

October 6, 1999

# Red Cross bids adieu to Sun City volunteers

By JULIE WELSH  
Independent Newspapers

John Lovett and Alvin "Eppie" Pendleton are retiring again — this time from their volunteer careers with the American Red Cross.

Their faces will be missed at the El Mirage Senior Center and other places where they transported people each Tuesday. The two Sun City residents partnered as Tuesday shift drivers for the American Red Cross, delivering meals and taking Surprise, El Mirage, Youngtown, Sun City and Sun City West residents to medical and social appointments.

"We're very proud of Eppie and John for all the years they've given to the El Mirage Senior Center and Red Cross," said Andrea Gragg, El Mirage Senior Center administrative director.

On Sept. 29, the El Mirage Senior Center hosted a retirement party for the two men. Red Cross officials gave them 20-year service pins and plaques. Senior center officials presented them with gold watches.

When the two began working with the senior center in the early 1980s, they were delivering about nine or 10 meals a day, Ms. Gragg said. Now the drivers average 45 meals a day.

Lupe Favela-Stremel, Red Cross volunteer recruiter, thanked the two men for the job they did and told



Photo by JULIE WELSH/Independent Newspapers

Sun Citians Jim Lovett and Alvin "Eppie" Pendleton were recently honored by Red Cross for their long years of meritorious service as drivers. Both men have now turned in their keys for the last time

them she hated to see them go.

Mr. Lovett became a driver after he retired in 1980 and was looking for something to do. He considered several volunteer opportunities but chose the Red Cross 19 years ago and has been with the organization ever since.

He enjoyed the opportunity to meet people and provide a needed service, he said. Most of the people he picked up would not be able to go places without the Red Cross, he added.

"You just get attached to the people," Mr. Lovett said.

Mr. Pendleton began volunteering 18 years ago after seeing a sign for drivers on the back of a Red Cross bus.

"I enjoyed helping the people in need," Mr. Pendleton said. "It's been a challenge, but it's been something we know helps a lot of people."

Both decided to retire at the same time. Mr. Pendleton will seek other opportunities, and Mr. Lovett

intends to spend more time at home.

"We've been a good team for a long time," Mr. Pendleton said.

Ms. Gragg said she believed it will take them a while to get used to not coming to the senior center after so many years.

"They developed a lot of good relationships with the people they transported," Ms. Gragg said. "We have a lot of fun memories."

She said Mr. Pendleton would tell a different joke every time he came in and never repeated the same one twice.

Mr. Lovett left a few "love taps" on sidewalks and curbs "here and there," Ms. Gragg said. Mr. Lovett was so dedicated that if he didn't know an address, he would come in on his day off to locate it for the next day when they had to pick up someone, she said.

"I think it's time for them to enjoy doing something else," Ms. Gragg said.

The American Red Cross is looking for volunteer drivers. Interested people need to be older than 18 and must have a clean driving record, Ms. Favela-Stremel said. They do not need a commercial driver's license.

Those who drive the vans get a good feeling from helping others and making sure people make it to their appointments, she said.

"They do a tremendous job for us," said Terry Burling, Sun City coordinator.

To volunteer, call Terry Burling, 623-972-3407.

## 400 needy area school kids get new clothes

By Dorothy Steck

For over 15 years, the Women's Auxiliary of the Sun Cities Area Corps of The Salvation Army has been providing back-to-school clothing for needy children in the Sun Cities, in Peoria, Youngtown, El Mirage, and Surprise. This year the tradition continued, and over 400 children received new clothes to wear to school.

For two days, The Salvation Army Chapel on Union Hills

Drive in Sun City became a place where children received the fruits of senior citizens' labors. Every child received two tops, two shorts, a pair of jeans or a dress, three pieces of underwear, three pairs of socks and a pair of shoes—all new! In addition they could pick one used item of clothing. The children appeared delighted as they made their choices and put them into their bags with the help of volunteers. One little girl who completed the



Major William J. Mulch and Dottie Gardina display new jeans that were donated to elementary school children by the Women's Auxiliary of The Salvation Army of the Sun Cities. Photo, Dorothy Steck

90-year-old Wanda Emmi of The Salvation Army holds one of the 2200 sweaters she has crocheted since 1979 for the annual Back-to-School clothing donation for needy school children in nearby communities.

Photo, Dorothy Steck



selection and filled her special plastic bag commented, "I now have everything I need to start school."

All the new clothing was purchased with money earned from the Auxiliary's rummage sales and from donations. The auxiliary women then went out and purchased items to fit all sizes of children in elementary school.

