



HACIENDA DE LOS ANGELES

PRESIDENT'S

AWARD OF MERIT

GRATEFULLY PRESENTED To

THE PUPPET CLUB

MARCH 15, 1987

Sun City Puppet Club has raised \$189,000 to help needy kids

By ROBERT BARRETT
The Arizona Republic

SUN CITY — In the last 24 years, the Sun City Puppet Club has quietly raised more than \$189,000 for retarded, handicapped and underprivileged children.

"We donate an average of about \$10,000 a year," club Treasurer Nadine Larson said.

The 50 club members raise the money by making and selling hand-

puppets, dolls, dresses, aprons, potholders, quilts, stuffed monkeys, pajama bags and pot scrubbers.

"We go to Chris-Town Mall the first Saturday of every month and hold a bazaar," said Jerry Raynor, a past chairman of the club. "We have eight schools that we support, and whoever's up that month gets what we take in that day."

The Glendale Family Development Center, which supports fami-

lies dealing with alcoholism, poverty and lack of education by providing counseling, food, clothing and basic education, is one of the beneficiaries.

"They've been helping us for a number of years," executive director Jolly Kush said. "Our center receives no federal funding and no state or county funding. It's a private, non-profit organization, and if it were not for the contribu-

tions like this, we would not survive. It's very important to us."

The non-profit Peoria Child Development Center, which cares for an average of 40 to 45 children a day, also receives support from the Puppet Club.

"They gave us some money just before Christmas last year, and it meant everything to the children," Esther Flores said.

Other organizations receiving

support include the Hacienda de Los Angeles, Sunshine Acres and the El Mirage School Welfare Fund.

The club began when a group of women made hand puppets and took them to sick children in a hospital.

"Nobody remembers which hospital it was," Raynor said, "but that's how it got its name. We don't give puppet shows."

Touched by the reaction of the children, the women decided to continue the work and donate the money to schools for children.

In addition to the Saturday sales, the schools also divide about \$5,000 at the end of the year. That money comes from sales made when the ladies meet from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Thursday in the sewing room of Fairway Recreation Center at 107th and Peoria Avenues.

"Whatever the amount is, we divide it evenly among the eight schools at the end of the year," club Secretary Frances Stackhouse said.

Most of the materials used by club members are scraps collected from other clubs. Some materials are bought with donations.

The Puppet Club has the distinction of being the only club with no annual dues.

"We're always looking for new members," Raynor said, "but the problem is we're strictly a working club, we don't have any social activities. When people find that out, they're not interested."



Frances Stackhouse (left) and Lillian Shea make dolls during a meeting in Sun City. The organization is a service club, not a social one.

Republic

SUN CITY PUPPET CLUB
EST. 1962

IN MEMORY OF

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| SILMA (SAM) WILLIAMSON | '66 | GLADYS STEVENSON | '80 |
| BURV HANKE | '67 | CERTRUDE COBILLE | '81 |
| GRACE E. McPARLANE | '69 | ETHEL LYNN | '82 |
| EMILY RAENOR | '73 | FRIEDA SCHROEDER | '83 |
| MERRYN HUTTON | '74 | GRACE GLENN | '83 |
| ELI SUTTON | '74 | MARY HARRIS | '83 |
| CERTRUDE TURNER | '75 | VIRGINIA CLAPPER | '83 |
| MARTHA FUDGLPH | '76 | EVELYN BLACK | '83 |
| FLORENCE THIST | '77 | THELMA WEAVER | '84 |
| AMANDA HYDE | '77 | LUNE PETERSEN | '84 |
| RUTH BAILLY | '77 | KAY GABRY | '84 |
| INEMOS | '77 | | |
| LUCILEY ELINS | '80 | | |
| MAJORIE HARRIS | '80 | | |

