

Peninsula
2007

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY CARE

THE SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION OF THE SUN CITIES AREA

The Active Life Style, so important to the image of the Sun Cities, began to show some changes in the late 70's for which no provision had been planned. A segment of the population was reaching a point at which they needed a little assistance to be able to remain in their homes. They needed help with grocery shopping, with transportation for medical appointments, with counseling to solve the problems that were arising. In response to this the Sun City Area Community Council was organized in January, 1979 to identify the needs of the communities. Social Services, a previously overlooked amenity for the Sun Cities Area was about to be conceived.

When the Sun Cities Ministerial Association reported that the urgent need for Crisis Counseling was far greater than the number of ministers in Sun City, Sun City West, and Youngtown were able to handle, it was agreed that action must be taken.

In March, 1981 at a joint meeting of members of the Ministerial Association, Sun City Area Community Council and representatives of a number of Sun Cities Area congregations, an ad hoc committee was formed to organize a non-profit corporation to study the needs and determine the staff and facilities to accommodate a program for crisis counseling.

William (Bill) Wolfrey, a retired US Bureau of Budget Management Consultant, served as the first Chairman of the Committee. Others instrumental in the planning were Rev. Edward Hemphill, a retired Navy Chaplain with a PhD in gerontology; Robert Sleight, retired hospital administrator and health services consultant, Charles McKimmis, Vice President of the Sun City Area Community Council who was a retired Army Colonel with a degree in social work; Rev. James Reaves, Rector of All Saints of the Desert Episcopal Church, Helen Vallee and Dick Meinert from St. Clements of Rome Catholic Church, Garland Lewis, a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse from Sun City West, and Muriel Rose, a member of the Sun City Area Community Council who also represented the Jewish congregations.

In an interview with Muriel Rose on April 8, 2002, she described her feelings at one of the early committee meetings in which the problems of the aging population were presented. "I saw that mountain of needs to be met, and I knew I wanted to climb that mountain!" It was with the support of dedicated persons such as Muriel, giving their time and skills voluntarily that plans were developed to conquer that mountain.

With the purpose in mind of helping the frail elderly remain in their own homes as long as possible, the committee identified three areas that needed assistance. In addition to Crisis Counseling, there was a need for Day Care Centers, and Home Care Assistance. If these could be provided, it would postpone placement in nursing homes. After much careful planning and research the Sun Cities Area Interfaith

Services, as it was originally named at the suggestion of Muriel Rose, since it represented several different faiths and many service organizations, was incorporated as a 501 (3) (C) non-profit organization on May 7, 1981.

Stated in the By Laws, Article II, the purpose was to "provide for the identified needs of the residents of the service area with services including, but not limited to promoting the physical, psychological, spiritual and social well-being of those residents."

To involve the communities, all the churches ,Jewish congregations, and service organizations were sent letters inviting them to join the Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services for an annual membership fee of \$25.00. Each member organization was asked to select two delegates to form a House of Delegates who then would elect the Board of Directors to act as the governing body of the organization. The Board would elect their officers. Professional staff would be hired by the Board. Recruitment and training of volunteers to assist was carefully planned. Based on the premise of neighbors helping neighbors, the organization became a demonstration of a community caring for its own. Bill Wolfrey was elected the first President.

On the Roll Call of Delegates to Sun City Area Interfaith Services Annual Meeting on January 28, 1982, the first Delegates from Sun City West were Charles Clikeman and Lloyd Kendall representing the Sun City West Pioneer Lions Club and F. Lee Paul and David Busse from the Kiwanis Club of Sun City West. By April of 1982 three churches in Sun City West had joined: Episcopal Church of the Advent, Desert Palms United Presbyterian, and Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist.

Because of the urgency of the need , the Executive Board agreed to accept the request of the Ministerial Association to assume the responsibility for Crisis Counseling in July, 1981. This was the first service offered, arranged as a contracted support from Catholic Social Services. A professional counselor worked three days a week, part time at the United Church of Sun City and part time at St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church. . Later the time was increased to five days, and finally expanded to provide 24 hour service, seven days a week.

It is to the credit of the dedicated members of the first committee that a great deal of careful planning, research, and observation of similar programs in other states was done to determine the exact needs of the Sun Cities area. In the spring and fall of 1982, residents of Youngtown, Sun City and Sun City West interviewed over 550 persons in their own communities getting information on long term care issues. The survey was designed and supervised by the Arizona Long Term Care Gerontology Center at the University of Arizona with the cooperation of the Sun City Area Community Council.

Results of the survey indicated that almost 35 percent of the residents engaged in volunteer activity, averaging 5.58 hours of service per week. Volunteer labor represented a major resource in the Sun Cities area, making the prospects promising for starting a program of community care.

Besides Crisis Counseling, it was the development of adult day health centers that would begin to meet the needs of the frail elderly. To plan this type of program Holly Bohling, a professional social worker, was hired as activities director for the Day Centers in July, 1982. The first office for the organization was opened in a bedroom at a home in Hines Village in Youngtown, thanks to Rev. Melvin Ratheal. Executive Board Meetings were held in homes of members and House of Delegates met quarterly in various churches.

At the start financial support came from member organizations, foundations, fees from participants, and the Sun City Community Fund. Crises counseling by a paid professional was always free to the client.

The first Day Centers opened in September, 1982. One was at the Hines Retirement Center at 11315 W.Peoria, Youngtown.. Another was started at the United Church of Sun City on 107th & Sun City Blvd. All Saints of the Desert Church at 9502 Hutton Drive made their Parish Hall available for the third Day Center. These were open one day a week from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m., each on a different day of the week. St. Clements of Rome Catholic Church built an addition to their church, furnishing it for a day center with Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services operating it five days a week.

The project was planned to encourage socializing for persons who rarely leave their homes, and to give breaks to spouses whose husbands or wives were dependent on them at all times for basic needs. Activities included exercise, interaction with other people, games, entertainment, crafts, and a nutritious hot meal at noon.

Only four to six people were expected to participate the first month, but in two months the participants reached 35 persons. They paid \$15.00 per day, but no one was turned away for inability to pay the fee.

As demand for services increased there was need for better office space. Space was rented in the Valley View Professional Plaza, Suite B-8 at 12600 113th Ave. in April, 1983. Secretaries, bookkeeper, receptionist and professional social workers were added to the staff. In November 1983, Robert Pangburn was selected to become the Executive Director.

The number of residents coming to Interfaith Services for assistance grew from 264 in 1983 to 2861 in 1987. The Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services had become a model for communities across the nation. Bill Wolfrey, the Founding President, was invited to speak at the National Council on Aging Annual Meeting in 1985 in Washington D. C

Barbara Sharkey, Coordinator for Home Services, and John Hasemier told of the success of Interfaith at the National Council on the Aging in Chicago, March 30, 1987.

When more office space was needed the Del Webb Corporation offered a building on Dysart Road north of Bell Road, almost fully furnished according to minutes of a Board meeting in December of 1983. This building remained their headquarters until 1987 when Del Webb Corp. offered a building with 7400 square feet of space, available if Interfaith would move the building at an estimated cost of \$150,000. to a permanent site. Interfaith was successful in securing a lease for State land located one half mile north of Bell Road on El Mirage Road. The move had to be made by September, 1987.

A special fund raising campaign was launched to raise not only the \$150,00 to move the building but also for operating costs for the rapidly increasing programs for the frail elderly. Dale Wood, Valley Bank Vice President and Manager of the Sun City West branch accepted the volunteer position of Campaign Chairman for this fund raising campaign.

A bank loan was needed immediately to pay for moving the office building but Interfaith had nothing that was acceptable for collateral. Finally an arrangement was worked out with dedicated persons who signed notes guaranteeing payment and even collateral to the bank if Interfaith failed to raise the funds. The bank agreed to this.

The building was moved and Del Webb employees finished the interior of the building, providing much of the furnishings. Thirty telephone lines for Interfaith Services phone system were installed by Jim Jackson with the help of fellow Telephone Pioneers Andy Paul, Floyd Rush, Fred Van Teit, and other volunteers from Lions Clubs, all as volunteers.

Connections to utility lines were made under El Mirage Road into Sun City West, connecting to lines along Conquistador Dr. , going through lots 17815 and 17813 Conquistador Dr. One lot belonged Maurice Street, a member of the Board of Directors of Interfaith at the time. He made sure his yard and that of his neighbors, Lloyd and Theo Graham, were available for this important connection. He also made sure the yards were restored to their original condition.

The building currently houses the reception area, staff offices, conference rooms, secretarial space, a small kitchen, and a rental space for offices of Habitat for Humanity, made available in 2000. An adjacent building, previously used for Luminaria production by the Sun City West Foundation, has been given to Interfaith, and will be used for maintenance work.

Another major donor campaign was launched in 1989. By this time the paid staff included Bob Pangburn as Executive Director, Holly Bohling, Program Services Director, Barbara Sharkey as director of Home Support Services, Joy Klotz, Director of Resource Coordination, Gina Griesman in Volunteer Services Coordinator, Donna Hasemier as Crisis counseling Director, Mary Daley, Secretary, Dotti Easterwood as Receptionist and others bringing a total of twenty as of September 1989. In 1990 Michelle Dionisio joined the staff as Vice President of Program Services.

Records for 1989 indicated that approximately 30 % of the counseling clients resided in Sun City West, and another 30 % resided in Phase 2 of Sun City. Over 6500 home visits were being made in a year. The staff was making approximately 212 individual contacts per day. Over 75 phone contacts came through the switchboard daily, with additional ones to an answering service, making over 71,000 individual contacts per year conducted by staff alone.

Growth of services in the last ten years is phenomenal. In 2001, the Home Services program provided grocery shopping and delivery for 3,523 clients, 12,000 transportation trips, and 711 minor in-home repairs, at little or no charge. Twice as many persons were served through Community Intervention Service in 2001 as in 2000 and growth is continuing to increase. These requests are from families with emergency financial needs. Interfaith works to find available funding sources.

Changes in Staff included Bob Pangburn's retirement in September 2001 and the appointment of Michelle Dionesio as Interim Executive Director until September 2002 when she was made Executive Director.

Services being offered in 2002 include five Adult Day Health Centers. They are located at 81st and Cactus in Peoria, Royal Oaks, 10015 West Royal Oak Road, in Sun City, The Mary Bovard Center at 14600 Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City, St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church, 15800 Del Webb Blvd, Sun City, and Community Services Building, 14495 R. H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West. These centers provide care for those who can no longer care for themselves, due to disability. It allows their care-givers time for personal respite. Programs include therapeutic activities and exercise, educational activities, health care by a registered nurse, emotional support, transportation, hot lunches and snacks.

The Mary Bovard Center, the only one of its kind in the State of Arizona, provides care for Alzheimers patients, designed for each individuals particular needs. Mary Bovard, whose generous gift made this facility a reality, is a regular volunteer twice a week at the center. The participants frequently ask, "Will Mary be here today?" When she walks in she is greeted with smiles and hugs.

In addition to the Adult Day Health Center in Sun City West, a Senior Center providing social activities for active adults is provided in the Quail room at the Community Services Building, 14465 R. H. Johnson Blvd., directed by Interfaith on Tuesdays. This includes day trips, card games, educational programs and a meal.

In addition to Adult Day Health Centers and Senior Center, the following services are now being offered :

Home Care Assistance provides in home care by a bonded and insured Interfaith employee who gives personal assistance in bathing, dressing, transportation and errands, grocery shopping, light housekeeping, meal preparation. .

Health Watch is a personal response system providing a desk top console and wearable transmitter that signals help for emergencies at the touch of a button 24 hours a day.

Bridges is a comprehensive private care management program helping seniors and their families with long term care arrangements. A trained social worker ensures the clients needs are met and communicates with family members about the status of the client.

Emotional Support provides group assistance to individuals in an educational and caring environment for Bereavement, Alzheimer's & related diseases.

Peer Counseling is available for emotional support in personal issues.

The Education Program offers Semimonthly Life Planning lecture series by local professionals..

Care Management plans coordination of an individual's care, including referral to outside programs and agencies; determining what organizations best meet the needs of the individual.

Home Services includes grocery shopping and delivery, transportation, Handypersons, Business Education.

Included in all of these is the opportunity to volunteer ! .

In 2002 there were approximately 500 fully trained and dedicated volunteers providing assistance to the 21 members of the professional staff, defining what is meant by Community Caring in Action. That is what the new name INTERFAITH COMMUNITY CARE represents. Michelle Dionisio, Executive Director reported 42.6 percent of the volunteers are from Sun City West. They gave a total of 9175 hours of service in 2001. Clients served in Sun City West totalled 4500 in 2001.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY CARE, our Social Service Organization, is another of those Amenities, supervised by Professionals, assisted by dedicated Volunteers and appreciated by the residents of Sun City West.

(Information obtained from the following sources:)

Minutes of Executive Board Meetings, Meetings of the House of Delegates, and Annual Meetings.

Oral interviews with Michelle Dionisio, Executive Director, and her assistant, Sue Tennant

A visit with volunteer and early Board member, Muriel Rose, twice in her home in Sun City.

Telephone interview with Holly Bohling.

Pamphlets, newsletters, news articles in files at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society

PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD OF INTERFAITH COMMUNITY CARE
Name changed from Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services in 2002

William Wolfrey	1981-1984
Leona Yeager	1985
Robert Sleight	1986-1987
Maurice Street	1988-1989
Harold Drosethes	1990-1991
Robert Jeckel	1992-1993
Frederick P. Hardy	1994-1995
Elizabeth Reeve-Calley	1996
David Burrows	1997
Ruth Anderson	1998-2000
David S. Gunn	2001
Franklin Fogelson	2002

**(Information taken from the engraved photo plaques in the conference room at
Interfaith Community Care headquarters .)**

SUN CITIES AREA INTERFAITH SERVICES PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

ADULT DAY HEALTH CENTERS

Adult Day Health Care is an organized program of therapeutic, health, and social services during the day in a community group setting, for the purpose of supporting the personal independence of adults and promoting their social, physical and emotional well being. Our participants may be in need of some socialization outside the home, or possibly are recovering from a health challenge where they need therapeutic care not available to them in their home setting. At our Day Centers, our Activity Therapists ensure that programs are tailored to individual needs of the participants, incorporating their strengths and abilities and maintaining self-esteem. A Registered Nurse is on hand at each Day Center to assist with planning, provide skilled and personal care and monitor and administer medications. Volunteers are an important part of the Day Care experience as they entertain the participants with music or dance, or assist with one to one contact, such as playing a quiet game, planting flowers, chatting with the participant or even just giving a gentle hug. Often, a Caregiver will need time off from caring for their loved one. The Day Center provides the opportunity for this and enables them to run errands, rest or see to other needs they might not be able to do otherwise. Caregivers have told us many times how much it means to them to know that our trained and dedicated staff and volunteers are caring for their loved one.

CARE MANAGEMENT

Our Care Management program is an overall program that looks at an individual's situation and shows them what help is available. This promotes and maintains independence for the client and allows them to remain in their own homes as long as possible. Because older individuals are often faced with unexpected challenges, they may not know where to turn for help and may find the variety of services difficult to sort through. Our Care Managers know that each situation is different and are trained to put together a total program of caring services based on that individual's needs and wishes.

Situations and circumstances often change, so the Care Manager follows up with the client on a regular basis to ensure needs continue to be met. The client's individual challenges and overall well-being are the focus of the Care Manager. Between follow-up visits, our Care Managers are available by telephone to answer questions or offer an extra bit of reassurance. With the client's permission, the Care Manager will also be in contact with the family. This service is especially important when so many of our clients have retired to the Sun Cities area but still have adult children "back home."

HOME CARE ASSISTANCE

The Interfaith Services Home Care Assistance Program provides an array of home care services including comprehensive care coordination and direct care services provided by Home Care Aides, Homemakers, and Companions. Home care staff may help in the home when a client has just been released from the hospital, or on a regular basis for those with ongoing health challenges. A Registered Nurse supervises the staff and provides medication set-up for clients who request this service.

HOME SERVICES

The Home Services Program provides a wide range of volunteer home support services to individuals. Often we see people who have moved here to enjoy the active, sun-filled life of Arizona and left family behind many miles away. As they age and have more physical challenges they sometimes feel isolated. Our volunteers are some of the most caring people you could ask for, and cheerfully provide the little personal touches such as friendly visit or a telephone call to cheer up the client. As well, we have Home Service volunteers who assist clients with paperwork, small home repairs and grocery shopping, or even a trip to a doctor's appointment.

PEER COUNSELING

Seniors face many challenges over the years – perhaps they need to learn to cope with an illness or the death of a spouse, or they may just go through a rough period in their life. Sometimes these things are overwhelming and it helps to be able to talk to someone who has had similar experiences and can help with finding ways to cope. The Peer Counseling Program is a supportive service provided by trained paraprofessional volunteers who are under the guidance of a licensed professional counselor. These services address the client's mental health goals as mutually decided upon by the peer counselor and the client. Individual sessions are scheduled on a regular basis.

Honoring the past, celebrating the future

Interfaith Community Care embraces new name to reflect mission

ERIN TURNER
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Interfaith Community Care is now Benevilla, which means "good home."

The nonprofit organization serving the Northwest Valley unveiled its new name today during ceremonies at the Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza in Surprise.

Michelle Dionosio, Benevilla president and CEO, said the new name represents the mission of the organization.

"I think what it reflects is honoring our tradition and where we came from. It's all about helping people stay independent in their own home," she said. "It's celebrating the tradition, the key element of who we are and refreshing it so we can take it to future generations so they can identify with who we are and what we are about."

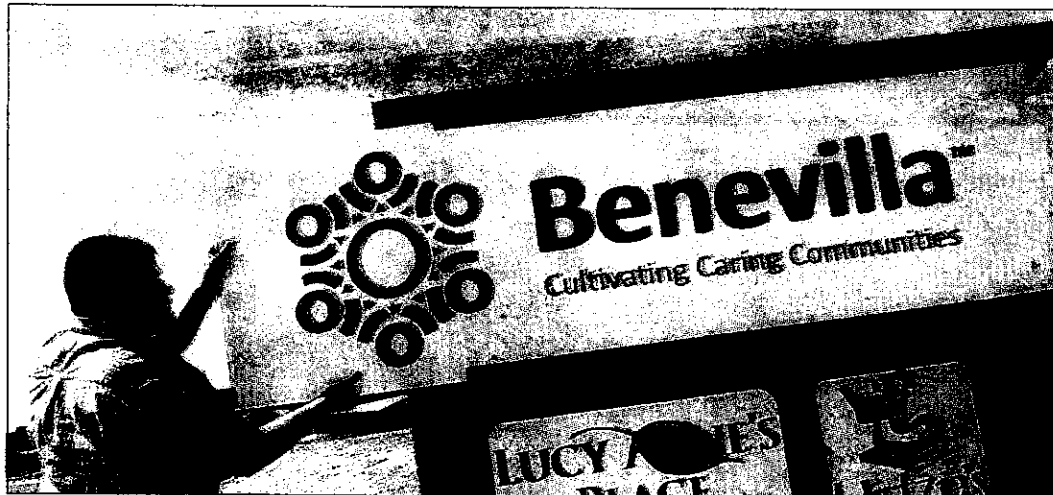
Interfaith Services was founded by Bill Wolfrey, the Sun Cities Area Ministerial Association and other caring community leaders in 1981 as a not-for-profit, non-

SEE BENEVILLA, A5



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY LOWERY/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Morgan Brown, left, and Ken Parsons of Sign-A-Rama, in the photo at left, take down the Interfaith Community Care sign to make room for the new Benevilla sign, below, unveiled today at the Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza in Surprise, home of the agency's intergenerational center.



BENEVILLA

FROM A1

secretarian, human services agency dedicated to assisting the West Valley's aged and developmentally disabled populations with independent living.

Today, Benevilla operates six adult day centers across the Northwest Valley, with locations in Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise and Peoria. Its specialized memory care center is the only stand-alone adult day center in Arizona for those with moderate to severe memory loss.

One of Benevilla's most innovative programs is its intergenerational program, which brings children from its child development center together with adults in its day centers for purposeful and positive interactions.

The agency's previous name change to Interfaith Community Care occurred in 2001.

While it has never been affiliated with a religion or church the word "Interfaith" has often caused confusion for community members who associate the organization with a church-based service.

Dionosio, who has been with the organization for 19 years, said the need for a name change has been several years in the making as a result.

"Literally for years, our board has had this discussion about making a name change because there was so much confusion in the community. Many people would think we were tied to a specific religious organization," she said. "In many ways this name will help us alleviate some of that confusion."

But why Benevilla?

Rose Hardenburger, a former board member and chair of the marketing committee charged with coming up with a new name, said the organization worked with a branding firm OVO from Phoenix to come up with the idea for the name. The name arose from survey responses of employees, community members and others associated with the organization. Common words from the survey answers were fed into a system, which produced several options and Benevilla fit best, she said.

"Interfaith is always seen as a surrogate family (and) based on surrogate family ... we looked at a common thread and what pulled through was a good home," Dionosio added. "It's a made up word — 'bene' stands for good and 'villa' stands for home. It's representative of our (tagline) 'Cultivating caring communities.' That's what our founders wanted. The mission remains the same. We're enhancing the experience of life for people of all ages."

For Mary Sylvia Wolfrey, wife of founder Bill, the positive impact the organization has in the community will remain the same no matter what the name is.

"Bill's idea was to help people in their homes so they could stay in their homes as long as possible. By sending help to the people, they could stay in their homes longer and delay having to move into

some kind of care center. He had a vision (and) I think they're doing a very good job and working hard at it. I'm satisfied they're doing the best job they can," she said.

Dionosio said the name change is an "exciting time" for those associated with the organization.

"It's sort of like a refreshing time. It being spring-time, tied in very nicely," she said. "And I think in the long run, my belief is as we do more promotion and awareness of our new name, we're going to see the number of volunteers and people who access services grow tremendously because we won't be confused with a church."

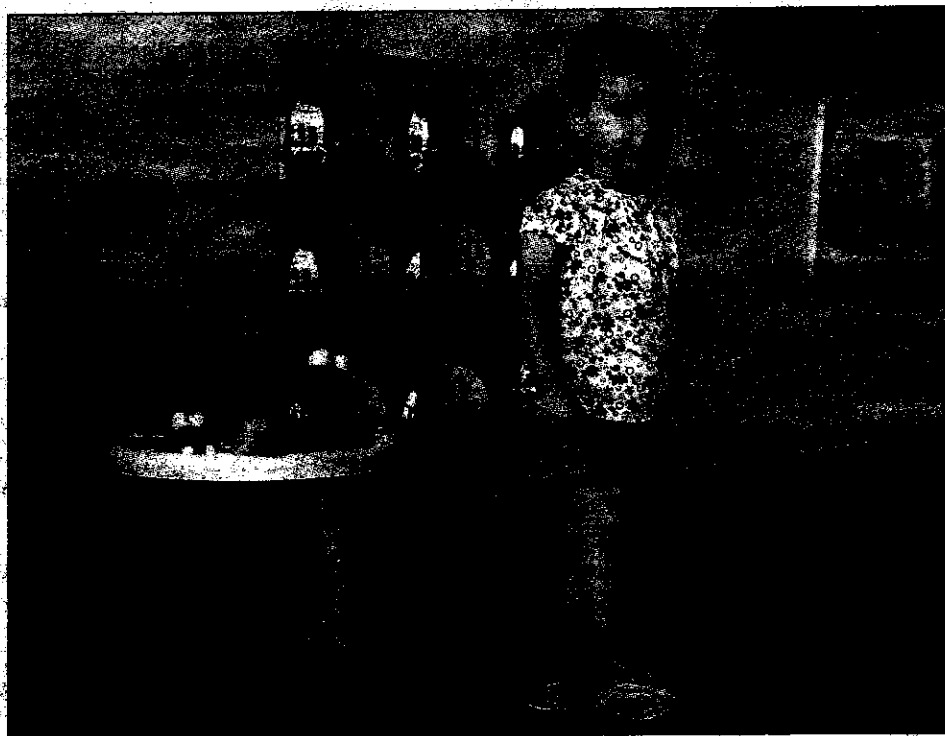
For Hardenburger, the name change prompts the next chapter for the organization.

"I think it will allow for additional services to be added without having to change the name. It creates an opportunity for us to tell the story (and) sometimes a made-up name allows you to build around it," she said. "I think it's a reflection and relevant to emerging markets — donors and volunteers. We needed to make the name relevant to 18-year-olds and 80-year-olds. The name is consistent with the organization's mission to keep people in their homes. None of the services are going away. We are still committed to servicing the same constituency and even going further."

Erin Turner may be reached at 623-876-2522 or eturner@yourwestvalley.com.

Coverage of today's ceremonies will be published Friday in the Daily News-Sun.

*Bridging the gap between the young
at heart & the hearts of the young*



MOLLIE J. HOPPER/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Hailey Wagoner, 2, visits the Wobblers room during an open house at Wirtzie's Child Development Center in Interfaith Community Care's Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza Saturday.

Interfaith shows off Wirtzie's Child Development Center

ERIN TURNER
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The shiny toys are perfectly aligned, the walls bare, waiting for colorful artwork and the floors are uncharacteristically spotless for a child care center.

Tammy Snow and Pam Grigsby Jones are just waiting for the children.

"We're thrilled. Very excited, very eager to get started," Grigsby Jones said.

Interfaith Community Care of-

ficials, along with other program coordinators, proudly showcased the recently completed Wirtzie's Child Development Center. It's part of Interfaith's Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza in Surprise. The open house Saturday featured tours of the intergenerational facility for interested parents.

Funding for Wirtzie's came from Dick and Eileen Bloechl,

SEE INTERFAITH, A5

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Monday, July 27, 2009

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en name was Wirtz,
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They're so excited for
(to be here)."

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ature of Wirtzie's is
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or Ken Meade spon-
named after his wife,
urea features tricycle
sh pads and a tree

will open as soon as
ceives a permit from
which should happen

any day, said Grigsby Jones, who
is the vice president of program
operations for Interfaith.

