year.

Launching the program at the school is the idea of Kiwanian Wanda Parks, who has twin grandchildren attending the school at 8409 N. 111th Ave.

"They are a new school and they are in need of assistance," Mrs. Parks said.

The first-year literacy program will be administered to students in grades kindergarten through second. It will prepare the students to take the state-mandated AIMS test in the third grade. It is deemed espe-

cially beneficial for bilingual students.

"The program will track each student's development for the three-year period and allow teachers and parents to gain specific teaching insights into literacy problems before they become habit-forming," Mrs. Parks explained.

"The program prepares the students to read on their own after volunteers from our club work with them," she continued.

The Kachina Kiwanis Club will furnish starter literacy assessment materials to all participating students. The materials are provided through a donation from Ken Meade Realty.

Safeway is offering incentives for students to achieve in the form of reading awards — a large cookie — which is presented once a specific level of reading proficiency is attained.

The program not only benefits the youngsters, through improved reading skills and higher test scores, but also is expected to provide a boost for property values of homes in the neighborhood.

"Principal Rick Rodriguez wants to elevate the school to an A-plus school," Mrs. Parks said. "When schools are graded A-plus, researchers have found that the grades had a substantial impact on property values, commanding an average premium of 7 percent above lesser performing schools."

While this is a new program, Kiwanis has long been committed to helping youngsters and was associated with the Reading is Fundamental program for many years. It was that commitment to youngsters that led Mrs. Parks to join the organization.

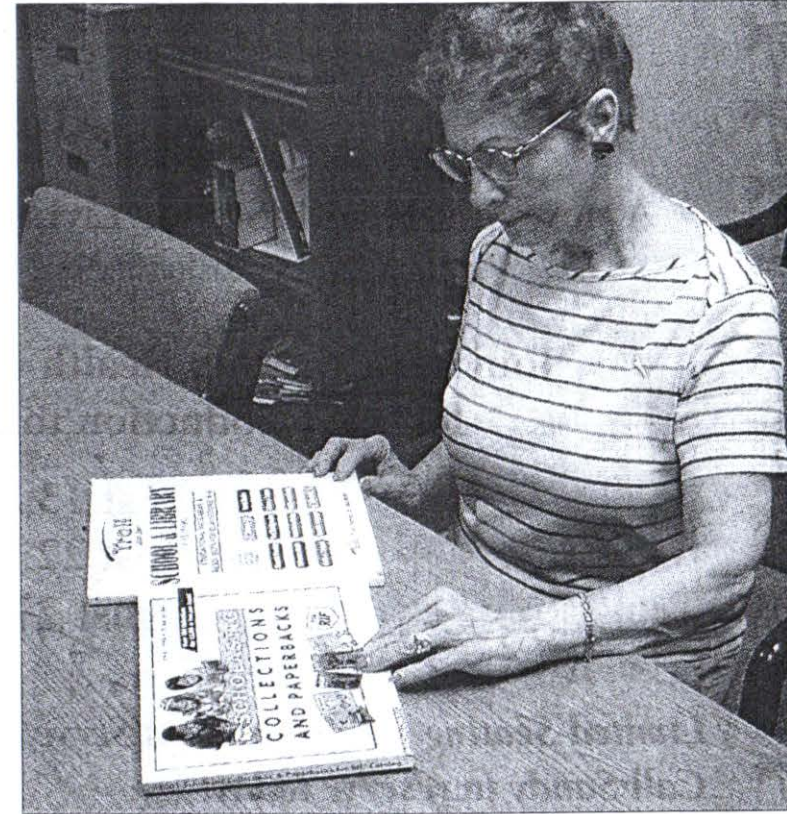


Photo by MIKE RUSSO/Independent Newspapers  
Sun City resident Wanda Parks, a member of the Kachina Kiwanis Club, peruses the materials to be used in a literacy assessment program to be introduced at Country Meadows School. The program is being sponsored by the Kiwanis Club.



# Volunteering times 2

## ROBERTS RULES: Couple share ideal to help others

JEANNE WINOGRAD  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

9/17/01

Working together, Ann and Dave Roberts of Merrill Lynch in Sun City provide steady guidance to the organizations where they volunteer — and stabilizing advice to their clients in uncertain times.