SELMA (SAM) WILLIAMSON	'66	GLADYS STEVENS	'80
RUBY HAMCKE	'67	GERTRUDE COBEILLE	'81
GRACE E. MCFARLANE	'69	ETHEL LYNN	'82
EMILY RAYNOR	'73	FRIEDA SCHROEDER	'83
KATHRYN HUTTON	'74	GRACE GLENN	'83
EVA SUTTON	'74	MARY HARRIS	'83
GERTRUDE TURNER	'75	VIRGINIA CLAPPER	'83
MARTHA RUDOLPH	'76	THELMA WEAPIE	'84
FLORENCE ERNST	'77	JUNE PETERSON	'84
AMANDA HYDE	'77	KAY GARY	'84
RUTH BAILEY	'77		
DEE MOS	'77		
LELSEY EVANS	'80		
MARJORIE HARRIS	'80		

NOTE: Club disbanded in 1984



**GLENDALE
CHILD & FAMILY
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

SERVING
FARM WORKERS AND LOW INCOME FAMILIES

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

PRESENTED TO

Puppet Club

ON May 12, 1983 FOR your help and support

IN RECOGNITION OF AND GRATITUDE FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CENTER'S GOAL OF
PROVIDING A BI-LINGUAL, MULTI-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

DIRECTOR

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



**GLENDALE
CHILD & FAMILY
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

SERVING
FARM WORKERS AND LOW INCOME FAMILIES

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

PRESENTED TO

Puppet Club

ON May 20, 1982 FOR your help and support

IN RECOGNITION OF AND GRATITUDE FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CENTER'S GOAL OF
PROVIDING A BI-LINGUAL, MULTI-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Jolly Kusch
DIRECTOR

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

In Recognition Of  Distinguished Service
To Youth

This Expression of Esteem Is Awarded By

Surprise School

Dysart Unified School District
Surprise, Arizona

To

.....Sun City Puppet Club.....

.....May 26, 1977.....

Date of Award

E. Goodman

Principal

W. J. Miller

Superintendent

Hacienda de Los Angeles

INCORPORATED

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

The Puppet Club

IS A LIFETIME MEMBER

[Signature]

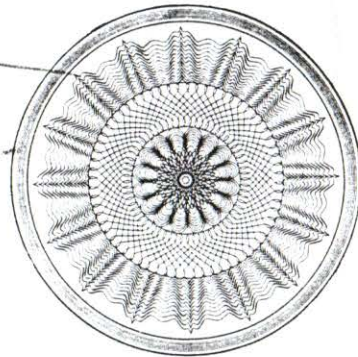
President

[Signature]

Vice-President

July 26 1976

Date



[Signature]