The center will offer child care
in an educational setting and also
allow for interaction with senior
participants in the Lucy Anne's
Place adult day care, with the
idea that both groups will benefit
from the coexistence.

"The intergenerational compo-
nent is really exciting for people,"
Grigsby Jones said. "The children
will get to do activities with the
seniors. The seniors will come in
from one end and the children
from another and they'll do things
together throughout the day."

Ninety-two spots will be avail-
able for children once Wirtzie's
begins operations. The child care
facility will be open from 6:30
a.m. to 6:30 p.m., weekdays.

Child care will be available
for children ages 6 months to 5
years. Grigsby Jones said pro-
grams will be enacted that offer
financial assistance to qualifying
parents.

For information, visit www.interfaithcommunitycare.org or
call 623-584-4999.



MOLLIE J. HOPPER/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Pam Grigsby Jones, left, vice president of program operations for Interfaith Community Care, chats with Michelle Wagoner during the grand opening of the Wirtzie's Child Development Center Saturday. Wirtzie's is part of Interfaith's intergenerational complex in Surprise.

Interfaith to fete opening of campus

By Sherry Anne Rubiano
THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Interfaith Community Care is throwing a free, family fun day 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday to mark the grand opening of its new campus.

The Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza is at 16752 N. Greasewood St., in Surprise. The 24,000-square-foot campus is just south of Bell Road, located behind the Rio Salado College Lifelong Learning Center.

The public grand opening kicks off with a flag ceremony. Musicians, singers

and other entertainers will perform throughout the grand opening. There will be plenty of children's activities, including story time and a bounce house.

The facility is a project of Interfaith Community Care, a non-denominational, not-for-profit community-supported human services agency that has provided care services for seniors and disabled adults for more than 20 years.

The Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza is a \$7.5 million project.

For more information, visit www.interfaithcommunitycare.org or call 623-584-4999.

Tour Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza

The public will be able to tour the Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza in Surprise on Saturday. The new plaza houses an adult day center, a child development center, intergenerational space, a social center, and Interfaith Community Care's main support offices.

— Sherry Anne Rubiano/*The Republic/azcentral.com*

BIRT'S BISTRO AND BOOKSTORE

Birt's Bistro and Bookstore is a social center, café and used bookstore. It features comfortable seating areas, an outdoor patio and a classroom for meetings and public classes. The bookstore contains thousands of used books donated by the public. The bistro opened to the public earlier this week.

BIRT'S BISTRO CATERING SERVICE

Birt's Bistro Catering Service is designed to produce and distribute up to 500 meals daily for all of Interfaith Community Care's adult day centers, social centers and this new intergenerational facility. Birt's Bistro Catering Service also offers catering packages to the general public.

WIRTZIE'S CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Wirtzie's is Interfaith Community Care's first child-care center, which will be open to children 6 weeks to 5 years old. Children are encouraged to learn and grow in a fun and safe homelike environment and participate in hands-on and useful activities. Wirtzie's is not yet open and is enrolling students in Grades K-1 for summer camp.

LUCY ANNE'S PLACE

Lucy Anne's Place is Interfaith's sixth adult day center. Designed for those experiencing early- to middle-stage Alzheimer's disease or other dementias, Lucy Anne's Place empowers individuals to make personal choices and fulfill a person's desire to feel needed, to make contributions and to feel loved.

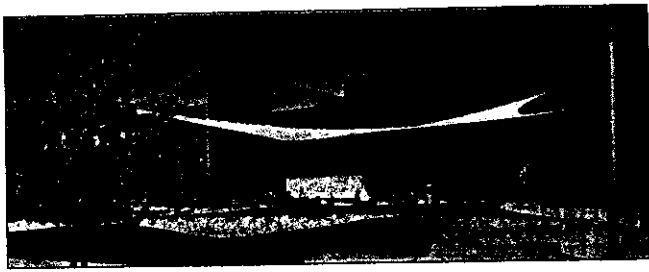
ART'S CENTER FOR ALL AGES

Art's Center for All Ages is the new intergenerational program that brings participants from Lucy Anne's Place and Wirtzie's Child Development Center together on a daily basis. It is the only day program in the state with a designated area for planned curriculum that benefits the young and the old. The intergenerational program includes a performance stage, a library/reading corner and a sensory therapy garden.

Source: Interfaith Community Care.



Amy Howell, manager of Birt's Bistro and Bookstore, folds brochures announcing the grand opening of her business. Wendy Mitchell, an activity therapist with Lucy Anne's Place, an adult day center for people with dementias, helps a senior mix dough. Norah Gonzales helps set up books at Birt's.



The Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza opens Saturday.

PHOTOS BY CHARLIE LEIGHT/ THE REPUBLIC

Interfaith Community Care's Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza

*"Bridging the gap
between the young at heart
& the hearts of the young."*



Daily News-Sun
Surprise Today
Commemorative edit
March 31 - April 1, 2009

Interfaith's intergenerational gains national

JOY SLAGOWSKI
DAILY NEWS-SUN NEWSPAPERS

When Interfaith Community Care's Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza has its grand opening Saturday, it will provide a unique, intergenerational experience that combines an adult day center, child development, intergenerational space and social center. Both visual and physical connectors link the center with the Rio Salado Community College Lifelong Learning Center to the north and to a city park.

The center, named after major donor Jeanne Jones' parents, reflects the changing face of day care for both children and adults.

"What is unique is our intergenerational space, which was built for interaction between the children and elders," said Interfaith's president and CEO, Michelle Dionisio. "In other programs the children go visit the elders at their center, or vice versa. This is a planned space, with a garden and stage planned, where they can participate in music and dance."

Interfaith is receiving national attention for its efforts. Dionisio, along with Surprise mayor Lyn Truitt and a representative from Rio Salado, were asked to speak at a recent conference for the National Council on Aging on the intergenerational approach and design elements.

Wirtzie's Child Development Center is Interfaith's first child day care center and is a paid service for infants to 5-year-olds in an environment focused on child-directed activities and intergenerational interaction.

Major donors Dick and Eileen

Bloechl selected Wirtzie, named after Eileen, whose maiden name was Wirtzie and nickname in college was Wirtzie.

Children are grouped by abilities, rather than age, and provided the opportunity to learn through hands-on experiences, including intergenerational activities such as gardening and cooking. Large windows give elders the chance to view infants in the nursery.

The center hours are from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The Art's Center for All Ages, donated by Art and Helen Nickless, is the only day program in the state of Arizona with a planned curriculum incorporating both children and older adults.

The program includes a performance stage, a library/reading corner, and a sensory therapy garden with raised gardening bed for easy access for the elders.

Just outside the child development center's doors is Alice's Wonderland, an enclosed, outdoor playground dedicated to providing a natural setting featuring splash pads, tricycle paths and a tree house.

The playground was named by donor Ken Meade to honor his wife, Alice.

Seniors with dementia or mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease may participate in Interfaith's sixth adult day center, Lucy Anne's Place, named by donor Hal Black, in honor of his wife, Lucy Anne.

Birt's Bistro and Bookstore, named after major donors Birt and Louisa Kellam, and catering service provides community members with breakfast and lunches for purchase including breakfast burritos and sandwiches, salads and a soup selection that changes daily.

The hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Dionisio said the bistro provides the community another way to support Interfaith services.

"Non-profits need to think outside the box for funding," Dionisio said.



Dionisio

Go to www.yourwestvalley.com for

Interfaith center draws attention

"And we're trying social entrepreneurship. So when people purchase a cup of cappuccino, that money goes toward funding free or subsidized services. They are buying here for a local good."

Dionisio said the bookstore, which sells quality, used books donated by the community, also will provide opportunities for children in the child development center and elders to read to each other, and provide "positive interaction to help make the world a little better."

"Children now are so separated from their grandparents and don't get to see them often," Dionisio said. "The intergenerational activities at Interfaith will give them exposure and a wonderful way to be (learning from each other)."

In addition to dine-in and take-out options, the bistro also offers full-service catering ranging from continental and scrambled egg breakfasts to cold sandwich buffets, hot lunches and cocktail party catering options, including hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, antipasto trays and more.

The catering service also is designed to produce and distribute up to 500 balanced meals each day for all of the Interfaith Community Care's adult day centers, social centers and to the intergenerational facility. The Dysart Unified School District and Leadership West have also committed to purchasing catering services.

Room rental within the Bistro and other areas of the facility also is available for presentations, classes, birthday parties and other events.

Dionisio said she hopes the catering and room rentals will provide much-needed funding to help Interfaith prosper for years to come.

"We've been around for 28 years and want to be around another 100 or more," Dionisio said. "So we need to find other ways to be sustainable."

Joy Slagowski may be reached at 923-876-2514 or jslagowski@your-vestvalley.com.

FYI

To enroll children in the Wirtzie's Child Development Center, or adults in Lucy Anne's Place, call 623-584-4999.

Adults need to be 18 and over, have dementia or Alzheimer's disease, and have medical clearance from their physician.

Day care center charges a fee for services, and the center will soon be certified to accept vouchers from the Department of Economic Security toward payment.

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gallery of photographs

aturday, April 4, 2009



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Hoffman
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at United

Daily News-Sun
/Daily News-Sun

10 - 11 a.m.

Sun City West Chorus
Author Jerry Moriarty

11 a.m. - noon

The Balladeers Men's Choir
Yoga demonstration - Fran Penry

Noon - 1 p.m.

Kool Kats
Interfaith's Helping Partners
Artist Pam Bleckney

PLUS:

Face painting
Bouncy houses
Rocket craft project
Fire/police safety demonstrations
Storytime and a free picture book
for each child

history

to Maricopa County's West Valley to enjoy the area's pleasant

l to providing aged members of the community with the neces-

amunity leaders, cognizant of the pressing issues that faced the

agency dedicated to assisting the West Valley's aged and devel-
pendently as long as possible and avoid premature institution-
ical, emotional, spiritual and social needs.

ult day centers, various support and educational services, and
pendence and instills a sense of dignity, regardless of a person's

es, Peoria, Glendale, Youngtown, Surprise and other areas of the

N WEST & ADULTCARE ASSISTANCE HOMECARE

Grand opening schedule, S

10 a.m.

Flag ceremony, Girl Scout Troop 857 -
Time capsule table

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Surprise Block Party trailer
Food donated by Sam's Club
Popcorn donated by
Adultcare Assistance

Harpist Joyce Obermeyer
Vocal entertainers plus open
mic karaoke

- Clip and save - how to stretch your dollars
- Food Value Club presented by St. Mary's
Food Bank
- Valley View Community Food Bank
presentation
- Love vision support group
- Young Rembrandts - art for children
- Therapy dogs - Lynn Winston
- Clinica Adelante - blood pressure checks,
immunization information



Justin Gerard, 5, from Glen Pioneer School, shows Inez a Thanksgiving card while the "grandmas and grandp Interfaith's adult day center Church of Christ in Sun City Nov. 19, 1982 edition of the
Jim Paint

Interfaith's

In the late 1970s, as scores of retirees from across the nation made their way climate, a need was quickly and quietly developing.

The elderly, many of them widows, lacked the familial support system crucially supplemental assistance that made it possible to live independently.

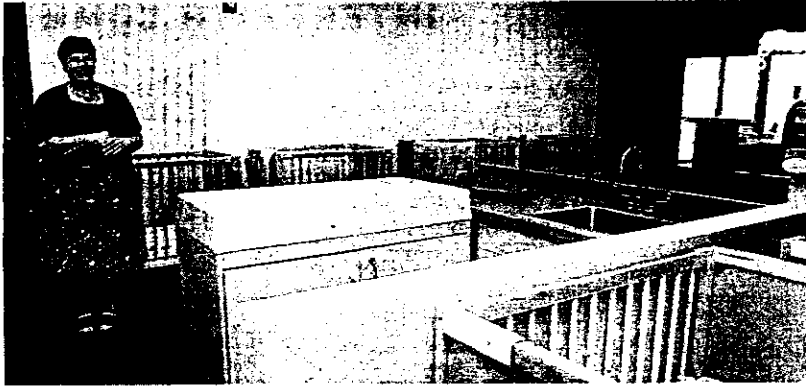
Bill Wolfrey, the Sun Cities Area Ministerial Association and other caring co-elderly, developed a solution to the problem: Interfaith Community Care.

Founded in 1981, Interfaith is a not-for-profit, non-sectarian, human services organization that helps mentally disabled populations overcome personal difficulty, remain living independently by providing programs and services addressing their day-to-day, physical needs.

Through a network that over the years has grown to include six West Valley area in-home care, Interfaith today provides a continuum of care that promotes independence and ability to pay.

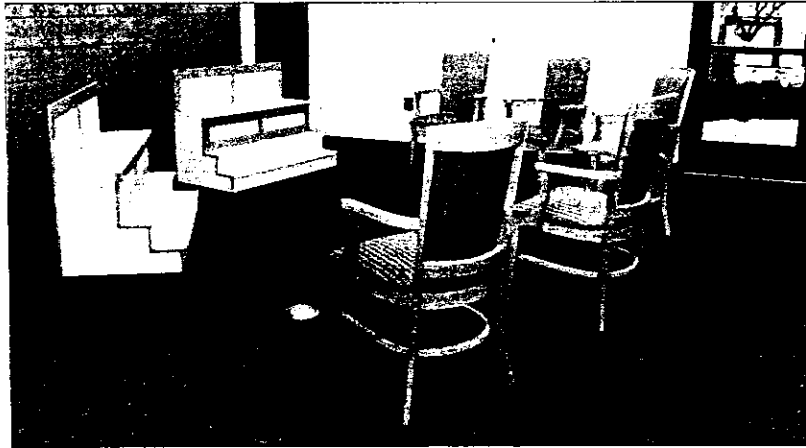
Last year alone, Interfaith served more than 11,200 individuals in the Sun City Northwest Valley.

SPONSORS FOR GRAND OPENING EVENTS: CREDIT UNION



INFANT ROOM

Pam Grigsby-Jones, vice president of program services, shows off the infant room.



ART'S CENTER FOR ALL AGES

Art's Center for All Ages is the new intergenerational program that brings participants from Lucy Anne's Place and Wirtzie's Child Development Center together on a daily basis. It is the only day program in Arizona with a designated area for planned curriculum that benefits both the young and the old. Made up of structured and purposeful activities that will promote interaction between the older adults and the children, the intergenerational program includes a performance stage, a library/reading corner and a sensory therapy garden. This special program allows each generation to impart knowledge and share skills while improving their self-confidence.

Donors: Art and Helen Nickless.



CUT ABOVE THE REST

Ten members of the Cactus Carvers club created artwork at left and donated it to Interfaith Community Care to display in Wirtzie's Child Development Center.

The Cactus Carvers created the piece for the 20th Annual Woodcarving Show in Mesa, where they captured second place. Each carver was assigned an area of the piece and chose a Mother Goose rhyme to represent. The carvers morphed the rhymes to make them "Arizona Style" by adding such touches as cactus in the background. There are 23 rhymes represented by the pictorial carvings.



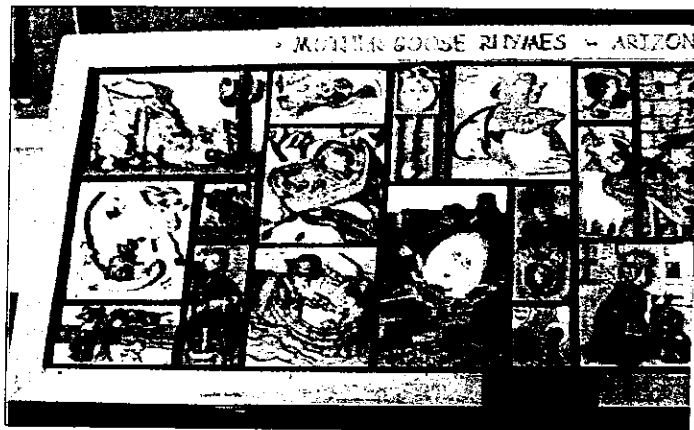
INTERGENERATIONAL GARDEN

Joanne Thompson of the Day Care Center shows off one side of the intergenerational garden where youngsters can garden alongside the grandmas and grandpas. Elevated areas make gardening easy for the children and adults.



ALICE'S WONDERLAND

Alice's Wonderland captures a fairytale-like setting with splash pads, tricycle paths and a tree house. With rolling hills and natural plants that attract butterflies, Alice's Wonderland is designed to expand children's imaginations while promoting healthy exercise habits. Donor: Ken Meade, named the center after his wife, Alice.





BIRT'S BISTRO AND BOOKSTORE

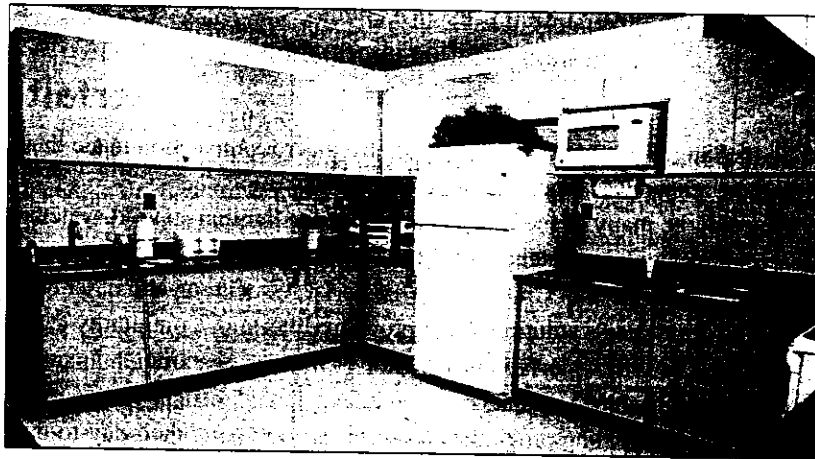
Similar to Chez Nous, Birt's Bistro and Bookstore is a social center, café and used bookstore. Birt's features comfortable seating areas, an outdoor patio and a classroom for meetings and public classes. The bookstore contains thousands of used books donated by the public. Birt's is designed to serve as a gathering place for both young and old members of the community.

Donors: Birt and Louisa Kellam.

Pictured are Interfaith staff members Roberta Uible, Darlene Tuner, Jane Bruzzese and Greg Speth.

BIRT'S BISTRO CATERING SERVICE

The Birt's Bistro Catering Service is designed to produce and distribute up to 500 nutritionally balanced meals per day for all of Interfaith Community Care's adult day centers, social centers and the intergenerational facility. The kitchen enables Interfaith to have control over food quality while being cost-efficient. Birt's Bistro Catering Service also offers affordable catering packages to the general public.



LUCY ANNE'S PLACE

Lucy Anne's Place is Interfaith's sixth adult day center. Designed for those experiencing early- to middle-stage Alzheimer's disease or other dementias, Lucy Anne's Place empowers individuals to make personal choices and fulfill a person's desire to feel needed, to make contributions and to feel loved. Lucy Anne's Place offers a full kitchen for clients who want to cook or for intergenerational sharing such as making cookies with the children.

Donor: Hal Black, named the day center after his wife, Lucy Anne.

Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun Newspapers



THE HELLEN AND JOHN M. JACOBS INDEPENDENCE PLAZA

16752 N. Greasewood St.
Surprise, AZ 85374

Founded by the community for the community over 27 years ago, Interfaith Community Care always has provided much needed services to the community that residents couldn't receive otherwise. As community needs have changed, so have the services provided by Interfaith.

Opened in February, Interfaith's Independence Plaza houses an adult day center, child development center, intergenerational space, a social center and Interfaith's main support offices.

Major donor for the campus: Jeanne Jones, who named the plaza after her parents.



WIRTZIE'S CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Designed for children from 6 weeks to 5 years old, Wirtzie's is Interfaith's first child care center. With hands-on and purposeful activities, children are encouraged to learn and grow in a fun and safe home-like environment.

Donors: Dick and Eileen Bloechl, named the center after Eileen, whose maiden name was Wirtz and who was affectionately nicknamed Wirtzie by friends in college.

Photos for this special section were taken by

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

Adult Day Services

Each Interfaith adult day center was designed with the needs of the caregiver and participant in mind. With specialized programs like late-stage dementia care, physical therapy and intergenerational activities, Interfaith Community Care is dedicated to providing the highest quality of care to the aging and those with developmental disabilities.

Mary's Place

14601 N. Del Webb Blvd.
Sun City, AZ 85351
623-815-1100

Peoria Adult Day Program

8133 W. Cactus Road
Peoria, AZ 85381
623-979-7126

Lucy Anne's Place

16752 N. Greasewood St.
Surprise, AZ 85374

Sun City Restorative Care

15800 N. Del Webb Blvd.
Sun City, AZ 85351
623-977-8274

Sun City West Adult Day Program

14495 R.H. Johnson Blvd.
Sun City West, AZ 85375

Helping Partners Program

17749 N. El Mirage Road
Surprise, AZ 85374

Child development services

Wirtzie's Child Development Center

16752 N. Greasewood St.
Surprise, AZ 85374

Wirtzie's Child Development Center offers an opportunity for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old to discover, grow and create in an environment of love, respect and care.

Intergenerational Center

Art's Center for All Ages
16752 N. Greasewood St.
Surprise, AZ 85374

Connected to Wirtzie's Child Development Center and Lucy Anne's Place, Art's Center for All Ages is a place for children and elders to interact and participate in activities together.

P.O. Box 8450, Surprise, AZ 85374-0124, 623-584-4999, fax: 623-546-1589 www.interfaithcommunitycare.org

Chez Nous Center and Café

14495 R. H. Johnson Blvd.
Sun City West, AZ 85375

This social center offers a number of special activities in addition to a long list of classes. Guests are able to dine in or carry out the daily hot lunch or any of the café items including sandwiches, bakery items and specialty coffee drinks.

Home Maintenance Program

The Home Maintenance Program is an affordable and reliable way for clients to get help with minor home repairs around the house. All handymen are bonded and insured.

Volunteer Home Services

Skilled, trained volunteers provide daily living services free of charge for those with limited resources. Services include homebound grocery shopping, transportation primarily to medical appointments, handyman, business assistance, emergency errands and friendly visitors.

Education and Support

Educational Seminars - Life Planning Lecture Series features local professionals who present information and ideas on important retirement issues and related decisions.

Caregiver Support Groups - Interfaith hosts various support groups that offer emotional strength, comfort and education to those caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other special needs. Grief support is also offered on a time-limited basis a couple of times throughout the year. Caregiver forums offered year-round.

Information and Referral

The Information and Referral program helps individuals, families and communities identify, understand and effectively use community services trained specialists provide information and education about Interfaith's services, as well as many other community resources, promoting choice and independence in controlling their own destinies. Those who need assistance may seek help by visiting the Intake/Outreach Specialists in Birt's Bistro or by calling Interfaith at 623-584-4999.

Emergency Response System

The Emergency Response System allows elders to get emergency medical help with the touch of a button. Enhanced features include daily self-testing and the ability to record medication and appointment reminders.



Congratulations to Interfaith Community of Care on the Grand Opening of The Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza.

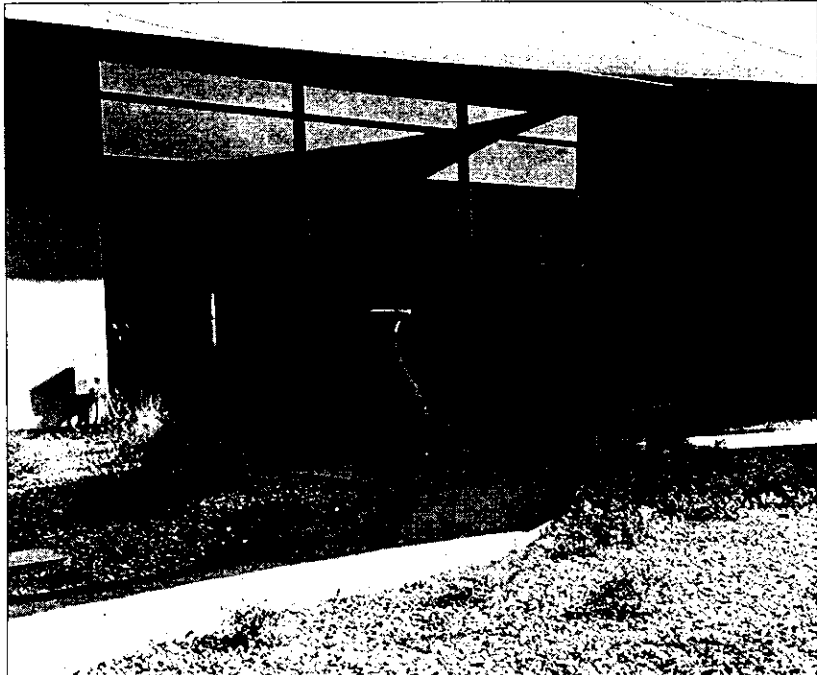
Adultcare Assistance Homecare is proud to be recognized as one of your Interfaith Community of Care Partners.

Providing for the needs of the aging population in our Northwest Valley Communities



WOBLER'S ROOM

The Wobler's room in Wirtzie's Child Development Center in Interfaith's Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza is ready for the children.