He is active in Lions Clubs and Salvation Army. She is a cornerstone of Kiwanis.

### Working for you

Together, the couple, who first met in high school in Phoenix, have aided charitable fund-raising efforts to the tune of millions. They also contribute significant time, averaging many hours in addition to working full schedules.

"I feel an obligation to do volunteer work," said Ann Roberts, who is assistant vice president and an investment associate at Merrill Lynch. "You can't do it by writing a check. You have to volunteer."

Dave Roberts, who is a Merrill Lynch vice president and senior financial adviser, said that many people tend to take on too much when volunteering.

"It's better to do smaller things and work with others in a team," he said.

While Merrill Lynch encourages its employees to contribute their talents to the communities in which

they live, Dave and Ann Roberts hardly take on small tasks.

Last year, Ann Roberts was a Kiwanis district governor for District 8, which includes Sun City and surrounding communities. She also has been active in Kiwanis' Children's Miracle Network, raising awareness for the iodine deficiency program. She joined Kiwanis in 1989.

Dave Roberts is a Salvation Army board member, working to expand Salvation Army's presence in the Northwest Valley. He also is running for International director of Lions Clubs in November and is president of the Lions Vision Center board in Youngtown. The center provides low-cost or no-cost eye care for individuals referred for help.

"Lions and other organizations are collecting blood and volunteering," he said, wearing a cheery 'Love makes the world go round' tie created by Amanda, age 15, for Save the Children. "If we could get new people in the Sun Cities to contribute even a small part of their time, it would help enormously."

That shift should be welcome. In recent years, voluntarism has been waning, but last week's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., have shown how Americans respond in a crisis.

"When you have something this catastrophic, you see patriotism and voluntarism you haven't seen in years," Ann Roberts said. "When you receive so much, you have to give something back."

To volunteer or contribute, Dave and Ann Roberts suggest contacting any of the three organizations they



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dave and Ann Roberts work together at Merrill Lynch in Sun City. But they also spend many hours a week volunteering for local organizations.

support:

- Kiwanis International ([www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org)) encourages contributions to the Kiwanis International Foundation "911 Victims Children's Fund," 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Call Ann Roberts about attending an upcoming meeting: 876-2724.

- Lions Clubs International ([www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)). Dave Robert's group meets at noon each Wednesday in JB's, 10801 N.W. Grand Ave. To send contributions for the emergency relief fund, write to Lions

Clubs International Foundation, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL 60523. Locally, call 602-267-7573 to find out about volunteering.

- Salvation Army ([www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org)). Write to 180 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802, or call 1-562-436-7000.

"Working for you" features professionals in the community who contribute their time to service work. To nominate a candidate, write Jeanne Winograd at [jwinograd@aztrib.com](mailto:jwinograd@aztrib.com) or call her at 876-2532.



April 16, 2003

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

# Two Sun City Kiwanis clubs merge

By **Mike Russo**

Independent Newspapers

A decline in voluntarism, which has occurred worldwide for various reasons, has led to the merger of two Sun City Kiwanis clubs.

Reduced membership in the Sun City Kiwanis Club led club officers to approach the Kachina Kiwanis Club recently in search of a merger.

Membership in the Sun City Kiwanis Club, the community's oldest Kiwanis Club, had dwindled to 12.

"When you get down to 10 or 12 members it is difficult to do any projects," commented Charlie Barnes, president of the Kachina Kiwanis Club, the moniker now used by the combined clubs.

Mr. Barnes characterized declining participation in local Kiwanis clubs as "a sign of the times."

"We had experienced a gradual decline of membership," explained Bob Norris, the last president of the Sun City Kiwanis Club.

"Our membership was aging, and some of them moved back to be closer to family."

The Kachina Kiwanis Club was chartered in 1979. It was predated by nearly 20 years by the Sun City Kiwanis Club.

"We were the original Kiwanis Club in Sun City," recalled Mr. Norris, who joined the club in 1968. "It was started in Youngtown around 1960 and was originally called the Kiwanis Club of Youngtown-Sun City."