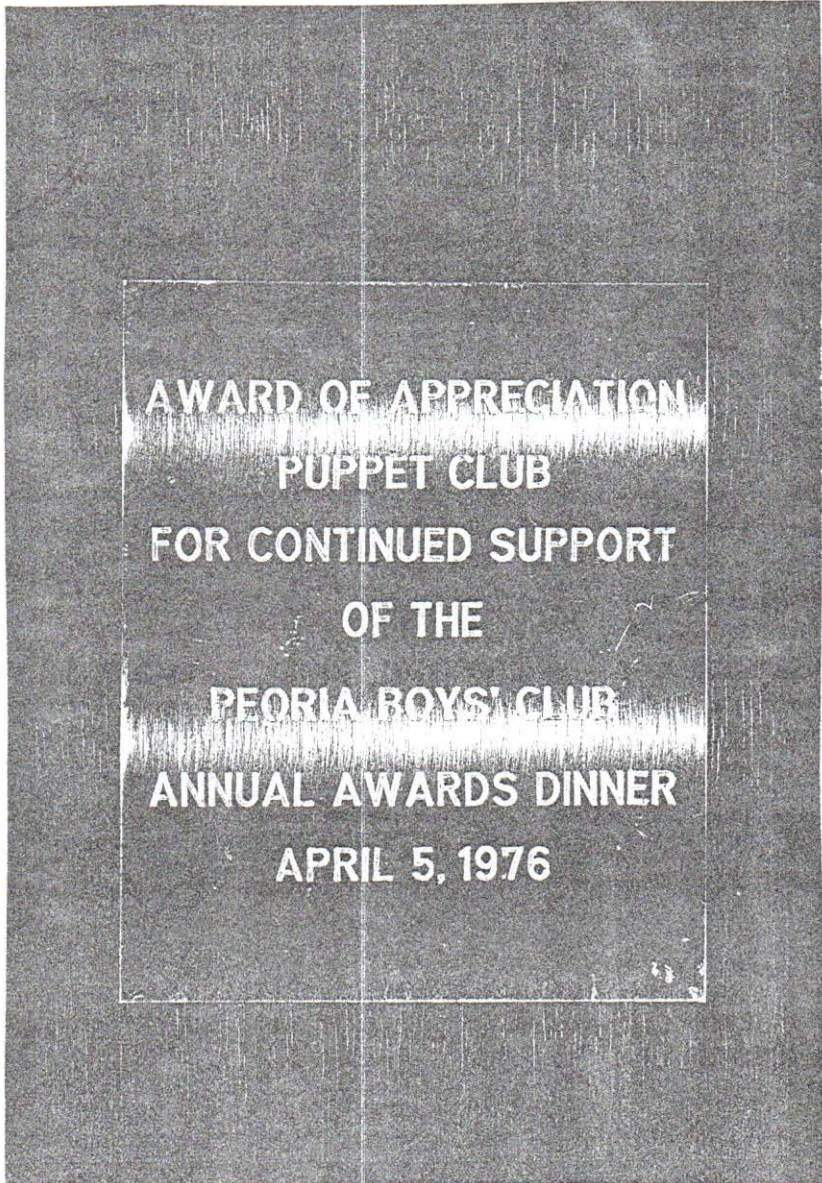
Secretary

[Signature]

Treasurer

[Signature]

Director



The Phoenix Gazette

May 28, 1976

Section B, Pages 1 to 2

Handy Clubwomen Turn Puppets Into Help For Needy Youngsters

By HELEN CORNELL

Sun City's Puppet Club members often have a problem with the club's name. People expect them to put on puppet shows.

They are more like magicians. In 14 years they have parlayed \$25 and scraps of materials into \$126,000 contributed for underprivileged, handicapped and retarded children.

The Puppet Club room is the sewing room of Fairview Recreation Center, at 107th Avenue and Peoria. There it keeps its sewing machines, the materials members work with and the hundreds of handmade articles they make to raise money.

THERE IS a club bazaar every Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the club room. There the public may browse, choose and donate, while the members are working on more.

Mrs. Margaret Nygren, the original puppet-maker whose husband contributed the first \$25 for materials in the fall of 1962, declared proudly, "We are entirely tax free, a 100 per cent charitable organization. Everything is by donation, nobody pays tax on anything. Everything that is given to us goes for children, not one penny goes for coffee or luncheons."

Mrs. Mildred Kahler, co-chairman and an 11-year member recalls in the early days the members had to hustle to "sell" their projects. Now, they have to hustle to keep up with demand.

THEIR PROJECTS are stuffed animals, stuffed dolls with washable removable clothes, aprons and tab towels, children's clothes, small patchwork quilts of washable polyester, pajama bag clowns, nylon net scrubbers, wind bonnets, and the new "Egghead," a small soft pillow with removable Humpty Dumpty shaped case. Mrs. Vada Purrington has a specialty, Sesame Street puppets. That furry monster will go home with somebody for a five-dollar donation.

Mrs. Kathryn Steele, club chairman for the past year, noted the club has a bazaar booth at ChrisTown mall the first Saturday of every month. Each month proceeds go for a different children's need.

During June, July and August, money goes to day care centers at Peoria, Goodyear and El Mirago.

OTHER RECIPIENTS are schools in El Mirace, Cashion and Peoria. Last year, funds also went to Peoria Boys Club, Hacienda de Los Angeles and a continuing special project, Bethany Ranch Home in Phoenix.

Mrs. Kahler has a special recollection of Peoria Day Care Center. The club had almost forgotten about the center — needs are requested by letter — when a new officer attending a meeting there.

Turn to ●PUPPETS, Page B-2



Brightly colored dolls and puppets made by Sun City club display personalities, too.