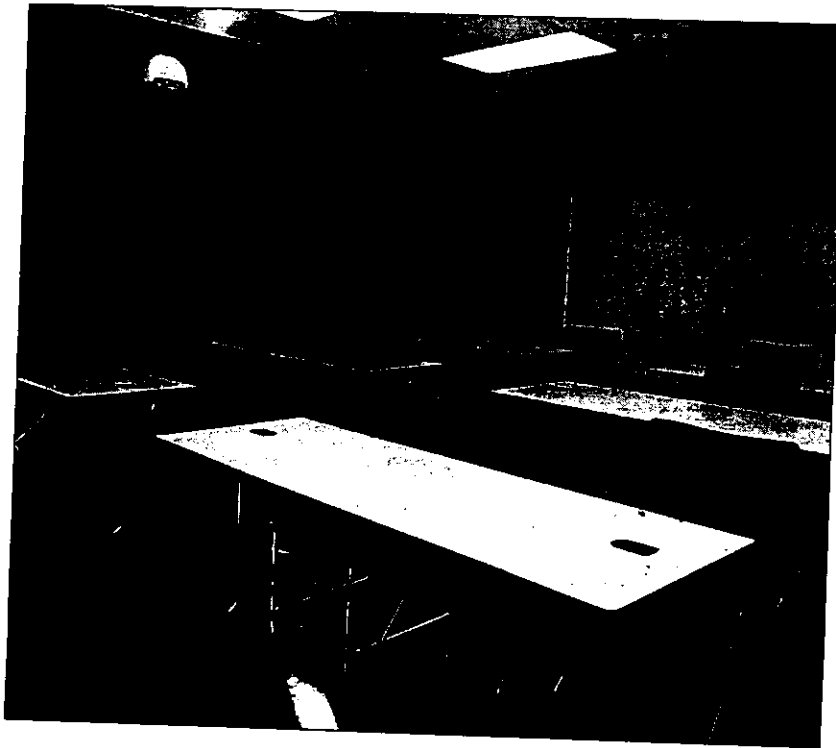
GARDEN SETTING

Interfaith Community Care Independence Plaza is accented by desert landscaping.



JEANNE'S BOOK NOOK

Jeanne's Book Nook at Interfaith Community Care Independence Plaza in Surprise offers a quiet place for reading.



MEETING CLASSROOM

Interfaith Community Care's Birt's Bristo also features a meeting-classroom space.

A center for all family members

Independence Plaza will be West Valley's first such location

By Sherry Anne Rubiano

THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

A new building in Surprise will soon be the home of the West Valley's first intergenerational center, providing daily care and programs to children and the elderly.

The Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza plans to open to the public next month. A grand opening is scheduled for April 4.

Interfaith Community Care, a non-profit human-services agency, will operate the complex at 16752 N. Greasewood St., tucked behind Rio Salado College

Lifelong Learning Center.

The center will offer adult day and child development services in the same building. Adults and children will have many opportunities to interact through planting carrots in a shared garden or reading together in a book nook.

On top of bridging generations, the 24,000-square-foot center was designed as a community meeting place and a resource for families.

A used-book store and bistro with Internet access and a community classroom will be open to the public and easily accessible to Rio Salado College students. Two social workers will be located next to the bistro.

Students will have opportunities to work as volunteers or interns in the bistro and the child development center alongside other adults.

"It's an intergenerational approach

across the board in every aspect of the operation here," said Michelle Dionisio, president and chief executive of Interfaith Community Care.

The focus on intergenerational learning and living is what makes the center unique.

Small groups of children and seniors will work together on puzzles, theater productions, music and movement activities, and other projects.

Pam Grigsby-Jones, vice president of program operations, said the activities will focus on skill building: What skills do the children need to build, and what skills do the adults need to maintain? If an adult is having difficulty with small motor skills, that person may be paired with a child to string beads or do puzzles, she said.

Grigsby-Jones said research has shown there are many benefits to this in-

teraction: Adults create meaningful relationships with others. Children better understand the aging process, build self-esteem, and develop patience.

There will be certain criteria that seniors must meet before interacting with children, and not every adult will be appropriate for certain activities, said Grigsby-Jones. The activities will be supervised at all times.

See **CENTER** Page 4

Independence Plaza

The 24,000-square-foot center will house a used bookstore and bistro, an inter-generational garden and several other elements. Listed below are highlights of the Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza.

— Sherry Anne Rubiano, *The Republic/azcentral.com*,
sherryanne.rubiano@arizonarepublic.com

FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
Wirtzie's Child Development Center	The licensed child-care program will accommodate 97 children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. Teachers will use a variety of instructional techniques, including Montessori-based best practices and other types of curriculum. There also will be an outdoor playground and a resource library for parents.
Lucy Anne's Place	Lucy Anne's Place will provide adult day services in a homelike setting for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. It will feature a residential kitchen, common-use area, craft room, reading area, outdoor garden, showers, and a nurse's office.
Inter-generational spaces	A multipurpose room connects the child-care facility to the adult day center. The room will include a book nook and a stage for theater, dance and other performances. Outside is an intergenerational garden where adults and children can plant foods like beans and carrots.
Birt's Bistro and Bookstore	The two-story bistro and bookstore will sell refreshments and used books. It will feature a children's reading corner, offer free Internet access, and have computers onsite. Classes such as yoga, art or cooking may be held in the bistro's community classroom. Social workers also will be based at the cafe to give the public easy access to social services.
Commercial kitchen	A new commercial kitchen will allow Interfaith Community Care to serve 500 meals daily. The organization now serves 200 meals daily to various adult day centers.
Support offices	Interfaith Community Care's support offices will be relocated to the new site. Included in the space are offices and conference rooms.

CENTER

Continued from Page 3

Parents will decide whether they want their child to participate, and seniors also have an option.

"When the community really sees what we're doing, I think they're going to embrace it," she said.

The adult day center, child development center, and bistro and bookstore are

scheduled to open in January. Interfaith's support staff is expected to relocate to the building this month.

Interfaith still needs to raise \$2 million to fund the \$7.5 million project and is seeking community support. The organization also is looking for volunteers and donations for the used bookstore.

"This is a community project, a community effort," Dionisio said. "We want the whole community involved."



Our Vision ...

*We envision a world
in which people age
gracefully, live well
and control their
own destinies.*

Interfaith Community Care

Throughout the Northwest Valley, Interfaith has been known and recognized for its quality services for over 25 years. Founded by the community for the community, the agency continues to address the needs of the aging population so individuals can remain living independently in their own homes and maintain their freedom of choice.

Interfaith programs are supported through donations from individuals, congregations, service clubs and corporations. Support from planned gifts ensure we can meet the needs of our community today and in the future.

Interfaith Community Care is a non-denominational, not-for-profit, community-supported human services agency providing care services for seniors and disabled adults since 1981.



Interfaith Community Care
Support Services for Independent Home Living

17749 North El Mirage Road, #1
Surprise, AZ 85371
Tel: 623-584-1991
Fax: 623-546-1389
www.interfaithcommunitycare.org

COMMUNITY CARE



Interfaith Community Care

*Support Services for
Independent Home Living*

*Caring for you the
way we would care
for ourselves.*



The Interfaith Community Care Mission ...

*To provide the highest
quality of personalized
care, social and
educational services.*

Comprehensive Services



Adult Day Centers

- Therapeutic activities
- Specialized care
- Personal independence
- Respite for caregivers

Six Centers in the West Valley

Friendship Center at Arrowhead
Mary's Place Memory Care
Peoria Day Center
Sun City Restorative Care
Sun City West Day Center
Helping Partners

Each center can address specific needs of older adults living with Alzheimer's, dementia or developmental disabilities. An ancillary home care service is also available to day center participants.



Select programs accredited by CARF

Day Centers, Home Care and Health Watch are fee based programs. Fee adjustments are available for some programs. Interfaith Community Care is a 501 (c) (3) organization. All donations are tax deductible. Interfaith is partially funded by the Area Agency on Aging Region One, the City of Peoria, VA and USFSA.

Chez Nous Center & Cafe

Where Friendships Begin!

- Relax with friends and enjoy a cup of coffee
- Take a class and learn something new
- Linger over a hot meal

This unique social center offers a number of special activities in addition to a long list of classes. Guests can dine in or carry out the daily hot lunch or any of the cafe items including sandwiches, bakery items and specialty coffee drinks.



Home Maintenance Program

- Get those odd jobs around the house done
- Help from friendly handymen you can trust

Got a leaky faucet, need a ceiling fan installed, or need large items moved in your house? Let Interfaith's bonded and insured handymen help you with those small jobs around the house.

Education & Support

Educational Seminars - Our Life Planning Lecture Series features local professionals who present information and ideas on important retirement issues and related decisions.

Throughout the year we also offer several caregiver forums and Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes.

Speaker's Bureau - Comprised of professional Interfaith staff members, our speaker's bureau covers a variety of topics. Please call for more information.

Caregiver Support Groups - Interfaith hosts various support groups that offer emotional strength, comfort and education for those caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other special needs.

Emergency Response System

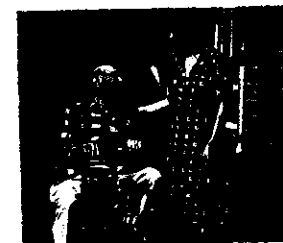
- Confidence to continue living at home
- Help available 24 hours
- Easy to use

Help is available 24 hours a day at the touch of a button. The emergency response system includes automatic daily self-testing to ensure proper functioning of the unit with added options of fall detection, speed dial to emergency contacts, or medication and personal reminders.

Volunteer Home Services

For those with limited resources, skilled, trained volunteers provide important daily living services free of charge. Services are dependent on the availability of volunteers.

Services can include grocery shopping, transportation, handyman, business assistance, "emergency" errands and friendly visitors.



Become a Volunteer

- Stay active in your community
- Bring joy to someone's heart
- Meet new friends
- Be a community hero

To learn about additional opportunities and become a volunteer, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 623-584-4999.

Supporting your Independence

Call Today for Services
(623) 584-4999

Chez Nous Center & Cafe celebrates one-year anniversary



The Chez Nous Center & Cafe staff (above from L.) are Rosemary Purcell, Michelle Strouf, Joanna Proffitt and Chez Nous Coordinator Roberta Uible-King. At left, are John Brigford, Interfaith Community Care Board member with Louise Horeman, Sr. Center patron who prepared two Watermelon Cakes for the special event.

Photos, Marie Scotti

By Marie Scotti

Chez Nous Center & Cafe, an Interfaith Community Care gathering place for seniors, celebrated its one-year anniversary on July 7, with activities taking place throughout the day. Over 75 guests were in attendance at this event.

Following the Center's daily Noontime lunch, the Cafe dished up free ice cream for patrons and live entertainment was provided by the Northwest Variety Show.

Louise Horsman, a patron of the Senior Center, prepared two "No-Guilt Watermelon" cakes. She said, "It is an elegant fruit dessert which you can add candles to for a birthday celebration" This dessert also included frozen whipped topping and candies.

Trudy Nelson, who is French Canadian, came up with the name "Chez Nous" for the Senior Center. It means "Our Place". Trudy is a frequent visitor to the Center.

Roberta Uible-King, Chez Nous coordinator said, "It's true that we are celebrating the Cafe's

first birthday, but more than that, we're celebrating the friendships, fun, learning and warmth this unique gathering place has provided our patrons over the past year."

Enriching one's life experience is the vision that brought the Chez Nous Center & Cafe to fruition. With the support of the Sun City West Foundation, neighbors in Sun City West, Sun City Grand and surrounding areas now have the opportunity to enjoy classes that expand their horizons, learn how to use a computer, access the Internet and E-mail, or meet new friends over a nutritious hot lunch in the Center.

In the Cafe, residents can enjoy various coffee drinks while reading a book or playing a game of chess with a friend. The opportunities are endless at Chez Nous and the friendships are endless.

The Center is open until 4:30 p.m. every weekday. It is located at 14495 R.H. Johnson Blvd. in Sun City West. For more information, call 584-0040.

Chez Nous turns 1, celebrates anniversary with friends

AMANDA MYERS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When Interfaith Community Care officials asked Trudy Nielsen to help name the new Sun City West senior center when it opened a year ago, the sprightly 73-year-old's first idea was shot down.

"I suggested 'Recycled Teenagers,'" Nielsen said with a laugh. "They said, 'Oh no, we can't have that.'"

Undeterred, Nielsen referenced her French roots and suggested a name that was immediately adopted — Chez Nous.

"It means 'Our Place,'" Nielsen said.

The center, which celebrated its one-year anniversary Thursday, has lived up to its name.

"They feel like this is their place," Nielsen said of those who frequent the center. From the Baby Boomers to those in their 90s, from Sun City to Surprise — anyone is welcome at Chez Nous.

"A lot of friendships have been made here," Nielsen said.

A frequent visitor herself, Nielsen didn't just give Chez Nous its name, she also supplies it with music, singing a selection of French songs to entertain the many visitors. La Vie En Rose is her favorite, but she says, "I sing whatever else I can remember the words to."

The center is open until 4:30 p.m. every weekday and is at 14495 R.H. Johnson Blvd. in Sun City West. Chez Nous offers friends, fun, and most popular of all — food. Picking up a muffin and a hot cup of joe at the coffee bar in



MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Trudy Nielsen, who is French Canadian, came up with the name Chez Nous for the Sun City West senior center after her first suggestion, "Recycled Teenagers," was rejected.

the center's entrance is the first stop for many visitors. But the daily lunch specials are what keep Sun City West visitors like Violet Bruce, Peggy Webb, and Dorothy Whittet meeting at their regular table in the dining room whenever they can. The three women met at Chez Nous and have formed a lunching-ladies bond ever since.

"I like the tacos," Bruce said. "It's something to do and it gets us out."

Throughout the week, visitors can enjoy a wide-ranging menu with a reservation and a suggested donation of \$4.

Another visitor who's made many friends at Chez Nous is 75-year-old Howard Weinberg of Sun City West. After losing his wife, Charlotte, less than a year ago, Weinberg turned to the bereavement support group at Chez Nous.

"It was very well organized. They didn't just ramble on," Weinberg said. Now he's a

daily visitor to the center, lunching with his "lady friends," but he'll downplay his popularity if asked.

"Well, I'm not too crazy about making friends with men," Weinberg said with a smile.

Interfaith representative Cindy Sarrerino said Chez Nous was created a year ago because the need for such a place existed in the area.

"It's a trendy, comfy atmosphere aimed at Baby

DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, JULY 9, AND SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2005

A3

OVER



MOLLIE J. HOPPER/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dorothy Whittet, left, Peggy Webb and Violet Bruce enjoy lunch at the Chez Nous Cafe Thursday. The group helped celebrate the center's first anniversary.

Boomers," said Sarrerino, the senior director of program operations at Interfaith. Since 1998, Interfaith had senior day events once a month in their own building, but in 2004, it opened its first five-day-a-week center. Acquiring the space was a joint effort between Interfaith and the Sun City West Foundation, which supplied them with the building.

Starting in the fall, Sarrerino said they hope to start opening up at least a few Saturdays of the month. Their future goal is to stay open in the evening to supply even more time for classes and social events.

Virginia Goluszka knows all about the classes at Chez Nous as she's sampled at least a dozen. The Sun City West resident listed computer classes, handwriting analysis, dream interpretation and Spanish classes as some of her favorites. She said she makes the trip to Chez Nous

at least four to five times a month.

"It's just a very cozy environment," Goluszka said.

Joyce Steen agrees. The 90-year-old Surprise woman said she nearly starved herself to death at one point because she hated to eat at home alone.

"I have to be with people to eat, and I don't like going to a restaurant alone," she said, which is why she found Chez Nous to be the perfect place to enjoy a sociable meal.

Steen said she lives for her cat and her passion is playing the organ, but Chez Nous has allowed her branch out.

"I've made lots of friends," Steen said. "You can't stay cooped up by yourself at home all the time."

For information on Chez Nous classes or to make a lunch reservation, call 584-0040.

Amanda Myers may be reached at 876-2513 or amyers@aztrib.com.

Interfaith Care produces valuable service

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Whether it's at Fry's or Safeway, Kathy Downes has spent a lot of her time in the grocery store.

Through Interfaith Community Care, the Sun Citian has shopped for individuals who can't do it themselves for almost two years. In addition, she's taken clients to their doctor's appointments.

"This is a big opportunity for me to serve someone who is need," she said.

Downes has two regular clients she has helped through the program at Interfaith.

"We're all going to need help at one point; as long as I do something, I want to help," she said. "It's vital for us to help in anyway possible."

For a few years, Downes has volunteered with Interfaith and got involved with the program after discovering an advertisement in the newspaper for volunteers.

"I had the extra time, so I decided to respond and help them out," she said. "I was drawn to Interfaith because they serve all different faiths and circumstances in the area."

The retiree has two jobs, including grocery shopping and taking seniors to their

FYI

- **WHAT:** Interfaith Community Care grocery delivery program.
- **INFO:** Call 584-4999, or visit www.interfaithcommunitycare.org.

doctor's appointments. She said many of her clients can't drive because they use wheelchairs or walkers.

"A lot of them have just gotten over surgeries and can't move much," she said. "That's where I come in and take them where they need to go."

When Downes grocery shops for clients, she has paid attention to the lists because they are items she gets for herself.

"Some of them have special diets and get certain things," she said. "I often get some of things for myself because they're healthy."

In addition to grocery store and doctor's visits, she found special relationships with some of the clients. She said one of her clients has been an "inspiration."

"She's helped me, and I've helped her and that's what it is all about," she said.

To nominate a candidate for a community service profile, contact Mitchell Vantrease at 876-2626 or mvantrease@aztrtb.com.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN



Kathy Downes of Sun City shops at a grocery store as part of an Interfaith Community Care program. For almost two years, Downes has volunteered to buy groceries and take clients to the doctor when they are unable to drive.

Health: Program keeps seniors living longer



Independent Newspapers/Cecilia Chan

Chez Nous Cafe regulars Jim Krohn, left, Ron Kruppa and Aussi, middle, and Bernie Laiderman and Ginger.

Interfaith meets social, physical needs

By Cecilia Chan
Independent Newspapers

For a hot cup of java and friendly conversation with fellow dog walkers, Ron Kruppa comes to the Chez Nous Cafe on R.H. Johnson Boulevard.

"I come here every day, even when it rains," Mr. Kruppa said one damp morning last week while seated at his regular table. "It's handy and it allows dogs outside here. And we are treated very well."

The cafe, which offers gourmet coffees like Irish creme latte, breakfast and a lunch menu featuring dishes such as salmon with dill, is one of the latest attractions at Interfaith Community Care.

Meeting the needs of a growing senior citizen population, the nonprofit human services agency now serves the Sun Cities, Youngtown, Peoria, Glendale, Surprise, El Mirage and surrounding areas. In its inception in 1981, Interfaith served 256 people. Today, it serves 7,000.

"All over the United States they are setting up programs like Interfaith's," said Michelle Dionisio, president and CEO. "People are calling from all over and want to replicate us. It really speaks well to the founding fathers."

The organization came about because Sun Citizens felt support services were lacking locally that would enable seniors to stay in their homes longer.

Interfaith aims to keep seniors health physically and mentally with services that include five



Good friends Shirely King and Lynette Amel enjoy lunch at the cafe.

For more information about Interfaith Community Care, call 584-4999 or go to www.InterfaithCommunityCare.org

adult day care centers, in-home care and support, senior care management, emergency response systems, peer counseling, support groups, and various other services.

"This is the trend for the future," Ms. Dionisio said. "There are no longer senior centers as we traditionally know it."

Donations and grants keep the doors opened at Interfaith, which showed a \$2.8 million operating budget in 2003. Volunteers also play a vital role in the organization. Ms. Dionisio said 450 volunteers help with everything from doing grocery shopping for shut-ins to driving people too frail to use the community's dial-a-ride service.

Most of a resident's needs can

See Needs — Page 3



Program health aide Maria Panait helps Tony Maier of Sun City West get ready for lunch at the Adult Day Health Center in Sun City West.

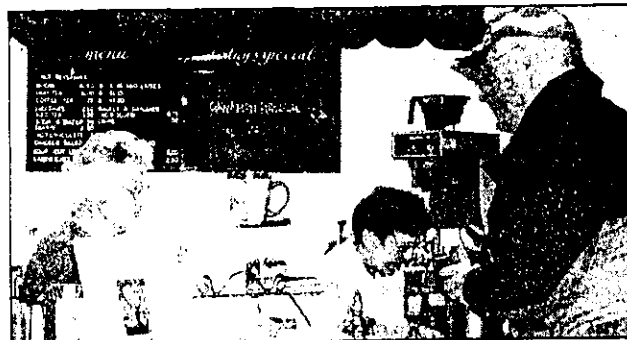
Needs

Continued From Page 1
be found under one roof at the Sun City West facility.

The adult day center gives needed respite to caregivers by taking care of their loved ones who may have suffered a stroke or are living with Alzheimer's disease.

Social needs also are met. Interfaith offers a variety of classes such as basic Spanish, Tai Chi, tap dancing and computers.

Although PORA offers adult education classes and the Recreation Centers of Sun City launched its adult learning program this year, Interfaith goes beyond the traditional offerings and include belly dancing, dream interpretation and



Independent Newspapers/Cecilia Chan

Jim Krohn buys coffee and a chocolate doughnut at Chez Nous Cafe.

handwriting analysis.

Chez Nous Cafe, its latest addition, provides more than just drinks and food. It provides residents an

opportunity to socialize and learn, said Mark Tsuchiya, Interfaith marketing director. Computers are available on site for residents to

access.

"I like the comradity of people," said Shirley King, who came for lunch. Ms. King brought her husband to the day care center before he died.

Too often after people lose a spouse, they end up sitting alone at home all day, Ms. Dionisio said. The cafe helps draw in seniors, she said.

Lou Robinette said he enjoys the balanced meals, all prepared by a nutritionist, and he participates in the stock market classes.

"I'm surprised not more people know about this," he remarked.

Post your comments on this issue at newsblog.info/0302

News editor Cecilia Chan can be reached at 972-6101 or cchan@newszap.com

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16, 2005

DAILY NEWS SUN

Mr. Fixit a phone call away



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS SUN

Loren Littlefield of Interfaith Services fixes a light for Gladys Arend of Sun City Tuesday as part of Interfaith Community Care's home maintenance program.

Interfaith Care program helps with repairs

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When Gladys Arend of Sun City needs a helping hand around the house, she trusts Interfaith Community Care's home maintenance program to get the job done.

"You never know when something's going to break down," said Arend, an 83-year-old widow. "When something goes wrong, you can count on them."

Interfaith is a non-denominational, non-profit, community supported human services agency. For three years, the Home Maintenance Program has helped ICC reach its primary goal — keeping seniors in their homes for as long as possible, said Art Williams, program coordinator.

"It's to give people a break and maintain their lifestyle in their own home rather than going into assisted living," Williams said. "Often people feel they have to leave their home because they can't take care of it."

At a rate of \$25 for the first hour and \$6.25 for every 15 minutes after that, a handyman will make minor repairs on everything from plumbing to roofing. Six handymen serve the Sun Cities and Peoria, responding to about 70 calls a month, Williams said.

From A1

Tuesday, Interfaith handyman Loren Littlefield of Sun City replaced a fluorescent light bulb on Arend's kitchen ceiling, a seemingly simple task, but one that could be dangerous for the woman to attempt on her own.

"It's fulfilling for me, and it's a pleasant experience," said Littlefield, who considers helping others in practical ways to be the job's greatest reward. Most of his clients are widows, widowers, in wheelchairs or use walkers.

It's not uncommon today for seniors to believe they've been taken advantage of by contractors, and Arend knows she has to be careful of whom she lets in her home. Each of ICC's handypersons go through a

six week background check process, are carefully screened and are covered under ICC's insurance, Williams said.

"Generally, people learn that ICC is a trustworthy group, that's why they call us in the first place," Littlefield said.

Arend agreed.

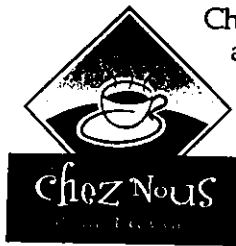
"They're very trustworthy and very kind," she said. "You can trust them and feel safe."

Those interested in having one of Interfaith's handymen come to their home to help with minor repairs should call 584-4999. Visit Interfaith's Web site at www.interfaithcommunitycare.org.

Annie Boon can be reached at 876-2532 or aboona@aztrib.com.

See **FIXIT, A5**

What's New? Chez Nous



Chez Nous Center & Cafe is a vision that has been in the works since 1992.

Through the support of the Sun City West Foundation, who renovated the building and provided the space,

the center has finally come to fruition. Throughout the summer, Interfaith has been adding amenities, furniture, classes and programs in preparation for their full grand opening, which took place October 18th. At the grand opening customers enjoyed stories by Arizona Historian Marshall Trimble, songs by strolling cowboy Gary Sprague (and his horse Dusty) and a visit from Ms. Senior AZ Herme Sherry, as well as a \$2 BBQ lunch, provided by Baptist Village and cafe specialty drink samples throughout the day. The response for the new center in the community has been immense. Approximately 400 people attended throughout the



trend in social centers, offers life enriching education, a place to visit with friends, to grow as an individual, receive commu-

nity information and support, and enjoy a daily hot lunch, or a la carte soup and sandwiches (which are served throughout the day or to go).

In the Cafe, Chez Nous serves specialty coffee drinks, regular coffee, juice and snacks from 8:00 a.m. until closing at 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The cafe has a covered patio where patrons can enjoy a game of chess with a friend or inside they can sit on the sofa and read the morning paper with a cappuccino and a pastry.

In addition to the life enriching classes, the excellent gourmet coffees, balanced meals and fun entertainment, Chez Nous offers a very unique and special amenity. Chez Nous is directly adjacent to the Interfaith Community Care Sun City West Adult Day Center.

day to see what Chez Nous is all about.