At its zenith, the club had about 157 members, according to Mr. Norris.

The merger was completed about seven weeks ago, Mr. Barnes said.

Merging of two Kiwanis clubs is not unprecedented, but it is unusual, according to Harry Shapiro, former Division 8, Southwest District, lieutenant governor. The Southwest District encompasses Arizona, New Mexico and the El Paso area of Texas.

Mr. Norris recalled the

merger of the Sun City Kiwanis-Sun Sky Club with the Sun City Kiwanis Club about 10 years.

Sun City has one other Kiwanis Club — the Agua Fria Kiwanis.

While the division has lost a Kiwanis Club, Mr. Shapiro anticipates a replacement filling the void in the near future.

"We expect a new club to be chartered this fall in Surprise," he said.

Ten of the 12 Sun City Kiwanis Club members joined the Kachina Kiwanis Club, while the other two members transferred to other clubs, according to Mr. Barnes.

Adding the 10 members raised Kachina membership to 42.

No plans have been made to conduct any additional fundraising events or undertake any projects as a result of absorbing the 10, according to Mr. Barnes.

"This is sought of our mid-point of the fiscal year, which starts in October," Mr. Barnes

said. "So we had already planned our activities for the year."

"The projects we have been working on involve Surprise Elementary School and Country Meadows School in Peoria," he continued.

The club is heavily involved in the Reading is Fundamental program at Country Meadows.

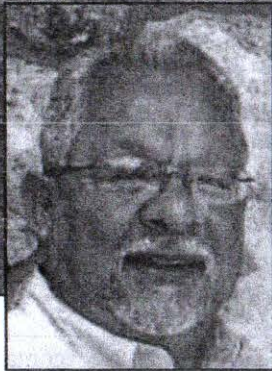
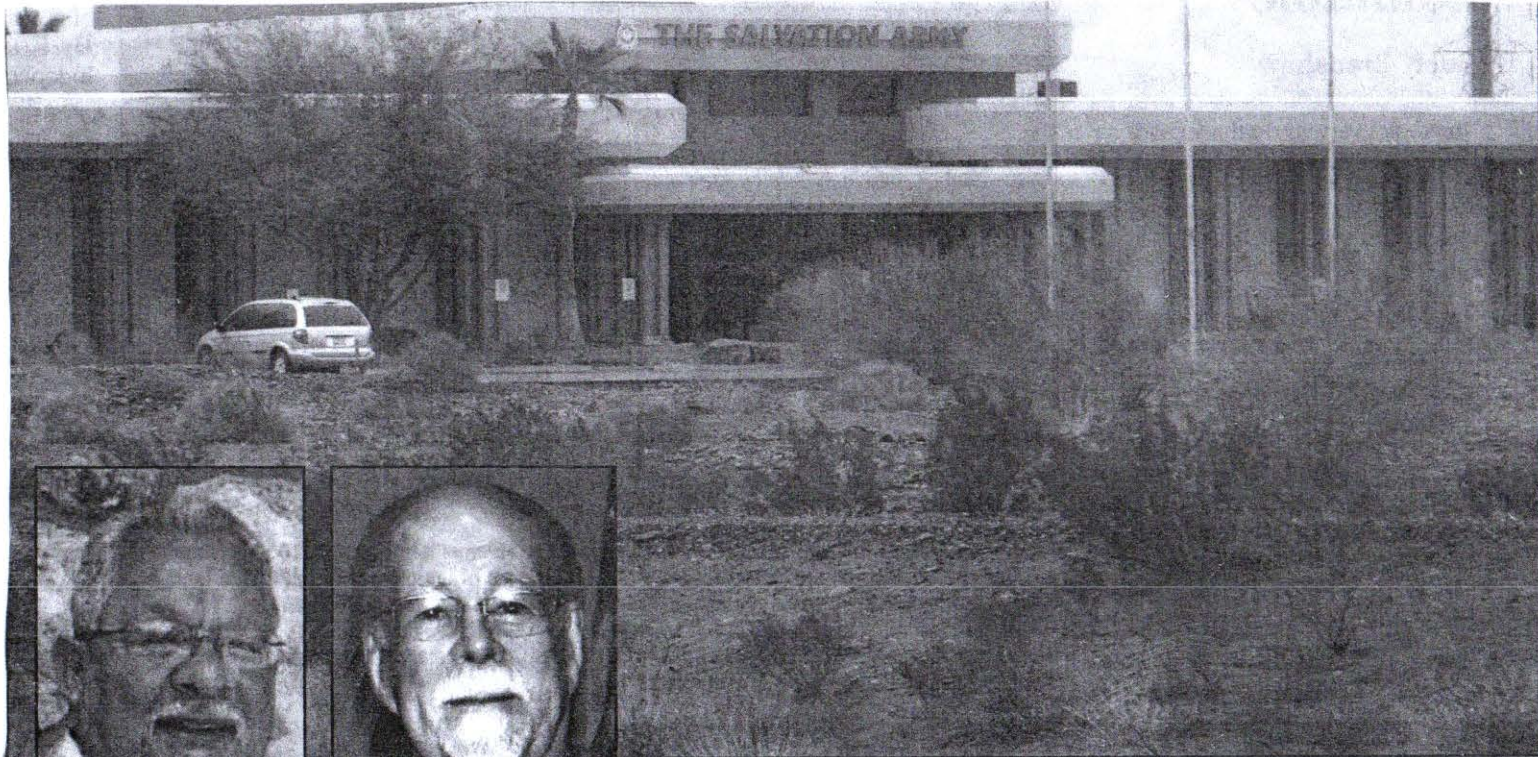
The service club also assists the community by making monetary contributions to the Sun City Posse and Habitat for Humanity.