Especially impressive were a tableful of sweaters crocheted by 90 year-old Wanda Emmi who has been making them since 1979 for the back-to-school event. She says, "It takes me

three days to make one sweater, and the includes the buttons and pockets. I really like doing it. It gives me something to do, and I don't feel sorry for myself." All the yarn is donated to The Salvation Army and Wanda sorts it and plans the colorful combinations that produce a beautiful sweater.

Director of Public Relations for The Salvation Army, Sandi Gabel, said, "It is so important for children to have a new outfit for the first day of school. The

See 400, Page 2

### 400: Needy school kids, from Page 1

children are thrilled, and it is wonderful to see them make their selections."

CoChairs for the yearly project were Selma Patterson and Ruth Swearingen, both members of the Women's Auxiliary and residents of Sun City West. Volunteers and contributors were from the Sun Cities area communities. Major William Mulch, Corps Officer, welcomed the families who came at appointed times and praised the Auxiliary for all its accomplishments.

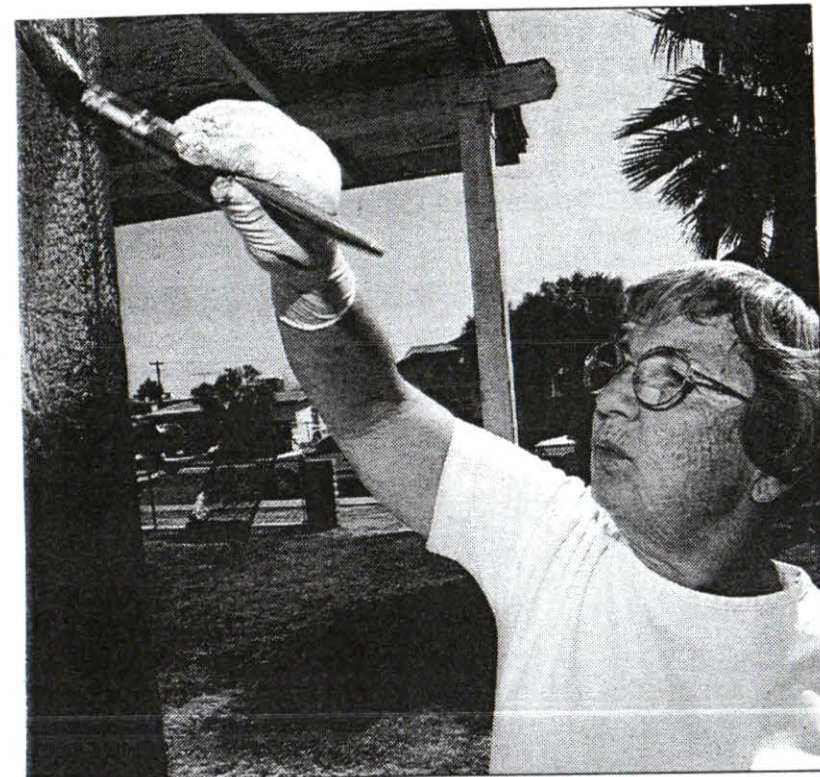
# National Volunteer week

Saluting America's volunteers

## Loving thy neighbor and community spurs the volunteer spirit in the Sun Cities.

Thousands of residents give thousands of hours each year to making life better for their neighbors.

While the Daily News-Sun recognizes these people every day, we will be focusing on several volunteers and organizations during National Volunteer Week.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Bobbie Best of Sun City West paints one of the original Habitat for Humanity homes in El Mirage. The house belongs to Habitat's secretary. She has lived in the home for nine years.

# DWINDLING NUMBERS

## Legion of volunteers begins to fade away

By GINGER SCOTT-EIDEN  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When Howard Banks first joined the Sun City Bell Lions Club as a volunteer five years ago, there were almost 100 members there to welcome him.

A couple years later that number had dwindled down to about 60, and now, Banks said, there are only 41 volunteers.

"It's a constant battle," said Banks of Sun City. "I don't know what the problem is, but there seems to be more people that are retired and want to stay that way."

And the Lions Club, which assists the blind and deaf of all ages, isn't alone.

The disappearance of volunteerism is a national concern, said Melanie Sturgeon, deputy state archivist.

Sturgeon, an Arizona State University graduate, conducted about 70 interviews for her 1992 masters' thesis on marketing and development in Sun City and Sun City West. She continued to interview until last year and said the fall in volunteerism was a major con-

cern for everyone.

"It was a real concern that these programs that people put their life and soul into would die," Sturgeon said. "During the interviews, people told me a lot of the new people that were moving in were coming for a good time. There just isn't the same commitment to volunteering."

Sturgeon said many of the people she interviewed told her that they spent the first couple years in the Sun Cities "playing," but in their third year they turned to volunteerism.