● PUPPETS

(Concluded from Page B-1)

She was upset over the floor tile and need for repair.

She told Mrs. Kahler, who went to see for herself, and was just as upset at the need. But, before she could get back to a meeting of the club board, she broke her foot. In bed, she worried more about the tile.

Mrs. Kahler began getting estimates for replacing the tile, and discouraged, started cutting down the number of rooms to be repaired. She called Denny's Decorating in Youngtown to ask a friend to measure the day care center and estimate the cost of tile.

THE NEXT DAY, he called to say there was enough tile for the entire center donated. Two men's service clubs donated \$75 to help pay the \$360 labor charge for the entire job.

Sometimes the contribution is money, sometimes it is providing a specific need directed to the club's attention by letter.

"These are the most fantastic women," Mrs. Kashler said. "They have worked hard as long as I have known them."



San Diego
Puffet Club
IN RECOGNITION OF
MERITORIOUS SERVICES RENDERED
TO OUR SCHOOL THROUGH THE YEARS
1976-77
SHEL MIRAC SCHOOL P.T.O.

Puppet Club quietly makes big drop in bucket

By VAL BEMBENEK
Women's Editor

Any talk about Sun City generosity should generate a discussion of the Sun City Puppet Club. But it usually doesn't.

The 50 members of this group, which was formed in 1962, prefer to remain anonymous, working with dedication a full day every week at Fairway Center's sewing room.

BUT THERE'S no way to say \$12,792 anonymously.

That's the total amount of cash contributions the Puppet Club made to benefit children during 1972. In addition, they gave nearly \$1,500 in materials, toys, clothing and bedding to schools and day care centers.

The organization is run like a business, only no one gets a salary. Completely self-supporting, it purchases all equipment such as chairs, tables, cabinets,

even sewing machines, and much of the material for the hundred-plus different items members sew.

The rest of the fabric, stuffing, and other items are donated by residents, many of whom "discovered" the club at either the community bazaars it sells at or at the workshop at Fairway Center.

PEOPLE DROP in any Thursday of the year between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., amazed at the well-made, charming selection of toys and other hand made items; learn that the Puppet Club contributes exclusively to children's projects of need; buy; tell their friends; and take in left-overs from their own sewing projects.

Some people do all their shopping for favorite children at the Puppet Club "headquarters." Most realize their purchase is a

double bonus—their grandchild gets a quality toy and poorer youngsters from pre-school to high school age who live in the area get help.

A summary of the \$12,792 cash donations this year—breaking last year's tally by \$1,000—reveals the four day care centers supervised by Sister Ann Katherine McSweeney received \$2,500. The centers are located in Surprise, Avondale, and Allenville.

ONE THOUSAND dollars was received by each of the following: Bethany Ranch Home, Memorial Hospital for children with cancer, Foundation for the Blind, and the Peoria School welfare fund.

Peoria High School, Peoria Elementary School, Dysart School System welfare, and El Mirage School System each received \$900, used to purchase books and clothing.

Other organizations, all of which are carefully considered and voted on by all members of the club, receiving cash donations are: Avondale Infant Day Center; Happy Day Nursery in Surprise, Louise Loper in Cashion School, 4-H camper-ships for Dysart Community Center and boys clothing for 4-H camp, Needy Children Society of Scottsdale, Cashion School System for books and clothing, Peoria School welfare fund for shoes, books, and clothing, and the Peoria Child Development Center.

SINCE 1962, the Sun City Puppet Club has given more than \$85,000 in cash donations for children.

Hundreds of articles are given outright to organizations, including baby clothing, stuffed dolls, crib quilts, layette sets, cot covers, dresses, and pillows. Though the club,

which still has many of its original members, started by making puppets, it has definitely diversified.

PEOPLE MAY ASK why members work so hard, with such dedication, and without claiming the fame that is rightfully theirs.

"As long as there are children who need help with their everyday needs, who need a boost just to have a chance at being equal in opportunities for becoming full citizens of the future, the Puppet Club will continue," say the members.