What is this all about you ask? Well fun of course! Chez Nous was built on the concept of a neighborhood social center. All programs in the center revolve around meeting people and building your own personal quality of life. Chez Nous offers many

things outside of the typical senior center, in fact we don't refer to ourselves as a senior center, but a *social center*. This unique center is the future of how "senior center" programs will be operated and funded. Social centers are popping up in the mid-west and east coast that cater to active seniors who are living longer and healthier lives. Chez Nous, as part of this new



This has been an excellent benefit to those caring for a loved one. Having the therapeutic adult day program in such close proximity to the social center allows many caregivers to drop off their loved one at the center (where they enjoy hot meals planned by a licensed nutritionist, exercise, entertainment and the opportunity to meet friends) while they step over next door to Chez Nous and enjoy personal time, lunch with a friend or attend a class. For our community's caregivers, Chez Nous hosts a weekly caregiver support group and community resource session to provide caregivers with emotional support and important information. Having respite readily available allows caregivers the social time that is so important and provides ease of mind that their loved one is receiving high quality care just steps away. Space for both Chez Nous Center & Cafe and the Sun City West Adult Day Center has been generously provided by the Sun City West Foundation. Interfaith Community Care has designed the Chez Nous program to include a little bit of everything for a little bit of everyone. At Chez Nous the opportunities are endless and the friendships built are timeless.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, OCT. 19, 2004

New SCW center offers array of activities

KATY O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

One day soon, Sun City West resident Mary Fisher will tell her 2-year-old great-granddaughter, "Hello. I love you."

She'll use sign language to do it, a skill the 2-year-old is learning from her mother, a pediatric nurse, and one Fisher is learning at Chez Nous Center and Cafe.

American Sign Language is just one of many classes offered through the center, which celebrated its grand opening Monday by serving lunch to more than 300 visitors, extending a host of thank-you's to community supporters, offering free specialty coffee samples and playing host to visits from Ms. Senior Arizona Sherri Herme and Arizona historian Marshall Trimble.

But the day was really about people like Fisher, who said the long-awaited Sun City West center is, "the most wonderful thing that's happened."

Although her great-granddaughter doesn't need sign language, Fisher thought it was neat she was learning

and decided, "I thought I would pick up a few words" so she could sign back.

Although Chez Nous, which means "Our Place" in French, is a "senior center," managers, staff, volunteers and visitors agree the designation isn't quite apt.

"You have the senior center and the whole senior-center idea — the bingo and games — but we've taken it and it's much more than that," said Chelsea Evans, marketing manager for Interfaith Community Care, which manages Chez Nous. "We've had Baby Boomers and people on into their 90s."

Intergenerational as well as intercultural interaction is the center's goal, and its one that's already being realized. Aside from sign language, the center offers a class on the culture and language of the Czech Republic, and will soon be offering one in Arabic. It has high-energy exercise classes and friendly games of dominoes.

"I think what's really great is we're reaching such a wide range of people," said Michelle Dionisio, Interfaith's president and CEO. She's also the instructor for Chez

Nous' disco line-dancing class.

"It's just great to see all different age groups taking advantage of this," she said.

Chez Nous is open to all seniors, not just those in Sun City West. Many come from Sun City Grand and Sun City.

"I think this is the first of its kind in the state of Arizona. Most of the senior centers you're going to find are not like this," Dionisio said.

The center was a dream for nearly a decade, and eventually came to fruition as a monthly and then weekly event in temporary headquarters before the Sun City West Foundation renovated space in its building at Meeker and R.H. Johnson boulevards. The Sun City West PRIDES moved to another location, and Chez Nous found a permanent home.

"The Foundation renovated the whole thing for us, so we're exceedingly grateful to them for having the vision," Evans said.

Inside the center, visitors are greeted at first by a coffee bar, one that's proven popular not only with area seniors but also those who work in the area. One local postal carrier has made the center a regular stop, getting the same drink there every day. Volunteers eventually renamed the drink Patty's Smoothie in her honor.

"We brought in that neighborhood cafe feeling," Evans said. "People come in and read the paper, play chess."

Theresa Farris of Arbonne International also has made regular visits to the coffee bar. "This is the best place to get a cappuccino. It's better than anything at Starbucks," she said. "I've lived in Italy, and this is as close as you're going to get."

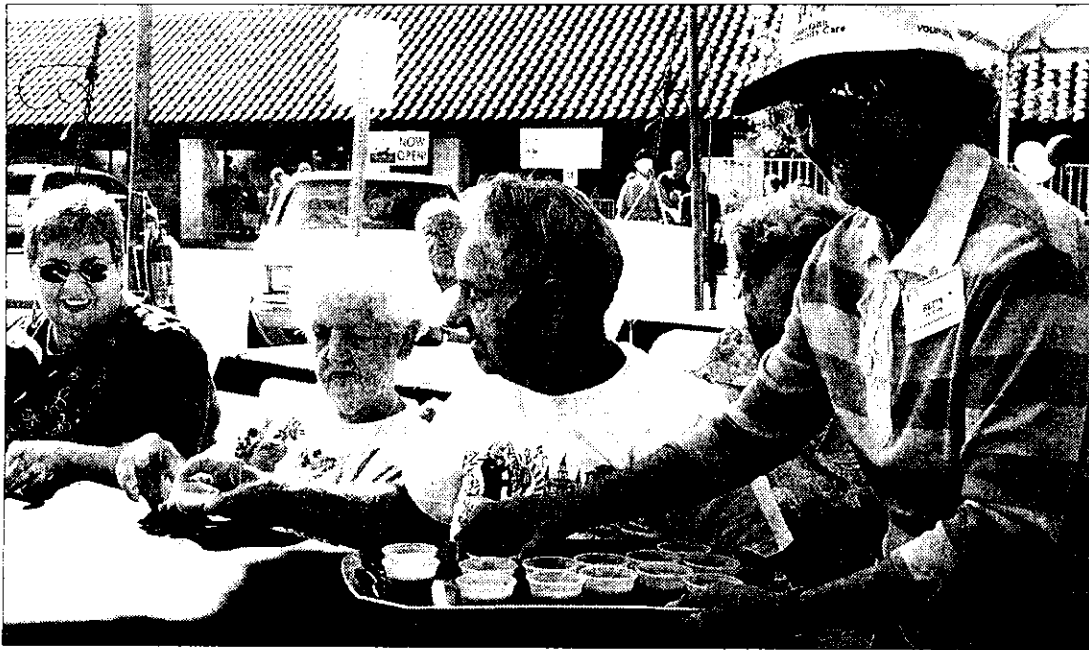
The center offers free Internet access, another popular feature, and serves daily hot lunches and a la carte



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

John Jouas, left, of Sun City West tunes his guitar with the help of instructor, Brad Griffin of Sun City Grand, during the grand opening festivities at Chez Nous Center and Cafe in Sun City West Monday.

OVER



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Betty Berberich, a volunteer with Chez Nous Center, passes out free samples of strawberry smoothies Monday during the grand opening of Chez Nous in Sun City West.

items.

"Three dollars for soup and a salad — where else can you find that? I'm here often," said Evans.

Inside the lunch area is a piano purchased through donations and an organ donated by Norma Lindsley in honor of her late husband, Jack. Depending on the day, visitors can be found playing cards, taking tai chi or learning to play guitar.

Evans said one advantage for the center is that it's funded by the community rather than the government. For that reason, she said, recent cuts in funding for senior programs haven't hurt Chez Nous. "It's truly a community center," she said.

Center coordinator Roberta Uible-King said response has been impressive in the months since Chez Nous opened. "It's been better than we expected, much better," she said. Center staff used the summer months to get their feet wet before Monday's grand opening.

The center operates with

only three paid staff members. About 40 volunteers help with everything else, from serving coffee to writing on the menu boards to teaching classes.

Aside from the social benefits of Chez Nous, Dionisio said the center also offers a spectrum of services such as caregiver support, blood pressure checks and wellness programs. Caregivers can drop off their loved ones at the adjacent adult day center and find some respite next door.

"It's become a social gathering place," said Dionisio.

Sun Cities area transit offers discounted tickets of \$1 each way for people going to and from the center. "We're looking in the future at having our own bus," Evans said. "Hopefully within the next year, that would be ideal, but it's all about grants."

Adele McPhelan of Sun City West was at Chez Nous on Monday for the grand opening, but it wasn't her first visit.

"I've been here ever since

IF YOU GO

WHO: "Seniors" from around the Northwest Valley are invited.

WHAT: Chez Nous Center and Cafe.

WHERE: 14495 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West.

WHEN: Hours are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

WHY: To socialize, find support, enjoy lunch, take classes ranging from stock-market investing to book-writing, or enjoy presentations on such topics as travel, dream interpretation and the history of musical instruments.

INFO: Suggested lunch donation is \$4; a la carte items also are available. For reservations or information, call 584-0040.

they opened.... It's wonderful," she said.

McPhelan said she comes to "hang out, and just to talk to the girls. The help is really very friendly."

Nancy Zizzo, also of Sun City West, said the center was much needed in the area. "The part I like the best? All of it — indoors and outdoors," she said.

Interfaith recognizes Volunteers

Interfaith Community Care is hosting its 23rd Annual Volunteer Recognition Breakfast at 8 a.m., Saturday, April 3, at

Volunteers also provide clerical assistance for programs and operations as well as assistance at ICC's five adult day centers. The time, talent and caring ICC volunteers give to this community is immeasurable. ICC volunteers not only enhance the quality of life for the individuals they serve, they are leading examples of what it means to be part of a community. These kind volunteers cannot be thanked enough for the generosity they provide in keeping this community friendly and strong.

For additional information on the ICC volunteer breakfast or to RSVP, call Interfaith Community Care at (623) 584-4999. RSVP by Monday, March 29.

Interfaith Community Care is a not-for-profit, community supported human services agency dedicated to helping area residents and their families remain independent and in their own homes for as long as possible. Palmbrook Country Club located at 9350 W. Greenway Rd., Sun City. All ICC Volunteers are invited to attend. Please call 584-4999 for more information or to RSVP by March 29.

In 2003, Interfaith Community Care volunteers provided 27,573 hours of service to West Valley communities. All services provided assisted neighbors in their endeavor to remain living independently in their own homes, including respite for those caring for a loved one. ICC volunteers grocery shop for those that are disabled or homebound, sit with individuals while a caregiver enjoys personal time, provide transportation to and from medical appointments and perform minor repairs in the home.

Interfaith builds strong, caring communities

Handyman, Health Watch programs help senior citizens live independently

By Charlene Patti Bisson
Independent Newspapers

The front door will not close properly, another ceiling light burned out and a bedroom door knob recently went through the wall. These minor fix-ups can become overwhelming for someone who relies on their spouse or family member to mend small-home repairs.

Fortunately, West Valley citizens who think they are in a pickle do not have to worry because Interfaith Community Care offers handyman assistance to Sun Cities, Youngtown, Surprise and Northwest Peoria residents.

Interfaith provides support services for independent home living.

"I would say we do anywhere from 40 to 70 homes each month," said Art Williams, who coordinates Interfaith's handyman program. "We have so many widows and they never had the experience of taking care of things after their husbands passed away."

Though mostly widows need repair help, the program is also open to men and single people who need assistance.

Handymen are retired people who work part time fixing a leaky faucet, installing ceiling fans and moving large items around the house. Their schedules vary depending on the need.

"They wish to stay active, most are involved in other activities such as church or the posse," Mr. Williams said. "I tend to make assignments in their community where they are working on their neighbors' homes rather than having a stranger visit."

For example, he said three people work Sun City West and Surprise while another three handymen work Sun City and the other areas.

When people call for the handyman service, Mr. Williams finds the most appropriate person for the job.

The minimal fee for handymen service is \$25 for one hour and \$6.25 for each 15 minutes thereafter. Those who cannot afford the fee may receive free service depend-

ing on the financial situation.

"Interfaith has a position for integrity and not ripping people off," Mr. Williams said. "I am not saying there are businesses ripping people off, they (the community) have more faith in who we hire. We are very careful with the people we have with us.

"Our handymen have general knowledge. We are not in business to take away from the plumber or technician. We advertise our cost."

Mr. Williams noted handymen do not make visits longer than necessary.

"I like to pick up the tools once in a while," added Mr. Williams, who is a retired building contractor. "I enjoy getting out into the homes and talking to people. Most we help are rather confined."

Handymen do more than just fix things.

"We also observe the premises," he explained. "We look for potential fire and safety hazards. It (the program) is really a service to the com-

Continued on Page 7

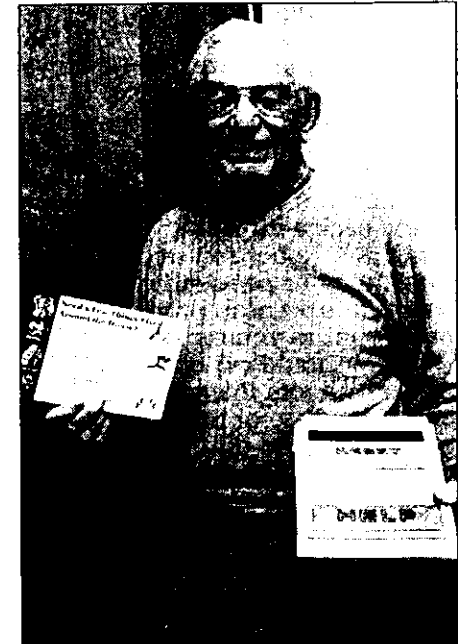


Photo by Charlene Patti Bisson
/Independent Newspapers

Sun City resident Art Williams coordinates the handymen and Health Watch programs for Interfaith Community Care. He displays a Health Watch alarm system.

OVER

munity."

Health Watch

Another assistance to Northwest Valley citizens is Interfaith's Health Watch program, which provides 24-hour watch over participants daily. Health Watch is about giving people a sense of security in their home.

"It is an alarm for getting assistance if seniors fall or are not feeling well," Mr. Williams said. "If they need assistance they call by pressing the button. It automatically sends an electronic notice to the home office in Florida."

Health Watch Response Center professionals then ask them if they need assistance. A person may respond saying they fell and just need a hand or they are having a heart attack and need medical service.

An operator will contact neighbors and/or people willing to help if a non-emergency incident. Professionals will also call police, fire or 911 depending on the response time needed.

There are three different monitoring units available to citizens.

Ninety percent of participants pay \$30 each month for the program. There is also a \$40 and \$45 program for those not quite as mobile or those who need more medical attention.

"The response time is within 30

HANDYMAN SPECIALS

to 40 seconds," Mr. Williams said. "They (the operator) stay on the line (while help is on the way)."

The operator can hear a person up to 150 feet away from the Health Watch console.

Thus far, 118 consoles have been installed in the West Valley.

"There is no maximum limit. We can order as many as we need," Mr. Williams said. "I am looking to increase the program by 100 participants."

City of Surprise Vice Mayor Don Cox serves on Interfaith's Board of Directors because he knows how valuable the non-profit organization is to the West Valley.

"It is an organization that will help you at your home," Vice Mayor said.

The vice mayor said Interfaith fills various needs in the West Valley and he tells his constituents about its programs.

"Seeing what they do for all the cities -- my heart goes to Interfaith Community Care," Vice Mayor Cox said.

Keeping the 'faith'

Innovative Interfaith program helps realtor's wife

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A squeeze of the hand, a smile, an extended forearm ready to support his wife: Ken Meade encourages his wife, Alice, as she takes careful, deliberate steps, without aid.

After Sun City West resident Alice Meade suffered a stroke four years ago, she and her husband wondered if she would ever walk again.

Therapists at area hospitals gave Alice little hope for regaining her mobility. Although determined, Alice recalls she felt discouraged at times.

But Ken felt strongly his wife could walk again.

"I have never given up hope," he said. "And as long as I'm around, we're going to keep trying."

The Meades credit a program at Interfaith Community Care's Adult Day Center in Sun City with helping Alice learn to walk again.

Today, she can walk several steps unaided, and can walk slowly with a wheeled walker.

"She's doing wonderfully," said Day Center supervisor Debbie Roberts.

Alice's goal is to learn to walk completely unaided by Christmas, said her restorative aide, Ann Trick.

The Meades recalled Alice's stroke, which happened Oct. 7, 1999. They went to Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital and were sent on to Boswell Memorial Hospital, Ken said.

"They found a blockage in her left shoulder," he said.

Alice was put on blood thinners and was kept overnight at Boswell.

Hospital staff called Ken in

the middle of the night to inform him Alice was not doing well. As the medication broke up the clots in her blood, one traveled to her brain. Ken didn't know if Alice would make it through the night, but she did, and soon began two months of therapy.

"They started some therapy for her to learn how to walk with a walker," Ken said.

Alice had difficulty taking even small steps.

"They told me that they didn't think she'd ever walk again," Ken said.

Alice began to believe they were right. But Ken had a positive outlook, and was determined that Alice could walk again.

"Fairly or unfairly, I think I have pushed her for four years," he said.

Ken encouraged Alice to walk the hallway of their home. He wanted her to walk the hallway three or four times a day; Alice was only willing to do it once a day, she said.

Alice later tried physical therapy at a clinic in Peoria. The Meades even took a special trip to Florida in 2001 for 2½ months of hyperbaric-oxygen therapy. The treatments helped somewhat, but seemed to have no lasting effects, Ken said.

In May, the Daily News-Sun published a story on Betty Speranza, a Sun City woman who never expected to walk again after her stroke, but found help through Interfaith's program. The story encouraged Ken, who decided

to look into it for Alice.

"I saw the article in the paper and I thought, 'if they can teach Betty how to walk, maybe they can teach Alice to walk,'" he said.

On July 1, Alice entered the program. Trick and fellow restorative aide Mary Lou Pantoja began by putting a gait belt on Alice. Trick walked ahead of her, Pantoja behind her, and Alice took small steps.

At first, Alice was using a cane, but it irritated her leg, Trick said. Trick and Pantoja worked on Alice's balance, helping her regain her sense of equilibrium. Eventually, the aides let go, and Alice was walking on her own.

Alice's greatest progress has been in the past several months, Ken said. The most important part of Alice's recovery in the last four years has been the couple's "never-give-up attitude," fueled mainly by Ken's optimism, he said.

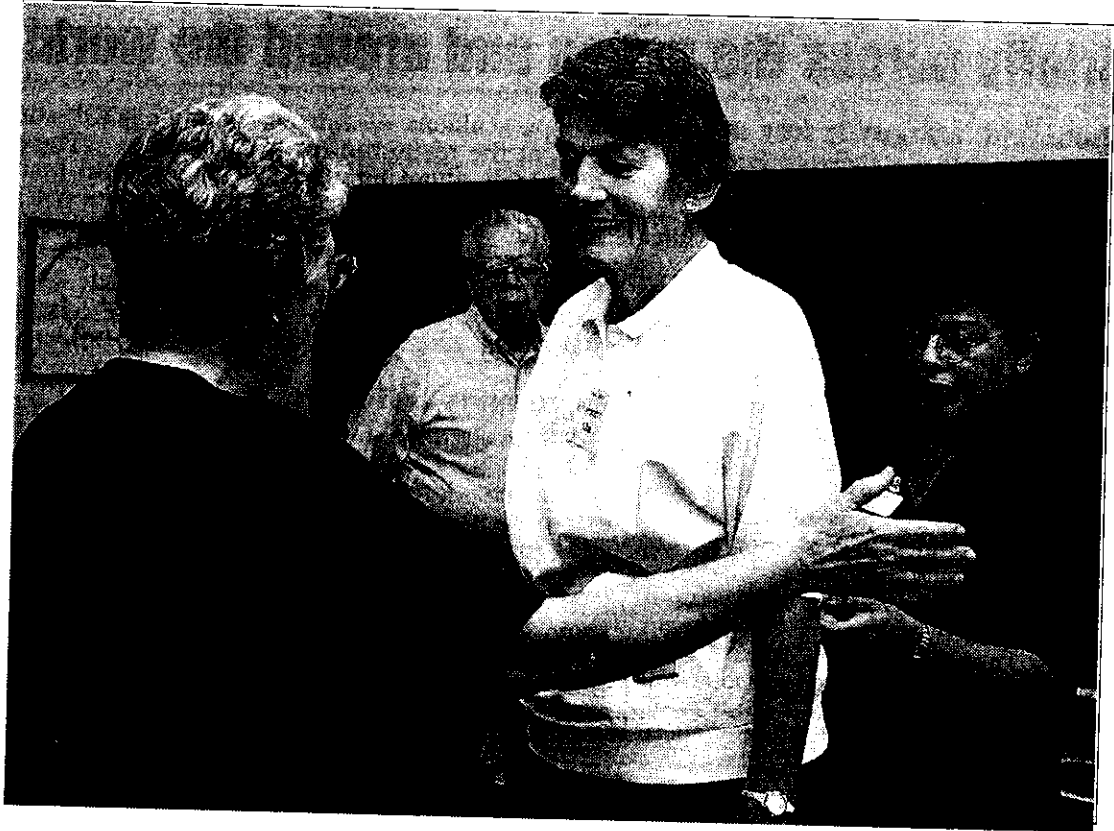
"I believe all people who have had strokes give up too soon," he said.

Alice is living proof that one should never give up hope, Ken added. If he could share one message with those who are recovering from a stroke and hope to walk again, Ken said it would be: "Don't give up."

For information on the Interfaith Community Care Adult Day Center or the Restorative Care Program, call 977-8274 or visit www.interfaithcommunitycare.org.

Erin Reep can be reached at 876-2532 or at ereep@aztrib.com.

OVER



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Alice Meade, center, works with Ann Trick, left, and Mary Lou Pantoja, restorative aides with Interfaith Community Care Adult Day Center in Sun City. The women are demonstrating how Alice learned to walk after her stroke, with one aide in front and one behind her. Alice's husband, local realtor Ken Meade, is an interested observer.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

October 15, 2003



Submitted photo

Interfaith receives award

Interfaith Community Care is honored to be the recipient of the Dr. R. Alice Drought Caring Spirit Community Award of Excellence. The award was presented by the Area Agency on Aging at an Oct. 3 luncheon ceremony. Pictured: from left, Cindy Saverino, Frank Fogelson, Michelle Dionisio, Heather Lyons, Sylvia Wolfrey, Rev. Bernie Nord, JR Reese, Mary Bovard, Ken Mueldener.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Because she can't get around as easily as before, Evelyn Barber of Surprise volunteers for Interfaith Community Care by calling a phone pal twice weekly. In the photo below, Lynn McIntosh of Sun City, an Interfaith Community Care volunteer, chats with an Alzheimer's patient at Mary's Place in Sun City. To volunteer at Interfaith, call 584-4999.

Home, but not bound

Interfaith volunteers overcome their own obstacles to serve others

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Lynn McIntosh often walks to Mary's Place in Sun City to work with Alzheimer's patients at the Interfaith Community Care center.

Although she is marginally mentally challenged, McIntosh minimizes her illness, regarding her role as a volunteer as much more important in the scheme of things.

"I have overcome that to volunteer, and it's very gratifying to know that people want you and you can still do a job that is good (for others)," McIntosh said.

Interfaith Volunteer Coordinator J.R. Reese said there are a few volunteers who put aside their own difficulties to help others.

Reese said Interfaith will attempt to find a volunteer job for all people who exhibit a true desire to help others, despite having their own physical and/or mental obstacles.



MICHAEL MARESH/DAILY NEWS-SUN

"There are a variety of things they can do that will help us and them," Reese

said. McIntosh said most of the Alzheimer's clients she deals

with have illnesses that far outweigh what she faces.

"I just kind of talk to them and work with them," she said, adding that transportation is a small problem, but not big enough to keep her from her daily volunteer duties.

McIntosh, who was honored by Interfaith for her service through the years, said she often walks to Mary's Place if she cannot catch a ride, and has never allowed her disability to interfere with her service.

"I like the people, and I kind of want to be busy," she said. "The people are nice. Once in a while they will get a little rowdy, but that is their personality, I just do it because I love it."

And she is not alone.

Evelyn Barber of Surprise is homebound, but decided her pain and eye problems were not going to prevent her

VP

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY CARE

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From A1

from volunteering — even if she had to do it from her own home.

Barber calls and talks to isolated people to let them know they have someone with whom they can converse.

"I have volunteered a lot in my life," she said.

The idea to volunteer came when Interfaith started delivering her groceries when she was unable to shop for herself.

Barber said she first was unaware she could volunteer from her home, but realized she could provide assistance to others through phone calls.

"I knew (Interfaith) had a lot of services," Barber said. "I thought why do I not call people on the phone. That led to my volunteering as a phone pal."

The former Daily

News-Sun Opinion editor talks with her phone pal twice a week for about 30 minutes each time.

"She is loving it," Barber said. "I can feel good about it. I am giving help and am getting help too."

Reese said Barber and McIntyre are the exception rather than the rule because most people in similar circumstances feel they have nothing to offer.

"I am trying to promote it," Reese said, adding being a phone pal and sending out mail is volunteer work almost anyone can do.

And, Reese said, this type of voluntarism cannot be downplayed.

"Any type of isolation is not good," she said. "Making phone calls is a way to keep busy while keeping socially (active)."

Michael Maresh can be reached at 876-2513 or mmaresh@aztrib.com.



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Mar Lou Pantoja shows Bob Spence how to play shuffleboard at the Sun City Restorative Day Center Tuesday.

Pilot program spells relief for homebound

Medicare would pay for Interfaith day-center care

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Interfaith Community Care might reap the benefits of legislation pending in Congress specifically for adult day-care centers.

People eligible for Medicare's in-home benefit would qualify for day-care coverage under a pilot program.

"We're very much in favor

of this right now," said Michelle Dionisio, president and chief executive officer for Interfaith.

Normally, state Medicaid programs pick up the day-care tab for low-income people, while others generally pay for the service themselves.

But legislation pending in Congress would add Medicare to the mix, allowing beneficiaries eligible for the program's homebound coverage to use and benefit from adult day-care centers.

The day-care component of

the Medicare legislation has no known opposition and even the support of an industry group representing in-home nurses. This could ease problems associated with a nursing shortage, according to health-care officials.

"This opens up access to help families that need a big relief and can't afford it," said Dr. Richard Gitelson, the director of gerontology at Arizona State University West.

Dionisio said putting Medicare into the equation helps

See PILOT, A5

OVER



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ann Trick, right, shows Betty Speranza photos from her recent Hawaiian vacation at the Sun City Restorative Care Day Center Tuesday.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY CARE ADULT CENTERS

Friendship Center, 10015 Royal Oaks Road, Sun City
815-4178
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Located in the Royal Oaks retirement-living community in Sun City, this "structured senior center" operates Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The center is more of a social program than care facility, and doesn't have a nurse on staff. This facility is beneficial to those with early or mild Alzheimer's/dementia.