However, she said, the newest generation to move to the Sun Cities is not making that transition.

And getting people interested has become a tough battle, club volunteers say.

Banks said the Lions Club advertises occasionally to attract new members, but usually they use the "word of mouth" approach. And most of the time, he said, that's not enough.

Even organizations like the sheriff's posses and the Sun City Home Owners

Association is struggling to recruit new volunteers.

"We give just as much publicity to our needs as we can," said Byron Healy, HOA president. "Our biggest problem is getting people to run for the board."

Healy said HOA rarely has a problem finding people to serve on committees or to help with small projects. However, he said, running for the board of directors is a bigger commitment than most are willing to make.

"It's not that people won't help," he said. "It's that there's not enough to go around."

Jack Lewis, spokesman for the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West, said he's seen volunteering interests dissipate over the last 10 years.

"People retiring today, there's a different attitude," Lewis said. "They feel they worked their buns off to get here and they're not going to do anything."

Lewis said he thinks some of the generational differences stem from how people are treated in the workplace. Lewis retired from Swift and Co. in

► See Work limits, A5

## Work limits volunteers

◀ From A1

1983 and said he was always well compensated at his company. However, he said company loyalty isn't what it used to be.

"They didn't have the perks," he said. "I see nothing warranting loyalty as it was when I went through."

Jane Freeman, a Sun City resident who volunteers with several organizations, said many of the new people moving to the area are still working and have less time to do

She also said, many people might be more willing to volunteer if they were asked.

"Before people would come to us," she said, "but now we need to go to them."

Freeman moved to Sun City and 1970 and has been volunteering since 1977. And she said her personal motto is volunteerism's major selling point:

"I sure beats doing housework," she said.

"I think everyone should try

OVER



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Betsy Dreyfuss of Sun City West climbs to the roof while Jane Watson of Goodyear holds the ladder. The Habitat for Humanity women's crew is repainting one of the group's original El Mirage homes.

## ...But some women pick up the Habitat

By JOSH KRIST  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Home is where the heart is for a group of West Valley women who spend their free time building houses for the working poor.

The West Valley Women Builders were selected from a state-wide pool to build a showcase home in El Mirage next year for the First Woman's Build, a national Habitat for Humanity project.

Organizers are hoping to tie-in the project to each state's woman governor or gubernatorial first lady to raise awareness of the need for affordable housing and to show what women are capable of if given the opportunity.

Judy Cicotte, a member of the volunteer group since 1993, said that the house will be built sometime in the year 2000 and should take five weeks to finish.

"It's going to be built exclusively by women. In the past, we have had men help us build different segments of the home, not to say we won't use their expertise on this one," she said.

The West Valley Women Builders have built six complete homes and helped other Habitat teams get started.

"We feel that they're really an exemplary group," said John Fellerer, executive director for the West Valley Habitat for Humanity.

The group has about 35 active members, mostly from the Sun Cities.

"But we're going to need to increase that number for this particular project," said Cicotte, a resident of Sun City. They're looking for women of any age who are interested helping build the home.

She said the details are still being worked out, but the women will build a four-bedroom home in El Mirage on one of the lots purchased by Habitat for Humanity. The organization owns 25 acres of land in El Mirage, and hopes to put up 110 homes in the next six years.

So far, 13 homes have been built or are under construction on the El Mirage property, said Fellerer.

JoAnn Blachowski, a Sun City West resident and chairwoman of the group, explained that Habitat for Humanity is a national Christian organization that builds and sells homes at cost to the working poor.

When the women arrive to build a new home, there's only a concrete slab with the

► See Local volunteers, A5

## Local volunteers build friendships

◀ From A1

plumbing sticking out and a stack of building materials. The material is purchased by Habitat for Humanity with donations and money from interest-free mortgages on the homes they sell.

Pat Popp, a member from Sun City, said, "What appealed to me was that this organization gives a hand up, not a handout. It's Christian-based, and that appealed to me. We knew no one here in the Valley, so it was also a nice way to meet new people and make new friends."

Popp said she tries to volunteer at least a day a week. She and her husband built homes as weekend projects before their retirement, and she said she still enjoys all

aspects of building, especially framing and tiling.

"I have already indicated to my husband and the rest of the gals that for that project (in the year 2000), I will be available four days a week, and I would like to work six hours a day," she said.

Cicotte summed up the group's enthusiasm when she said, "It's probably the most rewarding volunteer program that I've ever done in my entire life."

She said one of the best things about building a home is watching the growing excitement of the family slated to move in.

"The joy that they reach by the time they move in, it's ... well, it brings tears to your eyes," she said.

To volunteer or information, call 583-2417.