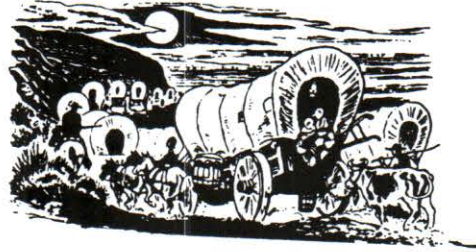
The potential of a 13-year-old youngster's mind is characterized in a brief poem written by Stephanie Franz, a friend of one Puppet Club member:

Many people—grains of sand

Sifted through a special few.

From those we learn
And add to ourselves.

El Zaribah Shrine Temple Crippled Childrens Supply Caravan



Award

PRESENTED TO

The Puppet Club

in Appreciation for

Participation in and Support of
Our Efforts in Behalf of the

CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S
SUPPLY CARAVAN

Neil Prall

WAGON MASTER

El Zaribah Shrine Temple

Tom Sharp

ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE



July 7, 1973

January 1973

Puppet Club hits record \$13,000 in cash donations to needy children

Thirty-eight women who are stingy with their identities but generous with their compassion for children gave away more than \$13,000 to prove it last year.

The 38 are members of the Puppet Club, and they spend 52 weeks of the year making stuffed toys and dolls and other items for sale to raise the funds.

LAST YEAR was the biggest in the 10-year history of the club. Exactly \$13,065 was donated to 20 organizations from the sale of the club's handicraft. Five hundred dollars more have been set aside, bringing the total pledged and spent to \$13,565.

That makes \$69,387 in cash the club has given to underprivileged and handicapped children in the last decade. Gifts that members have made and other noncash items valued at \$3,150 have also been donated to various charities

Individual club members shy from publicity, arguing that if anything is newsworthy it's their efforts.

THEY MEET every Thursday throughout the year at Fairway Center. The size of their workroom has restricted the club to 38 members.

Although they meet the one full day together to stuff and sew the dolls and toys, individual members spend countless hours at home working on their pet projects.

Besides the stuffed toys, the club makes bean-bag frogs, crib quilts, puppets, cobbler aprons and other items.

Club funds purchase most material, but few other expenses are borne by its treasury. The club holds no luncheons or parties.

"WE OPERATE strictly as a business," says one member.

The club has changed in its decade of existence.

"When we sta

years ago, there wasn't that much to do out here in Sun City, and many of the older women got hooked on making dolls and on keeping busy to help someone else," recalls an old-timer.

"Now there's so much more to do, and the members don't have as much time."

The breakdown of the club's year-end report lists the following contributions:

Memorial Hospital child cancer clinic \$1,500; Bethany Ranch Home \$1,020; Chinle Indian Mission, Arizona Boys' Ranch, Foundation for the Blind, Peoria High School needy students, Peoria Elementary School needy students, Dysart Center 4-H program, and Surprise infant day care center, each \$1,000.

BOOKER T. Washington Child Development Center \$850; El Mirage School needy students, Dysart School needy students, Cashion School needy

Development Center, each \$500.