Mary's Place: Memory Care Day Program, 14601 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City
815-1100
7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

This program combines health care and therapeutic activities to meet the needs of those who suffer from Alzheimer's or other dementias. Mary's Place focuses on the strengths of participants and their "life stories," working toward preserving the participant's memory. It's a secured facility that was designed specifically for dementia care.

Peoria Day Center, 8133 W. Cactus Road
979-7126
7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The program serves a diverse population of individuals with a wide range of care needs. The Peoria Day Center serves many participants with working caregivers. In addition to regular activities, participants enjoy monthly intergenerational activities with the school adjacent to the center.

Sun City Restorative Care Day Center, 15800 Del Webb Blvd.
977-8274
7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Since 1985, the center serves the needs caused by various health-related issues, yet specializes in restorative care for those with physical challenges. A physical therapist is involved on-site with the program.

Sun City West Day Center, 14495 R. H. Johnson Blvd.
584-0040
7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The social center is a place for people to make new friends. Whether it be table games, entertainment, a community outing or community-involvement project, participants have an exciting day with friends. This center caters to all illnesses and disabilities and provides a strong support system for participants and their caregivers. Also, the Sun City West Day Center serves many of the outlying communities.

Source: Interfaith Community Care

From A1

people who can't afford day-care facilities. Plus, she said, it's less expensive than home-bound nurses.

"It'll really help out a lot of folks," said Cindy Saverino, the program director for Interfaith. "This could reach out and not be expensive for them."

Because of the variety of activities and availability of transportation, Dionisio said in-home patients would probably opt to attend day-care centers.

"People don't realize all of the services that we really provide," she said.

Depending on the situation and care level, the cost could range from \$9 to \$9.50 an hour.

There are five centers operated through Interfaith, with three in Sun City, one in Sun City West and one in Peoria.

All levels of income are welcomed to qualify for the Interfaith's care centers. If it's not affordable, the price could be reduced, as well.

"It's so many benefits to reap from staying at an adult care center," Dionisio said. "This is a great place for people with illness to come for a social setting."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Mitchell Vantrease can be reached 876-2526 or vantrease@aztrib.com.

July 2, 2003

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

Community program seeks to help 'at-risk' seniors

By Erik Burg
Independent Newspapers

Sometimes people need help, but they just don't know where to find it.

That, according to Bob Kortright, is the driving force behind Community Link, a project aimed at bringing together West Valley service providers and providing easy access to "at-risk" seniors.

"There is no reason any person in the Sun City area should be without assistance," said Mr. Kortright, chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee of the Sun City Homeowners Association.

Community Link brings together organizations such as the Sun City Fire Department, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Posse, Sun Health, the Sun City Foundation and others. The project's information and referral line is operated by Interfaith Community Care.

"Interfaith has been around for 22 years. It makes sense that we'd be the place people call," said Michelle Dionisio of Interfaith.

Ms. Dionisio said Inter-

faith fields approximately 500 calls a month from people seeking assistance of all sorts, from transportation and legal help, to those needing to know how to go about applying for food stamps.

"We refer out to agencies and sometimes call on the posse to do a 'well check.'" Ms. Dionisio said.

When seniors call and request services, Interfaith personnel are trained to ask questions to determine if other help is needed. Ms. Dionisio said.

Similarly, Stacy Bodenstedt, fire community relations specialist for the Sun City Fire Department said crews are trained to look for signs that seniors need help during home safety surveys.

"We use local services, and we might refer them to the Sheriff's Posse's 'Are you OK?' program," she said. The program calls seniors on a daily basis for a wellness check.

Because it has the legal authority to step in where many organizations cannot, Ms. Bodenstedt said the fire department plays a crucial role in the program.

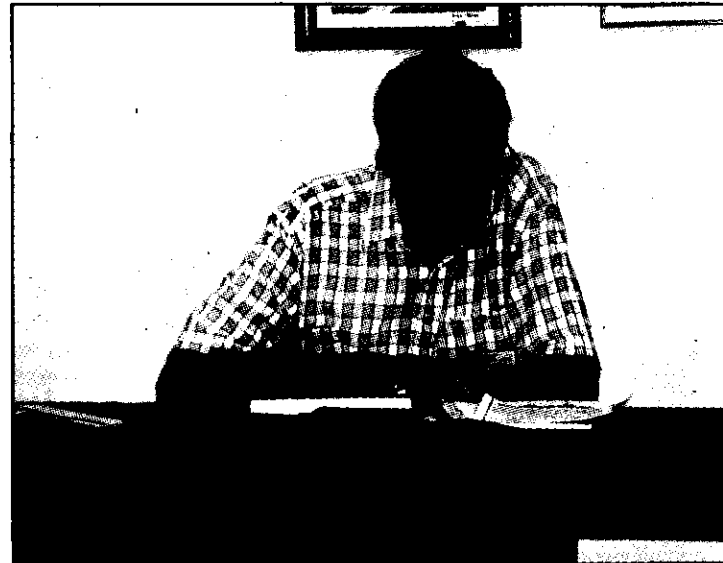


Photo by Erik Burg/Independent Newspapers
Bob Kortright, director of the Sun City Homeowners Association, discusses the importance of Community Link, a project which brings together various organizations to help seniors needing assistance.

"We are the only ones that have the right to go in if there is an immediate medical need," Ms. Bodenstedt said.

Community Link will target those who might otherwise slip through the cracks.

"They could be single; they could have health problems or the early stages of demen-

tia," Mr. Kortright said. "These are not the people you see out at the rec centers. These are the ones who are literally isolated and do not reach out for the help they need."

For more information about Community Link, call 584-4999.

New service watches over Sun Citians

18 groups form Community Link to make sure those in need don't slip through cracks

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

It's an all-too-familiar scenario in the Sun Cities, social workers say. A person loses a spouse, and slips into depression. Interest in outside activities wanes. Staying home is the routine.

Worried neighbors wonder, "Should we call for help? And who do we call?"

Now they have somewhere to call — Community Link.

Representatives of 18 area organizations are responsible for this referral network, based out of Interfaith Community Care. Interfaith's Information and Referral Program has served area residents since 1981. Community Link will strengthen existing ties between nonprofit and for-profit organizations that already refer patients to each

COMMUNITY LINK

■ If you know of a senior friend or neighbor who may need some form of assistance, and you aren't sure who to call, contact Community Link at: 584-4999.

other, and will create a more uniform network of ties across the Sun Cities area.

"The mission of Community Link is to do all possible — to use every possible means — to identify our most at-risk residents," said Bob Kortright, a Sun City Home Owners Association board director. "There's just no reason that any person in the Sun Cities should be without assistance."

Kortright is spearheading the effort, as the idea for Community Link began as a program of the HOA Long Range Planning Committee.

Representatives of some of the organizations met last week at the HOA to discuss Community Link. They included: Michelle Dionisio and Chelsea Evans of Interfaith Community Care; Ivy Wixen of Sun Health Olive Branch Senior Center; Jan Pinter of Sun Health Personal Care Services; Grace Stough of the Sun City Condominium Owners Association board; Stacy Bodenstedt of the Sun City Fire Department; Bill Ellsworth of the Sun City Posse; Mary Rogers of the Sun Cities Information and Referral Service; and Marge Murphy, Art Williams and Kortright of the Sun City HOA board.

Other agencies and programs involved are Accent Care, Area Agency on Aging, Sun City West Property Owners Association, Sun Cities Area Transportation, Sun



Bob Kortright, a director on the Sun City Home Owners Association board, moderates a meeting about Community Link, a new service that provides a network for identifying and helping Sun Citians in need. STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

City West Posse and the Veterans Affairs Medical Clinic.

Kortright explained how the idea for Community Link came about.

"Community Link is an offshoot of our HOA Long Range Planning Committee," he said. The committee grew increasingly concerned over

residents who were struggling with health or emotional problems and didn't know

See LINK, A5

LINK: Groups unite to help Sun Citians

From A1

where to turn for help. Committee members looked at the major area social service agencies and explored how much cooperation went on between them to care for the communities' most at-risk residents.

"We talked about the desirability of encouraging the social service organizations to work together," he said.

The committee found that most area organizations already do referrals to one

another. It established Community Link to strengthen those existing relationships and open up other referral possibilities.

Interfaith is the hub of the wheel of agencies. "Interfaith takes close to 500 calls a month," Dionisio said.

If a person needs meals delivered to his home, or referrals to a senior center, Interfaith will link the person to the right agency.

"We have a similar situation with our agency," Pinter said.

Murphy said the SCAT

program links with area hospitals to provide rides for residents who seek emergency care in the middle of the night.

Wixen said residents can also call the Olive Branch anonymously if they are concerned about a neighbor.

Emmerson, who coordinates 675 community Block Watches as part of the Posse's Block Watch program, suggested Block Watch leaders could be asked to keep an eye out for seniors in need of help.

Bodenstedt said the fire

department refers seniors to the Posse and other agencies too.

Some seniors in need of help are simply too embarrassed to ask for it, Little said.

"Pride gets in the way of a lot of them. They're just too proud to ask for help," he said.

"As human beings, I think we owe it (to people)," Kortright said.

Erin Reep can be reached at 876-2532 or at ereep@aztrib.com

SCW Community Fund awards \$21,000 to Interfaith Community Care

By Marie Scotti

The SCW Community Fund awarded a \$21,000 grant to Interfaith Community Care to fund components of three of the agency's 2003 resident programs.

This year, the Community Fund will continue its support of Interfaith Community Care's adult Day Health Center, which offers participants therapeutic, health and social services for the purpose of supporting their independence and emotional well being. The Center will receive \$10,000 for the total grant, which will subsidize the cost of care for the participants.

A second service that will receive funding of \$7,000 is Interfaith Community Care's new Intake/Outreach program that will provide needy residents with assistance by assessing their needs with in-home visits, and then linking the individual with applicable area resources. These

resources will include not only ICC services but also other resources available within the community like SCW Community Fund.

The program will also incorporate a volunteer-based Care Management program focusing on addressing the needs of elderly and disabled adults who do not possess the knowledge of financial resources to access needed social services.

Through the use of volunteers, the program will be able to provide an assessment of the client within the comfort of their own home and then link that individual with vital area resources.

These resources are not just limited to Interfaith Community Care programs, but include programs operated by federal, state and local agencies. Follow up care will be provided to not only ensure the client's needs are met, but also to maintain open access



Jack McGill, chairman of the SCW Community Fund Grants Committee and Nancy Cherry, vice president of the Fund, present a grant in the amount of \$21,000 to Michelle Dionisio (l.), president of Interfaith Community Care.

channels for the individual thus strengthening their continuum of care.

These volunteer Care Managers will also be available to work with SCW Community Fund representatives on a case-by-case basis.

The remainder of the \$21,000 grant (\$4,000) will be utilized to assist with funding a part-time Senior Center program coordinator's salary and to provide program supplies. The SCW Senior Center program, started in December 2002, is designed to serve adults whose social and recreational needs can no longer be met through Sun City West Recreation program, but who do not require the specialized therapeutic services offered by an adult day center.

However, when these individuals participate in the Senior Center program they find the ac-

tivities focus on their individual strengths and socialization needs resulting in greater self-confidence and a reduction in the number of socially isolated adults in Sun City West. The program offers activities that include a hot meal, social activities and educational programs designed with the participant's interests in mind.

"Without the support of organizations like the SCW Community Fund, Interfaith Community Care could not serve the increasing number of SCW residents requesting and needing our service," remarked Michelle Dionisio, president of Interfaith.

Each year the Community Fund provides grants to several local care organizations that demonstrate a specific need for funding a service/project that would benefit SCW residents and might not otherwise be available without financial assistance.

April 23, 2003

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

Interfaith names volunteer of year

Interfaith Community Care has named Lowell Pepper of Sun City West as its third annual Muriel Rose Volunteer of Year.

The award was presented at the organization's volunteer breakfast April 5.

A volunteer with Interfaith since 1998, Mr. Pepper has put in over 300 hours as a handyman.

Knowing that some of Interfaith's clients would experience discomfort during the summers due to non-operating ceiling fans, Mr. Pepper approached a local business and arranged to have 10 brand new ceiling fans donated, and he assisted in getting them installed in homes.

□□□
Donna R. Davidson has joined Sun Health's Boswell and Del E. Webb Memorial hospitals as vice president of patient care services.



DAVIDSON

In her new role, Ms. Davidson will focus on nursing activities that contribute to patient care.

She previously worked for Intermountain HealthCare, a multi-hospital system in Salt Lake City.

□□□
Interfaith Community Care recently awarded Jane Freeman with the 9th annual Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award.

Known affectionately as "Mrs. Sun City" by her neighbors, Ms. Freeman moved to Sun City in 1970. She was an early member of the board of directors of the Sun City Volunteer Bureau, and an early member of the Sun Cities Area Community Council.

She headed up a paper drive to gather funds to build the Lion's community

services building. In 1985, she co-authored "Jubilee — a 25 Year History of Sun City" with the late Glenn Sandberg.

To preserve the information and documents that had been accumulated in writing the book, Ms. Freeman and several others started the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. She is now president of the board of trustees for that organization.

Ms. Freeman also has served as president of the Sun Health Foundation.

And on Sunday, she delivers Meals on Wheels.

SCW Foundation announces new Senior Center site, demise of Luminaria program

The Sun City West Foundation announces it will prepare a facility in the recently-named Cameron Center to serve as a senior center.

Previously, the Foundation had indicated interest in building a new free-standing facility but area locations were deemed not suitable for varying reasons. The economic situation now precludes seeking major funding for such a fund-raising effort.

"A Senior Center is of the highest priority," said Leonard Gibb, president of the Sun City West Foundation. "as a location

for those seniors unable to enjoy the facilities of the Recreation Centers to gather, socialize and to obtain an economical Noon meal plus programming germane to their ages and vitality. Our community contains over 4,000 singles and older couples. The average age is approaching 73 in Sun City West and many face economic challenges. A recent census indicates our per capita income to be just over \$19,000 per year.

"To make room in the

Cameron Center for this facility dictates some rearranging of current services provided by the Foundation. A difficult choice was made to accomplish the needed room. We will terminate the longstanding Luminaria Program. This unique holiday enhancing program has provided a solid income over the years and involved hundreds of volunteers.

"DuWayne Sauer, manager of production for the Luminaria Program for 15 years, noted sales have decreased in recent years. As our population ages, fewer homes have been purchasing the kits and large organizations such as churches and retirement homes have purchased permanent luminaria displays for use all holiday season, not just for Christmas Eve."

Mr. Sauer also spoke to the point facing many service organizations in our aging community willing volunteers are in short supply. This shortage has affected not only the production of the kits but in finding leaders to replace himself and dozens of others needed to drive this program.

"The Luminaria Program is currently housed in 3,800 square feet of space in the Helping Hands Building and is utilized for a few weeks each year. The PRIDES, currently housed in 3,000 square feet of space in two locations in the Cameron Center, will move into this larger single space, much needed for their important work in our community.

"The space vacated by the PRIDES in the Cameron Center will be remodeled to house our Senior Center.

"The Luminaria Program has been an important fixture in the history of our community. As with all things, change does dictate varying our direction for the benefit of all of our residents."

November 13, 2002

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

Interfaith launches inaugural fund-raiser

By Ryan Jones
Independent Newspapers

Interfaith Community Care launched its inaugural fund-raising campaign, titled "Make a World of Difference," Oct. 29 and it is scheduled to run until the end of the year.

"This is the first time we have ever done anything like this," said Chelsea Evans, marketing director for Interfaith Community Care. "This is kind of a historical thing."

Interfaith Community Care is a non-profit organization benefiting residents of the west Valley for over 20

years. Interfaith is also a community supported human services agency dedicated to helping residents and community members remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

In this initial fund-raising campaign, Interfaith is hoping to raise \$500,000 by the end of the year. Interfaith has expressed the need for help from the community during this campaign. They will be accepting volunteers and donations for the remainder of the campaign.

The funds Interfaith raises from this campaign will

go toward programs run in the community. There are two main types of programs — volunteer and fee-based — according to Ms. Evans. "This fund-raising campaign will help subsidize the fee-based programs."

Some of these programs include Bridges Senior Care Management, several community day centers, home care support services and the Sun City West Senior Center. Each of these benefits the community in several different ways, but they all need help from the residents, according to Ms. Evans.

The programs Interfaith runs in the community are funded solely by donations from the community. This fund-raising campaign is the way residents can help Interfaith financially, according to Ms. Evans.

Ms. Evans expressed enthusiasm about the success of this campaign and noted it would become an annual event for Interfaith. She once again noted the need for help during this time.

For more information, call 584-4999 or visit www.interfaithcommunity-care.org.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT October 2, 2002

Interfaith provides free grocery shopping for those homebound

Interfaith Community Care provides no-cost grocery shopping assistance for area residents who are homebound due to ongoing illnesses or those who may be recuperating from a hospital stay or accident. If you are unable to get out to the grocery store on your own, Interfaith volunteers will

pick up your grocery list, shop at the local Safeway and bring your requested items back to your home, collect your check and take that back to Safeway. This shopping service is provided at no cost to you.

Please call the Interfaith Community Care social worker at 584-4999 for

more information.

Interfaith Community Care is a not-for-profit, community supported human services agency dedicated to helping area residents and their families remain independent in their own homes

for as long as possible.

For more information about Interfaith programs and services please call 623-584-4999 or visit our Web site at www.interfaithcommunitycare.org.

Interfaith gets new ride thanks to donation

Interfaith Community Care clients will be getting a new ride, thanks in large part to the generosity of one individual.

Henry D. Price, a member of the **Rotary Club of Sun City**, donated \$10,000 to the **Rotary Foundation**, which in turn gave the money to Interfaith on June 18 to purchase a van, said Rotary Foundation President **Stan Hungerford**. Michelle Dionisio, executive director of Interfaith, accepted the donation on behalf of the human services organization.

The foundation originally planned to donate to Interfaith's van fund as part of its annual charitable contributions, but the tight economy made that impossible this year, Hungerford said. Price stepped up to fill the gap.

For information, call Hungerford at 584-0919.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Henry Price, right, of the Rotary Club of Sun City donated \$10,000 to the Rotary Foundation, which gave the money to Interfaith Community Care for a new van. Michelle Dionisio, Interfaith's executive director, was on hand to receive the check from Stan Hungerford, center, president of the Rotary Club Foundation.

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Care center battles to recruit volunteers

By Pat Whitney
Special for The Republic

Angels come in all shapes and sizes these days in and around the Sun Cities.

Just ask Alex Thomas, 88, a resident of Plaza del Rio in Peoria who depends on Interfaith Community Care, a local non-profit service agency, for help. While the volunteer base of retired seniors is diminishing, needs of the area's aging population are escalating.

To meet the demand, Interfaith has tapped a resource in bordering cities — young families.

"Many seniors are no longer retiring with the same healthy pensions as did the last generation's, so they are looking for part-time jobs instead of volunteering opportunities, said Michelle Dionisio, Interfaith's executive director. "With a recent exodus of corporations from the state and cutbacks due to the state of the economy and world affairs, funding has dropped as well."

Families like Matt and Daphne Lubera, along with their 5½-year-old daughter, Avalon, have been grocery shopping for elderly shut-ins for four years. Every Sunday after church, they buy groceries for Thomas at the Safeway at 67th and Peoria avenues.

"We were looking for a volunteer opportunity we could do as a family," Daphne Lubera said. "Avalon was only a year old when we started taking her with us to deliver groceries. Now, I explain to her, 'How would you feel if you couldn't go out, or get food?' Growing up volunteering, she will learn that it is something natural that you do."

Matt Lubera added, "It is unfortunate that our efforts seem so noteworthy when it can be such a natural part of a routine, scheduled around busy lives."

While the West Valley surrounding the Sun Cities continues to explode with families, residents are becoming wise to the value of intergenerational experiences for their children. Their discovery has come not any



Photos by Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

Interfaith Community Care activity therapist Diva Whiting tosses a ball at Peoria Baptist Church. The 20-year-old agency has five adult day-care centers.

too soon for agencies like Interfaith who depend on volunteers to help thousands of local seniors with a variety of needs.

"The volunteer base hasn't grown while the need has," Dionisio said. "We're trying to be more creative by looking for family units from Surprise and Peoria to help with the grocery shopping."

"We are also maximizing our resources, asking volunteers to take on more than one responsibility. We look for their motivation for volunteering, whether it be recognition, financial reimbursement or simply because their hearts are in helping people, and we try to address it — like putting to work the federally based Retired Senior Volunteer Program — any way to help them help others."

The 20-year old agency recently changed its name to Interfaith Community Care.

Sun City resident Bill Wolfrey was one of the first to realize that the social needs of the community were far more than area ministers could handle, Dionisio said. Through his vision, four people representing different faiths joined service organizations like the Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions clubs to form the area's first social-service agency.

Their mission dealt with health issues and a multitude of losses: loss of a loved one, diminishing physical abilities and the loss of friends left behind. From the efforts of 10 volunteers and a part-time counselor, Interfaith offered assistance to 200 people, primarily Sun City caregivers in need of crisis counseling. A year later, its first adult day-care center was in operation.

Today, Interfaith's office is at 17646 N. El Mirage Road in Sun City West. It has grown to 500 volunteers

OVER

and 65 full-time staff members providing services to 7,000 area residents annually. Interfaith operates five adult day-care centers, including the Mary F. Bovard Center, called "Mary's House," at the LaRonde Center in Sun City, Arizona's only full-service day care for Alzheimer's and dementia patients. The others are the Peoria Adult Day Care Center at First Baptist Church in Peoria; the Sun City Adult Day Care Center at St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church; Friendship Center, at Sun



Interfaith Community Care nurse Darlene Woodcock takes the blood pressure of Minnie Lewis, 82.

Many seniors are no longer retiring with the same healthy pensions as did the last generation's, so they are looking for part-time jobs instead of volunteering ...

Michelle Dionisio
Executive director,
Interfaith Community Care

City's Royal Oaks Community; and the Sun City West Adult Day Center.

At the five adult day-care centers, participants enjoy bowling, sing-alongs, crafts and gardening projects. They eat hot lunches and get two snacks daily. The centers even offer bathing, according to Dionisio, a relief to caregivers at home who can no longer physically handle the chore.

Interfaith also aids seniors with physical limitations, financial deficiencies or cognitive impairments, as well as the developmentally disabled living independently. It offers transportation, grocery delivery, handyman services, personal aides and phone pals. Participants average 82 years of age. Most are widows.

Last year, Interfaith provided transportation to 12,000 and 700 handyman repairs.

Occasionally, service clubs match funds like the Rotary recently did in Sun City.

"The matching funds allowed us to purchase buses with lifts for the day care centers," Dionisio said.

Volunteering isn't exclusive to outsiders. Many Interfaith recipients do community service of their own. At the Bovard Center, crafters meet regularly to sew and stuff dolls used by Arrowhead Hospital doctors to explain upcoming surgeries to small children. Developmentally disabled adults at the day-care facilities work at the Westside Food Bank every Wednesday.

Dionisio is proud that the agency's efforts have become a model of community organ-

izations and faith-based group volunteers.

"People from other countries travel here to see what we are doing here," she said.

This month, a \$150,000 grant from the Piper Trust launched an advocacy plan to help the elderly who live at a distance from their families. The two-year grant will fund private case management with trained social workers and registered nurses to do assessments and plans of care.

"We want to allow the elderly to be independent in their homes as long as possible," she said. "With families often living back East, an agency like this can do their work for them, acting as a monitor and an advocate for a parent living alone. It will be a trend of the future."

Interfaith depends largely on donations and grants.

Last year, according to Dionisio, the federal government cut financial resources for the elderly, assuming that the non-profits could fill the gaps.

"But we are in a crisis of our own, finding enough volunteers and financial resources," she said.

"We may see the pendulum swing back, however, providing more foundation, governmental and corporate support when they realize we can't do it without their help."

Dionisio anticipates further shifts in demographics in the next five to 10 years, which might add further challenges to expanding the volunteer base.

"I do believe, in time, things will get better," she said. "People will realize how important non-profits are to our society."

And not just for meeting needs of an aging population. Others can benefit, too.

"Research has shown that volunteering gives a purpose in one's life and a reason to live, knowing one can make a difference in the world," she said.

CLOSE UP



Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Independent Newspapers
Shopping for a couple who is incapable of going to the grocery store on their own, Sun City West resident Sue Piggott examines available raspberries for the best ones.

SURROGATE SHOPPER

Grocery service assists homebound residents

By **Jeremy Pearlman**
Independent Newspapers

Sue Piggott is a conscientious grocery shopper.

She looks for the most fragrant vegetables, the milk with the latest expiration date and the best deals available in the supermarket.

The food and household items placed in her cart are carefully screened and delicately handled.

When examining raspberries, for example, Mrs. Piggott will not only look for the hardiest looking fruits, she also smells the top candidates for their aroma.

"I shop with my nose," Mrs. Piggott said. "If they don't smell they won't have taste."

But for all her close inspection and mindfulness on every item purchased during her weekly trips to the store, Mrs. Piggott rarely shops for herself. In fact, most times when her cupboards are bare and her refrigerator needs stocking, Mrs. Piggott will send her husband to do the shopping.

A volunteer with Interfaith Community Care's

Grocery Shopping Service for homebound individuals, Mrs. Piggott travels once a week to the Sun City West Safeway Food & Drug Store for a local couple unable to shop for themselves.

"I love to cook but I don't like grocery shopping, usually," Mrs. Piggott said. "I don't like shopping for myself ... but other people need things and if you can help, you do. What else are people here for?"

"It's just like doing a favor for a neighbor or friend," Mrs. Piggott added.

Like nearly 200 other northwest Valley volunteers, Mrs. Piggott shops every Wednesday or Thursday for a designated household.