The former Sun City Kiwanis Club was active in sponsoring a Key Club, a student organization, at Dysart High School. That program has been retained by the new combined club.

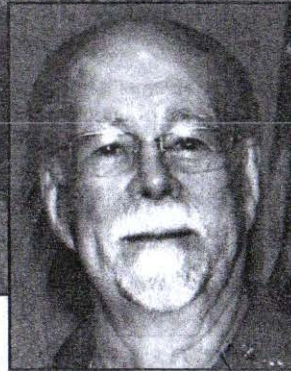
The Kachina Kiwanis Club meets at 8 a.m. every Thursday at the American Legion post, 10995 N. 99th Ave., Peoria.

For more information about the club, call Mr. Barnes at 933-8744.





Bob Portillo



Mike McKinney

Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw  
Vegetation will be removed and ground leveled on one portion of land at the Salvation Army's Avenue of the Arts site and a smaller site would have benches and a trail added through a Kiwanis divisionwide project.

# Salvation: Volunteers to the rescue

## Kiwanis, youth clubs lead Army's landscaping effort

By Rusty Bradshaw  
Independent Newspapers

Sun City's Agua Fria Kiwanis Club will join other service groups to complete a landscaping project at the Salvation Army's new location.

The project will clear 1.25 acres of land adjoining the Salvation Army's building on Avenue of the Arts in Surprise, the former West Valley Art Museum. The end result will be to make the property usable for neighborhood children and residents, according to Maj. Tom Ford, Salvation Army of Sun City director.

"We want to make this land available for

## Get Involved

Salvation Army landscape project

8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 23

Salvation Army, 17420 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise

children to use on the larger portion and create an area on the smaller portion where people can sit and relax, and possibly even enjoy a little walk," he said.

There is a full acre to the southeast of the building and another quarter-acre to the west, near a water drainage ditch adjacent to 115th Avenue.

Mike McKinney, Agua Fria club president, asked members during their meeting Jan. 22, whether they wanted to join a Kiwanis Division 13 effort to complete the landscaping.

"Some people say because we are an older-age group that we can't do things like this," he said. "But I think we can."

Bob Portillo, an Agua Fria club member and lieutenant governor of Kiwanis Division 13, said the project is part of the Kiwanis governor's community service campaign.

"The idea is to bring in all the clubs to do something for the community," he said.

While making the land available for use may benefit the immediately adjoining neighborhoods, as it is developed its use may spread, ac-