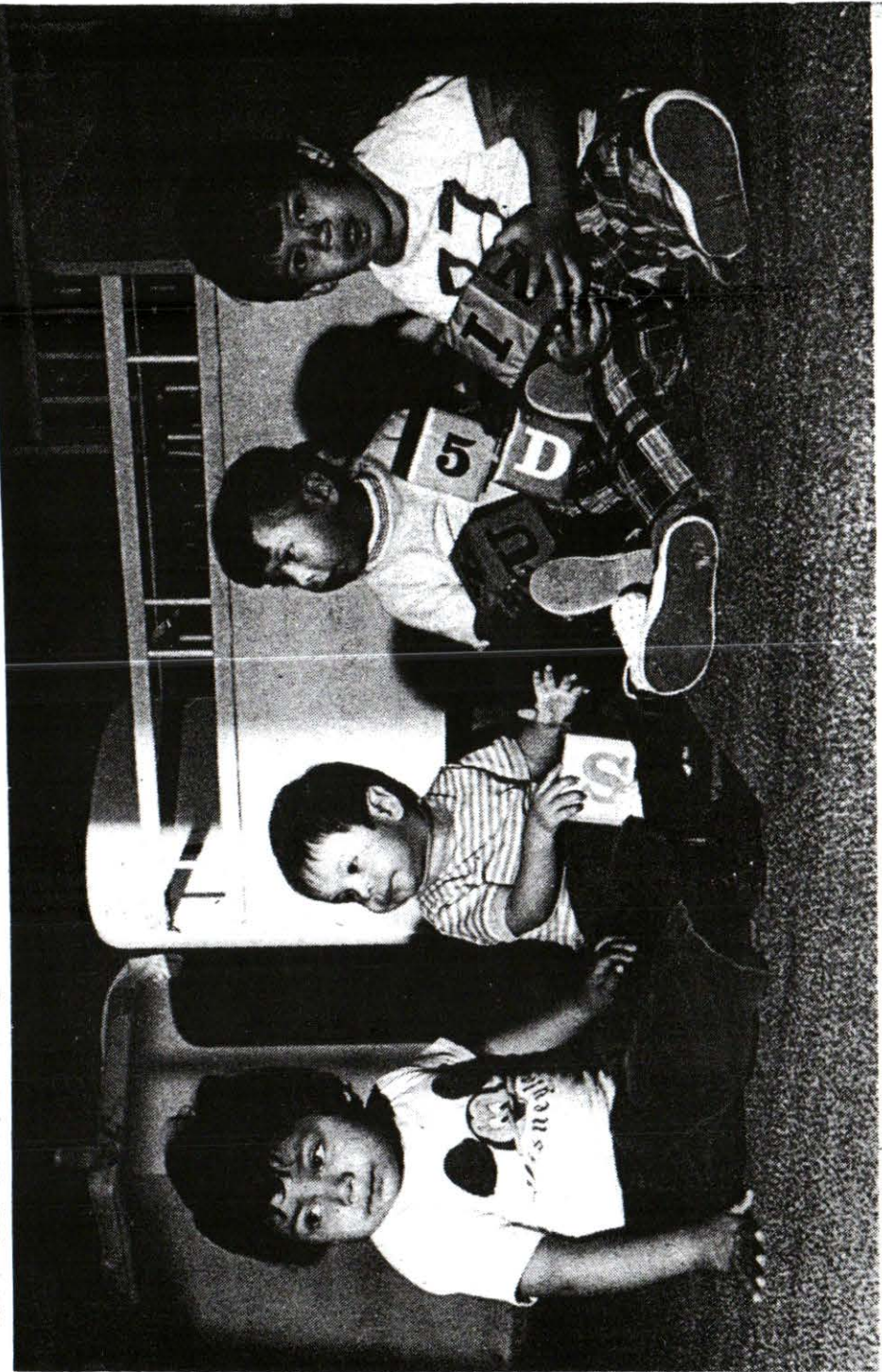
Allendale Child Development Center \$275, Youngtown-Sun City Shrine Club for crippled children \$250, foster parents for retarded children \$100, Cashion School \$45, and Oktoberfest (for three Boy Scout uniforms) \$25.

The additional \$500 sum has been approved but not yet issued for the Dysart 4-H Club for camperships.

One member, in emphasizing the club's desire for individual members to stay out of the limelight, pointed to a gift the club made to the Mennonite-owned infant care center in Surprise. The \$500 gift was a washable carpet installed in the playroom.

"IF YOU want a good picture you go out and photograph a couple of youngsters playing on that carpet," she said. "Don't take any pictures of us."

Her parting handshake was firmly businesslike but there



TODDLERS test new carpet at Mennonite care center in Surprise

February 1972

Club's gifts to children top \$56,000 in 10 years

Town Hall Center's sewing room is the scene, each Thursday, of a bazaar run by members of the Sun City Puppet Club. Its purpose is to raise money to assist local children's organizations.

Never exceeding a total membership of 35, the club recently allocated \$5,000 to ten children's activities, raising total contributions over the ten years since its founding to more than \$56,000.