The free service is available for homebound seniors and disabled individuals living in El Mirage, Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise and Youngtown.

Individuals can choose to have their groceries picked up for them or, if they are capable, can go along with the volunteer shopper to the supermarket.

Mrs. Piggott shops by herself for her couple.

At the front of the store, a purple envelope houses the

week's shopping list. The lists are either e-mailed or phoned in to Interfaith, which then brings folders for all participants to the various Safeways.

Once she has selected all the items on the list, Mrs. Piggott takes the groceries to be checked out and bagged, but doesn't pay for the items.

Interfaith has a special arrangement with several area Safeway stores, allowing volunteer shoppers to bring the items to the designated household and then return with proper payment.

For the last six months, Mrs. Piggott has been shopping for Kay and John, who asked that their last names not be used for this article.

Northwest Valley residents for over a decade, the health of both Kay and John has been failing them as of late. Two recent throat surgeries have left Kay exhausted after any prolonged activities and John has had both hips replaced in the last year, making long walks difficult.

Having Mrs. Piggott

See Shopping — Page 5

OVER

Shopping

Continued From Page 1

doing the grocery shopping has been a saving grace, according to Kay.

"If I didn't have her, I would end up in the yard," Kay said. "She takes a large amount of work off of my shoulders. I just wish she was my neighbor.

"It's a wonderful service, especially having someone wonderful like (Mrs. Piggott) because she's just like another member of the family."

After bringing in the groceries in helping to unpack them, Mrs. Piggott will visit with Kay and John for a time and then head back to Safeway to pay for the groceries.

"This is a service that is vital in terms of enabling people to ... have the groceries and necessities to stay in their own home in the community," said Michele Dionisio, Interfaith's executive director.

"This is also a social program because the volunteers become friendly with the person," Mrs. Dionisio continued. "The homebound person looks forward to the weekly visits."

Mrs. Dionisio believes volunteer shoppers do more than just deliver groceries.

"In many ways the volunteer is looking out for the

well-being of the person," she said. "The grocery shoppers not only bring the groceries in, but unpack and put them away. And when they are putting items in the refrigerator they make sure other food hasn't gone bad."

Beginning in the mid-1980s, the service has been available to seniors who are chronically ill, recuperating or have significant visual impairment. The service is also available for the disabled of all ages.

Currently over 2,500 people use the service annually, according to Ms. Dionisio.

"We started out with a handful of volunteers, but now we have over 200 going weekly," Ms. Dionisio said.

To further help other individuals, more volunteers are needed, Ms. Dionisio added.

Just because one is not shopping themselves, does not mean they can't attain discounts they may have for the groceries.

"As people clip coupons, the volunteers take them to the store," Ms. Dionisio said. "We also try to be as accommodating as we can be to help the elderly get discounts and allow them to use whatever programs they are under."

For more information about enrolling in this program or to volunteer, call 584-4999.

scanned



Photos by Jeremy Pearlman/Independent Newspapers

A senior center offering lunch and other activities is planned for Sun City West. The center would be similar to the Olive Branch Senior Center in Sun City. Above, Kay Blankenship, right, serves lunch to Julia Glas and John Trace at the Sun City facility.

'HOME AWAY FROM HOME'

Senior center planned for Sun City West

By Jeremy Pearlman
Independent Newspapers

On university and college campuses, there is often one place where students congregate to fulfill a litany of needs and desires.

Known as a student union, this multi-use facility is a central tenant to most higher education communities.

The student union serves as a restaurant, information clearinghouse, classroom, game room, dance hall, study hall and living room for a population with small incomes and little transportation.

It is a place where students can meet and socialize with friends, get a hot meal or learn about services available to them.

Serving in a similar capacity as student unions are senior centers. But instead of catering to a community's student body this facility is for its elderly population.

Efforts are underway in Sun City West to create a senior center facility just west of the walking track and tennis courts on parts of the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center parking lot.

Current plans call for the approximately 8,000 square-foot facility to be built by the



Current plans to build a senior center in Sun City West have the facility constructed on property just west of the walking track and tennis courts on the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center parking lot.



Ultimately, it will enable people in Sun City West to maintain quality of life at home with the support of the community.

Michelle Dionisio
Interfaith Community Care

Sun City West Foundation, managed by Interfaith Community Care and located on Recreation Centers of Sun

City West property.

Slated to be open five days a week, the senior center would offer a place for socialization, economical meals, activities, a variety of programming and information relative to the community's elder population, according to Leonard Gibb, first vice president of the Sun City West Foundation and the foundation's chair of the senior center project.

With a mission to construct and manage facilities in Sun City West that benefit the community, the Sun City West Foundation has been kicking about the idea of building a senior center for several years.

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OVER

Mr. Gibb believes there is a need for the senior center in the community to serve widows, the financially strapped or those disengaging from activities due to advancing age.

"The need's there for an inexpensive lunch," Mr. Gibb said. "There are 4,400 singles out there. A lot of the time they are at the \$19,000 per capita income level and money's really tight.

"There's definitely a social, emotional and financial need," Mr. Gibb continued.

In addition to senior center activities, parts of the facility would be available for other community uses.

Interfaith Community Care has been operating a senior center one day a week since January at the Sun City West Foundation building. The program provides a low-cost lunch and various activities.

The current program has been drawing 30 people per week on average, according to Michelle Dionisio, executive director of Interfaith Community Care.

"Senior centers are really more for active seniors that don't need day care where structure and health services are strong," Ms. Dionisio said. "They come for socialization, education, friendships and of course the nutritious meal.

"I think the reality is, as the community is getting older there is more and more need for this type of service," Ms. Dionisio continued. "Ultimately, it will enable people in Sun City West to maintain quality of life at home with the support of the community."

This senior center in Sun City West is being loosely fashioned after a similar facility in Sun City.

The Olive Branch Senior Center has been serving individuals from Sun City and Youngtown since 1988 and is managed by Sun Health.

"For many it's a home away from home. They develop friendships, have support system here and also get good nutritious meals which for many is the only meal they eat all day," said Ivy Wixson, manager of the Olive Branch Senior Center.

"Our mission is to help people maintain independence and

self-sufficiency by providing services."

Ms. Wixson provided some technical assistance and information about the Olive Branch to help in the Sun City West effort.

Architectural designs were being finalized for this site as of press deadline. Once completed they will be presented to the Rec Centers for review.

The Rec Centers Governing Board cannot give the land to the foundation for the senior center, but can lease it to them for the project, according to Dee Hjermstad, governing board member chair of its Properties Committee.

After lease and site plan reviews, the Governing Board

will vote whether to approve a lease for the land. Most likely the lease will be at a minimal cost to the foundation.

"I think that the plans are very nice; the only stipulation we had was that it was compatible with buildings at the R.H. Johnson Rec Center," Mrs. Hjermstad said. "We don't want a log cabin there, it wouldn't fit.

"To have them want to give this kind of facility is a generous thing," Mrs. Hjermstad continued. "I think it's something the community needs and will appreciate having it."

If everything goes as planned, the facility could be up and running as early as 18 months, according to Mr. Gibb.

With a total cost expected to

be about \$1.3 million for the entire project, the foundation will conduct nearly a year's worth of fund raising to pay for the facility's construction.

"We'll certainly try to get foundation grants, seek naming opportunities for major spots in the building and seek naming for the whole building," Mr. Gibb said.

The foundation has nearly \$500,000 already slated for this project.

For more information about the project and fund-raising efforts, contact Leonard Gibb at 584-6851.

For more information about current senior center activities, contact Interfaith Community Care at 546-4999.

Interfaith shares resources with Habitat group

By Marie Scotti

Interfaith Community Care will be sub-leasing a portion of its office space on El Mirage Road in Surprise, to Habitat for Humanity of the West Valley beginning March 20.

"This is an excellent way for each non-profit to maximize its resources at a time when resources are limited" says Michelle Dionisio, executive director for Interfaith Community Care. With the reorganization of Interfaith's operations in 2000 and the addition of the Bovard Center in Sun City, Interfaith has had some vacant office space at its Main Office location in Surprise. "It made good business sense to find another non-profit organization who would be needing similar office space and allow us to share the expenses," Michelle added.

John Fellerer, executive director for Habitat for Humanity of the West Valley, also agrees on the benefits to both organizations. He added, "The El Mirage Road office location will be very convenient for our volunteers who come from the Sun Cites and it's a location that's easy to find."

This new alliance will not only allow both organizations to share in certain operating expenses, but it will also allow a collaboration of resources that will help strengthen both non-profits and allow them to continue to serve the vital needs of this community.

Daily News-Sun • Thursday, Dec. 27, 2001



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Norma Harden, left, a certified nurse assistant with Interfaith Services, which becomes Interfaith Community Care next week, works a jigsaw puzzle with Gloria Vargas at the adult center at St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church in Sun City.

Agency changes name to eliminate confusion

COMMUNITY CARE: Interfaith adopts new tagline, logo

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Interfaith, acknowledging many people don't know what the organization does, is changing its name to better reflect the services it offers.

After 20 years of service to the West Valley as Interfaith Services, the organization will become Interfaith Community Care on Tuesday.

The change had been considered almost from the organization's inception because clients often were confused about the agency's mission.

Because of the confusion, Interfaith embarked on a three-month project to find a more descriptive name that would better define its mission.

"Some (people) thought it was a religious type of service," said Chelsea Evans, Interfaith's marketing director. "Some had no idea of what we do."

Interfaith's tagline also will change Tuesday to become "support services for

independent home living," Evans said.

The name was researched, and a logo was designed by Loren Nichols of Nichols Graphics. Interfaith's Web site is also being redesigned.

Interfaith looked at several names before deciding on Interfaith Community Care, and keeping the Interfaith name in the title was paramount in the final decision, Evans said.

"We wanted to keep the portion of the Interfaith name, (and) that is how it came out," Evans said. "Most people know us as Interfaith."

Evans said Interfaith went into the communities it covers to test the name to make sure it would work, and then registered the name.

"We are trying to let people know what Interfaith is," Evans said.

After changing the name, Interfaith then had the task of informing the hundreds of people who work with the organization.

Interfaith opened its first service center in 1981 at Hines Baptist Village Church in Youngtown. At the time, Interfaith had 10 volunteers, one part-time staff member and a clientele of slightly more than 200 people.

Two decades later, the agency has about 500 volunteers, 65 full-time staff members, and provides services to more than 7,000 seniors.

Interfaith Community Care offers a wide variety of programs to elderly and disabled people in the West Valley. For the home-bound, Interfaith offers grocery shopping, transportation and in-home care, among other services.

Interfaith also operates five adult centers throughout the West Valley, with one of them — Mary's Place at Bovard Center — being the only memory-care day program in Arizona.

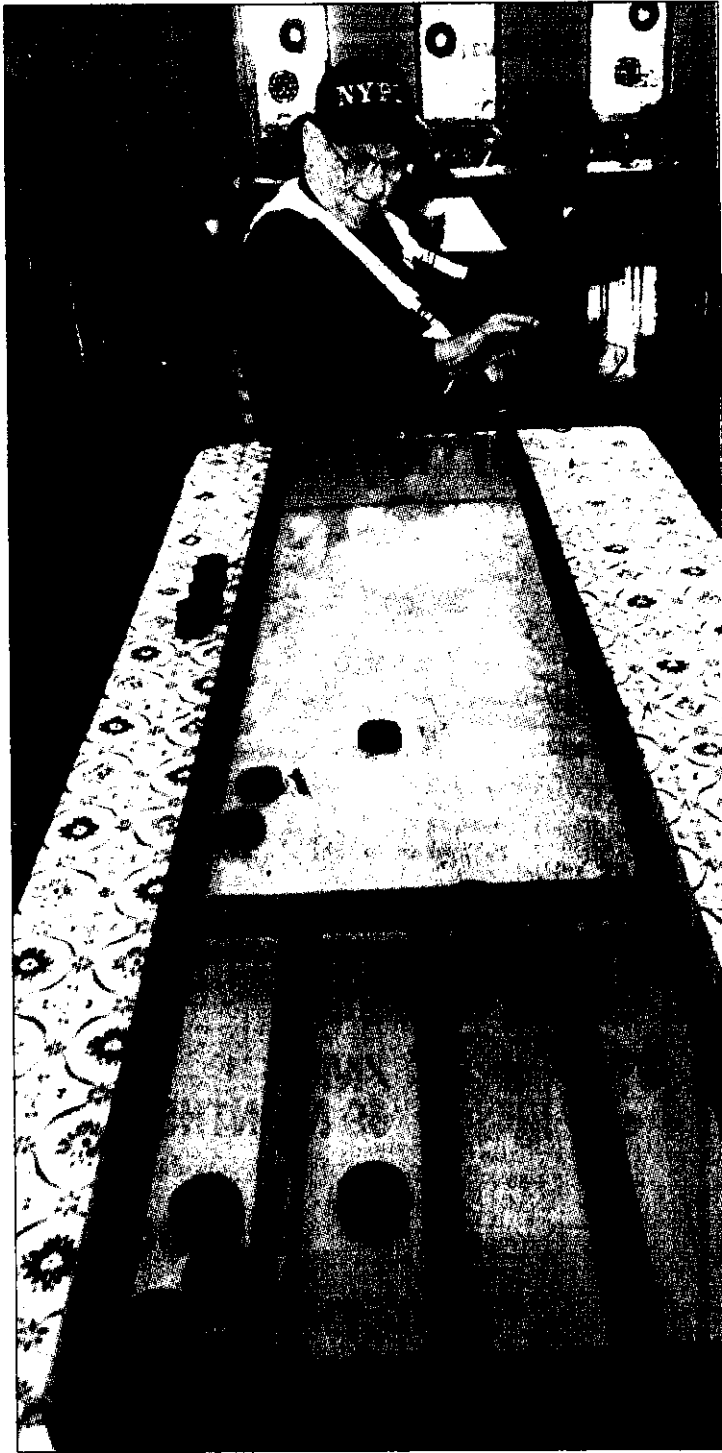
Interfaith is a not-for-profit, community-supported human services agency dedicated to helping area residents and their families remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

Interfaith's offerings will continue to grow with the name change, Evans said.

"The organization is just getting better and we are reviewing programs for the population," she said. "We are looking at (other) programs."

Michael Maresch can be reached at mmaresch@aztrib.com or at 623-876-2513.

OVER



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Lloyd Whiteman of Sun City plays table shuffleboard at the soon-to-be named Interfaith Community Care St. Clement Adult Day Center at 15800 N. Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY CARE

■ DAY CARE AT \$8.75 AN HOUR:

- Bovard Center, 146601 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City.
- Royal Oaks Friendship Center, 10015 W. Royal Oak Road, Sun City.
- St. Clement Adult Day Center, 15800 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City.
- Sun City West Adult Day Center, 14495 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West.
- Peoria Adult Day Center, First Baptist Church, 8133 W. Cactus Road, Peoria.

■ FREE SERVICES:

- Care management
- Home services
- Community Assistance Program

■ TO INQUIRE ABOUT SERVICES: 584-4999

Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2001

TAKING A DEEP BREATH

INTERFAITH SERVICES: Charity pauses to look back at 20 years of growth

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Interfaith Services opened its first service center in 1981 at Hines Baptist Village Church in Youngtown.

At the time, Interfaith had just 10 volunteers, one part-time staff member and a clientele of slightly more than 200 people.

Two decades later, the agency has about 500 volunteers, 65 full-time staff members, and provides services to more than 7,000 seniors.

On Tuesday, Interfaith celebrated its 20th anniversary at its satellite office in Sun City West at R.H. Johnson and Stardust boulevards.

Executive Director Michelle Dionisio said the celebration was a way to give back to all the volunteers and employees who have donated their time to Interfaith over the years.

More than 300 people turned out for the event, which included door prizes from Bob Kenney Travel, Sun Cities Tire and Auto and Sun City West Mobil.

The Ron Rose Band, a country-western group, provided entertainment, and refreshments were served.

"This is our way to say 'thank you' to the community," said

Dionisio, who has worked at Interfaith for the past 12 years.

In the 1990s, Dionisio said, Interfaith experienced a jump in service requests as the community aged and more people turned to the organization for help. The median age of individuals served by Interfaith is 82.

What started as a small space in the small Youngtown church has grown into five adult day-care centers and a main office.

"I have lived through the growth spurt," Dionisio said. "Because of my work with the elderly, I knew there would be more people needing these services."

She said the level of growth was not something she envisioned back in 1989.

"I didn't know how much it would grow, but we had projections," she said. "We are going to be here for years to come."

Cindy Saverino, satellite director of the Sun City West office and a nine-year Interfaith employee, said she was not surprised with the growth she's seen.

"Nine years ago, we were very small," she said, adding that Interfaith started as a "mom-and-pop" organization.

"Now we have all different types of services," Saverino said. "Interfaith has kept up with the trends. We tried our best."

As an example, Saverino pointed

to the senior center built in Sun City West four years ago after residents said they needed one.

Michael Maresh can be reached at mmaresh@aztrib.com or 876-2513.



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Bob and Nancy Dallmann, from left, grab some hot dogs being served up by Kevin Kanarian at Interfaith Service's 20th-anniversary and holiday celebration held in Sun City West Tuesday. Nancy says her daughter Cheryl attends adult day care at Interfaith, so most people there know her as "Cheryl's mom."

OVER



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN
Vicky Skruch, left, Wanda Sidlauskas, Iola Robinson and Indus Lachick, all of Sun City West, share words at Interfaith Service's 20th-anniversary and holiday celebration held in Sun City West Tuesday.



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN
Virginia Nitz, left, and Evelyn Sibilski, both of Sun City West, play a hand of canasta during Interfaith Service's 20th-anniversary and holiday celebration Tuesday.

Daily News-Sun • Friday, Nov. 23, 2001

Faiths unite at Sundome

JEANNE WINOGRAD
DAILY NEWS-SUN

About 1,000 people contributed food and money Thursday while attending the 19th-Annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service at the Sundome.

Speaking on "Ways to Celebrate Thanksgiving Every Day," Mary Jo West, a member of the Arizona Broadcasters Hall of Fame, suggested people should "adopt an attitude of gratitude 365 days a year."

"Recently my car was broken into and someone stole

things from it," West said. "Even when bad things happen, I remind myself that it could have been worse. I wasn't harmed, and my car wasn't stolen. Every day bad things happen. An attitude of gratitude is a way to get through tough times."

Attending with West was her adopted daughter, Molly Mahoney, who was born in Honduras. West adopted Molly from a mission run by the late Mother Teresa.

Last year, West said she learned the true meaning of "passionate gratitude" when she quit her job and took

Molly back to Honduras for a year to help her daughter understand her original culture.

On a smaller scale, many who attended Thursday's service felt good about their contributions for those in need.

Marion and Fred Haasch and Louise Schwerm of Sun City, all originally from Wisconsin, said the service is a must every year.

"It's nice to go to church on Thanksgiving Day with all the churches," said Marion Haasch after placing a large

See Holiday, A3



Elaine Martyka and her husband, Marty, accept donations for the Westside Food Bank outside the Sundome Thursday before the annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving service.

From A1

bag of canned goods on the Westside Food Bank collection table. "From here, we go to our church, Willowbrook Methodist, for dinner."

The service is called "interfaith" not because of interfaith Services, which receives the monetary gifts, but because it is for people of many faiths, said Michele Dearborn, director of development for Interfaith Services in Surprise.

"We have received the offering the past several years," Dearborn said.

"It shows the kind of community we have here," said Michelle Dionisio, executive director for Interfaith Services. "Everyone is so grateful and giving."

The Rev. Ed Beck of Sun City Area Ministerial Association, which sponsored the event with Del Webb Corp, said the efforts of many volunteers made the contributions somewhat easier to collect. Not counting those helping with collections and the choir, 12 pastors representing different faiths assisted with the service, Beck said.

"We wake them up on Thanksgiving Day," said Beck, dressed in a rose-colored robe with a colorful stole from British Honduras.

"It's extremely important in the context of this year that churches, synagogues, everyone show a united front."

Westside Food Bank also was a beneficiary, with those attending asked to bring canned food for drop-off before entering the Sun City West service.

"We've got volunteers at four entrances, separating glass, cans and paper," said Marty Martyka, who with his wife Elaine have helped collect food at the service for more than five years.

Pat Fehlhaber said Westside Food Bank has been doing the food drive with Interfaith for many years. Fehlhaber is community relations event and food drive coordinator for

Nov. 23, 2001

Westside Food Bank.

"We hope to collect a couple thousand pounds of food before people enter the Thanksgiving Day service," Fehlhaber said. "I think people's gratitude over our freedom will encourage them to bring more food this year, although the Sun Cities have always been generous. This food is important because it allows families to have a meal they wouldn't otherwise. We need food and funds to operate."

After the service started, Martyka said attendance has been greater in past years and less food was collected this year than in previous years. He said possibly some Snowbirds haven't returned this year.

Fehlhaber said the food collected will go into the emergency food box.

"We think the Thanksgiving Gifts will make a difference. The lines have increased. We've doubled our lines since Sept. 11, people are at our doors because they've lost their jobs," Fehlhaber said.

Throughout the year, 32 million pounds of food is distributed, with direct food service to 79,000 clients through non-profit agencies, said David Seigler, director community relations and development.

WFB has three pantries in the West Valley, with a small pantry also in Sun City at Olive Branch Senior Center at 107th and Peoria. The other West side locations are:

- Glendale, 5605 N. 55th Avenue;
- Aqua Fria, 405 E. Harrison in Avondale;
- Surprise, 13050 W. Elm Street (NW Valley Food Bank).

Basic hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, with special holiday hours the week before Christmas. For hours or information on contributing, call 602-242 FOOD (3663) or go to Web site (www.westsidefoodbank.org). Checks may be sent to P.O. Box 1310 SC AZ 85372-1320.

Jeanne Winograd can be reached at jwinograd@aztrib.com or by calling 876-2532.

IFS gets new bus from Rotary

By Ruth Borchardt

It was a gala day for SCW Rotarians last week when the club presented a new bus to Interfaith Services.

Last January, the Rotary Endowment Fund Board approved \$10,740 to be given to Interfaith Services for a bus with ADOT agreeing on a grant of 75% or \$37,000 of the cost.

The bus is a Ford Supreme has a cutaway with a wheel chair lift. It seats 33 people or 29 with several wheel chairs. It is a brand new bus and painted graphics on the bus was paid separately by the Rotary Club of \$3,012.

Ken Mueldener, a past president, brought the idea of donating money towards the bus to the Endowment Fund and Bill Buell, Hall Clementt and Don Ellis worked hard on the project. Ellis, a SCW artist, did the design for the bus.

At the meeting, most recent Past-President Tom Dickson introduced the speaker Michelle Dionisio, IFS executive director who impressed everyone with her presentation.

For 20 years she has worked in the private and public sector with direct experience administering home and community-based services. She also had experience with long-term care facilities serving on the Arizona Department of Health Services Committee.

In addition she served as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging and was a part of an American Delegation to China to "study the economic and social concerns of the elderly." At present she is a delegate to the National Institute on Community-based Long Term Care.

Brockport State University in New York was where she re-

ceived her Bachelor's Degree. 1990 found her at the opposite end of the country as President of Services for Interfaith. In 2000, she was appointed Executive Director.

Interfaith Services has a diversified menu of services it offers to the community including: home care assistance; business assistance, day care for people with Alzheimers; young people somewhat mentally disabled encouraged by helping at the food bank; assistance for people who want to remain in their own home; people who visit the homebound to fend off loneliness; handy men to help with needs around the house, peer counseling, care management that looks into individual's needs to provide them with a feeling of independence. There is an organized day program of therapeutic health and social service provided in a community group setting."

About 500 volunteers wear "many hats" proving to be an invaluable help to the various needs found in the Sun Cities retirement communities.

Dionisio said they trying to find a new home for Interfaith. "We have had some financial struggles but we are strong and have the support of the community."



Shown with the Interfaith Services van recently presented and sponsored by the SCW Rotary Club are (l. to r.) Frank Vondrasek, Tom Shipe, Don Ellis, Tom Dickson, Franklin Greene, Dick Imboden, Tom Fox, Joe Schoggen (Pres.), Alex Peterson, Ted Braucht, Michelle Dionisio (Interfaith), Jim Lay, Hal Clementt, Gordon Mortensen.

Interfaith clients work at food bank



WESTSIDE:
Group of ,
handicapped
adult volunteers
enjoys
Wednesday
contributions

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

As Kevin Moran poured another cup of rice into a bag at the Westside Food Bank, the 35-year-old Sun City volunteer obviously did not fit the profile of most of the other volunteers donating their time Wednesday afternoon.

Moran is among a handful of handicapped volunteers who receive care from

Interfaith Services, and the care has led Interfaith to volunteer the group's time at Westside Food Bank.

Kelly King, activities therapist at the Sun City West Adult Health Day Center, has been taking six handicapped adults to the food bank every Wednesday for the past three months.

"It teaches them something," she said. "It gets them out where they can do something while going out into the community."

King called Westside months ago, asking if there was any way her handicapped clients could volunteer their time.

"They really enjoy it," she said. "They look forward to it. They are really excited. They like getting out and doing something different."



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Interfaith Services client David Pena carefully measures the right amount of rice to put in a bag at Westside Food Bank Wednesday.

Her clients, she said, usually do not get out into the communities, but at the food bank, employees have them

MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN
Interfaith Services client Kelly Wright seals a bag of rice Wednesday at Westside Food Bank.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Amy Moulton tosses a completed bag of rice into a bin at Westside Food Bank, where she and fellow Interfaith Services clients volunteer every Wednesday.

work on simple food-handling jobs. The volunteers live with their parents in Sun City, Sun City West and Surprise.

And Pat Andrews, director of volunteer services for Westside, said the volunteers,

though disabled, are wonderful to work with.

"There is something for everybody," she said. "All of our food-handling jobs are

See Unusual volunteers, A5

set up so if you are 5 or 95, you can do them too."

And because these volunteers do not get out much, they look forward to the work.