Organized by a group of concerned women to assist children, the club's first activity was making hand-puppets as gifts for young patients in hospitals. This activity was an instant success.

Later, in response to newly-discovered needs, members decided to try raising funds to assist charitable children's organizations. The women started offering puppets for public sale, and disposed of practically their entire stock almost immediately.

Subsequent requests by customers for additional kinds of items, the "line" was broadened to include stuffed toys, aprons, door-stop frogs, and other hand-made gift items.

Popularity of their wares, according to the chairman, has never waned and they continue to sell all they can

supply.

"We know that many more people might be interested in what we are doing," she declared, "and we would like to invite all Sun City residents to come and see what we offer at our weekly bazaars."

The club's allocation of \$5000 was broken down into the following distribution:

\$1000 to Dr. J. W. Gray, missionary, for purchase of clothing for children of the Chinle Indian reservation.

\$500 to the Scottsdale Foundation for Blind Children.

\$500 to Memorial hospital,

Phoenix, to assist in cancer research for children.

\$500 to Arizona Boys' Ranch, at Chandler, for clothing.

\$500 to Dysart Center for summer camperships.

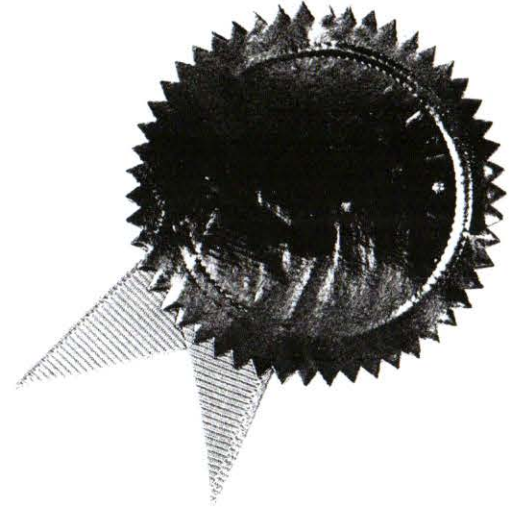
\$500 to Booker T. Washington Child Development center, Phoenix, to purchase a kitchen range.

\$500 to each Peoria elementary and high school for clothing and books.

\$250 to Cashion elementary school for clothing.

\$250 to Peoria Day Care Development center for clothing.

SAVE A CHILD LEAGUE, INC.



RECOGNIZES

The Puppet Club
To be a
Sustaining Member

of this organization, with all priveleges and rights thereto, including voting membership at all annual meetings of the corporation; and expresses our gratitude for generosity in behalf of the children of the State of Arizona.

Charles E. Rusby

President

Marion R. Ralle

Executive Director

November 17, 1971

Date

Toastmasters International

Incorporated

Certifies That

The Sun City Toastmasters Club of Sun City, Arizona

has been Elected to Membership, and is hereby vested with all the Rights and Privileges of Toastmasters International as prescribed in the Constitution thereof, and by the acceptance of this Charter has agreed to abide by said Constitution and Bylaws.

In Witness Whereof the said Corporation has caused this Charter to be signed by its President and Executive Director and has affixed its Corporate Seal this 19th day of July 1971.



Arthur M. Diamond President

Ralph S. [Signature] Executive Director

Charter No. 1643.

Toastmasters International is an educational organization incorporated December 19, 1932 under the nonprofit corporation laws of the State of California.

Puppet Club Donates \$3,275 To Children's Charities

Sun City Puppet Club members last week voted to donate \$3,275 to children's charities in the area.

About 30 club members fashion varied handmade items that are sold in a

bazaar held from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. each Thursday in the Town Hall Center sewing room.

All money raised through bazaar sales is donated periodically to children's

charities. Club members are accepting donations of sewing materials and old nylons used to stuff toys.

The Puppet Club donated \$500 to the Salvation Army's Camp O Woods program;

\$300 to the Peoria Child Development Center, \$300 to Sister Mary Faith for the Surprise Day Care Center, \$150 to the Peoria school system to supply lunches for 200 children; \$500 to Peoria

High School students in need of books and supplies, \$875 to LULAC to furnish school books, and \$150 to the Peoria Child Development Center for two portable record players.

Club chairman Mrs. Margaret Nygren said the development center children must be exposed to music and receive more than basic necessities to appreciate life.

The club also has donated \$500 to be used by members of the Sun City Woodworking Club to make wooden chair-cabinets for children in the Arizona Children's Colony.



PUPPET CLUB, one of an estimated 100 or more organizations in Sun City which do charity work of some kind, by itself has earned \$33,000 in cash for children's welfare. Margaret Nygren, founder and president, displays handmade dolls and puppets.

Sun City Puppet Club 1968

They Do More Than Pull Strings To Make Valley Children Happy

By MARY DUMOND

Thirty Sun City women have a pet peeve:

Their town's recent image as a haven for gray-haired swingers.

Members of the Sun City Puppet Club don't have time to swing anything but needle and thread, scissors, fabric, telephone dials, sewing machine pedals and steering wheels.

THEIR PROJECT: Making cloth whimsies for good causes. So good are the whimsies and the causes that the women have raised \$21,000 during the club's six-year existence.

The whimsical items include hand-puppets, from which the club got its name (they're used as puppets, or, with mink hair, they make great covers for teen-agers' hair spray cans). Others: Clothespin bags, aprons, lingerie sacks, duck soap-holders, night lights surrounded by saucer-size rose petals, nylon net scrubbers, net wind bonnets and frog doorstops, all colors and fabrics, each filled with 2½ pounds of dried peas.

Doing all this work — because it sells at outlets all over the Valley — leaves little swing time, after a six to eight-hour meeting in the Town Hall's sewing room every Thursday, plus homework.

Although co-chairman Mrs. R.F. Kahler said other reasons also pushed the Kahlers from their three-bedroom house to a smaller apartment, "I did think about all the time I could spend on my work. I make the frogs."

DOES SHE ever! Last week she turned out 72. "This week I haven't made too many so far," mails them unstuffed (postage is cheaper) to Colorado or Washington, perhaps 21 to an order.

"I have the pattern," she

said. "A woman cuts them out for me. The eyes have to be bradded in; I do that, sew them up, stuff them with dried peas and put labels on them."

The group has paid for the sewing machines used in the Town Hall's workroom, last year set aside its memorial donations to buy a desk, complete with locked cash drawers, dedicated to two members who had passed away. "It has room for the rest of our names on the brass plaque," Mrs. Kahler said cheerfully. "It's just what the name means — a memorial desk."

Here's what the women's craft money helps:

"The club was started by Mrs. Ray Nygren, our project chairman," said Mrs. Kahler. "She was interested in handicapped and mentally retarded children."

FIRST FUNDS, along with hundreds of yards of donated material hemmed up into linens and diapers, went to a Valley school for the handicapped. The women still work with donated fabrics supplemented by their own purchases.

Next came aid to Gompers Rehabilitation Center, Phoenix Indian School, money to Peoria Elementary School for youngsters' glasses and other health aids and summer camp funds.

"We opened Bethany Ranch Home," said Mrs. Kahler, "with a washing machine, a dryer, a dishwasher, bunk beds and linens and bedspreads for every bed."

Sometimes the women make dolls to order for social workers' needy clients. They are deeply interested in migrant workers around El Mirage and Surprise.

"We noticed the mothers had to take their children into the fields

the winter, because there was no place for kids to stay," Mrs. Kahler said.

First the club made warm booties and other clothing for the children; next, they coordinated efforts with a church worker (who had provided a day-care center and donated 20 cots at \$20 apiece.

WHERE AND when are these crafties sold? Well, at the 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday meetings; at a display for Del Webb bus tourists at Sun City on Mondays; one day a month beginning in September, except December, in Park Central and Christown in Phoenix; and the second Saturday in every month in Plaza del Sol in Sun City. When Phoenix honors Sun City's Arts and Crafts Days, the puppet club is there; during Western Days, more sales are made in Sun