"I have the impression they are enjoying themselves," Andrews said.

She explained that Westside sets up a volunteer activity right before the group arrives.

Rhonda Frazier, 36, of Surprise said she enjoys donating her time because it gets her out into the community for a change.

"I enjoy being here," Frazier said as she poured a cup of rice into a bag.

Beverly Parker, who volunteers her time with Interfaith, was on hand to help the young adults with their volunteer work. Parker said the volunteering the group does often is the highlight of their week.

"They get very excited," she said. "They really look forward to it. They feel very special in being able to participate in this effort."

And Moran can attest to the enjoyment the volunteers receive by donating their time.

"I love it," he said. "It's exciting for me, and I can't do it with people my own age. I enjoy (bagging) rice. I enjoy these wonderful people that are around me."

Moran, though, at first balked at donating his time to Westside Food Bank.

"I kind of said I did not want to be over here," he said.

But once he began working as a volunteer, that changed.

"I love working here now," he said. "It's such a great advantage (to work) at such a lovely place. That's all I can say about it. I like being part of it."

Kelley Wright, 24, a Surprise resident, was relieved to have her volunteer experience from high school. She often volunteered at Westside Food Bank then, too.

"I like helping people," she said. "I just like to be out into the community a lot more."

Michael Maresch can be reached at mmaresch@az.com or at 623-876-2521.

Daily News-Sun • Saturday, March 31, and Sunday, April 1, 2001

Interfaith Services at 20

WEST VALLEY:
Agency's 500
volunteers provide an
estimated 30,000
annual hours of
service to area
seniors

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Betty Stead had plenty of confidence in the handyman repairing the leaky faucet in her home earlier this week. And the price was right, too.

Handyman Al Fosse is one of many Interfaith Services volunteers who donate their time to help their neighbors in the Sun Cities. Stead, meanwhile, said she's used the service before and appreciates the volunteers' help, not to mention the lack of cost.

Interfaith Services, which offers services to seniors throughout the West Valley, provides tens of thousands of man-hours of work to Sun Citizens needing assistance. In 1999, about 9,600 of Interfaith's clients called for services more than once, while another 5,000 received help on a single occasion. Figures for 2000 are still being compiled.

And Stead knows all about the services Interfaith provides to seniors in need. She moved to Sun City two-and-a-half years ago, and has used the organization's



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Al Fosse fixes a leaky faucet for Betty Stead of Sun City. Fosse says he combats boredom working for Interfaith Services

volunteer handymen twice to help fix defective items around her home.

On Monday, Fosse was repairing the leaky faucet in Stead's master bathroom.

"I think it's wonderful, especially when you are new in town," Stead said while Fosse worked on the faucet.

The alternative, she said, would have been to call a plumber — and that was something she wanted to

avoid due to the cost. Fosse was backed by Interfaith's reputation, so she knew she could trust him.

"For handyman services, it's a great service," Stead said. "I don't know what a plumber would charge."

Previously, Stead enlisted the help of Interfaith Services to help her with some electrical work at her

See Interfaith provides, A5

OVER

Interfaith gets back on its feet

ON THE BRINK :
Director declares embattled group poised to enter a new, successful era

JOHN GUZZON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Although recently beset with financial troubles, Interfaith Services is back on solid ground and poised to enter a new era of social services to the Sun Cities, Executive Director Michelle Dionisio said Thursday.

Dionisio told the bi-annual meeting of the organization's delegates Thursday there will be no further reductions in service and employees' salaries will be restored Wednesday. Employees had been working on 80 percent wages, and counseling services had been suspended after contributions, normally slow during the summer but especially lag-gard this year, forced action.

"At our last meeting we really were seeing some financial struggles," Dionisio said. "We have made it through that due to the energy and commitment of the community."

Founding member David Burrows compared Interfaith's situation to the Russian march on Berlin in which the Russian general restrained his gung-ho forces for two weeks in order to become more powerful, organized and effective.

"We have only stopped to re-evaluate and see where we are going and now we are going straight ahead," Burrows said.

Peer counseling with professional guidance will soon be up and running again, Dionisio said. In addition, people who were served by the Wickenburg day program that was closed under the financial constraints now are using Sun City Interfaith Services, she added.

"What is wonderful is that the peers really know what it is like to walk in their shoes," Dionisio said.

She said Interfaith's board has

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Two arts and crafts fairs that will benefit Interfaith Services
- **WHEN:** The first is from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 3 and 4. The second is from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 9 and 10
- **WHERE:** The first is at the Safeway at 107th and Olive avenues. The second is at Greenway Terrace Center, 99th Avenue and West Greenway Road.

focused on three factors that can aid the organization's resurgence, thereby helping the community: time, talents and treasures.

"Please share these things with us so we can help our neighbors and make a difference in the community," Dionisio said.

Presentation of a cash donation Thursday came from Harold Peterson, pastor of Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church, and his wife, Margene, who organized a trip to the Middle East and Germany this summer, netting more than \$6,000. Also presented were proceeds from a rummage sale — more than \$2,000.

Though community support is crucial, a donation of approximately \$15,000 from Arizona Public Service toward the opening of the Mary F. Bovard Center, 14601 N. Del Webb Blvd., was integral in stabilizing Interfaith.

Janie Holmes of APS said although cash donations can't be underemphasized, neighbors who volunteer time are the most integral component of social services. "Practice the attitude of gratitude," Holmes said. "There is absolutely no substitute for commitment and passion."

Interfaith also acknowledged the volunteer efforts of Dr. Gerrit Terpstra, who grew up in the 1940s in the Netherlands. His volunteerism is payback for the efforts of the senior generation that he witnessed during his childhood, he said.

"These people are from what is called the greatest generation. It is my pleasure to give them something back," Terpstra said.

Anyone interested in volunteering or donating may contact Interfaith Services at 584-4999.

IFS names new executive director

Organization seeks volunteer, financial help

By MIKE RUSSO
Independent Newspapers

It was a difficult summer for Interfaith Services, but with the arrival of fall, the organization's new executive director is hopeful the new season will be full of promise.

Two of IFS' top executives left the fold during the summer, programs were curtailed during a financial crunch and construction problems delayed occupancy of the new Mary F. Bovard Center.

"It was a rough summer," said Michelle Dionisio, who was appointed last week as



IFS' new executive director, succeeding Robert Pangburn, who retired as president and chief executive officer in August after 17 years of service with IFS. Ms. Dionisio, who has been with IFS

for 10 years, was appointed interim executive director at that time. She had been serving as IFS' vice president of program services.

"We are restructuring our whole organization," she said. "Some of the programs will be modified. We will restructure to become more cost effective. Quality remains most important to us. We must become more cost effective.

"We are looking at how we can provide the services that benefit our

residents and remain cost effective," Ms. Dionisio continued.

In addition to Mr. Pangburn's retirement, Rich Kenney, associate manager community relations, resigned in September.

The Bovard Center, located in the former Washington Savings building, 14601 Del Webb Blvd., was originally scheduled to open during the summer but was delayed because of construction problems.

"They are finishing up construction now," Ms. Dionisio said. "The county inspector has to come out before the county issues a certificate of occupancy. It should be about 30 days."

The Bovard Center will house one of IFS' most popular programs — adult day care.

The daycare program serves an average of 75 people on a daily basis, according to Ms. Dionisio.

Shopping for homebound people is another IFS service that is heavily-used by Sun Citians.

"With the shopping program, each week we are serving over 100 people," Ms. Dionisio said.

In order to continue providing these, and other services, at this high level, volunteers are badly needed by IFS.

"We can always use volunteers in the day care program, in the kitchen to help prepare meals and to serve meals or just to be a buddy," Ms. Dionisio said.

"We also need service coordinators and peer counselors," she continued. "We need friendly visitors. We have traditionally had a waiting list for friendly visitors.

"I think what we are seeing as our community is aging, the demand for that service is increasing but the volunteer base is not increasing proportionately. That is a real challenge for us. We are involving families in volunteer work," Ms. Dionisio observed.

"In every area in which we use volunteers, we need help," she added.

IFS could also use a financial boost, and the organization plans to send a solicitation to residents in this fall's community connection newsletter

"Now, more than ever, we need the community's help," Ms. Dionisio said. "We have always been there for the community. Any help they can offer, whether it is financial or as a volunteer, would be welcome."

Interfaith Services begins recovery process

BOARD VICE

PRESIDENT: Official sees ministry recuperating from wounds as cash flow improves

BRUCE ELLISON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Despite some challenges ahead, officials of Interfaith Services in Sun City see a bright future.

The social services agency encountered rough going this summer as contributions, normally slow, dried up, forcing a cutback in personnel and the combination of some services and sites.

Then, last week, Bob Pangburn, 69, who headed Interfaith for 17 years, resigned. A search committee of the board of directors is being organized to pick a successor; in the meantime, Michelle Dionisio has been named interim executive director.

The new agency head will be required to have strong financial and management skills, as well as a thorough knowledge of social-service programs and their workings, officials said.

Rev. David Gunn, vice president of the board, said, "Our cash flow has significantly improved in the last week or so, and we have had a strong affirmation of faith from the community in our ability to continue our work."

There have been a number of substantial donations he said, and an outpouring of smaller contributions.

"The board, too, has put out personal effort to help," he added.

In conversations with staff following the early-summer crunch, Gunn likened the



Volunteer shopper Peg Leslie selects items for a shut-in client of Interfaith Services.

agency's travails to those of an injured man.

"The first step is first-aid," he told them. "Stabilize the patient. Then it may be necessary to take a trip to the hospital for repairs, followed by a period of rehabilitation, and then the freedom of finally going home on your own."

The cash infusion last week is the first aid, he said.

This week, through Sept. 15,

corresponds to hospitalization, when the problems are diagnosed and the therapies begun. Rehab runs through Sept. 30, Gunn said, while, "we expect to be home starting in October."

But to get there, said Dionisio, "the key will be help from the community. We will be working with active and retired professionals to see how best to do it."

Among other help, said community-development director Rich Kinney, "is

aging people in place independently in their own homes for as long as possible.

In addition to a comprehensive search for a new executive director, marketing and fund-raising communications are being planned, said Ruth Anderson, board president.

Gunn said Interfaith plays a crucial role in the community.

"We are here and we are here to stay," said the minister, who heads the First Baptist Church of Peoria.

But to do that, he said, "we will need moral support, we will need volunteer support and we will need financial support."

Gunn, who said each Interfaith board meeting starts with a prayer, said he has faith that the public will respond.

"We have a qualified staff whose morale is at an all time high," he said Monday. "They are dedicated to this work. The strange thing is that while they're employees in the technical sense; they have a strong sense of mission, of commitment and of caring that you don't find in many other places."

That feeling, he said, "is the spirit that will carry Interfaith" through its temporary woes.

Among other things, Dionisio said, "the staff is planning on its own for a large rummage sale in the luminaria building next month," which is National Adult Day Health Month.

"If there is one message I'd like to see you get across it's this," Gunn said. "We are not discouraged, and we are not distraught. We shall prevail."

As the "hospitalization" and "rehab" continue, watch for additional information from and about Interfaith, he said.



Dionisio

SUBMITTED PHOTO/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Safeway, which has named us as their charity of choice at a store in Peoria and the stores in Sun City and Sun City West."

Special canisters there can be used to make donations.

Churches, too, have taken up the cause with special offerings for Interfaith, which was started by ministers of all the Sun City-area houses of worship 19 years ago.

The purpose of the agency is to keep

May 13, and Sunday, May 14, 2000

Center promises respite for victims and caregivers

MARY'S PLACE:
Interfaith
Services' facility
will offer day care
for those with
Alzheimer's and
related diseases

MONICA
ALONZO-DUNSMOOR
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When the doors of Interfaith's newest day center open, it will mean more than just care for people with Alzheimer's or dementia — it will mean caregivers can get the respite they need.

The Mary F. Bovard Center, 14601 Del Webb Blvd., will provide day care and activities for people with Alzheimer's and other dementia-related illnesses.

"It will be a secure environment — that's so important for people with Alzheimer's or dementia," said Rich Kenney, director of community relations for Interfaith Services. "It's important, too, for the caregiver. They can bring their loved ones here and feel they are safe and receiving good care. Then caregivers can ... get a little bit of a break."

The center, which will be known as Mary's Place, is

slated to open in early July. It's named after the Sun City woman who donated \$500,000 to get the project underway.

"There is such a need," Bovard said. "As the community gets older, there is more and more of a need for this service ... for people with dementia. It's neat to have a place like this, where every service is geared toward the care of Alzheimer or dementia patients."

The services geared to those patients include the activities most familiar to them.

Michelle Dionisio, vice president of program services for Interfaith, said recreating familiar activities for clients is an important part of any day center.

The facilities include a kitchen, a woodshop and an outdoor patio with a garden and waterfall.

"Research shows that a lot of activities done in a lifetime are retained," Dionisio said. "Laundry, baking, cooking, working in the woodshed — it's something that's retained. It also creates the opportunity for them to succeed."

A large fish tank, 4- to 6-foot high, will stand in the center of the living area to calm and relax clients watching the occupants.

The building, formerly a bank, will have a conference



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Interfaith Services' Mary Bovard Center, 14601 Del Webb Blvd., will open in July to serve the needs of dementia-related illness sufferers.

room used for hosting educational seminars for the community.

"We will have the seminars on an ongoing basis with different speakers on relevant topics," Kenney said.

The center will also house some of Interfaith's case managers, quiet rooms and areas for nurses to treat clients if necessary.

Day center fees are \$7.35 an hour, but it's adjusted if someone can't pay the full price.

Although the center is licensed for a 1-to-5 staff-to-client ratio, it will likely maintain a 1-to-3 ratio to reduce the stimulation participants get.

"Overestimating (in Alzheimer's and dementia clients) can make them more confused and cause anxiety," Dionisio said.

Even the colors and patterns were chosen to keep stimulation to a minimum.

"There are not too many patterns or colors," she said. "We are trying to make people feel calm and safe. We want (the center) to be a place that will want to be."

Call 584-4999 for information.

Monica Alonzo-Dunsmoor can be reached at monica.alonzo-dunsmoor@thomnews.com by calling 876-2531.

Interfaith Services expands services

New Adult Day Health Center nearly ready for occupancy

By JULIE RIDDLE
Independent Newspapers

Interfaith Services' burgeoning programs got a big boost April 27, as board members, volunteers and one very special donor celebrated the christening of a new facility.

IFS, whose existing Adult Day Health Center at St. Clement of Rome Church was brimming, prompted them to look for new digs two years ago. Work on the Mary F.

Bovard Center, located inside the former Washington Federal Savings Bank at 14601 Del Webb Blvd. at the La Ronde Center began last November.

Mrs. Bovard, whose \$500,000 donation financed the majority of the operation, expressed her joy as she joined staff and visitors at the tour.

"I am excited and thrilled," she said. "The building is very important to me — the mission of IFS is

next to my heart."

A 20-year Sun City resident, Mrs. Bovard has been both a volunteer and key benefactor for IFS and numerous other charities, and is now an honorary member of the board. Viewing it from the inside, Mrs. Bovard was delighted.

"It is much bigger than I thought it would be," she exclaimed.

Set to open this summer, the more than 7,000-square-foot center, believed to be the first of its kind for dementia patients in Arizona, brings a wealth of key features to the community and staff., including a 30-person kitchen and dining room. Offices, including break and conference rooms for program staff and volunteers currently scattered from El Mirage to Peoria are devoted to the north side of the building; the south side is carefully arranged to meet participants' needs.

"It is designed for dignity," said IFS Vice President of Program Services Michelle Dionisio. Unique touches include pecan-colored sections to help participants distinguish where rest rooms are located and exterior doors painted to be 'invisible' to those inside. Pictures, in many cases, substitute for words on signs.

Unlike other centers smacking of sterility, the Bovard facility is a 'home away from home.'

"It is designed to be home-like

and warm," Ms. Dionisio said. "It has furniture that you would see in a home. We are trying to create spaces that will enable people to relax and enjoy."

Walled by glass partitions and drenched in sunlight from surrounding windows, the dining room abuts the living area, which along with the rest of the facility, caters specifically to patients' needs. A mock kitchen, where attendees can prepare snacks, along with a washer/dryer, showers and wood shop, afford a sense of independence while maintaining safety.

"It will bring aspects of their life back to them, but will be very controlled by the staff," said Kim Parrott, IFS' vice-president of marketing. "It gives them a sense of usefulness and purpose, but is very warm and inviting, yet very safe."

Places of solace are scattered throughout the large day center living area and surrounding landscape.

"It is designed specifically to calm and not over stimulate," Ms. Parrott said. "We have a large fish tank donated by APS, a waterfall and garden. It is a very serene area." A 'quiet room,' located where the bank vault once stood, is tucked behind a nurses' office.

Waiting area, break room and reception area fill the remainder of the building. A wall sculpture known as the 'Tree of Life,' commissioned by a local artist, reflects IFS' appreciation to its financial donors, while a portrait of Ms. Bovard will hang in the lobby.

Caregivers, too, will benefit from what the Mary F. Bovard Center has to offer, according to Parrott.

"It provides benefit to the patient and the caregiver," she said. "The caregiver will be able to have a respite.

Word of the center has spread, and a waiting list is growing, Ms. Parrott said. Hours will run from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

"Adult day care has not been targeted to dementia," she said. "We can design activities specifically for them."

IFS President and CEO Bob Pangburn gave the new center his stamp of approval.

"It meets a tremendous need in the area," he said. "IFS has grown 235 percent since 1983."

- SUN CITY 40TH ANNIVERSARY 2000

INTERFAITH SERVICES OFFERS MANY PROGRAMS

Independence is primary goal of IFS

The many services offered by the 400 volunteers and 110 employees of Interfaith Services are dedicated to helping people remain in their own homes with dignity and independence for as long as possible.

Five areas of services include:

■ **Adult Day Health Centers** provide programs for people who are unable to function independently and offer much needed respite for caregivers. Three centers are in Sun City, and one each in Sun City West, Peoria, Wickenburg and Goodyear.

■ **Therapeutic Services** to enhance quality of life through individual or group behavioral health counseling. Among issues addressed are loneliness, depression, family/marital problems, substance abuse or dependency, grief and bereavement.

■ **Home Services** offers grocery shopping, phone pals, emergency errands, transportation, handyman services and an opportunity for caregivers to take a break.

■ **Care Management Program** is designed to ensure coordination of proper service to individuals based on careful assessment of their needs.

■ **Home Care Assistance** provides paid workers to help with bathing and dressing, meal preparation, personal care, light housekeeping, errands and companion sitting. Registered nurses supervise all personnel.

The concept of Interfaith Services began in 1981 when the Sun Cities Area Ministerial Association, consisting of clergy from all denominations, responded to the need for various social services in a retirement community.

The agency today serves more than 7,000 people a year, many of them utilizing multiple programs on a weekly or a daily basis.

Interfaith Services pro-

gram are supported by individual and business donations, gifts, endowments, bequests, grants, fees and reimbursements. Some funding comes from the Area Agency on Aging.

Always welcome are contributions and new volunteers to help Interfaith fulfill its commitment to the growing communities of its service areas.



Phoenix

**Interfaith Community Care
16752 N. Greasewood Street
Surprise, AZ 85374
623-584-4999**

November, 2009

Did You Know

. . . that Interfaith Community Care, now in its 28th year, has the only adult day-time memory and Alzheimer's Center in the entire state of Arizona?

. . . that over ninety cents of every dollar donated to Interfaith Community Care goes directly to serving people in our communities, an extraordinarily efficient and almost unheard of use of donated dollars?

. . . that we are the only licensed adult day health care services provider in the state of Arizona to be accredited by CARF, the national Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities?

. . . that local residents received over 25,000 hours of care services provided by our hundreds of volunteers last year at a conservative value of more than \$500,000? Over 200 volunteers alone shop for and deliver groceries to the homebound.

. . . that our dedicated volunteers provided almost 2,500 free trips for local residents who needed transportation to doctor appointments and other necessary needs last year?

. . . that our professional staff of social workers respond to over 600 calls per month?

. . . that Birt's Bistro and Bookstore, to the best of our knowledge, is the only social enterprise of its kind in the Southwest?

. . . that our very dedicated Board of Directors is composed of employed and retired individuals: teachers, business executives, attorneys, small business owners, ministers, physicians, etc. And all serving at absolutely no cost?

. . . that some of the largest and most recognized private foundations in Arizona have helped with the construction of our new headquarters campus with major donations . . . calling our innovative blending of day care for children (uniquely, we hire only degreed teachers) with an older day care population the "blueprint for the entire nation in successful intergenerational care?"

. . . that part of Interfaith Community Care's core mission is to keep older adults functioning independently and out of institutions, helping them remain longer in their own homes by providing repair services, shopping, rehabilitation, relief for caregivers, transportation, and educational and interactive socializing services?

. . . that we are considered the local community "one-stop shop" for recognized superior care services? We can either provide it, or we know who can because of our extensive information base of over 260 providers and agencies!

. . . that while our clients come from all economic backgrounds, there are some who are unable to pay for services they receive? About 90 percent of the cost of employing our professional social workers, registered nurses, staff, teachers, physical plant support, etc. comes from fees paid by those who are able to pay as well as Federal and State agencies. The rest of our operating funds, a shortfall of almost \$500,000 per year, must come from generous donors who understand the great amount of social support needed in our communities.

We are very grateful that we have so many generous supporters like you who understand the enormous and growing need for the vital services which we provide. Last year alone, we served over 11,000 people from our communities!

Will you please help? Please return the attached coupon in the enclosed envelope. Payments by check, credit card or at www.interfaithcommunitycare.org are gratefully accepted and are, of course, tax deductible. If you should wish to give a major gift, our Chief Executive Officer Michelle Dionisio and/or a member of our Board of Directors would be very pleased to visit with you.

On behalf of our volunteers as well as our staff, we thank you! Please let us hear from you now in order to help us reach our goal of \$500,000 . . . to help us ensure that these vital services can continue.

Best Wishes,



Andy Anderson
Chairman, Board of Directors

P.S. Wonderful news! In addition to your outright donation, you can also receive an Arizona Tax Credit up to \$400 per couple if made before December 31, 2009 (see attached flier for details). This means there is actually no cost to you, irrespective of your tax bracket! It is important to note that this gift can be made in addition to any tax credit gift you might have made to a school system.



Interfaith Community Care
Enhancing the experiences of life for people of all ages

Bridges

Senior Care Management

A New Comprehensive Care Service Offered By Interfaith Community Care



Bridging Your Care!

Bridges is a comprehensive senior care management service that takes a one-on-one approach to an individual's needs and wishes, then matches them to the resources available. This valuable service provides assistance

to Caregivers, Trust Officers and Attorneys, locally and across the United States, who have clients or loved ones in Western Maricopa County Arizona who require assistance.

Social Workers are available to clients 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For more information on services and fees call

623-584-4999

kramella@interfaithcommunitycare.org

Coordinating All Of Your Care Needs

Each client in the Bridges program is cared for with the personalized attention that their situation requires. Registered Nurses and certified Social Workers routinely follow up with clients to ensure care needs are continually met.

Bridges offers you:

- ◆ Comprehensive Assessment
- ◆ Comprehensive Plan of Care
- ◆ Care Coordination & Monitoring
- ◆ Medication Review
- ◆ Wellness Education & Advocacy
- ◆ Assistance with Alternative Housing & Relocation
- ◆ Counseling, Consultation & Advocacy
- ◆ Assistance with Bill Paying
- ◆ Future Planning/Advanced Directives
- ◆ Consulting with Family
- ◆ Crisis Consultation



Interfaith Community Care

Support Services for Independent Home Living

17749 N. El Mirage Rd. Surprise, AZ 85374

VF IC Benevilla



Community News

SUN CITY WEST

Benevilla announces 2018 Board

Benevilla announced the appointment of five new members to the 2018 Benevilla Board of Directors: Shannon Arriola, Merlyn Carlson, Delaine Donohue, Patricia Lewis Finnell and Dick Stuckey. Board members provide leadership and guidance for the long-range planning and policies of Benevilla, a West Valley nonprofit serving the needs of seniors, developmentally disabled adults, children, and the families who care for them.

For more information on services and volunteer opportunities, to schedule a tour or make a donation please call 623-584-4999 or visit www.benevilla.org.



The Benevilla 2018 board members are, from left to right: Robert Dueda, Benevilla Board chair; Joanne Thomson, Benevilla president and CEO; Patricia Lewis Finnell; Shannon Arriola; Delaine Donohue; Merlyn Carlson; and Richard Stuckey.

GIVING

Give like there's no tomorrow

Special day launches giving season

By Rusty Bradshaw
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

It is said that giving is better than receiving. Judging by Giving Tuesday's rising popularity, that must be true.

The annual philanthropic event — scheduled Tuesday, Nov. 28 — draws attention to the plight of those less fortunate and encourages corporations, community organizations and individuals to give during the holiday season.

Started in 2012 in New York City by the team at the Belfer Center for Innovation and Social Impact at the 92nd Street Y, it has been bringing people together around the values of service and giving back, according to the #GivingTuesday website, www.givingtuesday.org. The movement caught on, thanks in some part to social media, according to Eileen Heisman, National Philanthropic Trust CEO.

"People used social media to talk about the things they do philanthropically," she said. "This has been adopted around the world."

In addition to movements in nearly every state in the U.S., Giving Tuesday is prominent in 29 other countries.

"That number continues to grow," Ms. Heisman said.

#GivingTuesday connects diverse groups of individuals, communities and organizations around the world for one common purpose — to celebrate and encourage



Kimberlee Bromm and Abbra Reed show their support for Benevilla in promoting the #GivingTuesday event Tuesday, Nov. 28. [Submitted photo]

giving.

The event was scheduled at this time of year to kick off the Christmas giving season, and to take advantage of an already established pattern, according to Ms. Heisman.

"The majority of charitable giving is done in the last eight weeks of the year," she

explained.

It was also timed to follow the business consumer buying days of the year — Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday.

"It scheduled after the biggest consumption days to remind people to give back to those who are in need rather

than continue the consumption," Ms. Heisman said.

The event is about more than just giving money. Ms. Heisman said community service and other things can be given. She also said Giving Tuesday acts are not limited to this time of year,

» See Giving on page 11

VF IC Beneville

Giving

» From page 1

they can be done throughout the year.

One example of a community service organization's efforts is Benevilla's efforts this year to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide.

All donations Benevilla, 16752 N. Greasewood St., Surprise, receives as a participant of #GivingTuesday will be used directly for the free "Home Services" programs the agency brings to its communities of service, according to Jay Lickus, Benevilla marketing coordinator. These services are intended for homebound individuals lacking the means to provide the essential functions of independent daily living, including grocery shopping, transportation light handyman services, and friendly visitors and phone pals, he explained.

"We hope you will take part in the #GivingTuesday movement and consider Benevilla as your charity of choice," Mr. Lickus stated in a press release.

Giving Tuesday encourages philanthropy, but National Philanthropy officials urge residents to give carefully, as there are plenty of scams waiting to take trusting people's money. Ms. Heisman offered four tips for responsible philanthropy and to maximize their donations.

"People spend more time online researching a new restaurant than a new charity they may donate to," said

Ms. Heisman. "Anyone on any budget can give strategically and intelligently and avoid impulsive giving that may not have the results they envision or allow their charitable dollars to fall into the wrong hands."

She said Americans are the most philanthropic in the world.

"In 2015, we gave more than \$373 billion," she said. "Donors are busier than ever, with one in seven making a charitable gift via a mobile device. It's critical for donors to follow these easy giving tips, whether giving \$50 or \$500."

Search the soul

Ms. Heisman encourages donors to ask themselves what types of causes are important to them and their family.

"Do you want to make a difference on a national, local or international level? Listen to your heart; there are only 'right' answers to these critical questions," she said. "If you have children, try getting them involved in this discussion as early as possible. Ask them to research and present to you why they want to choose a charity."

Begin with a budget

Donors should decide how much they want to give.

The average American budget for giving can be anywhere from 1 to 12 percent of income, according to Ms. Heisman. She said there is no such thing as a "too small" donation.

"One of the many benefits to a charitable budget is that it empowers you to decline impulsive requests

from coworkers and friends," she said. "You can't — and shouldn't — give reflexively to everyone who asks. A newer trend is charities asking to arrange a monthly gift to be automatically withdrawn from a donor's checking account. This can help the charity and you budget better."

Give more to less

Larger gifts to fewer charities creates a bigger impact. Giving to too many will dilute the effect of donors' hard-earned donations.

"I recommend donors give one charity \$100 rather than five charities \$20," Ms. Heisman said. "It can cost a lot for a charity to find a donor, so stick with the organization for two or three years. Your gift will go further when a charity knows they can rely on your support. Elect to receive correspondence electronically to save on printing and postage."

Seek transparency

Ms. Heisman suggests taking five minutes to evaluate a charity's website and social media presence to learn about the impact it has made.

"Look for goals achieved that align with its mission and solid impact for the short and long-term," she said. "People spend more time researching a new restaurant online than a charity they may give to. Check out reviews on Google, Facebook, GuideStar or CharityWatch. Avoid scams by donating directly via a charity's website and confirming it's a registered 501c3 at www.IRS.gov."

Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com.

GRANT

Benevilla receives Walmart grant

Fund helps members find jobs

By Jay Lickus
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

Benevilla was the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to help its members find jobs and become more independent.

The grant will enable Benevilla officials to further develop and expand their Group Supported Employment program and provide critical job opportunities and skills training for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"At Benevilla, our mission is to enable Arizonans with developmental disabilities to become independent and successful members of the community. By providing critical vocational and life skills, on-the-job support services and opportunities to work and earn a paycheck, the

Group Supported Employment program has noticeably bolstered these efforts and is improving the lives of our members," said Sara Villanueva, Benevilla development vice president. "We are immensely grateful to the Walmart Foundation for supporting and advancing this important work, and for its continued commitment to serving Arizona communities."

In partnership with the city of Surprise and Birt's Bistro, Benevilla's GSE program provides a variety of employment, volunteer and personal enrichment opportunities that give members the confidence and independence to work in and contribute to their communities. Participants in the program are able to obtain special training and certifications, such as a food handler's card, work in real-life job opportunities and earn a paycheck.

"Walmart is proud to support organizations and efforts that expand employment opportunities, strengthen communities and enrich lives," said Paula Ginnett, Walmart's Arizona regional general manager and vice president. "Walmart and the Walmart Foundation will continue to support charitable organizations like this that are doing important work on behalf of Arizona families."

According to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, there are more than 100,000 individuals with developmental disabilities living in Arizona; more than half reside in Maricopa County. People with developmental and other disabilities represent the single largest minority group seeking employment in today's marketplace.

Call 623-584-4999 or visit www.Benevilla.org.

Editor's Note: Mr. Lickus is Benevilla marketing coordinator.

VF IC Benevilla

GRANT

Benevilla receives foundation grant

Funds to purchase program furnishings

By Jay Lickus
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

Benevilla, the West Valley's premier family services nonprofit, received a \$50,000 grant awarded by the The Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation.

The \$50,000 grant from the foundation will be used to help Benevilla officials create welcoming environments at their five Life Enrichment programs, which provide daytime care for older adults with dementia or intellectual and developmental disabilities. One important element of this transformation is remodeling the programs into fresh, inviting retreats with improved aesthetics and new furnishings. Many of the program's furnishings are between 10-15 years old and need to be replaced, according to Benevilla officials.

"Thank you to The Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation for your support," said Sara Villanueva, Fund Development vice president. "We are excited to move forward with the new furnishings, further enhancing the Benevilla Life Enrichment programs for our members."

This grant will provide Benevilla with the funds to purchase much needed furnishings, such as recliner chairs, including lift recliners to help seniors sit down and get up without putting too much stress on their bodies; bariatric chairs, which are large chairs specially-designed to hold larger individuals; occasional chairs, which are comfortable, standalone chairs; table chairs, which will have front casters on them to help the staff with the movement of members as needed; and tables for the programs.

Started by the community and for the community in 1981, Benevilla is a not-for-profit human services agency dedicated to enhancing the lives of West Valley residents



Members of the Benevilla West Valley Life Enrichment program; Nancy Ball, The Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation; Courtney Allen, Benevilla Program Operations vice president; Tom Rochford, Benevilla board chairman; and Sara Villanueva, Benevilla Fund Development vice president. [Submitted photo]

by providing care services for older adults, intellectu-

ally disabled adults, children and families.

Call 623-584-4999 or visit www.benevilla.org.

Editor's Note: Mr. Lickus is Benevilla marketing coordinator.

RETIRE

Benevilla program director retires

Turner leaves agency after 22 years

By Jay Lickus
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

Benevilla officials announced the retirement of Darlene Turner, the agency's West Valley Life Enrichment program director, after 22 years.

Ms. Turner has lived in Arizona for more than 30 years. She originally hails from Pittsburgh where she graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor of science degree in early childhood education and a minor in dance therapy. As a member of the Church at Cactus, 8133 W. Cactus Road, Peoria, where the Benevilla West Valley Life Enrichment program is housed, she was able to observe the Benevilla program

and fell in love with the concept and mission of the organization. With a history of work in the field of in-home health and a love of seniors, Ms. Turner was a natural to be part of the Benevilla family.

"Darlene has touched countless lives through her service with Benevilla," said Joanne Thomson, Benevilla president and CEO. "She has truly been an inspiration to everyone and has made such a huge impact on the West Valley Life Enrichment program when she started over 22 years ago. We will miss her smile, her passion and her always helpful nature."

Ms. Turner began her journey with Benevilla in early 1995 as a part-time health aide in the West Valley Life Enrichment program. The program had



Darlene Turner

been in operation for less than a year and only nine families were enrolled. Today, with Ms. Turner's dedication and hard work, the West Valley Life Enrichment program serves 39 families.

Most recently WVLEP has been able to expand services to care for those who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and accepts ALTHC insurances as well as benefits coverage through the Veterans Administration.

"I just love the people!" said Ms. Turner. "For all the people I have helped throughout the years, each one of them has made me who I am today. People say I have changed lives, but my life has been changed too. I wouldn't trade my years at Benevilla for anything." Ms. Turner leads an

active lifestyle. She has three grandchildren, is an involved member of her church and loves doing her own yard work.

"She always shares a genuine smile with everyone she meets and perfectly exemplifies the core values and mission of Benevilla," Courtney Allen, Benevilla Program Operations vice president, said when describing Ms. Turner.

Started by the community and for the community in 1981, Benevilla is a not-for-profit human services agency dedicated to enhancing the lives of West Valley residents by providing care services for older adults, intellectually disabled adults, children and families.

Call 623-584-4999 or visit www.benevilla.org.
Editor's Note: Mr. Lickus is Benevilla marketing coordinator.

Indep Aug 16, 2017

Benevilla hosts annual event

Caregiver support available

By Jay Lickus

SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Benevilla hosts its second annual Caregiver Connect event 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13724 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West.

Expert presenters include Dr. Marwan Sabbagh, MD, FAAN from Barrow Neuro-

logical Institute; Marty Finley, M.Ed., Memory Care Navigator; Lori Nisson, LCSW, clinical social worker; Lora Johnson, elder law attorney; and Shannon Haines, BSHS, Benevilla CARES program director.

Free breakfast will be provided by Birt's Bistro and caregivers will have the opportunity to collect free resources from many community vendors. A Benevilla CARES resource specialist

will also be on-site for anyone needing one-on-one support.

Benevilla has been helping caregivers since the agency was opened in 1981 with service, crisis counseling.

"Benevilla's founders were aware from the beginning that caregivers were bearing a heavy burden in trying to care for their loved ones who might be ill or incapacitated, while still trying to keep themselves healthy," said Benevilla President and

CEO Joanne Thomson. "Today it is a well-documented fact that anywhere between 30 percent to 60 percent of caregivers pass away from illnesses related to caregiver stress before the person they are caring for. That's why getting caregivers support and information is crucial for our aging communities and their families."

This event is free and reservations are required. Call 623-584-4999 to reserve a space.

Those interested in hosting a vendor table at this event and the opportunity to reach caregivers in the community can call Taylor Bergholz, Benevilla marketing director, at 623-584-4999.

This event series is sponsored by Arrowhead Lexus, AARP Phoenix, APS, First Bank, Market Mailing, Banner Health and Esteemed Life Solutions.

Started by the community and for the community in

1981, Benevilla is a not-for-profit human services agency dedicated to enhance the lives of West Valley residents by providing care services for older adults, intellectually disabled adults, children and families. Services are provided through a dedicated group of staff and volunteers.

Call 623-584-4999 or visit www.benevilla.org.

Editor's Note: Mr. Lickus is Benevilla marketing coordinator.

Indep July 5, 2017

FOOD BANK

Benevilla donates garden food

| Sun City Independent | May 10, 2017 19

Garden produce

By Jay Lickus

SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Benevilla, the West Valley's premier human services non-profit, donated April 26 vegetables grown in the Surprise Community Garden to the Valley View Community Food Bank headquartered in El Mirage.

Dan Hoyt, Surprise Community Garden outreach coordinator, led a team of volunteers as they harvested, cleaned and bagged more than 60 pounds of organically grown carrots, onions and potatoes from the designated "Hunger Bed," one of 34 raised-soil beds located inside the Surprise Community Garden at the Benevilla Campus at Hellen and John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza, 16752 N Greasewood St., Surprise.

"This was our first season and we were extremely happy with the yield. We had planned from the beginning to donate all crops grown in this bed to a food bank," Mr. Hoyt said. "We chose Valley View because they are local and service the communities near our garden. Looking down the road, we plan to expand from this first harvest to at least four or five times a year."

The Surprise Community Garden, opened in 2012, is a "Community For All Ages" program led by Benevilla in partnership with the city of Surprise and Rio Salado College, 12535 W. Smokey Drive, Surprise.

This garden serves as an important space for area residents, children and local organizations to learn about growing organic food in a desert environment. Individuals and groups can rent their own garden plot to grow produce for themselves or to donate to local food banks. There are currently 100 gardeners working the raised beds, which are built at a height friendly to young children and wheelchair-bound gardeners.

Started by the community and for the community in 1981, Benevilla is a not-for-



Dan Hoyt, Surprise Community Garden outreach coordinator, works on a raised garden bed. [Submitted photo]



Carrots stacked ready for delivery from the Surprise Community Garden harvest. [Submitted photo]



Volunteers and staff pick vegetables during the Surprise Community Garden "Hunger Bed" harvest. [Submitted photo]

profit human services agency dedicated to enhancing the lives of West Valley residents by providing care services for older adults, intellectually disabled adults, children

and families.

Call 623-584-4999 or visit www.benevilla.org.

Editor's Note: Jay Lickus is a Benevilla public information officer.

VF IC Benevilla



Benevilla information and resource specialist Gina Portillo works at her new desk during the grand opening of the Family Resource Center on Benevilla's main campus in Surprise. The center offers books and videos as well as meeting spaces for classes, support groups and assistance programs. [Nick Cote/Daily News-Sun]

New facility caters to grandparents, parents, children

STAFF REPORT

Benevilla on Tuesday celebrated the grand opening of its Family Resource Center, which will provide space for such groups as Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

"We are so pleased to be able to offer parents and grandparents raising young

children a place where they can feel comfortable and get the answers they need," said Michelle Dionisio, president and CEO of Benevilla. "The Benevilla Family Resource Center is a step in our continuum of care and serves to help fulfill our mission to cultivate caring communities."

The center, a Benevilla program since 2009, is on the main Benevilla campus located at the Hellen & John M. Jacobs Independence Plaza, 16752 N. Greasewood St. in Surprise.

"Our goal is to provide parents and caregivers with the tools that will foster their child's brain and skill de-

velopment and help children age 5 and younger receive the quality education, healthcare, and family support they need to arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed," said Aleena Erickson, BFRC manager.

"We have been providing bilingual services and pro-

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The Family Resource Center holds its grand opening on Benevilla's main campus in Surprise. The center offers books and videos as well as meeting spaces, classes, support groups and assistance programs. [Nick Cote/Daily News-Sun]

Resource

» From page A1
grams through outreach and partnerships at various community locations for the past few years," Erickson said. "The BFRC has now grown to the point where Benevilla has created a dedicated space where families can come for assistance and classes."

The new center features a lending library with more than 1,200 children's books, 200 family videos, and 700 adult books on family issues and child development. There is meeting space for classes and support groups such as Grandparents Raising Grandchildren as well as for the staff to help families complete documentation and apply for public assistance programs such as AHCCCS, Nutrition, and Cash Assistance. A play area is available to children waiting for their parents as they work with BFRC staff.

Watch the Grandparent Raising Grandchild video online:

Watch the video **Your West Valley**
Sun Cities • Surprise • Glendale • Peoria

Benevilla officials announced the organization will participate in National Adult Day Services Week to be celebrated nationwide September 18 through September 21, under the sponsorship of the National Adult Day Services Association. This year's theme is "Adult Day Services: Defining the Boundaries to New Heights."

Benevilla operates six more than 5,000 Adult Day Services centers open today in the United States, providing economical, practical, compassionate opportunities for daytime adult

Monday, October 10, 2011

www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

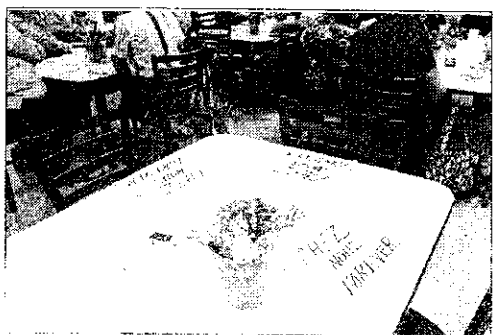
Community

A3



PHOTOS BY DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Above, Chris Hansen serenades the group with piano tunes during a final potluck for the Benevillia Chez Nous Center and Cafe in Sun City West on Friday. Below, visitors ate on placemats that said "Chez Nous Forever."



BID ADIEU TO CHEZ NOUS



Chez Nous volunteer Patti Thomas hugs Debra Gauthier, a program coordinator for the Sun City West senior center, during a potluck on Friday. Benevillia chose to close Chez Nous citing financial reasons. The community gathered for one last event with a potluck and a yoga demonstration. Thomas, who has been volunteering with Benevillia for four years, says it's hard to see the center go. "It wasn't the building, it was the people inside that made this place great." Chez Nous, which roughly translates from French to "home," had a fitting end with a community gathering serenaded by pianist Chris Hansen. Hansen was one of the first performers at Chez Nous and saw the group out as the last

Benevilla stays committed to grocery service



Evelyn Bakan

DAVE CHUCK
DAILY NEWS/SA

Evelyn and Theodore Bakan can't sing enough praises for the Benevilla volunteers who shop for groceries on their behalf.

The Bakans' "those physical limitations prevent them from doing their own weekly shopping, rely on Benevilla's home-delivery grocery program for milk, juice, bread, fruit, vegetables, pasta, chicken and meat, among other essentials and staples.

Like the hundreds of other recipients in the Sun Cities and Surprise, the volunteer program allows the Bakans to simply develop a weekly list of groceries for their longtime, dedicated volunteers to pick up and deliver to their Sun City West home.

"The quality is exceptional," Evelyn Bakan says.

The Bakans say the volunteer program is a godsend and something the homebound couple wouldn't be able to

do without.

Evelyn, who has some back issues, needs a walker to get around. Theodore developed valley fever several years ago and has been homebound since January 2008.

The Bakans, who have been using the program for more than 3½ years, have five children living in five different states, with no one to turn to in the immediate area.

"It would be hard for us to go without the volunteers because neither of us drives," Evelyn Bakan said. "We don't know what we would do without these volunteers."

And like others in the community, Evelyn Bakan feared the imminent closure of the Chez Nous Center and Cafe spelled the end for the grocery program and Benevilla altogether. Rumors have circulated that,

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SHOP

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because Chez Nous and the adult day program in Sun City West are shuttering, Benevilla would no longer be serving the community.

That is not the case, and the grocery shopping program, among countless others, will remain unchanged, much to the Bakans' delight.

"We just love what Benevilla is able to do for the community," Evelyn Bakan said.

Benevilla president Michelle Dionisio said the grocery program, one of the nonprofit's first volunteer efforts, began in the mid-1980s after members of an area handicappeds club voiced concerns to Benevilla that they

could no longer walk down aisle after aisle for their groceries.

Always a giving community, Dionisio said it didn't take long to find volunteers to establish a program aimed at helping handicapped and homebound seniors to have their grocery store shopping done by others.

And for more than three decades, besides the volunteers who conduct the shopping and the residents who benefit, the program has remained unchanged. Each week, Dionisio said "several hundred" volunteers shop and deliver the groceries on behalf of many elderly Sun City, Sun City West and Surprise residents.

Together, the volunteers and elderly recipients invariably strike up a close-knit relationship over the months and years.

"This has been a really great program, because the volunteers are not only delivering groceries to people, but they're also becoming friendly visitors," Dionisio said. "So, that elderly person or couple looks forward to their visit and they become like a regular friend."

Benevilla partners with Safeway for the free grocery program, which allows volunteers to shop and purchase groceries on a suspended check. The volunteers then return to Safeway for official payment after the recipients write them a check for the total amount.

In addition to homebound seniors, the grocery program can be conducted for those recently discharged from the hospital and who need temporary shopping assistance. Volunteers can also develop a grocery list for the blind by phone.

In addition, Dionisio said there are groups that donate coupons to the program in order for the recipients to save money on discounted items.

"You think about volunteers taking that extra step to make sure their neighbors in the community are being cared for, especially when they don't have family or friends that live nearby," she said.

For information on the grocery program contact Benevilla at 623-584-4999.

Benevilla will retain presence in Sun City West

STAFF REPORT

The services provided by Benevilla to Sun City West residents will remain intact after the Chez Nous Center and Cafe closes next Friday, Benevilla's president said Thursday.

"Sun City West is, and will continue to be, a fundamental part of Benevilla's service area as well as a key volunteer support area," Michelle Dionisio stated in a release. "Every week volunteers from Benevilla are working with our staff to provide services to hundreds of Sun City West residents."

According to Benevilla officials, there has been some confusion in recent weeks about Benevilla's continuing presence in Sun City West after Chez Nous closes. Some members of the community have construed the closure of Chez Nous and the adult day program in Sun City West to mean Benevilla is no longer serving it.

That is not the case, Dionisio said.

The services that will remain unchanged include grocery shopping, transportation, handyman, business assistance, friendly visitors, phone pals, home-delivered meals, lifeline emergency, errands, caregiver support groups, adult day programs and information and referral services.

While most of Benevilla's services are brought right to the door, Dionisio said caregiver support groups and adult day programs are located at the main campus about three miles from the former Sun City West location.

BENEVILLA

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"We are incredibly grateful to all of our supporters from Sun City West who are a huge part of the 700 people

who volunteer at Benevilla. Sun City West is truly a model of neighbors helping neighbors," Dionisio said.

For questions about the services Benevilla offers in Sun City West, call 623-584-4999 or visit www.benevilla.org.



DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Mary Peddle, Margaret Court, and Neomia Rhodes, left to right, play "Frakle" in Chez Nous in Sun City West Tuesday.

Closure upends cafe 'family'



DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Leticia Aldaco, right, hands a packed meal to Wanda Sidlauskas at Chez Nous on Tuesday. "We are like family here," Aldaco said.

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When she told residents about the closure of Chez Nous in Sun City West, volunteer Wanda Sidlauskas said she noticed tears stream down some of their faces.

"It's very sad that it had to be this way, but you have to do what you need to," she said.

Michelle Dionisio, Benevilla president and CEO, said it was never an intention to close Chez Nous, but it had to be done for financial reasons.

Benevilla officials announced last week on Sept. 7 they would shut the doors of Chez Nous at the Sun City West Founda-

tion Building.

Located at R.H. Johnson and Stardust boulevards, the center features a cafe with lunch served on weekdays. In addition, Chez Nous also offers classes on everything from art and crafts to dance lessons.

Along with the cafe, the services provided at the Sun City West Adult Day Care program at the center will be consolidated at one of Benevilla's five other program locations, Dionisio said.

Sidlauskas has been with the center since the beginning and loved the center.

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FRIENDS

FROM A1

action she has had with the people there. She has enjoyed the atmosphere of Chez Nous, working with fellow volunteers serving patrons their food.

"For me, the friendliness is what really made this place from the start," said Sidlauskas. "It's like our home away from home."

Sun City West resident Mary Peddle said she will miss Chez Nous, where she often has a card game with other women two to three times a week.

Peddle said she loved the services and would often bring her mother, who would visit two months out of the year.

"She could come here and do some of the programs when she visited because she didn't have a recreation card," Peddle said. "I'm not sure what I'm going to do, because she could do some things with me on a visitor's pass but not everything."

Shirley McCabe said she will miss the friendly atmosphere of the people and volunteers at Chez Nous.

"It's a nice quiet place where you can just sit, talk and have a good time," McCabe said.

Dionisio said she encourages

people to visit Birt's Bistro on the Benevilla campus at 16752 N. Greasewood St. in Surprise.

"We recently started a mug club at Chez Nous, and we are going to honor the mug club members at Birt's Bistro to the end of the year with a \$1 coffee; when they bring their mugs in," Dionisio said.

When the doors close soon, Sidlauskas said she isn't sure if she'll volunteer anywhere else.

"I'm getting a lot older so I'm not sure if I'll do anything after this is over, but I've had a wonderful time being here and really getting to know everyone," she said.

Friday, April 16, 2010

Mission remains the same despite name change

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

It began with a countdown, and when it reached 'zero,' all six Interfaith Community Care locations unveiled new signs and became the six locations of Benevilla.

With a new name and a new logo, Benevilla will set out to provide the same services while also seeking out new ways to serve the community, officials said.

"If you're not moving forward, you're moving back," said Benevilla Board Chairman John Bridgford. "What has always impressed me about this organization is their ability to adapt to the changing needs of the community. With today's announcement, we will be better able to meet those needs while still honoring our past."

Rose Hardenburger, who helped create the new name and logo, said a variety of ideas were discussed before settling on Benevilla.

"There are functional names, there are names that give you a sense of nostalgia," she said. "But some of the best and most memorable names are the ones that are made up."

Benevilla, the root words of which

mean 'good home,' is not a real word, and so Hardenburger said the organization has the benefit of complete ownership.

"It is trademarkable and it is easy to differentiate right away," she said. "It is also very meaningful to us because we feel it is reflective of the decades of service we have provided."

Michelle Dionisio, president and CEO of Benevilla, said she is excited to move forward with the new brand.

"This is a history-making time for us and the new Benevilla."

Today, Benevilla operates six adult day centers across the Northwest Valley, with locations in Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise and Peoria. Its specialized memory care center is the only stand-alone adult day center in Arizona for those with moderate to severe memory loss.

One of Benevilla's most innovative concepts is its intergenerational program, which brings children from its child development center together with adults in its day centers.

Other services include grocery shopping, phone pal and transportation for the homebound, information and referral, a child develop-

Do you like
the new name?
Vote in the poll at
www.yourwestvalley.com



ASHLEY LOWERY/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Debra Gauthier, right, and other employees with Benevilla in Surprise stay on their phones with other properties to unveil the new name at the same time Thursday for the former Interfaith Community Care.

ment center and a family resource center. Interfaith also operates Birt's Bistro and Bookstore, Chez Nous Center and Café — part restaurant and part gathering spaces for the community.

Last year, the organization served

more than 11,200 individuals in the Sun Cities, Peoria, Glendale, Youngtown, Surprise and other areas of the Northwest Valley.

Jeff Dempsey may be reached at 623-876-2531 or jdempsey@yourwestvalley.com.