Christine Keith/The Arizona Republic

Volunteers play a big part in the success of the scores of Sun City recreation programs. The Sun City Poms showed their stuff Saturday during the Fun Fair at the Oakmont Recreation Center.

# Volunteer Central

*Helping others  
a way of life  
in Sun City*

**By Jim Gintonio**  
The Arizona Republic

SUN CITY — First things first. Let's try to separate myth from fact. Bob Briscoe, who takes an active role in the running of Sun City, wants to tackle this one head-on:

"We see an attitude from the Valley out there," he said. "They think Sun City is a walled community with a bunch of obstinate, hard-headed, closed-minded old (...) who don't like kids and don't want to pay any taxes for schools."

None of that is true, says Briscoe, who is the president of the board of directors of the Recreation Centers of Sun City. But Briscoe and two of his fellow board members didn't want to discuss urban legends; they were more interested in expounding on a philosophy that those outside of this "walled community" might consider a tall tale.

Volunteerism.

The concept of doing something for nothing is not new, but since Sun City was formed in 1960, it has become a way of life. Everything revolves around volunteers, from those like Briscoe who served on the Rec Centers board — akin to a city council — to others who clean up the streets, work in the libraries, teach computer classes, or put in time in nursing homes or hospitals.

While some studies have shown that volunteerism is down nationwide, it never has been a problem in Sun City.

Other retirement areas have used the basic Sun City plan, but nothing has

— Please see **VOLUNTEERISM**, Page 4

OVER

# Volunteerism a way of life in Sun City

**VOLUNTEERISM, from Page 1**

happened in the past four decades to tarnish the motto, "City of Volunteers."

"I have never been involved in a group or community where people donate so much of their time," Briscoe said. "I believe there are more good people willing to give, living in this community than you'll find in any one area of the United States."

Nobody tells anyone that he or she has to volunteer or has to do anything. Some just come by it naturally. For others, it takes a little time.

"In the past, we found that people would come to town and within 30 days they'd be volunteering their time," Briscoe said. "Now, we're generally finding people coming here and saying, 'I've worked all my life, and now I'm going to sit on my duff, golf, bowl and do nothing.' But after they're here six months to a year, they get a little bored with golf and going out for coffee every morning, and they start volunteering."

There is also the minority that will choose to do nothing, but Briscoe estimates that 80 percent to 90 percent of the 40,000 Sun City residents volunteer.

"When people started coming here in the '60s, it was that era when people looked around and said, 'we need this, we need that, and I'll help,'" he said. "The generation coming in today is less like that way than they were 40 years ago, but I'd still like to think if you go to Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, Mesa, Tempe, that you've probably got less than 10 percent of the people who volunteer."

"The biggest problem today ... is a lack of family pride, which goes right to your community pride. The generation that started Sun City had that pride. We're proud to live here. We have faith in God and pride in our country, and to me that's the biggest weakness in today's generation, and I don't know how to get it back."

A lot of the Sun City ethic goes back to Del Webb, the guiding hand behind the retirement community concept.

"Del Webb was no dummy," said Dick Elton, the secretary of the Rec Centers board. "When people first started moving here, we supported them, gave them land for community buildings."

"How come it's so successful? When it started in 1960, it was a very unique idea to pick up and leave your home in Wisconsin or New York or Minnesota, wherever you were. People before that had always stayed and grown old in their own communities. They were called pioneers, the ones who moved here in 1960-61 ... and they saw that things had to be done, and they did it."

"The other thing was that the love of Sun City that was here in the early days; that kind of thing



Photos by Christine Keith/The Arizona Republic

Members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors — (from left) President Bob Briscoe, Doro Hirtzel, Marge Murphy and Jim Matise — sell raffle ticket to help others with memberships.



Muriel Chapman stays active in the Sun City Artistic Weavers Club.

is non-existent now. People come here now with no idea of the history of Sun City, and it doesn't interest them at all."

It did take a while for the trailblazers to meld, however. Before the centralized Rec Centers idea was formulated in 1972, there was an invisible line between the first two centers, and members of one couldn't use the other's amenities. That wall came down more than a quarter-century ago.

Sun City voters turned down a bid for incorporation in the '60s, and the issue hasn't been put on a ballot since. The Rec Centers have less than 460 paid employees.

A member of the board of directors, Dorothy Hirtzel, said Webb's farsightedness always has been a plus.

"He did his homework," she said. "We still go by those first articles of incorporation, the first bylaws."

Between volunteering and staying active in the dozens and dozens of things offered throughout Sun City, it's said that if you can't find something to do, you're already dead.

That the city is run so smoothly by volunteers isn't a surprise when you consider the source, Briscoe said.

"There is probably more talent, education and experience in this city than anywhere in the United States," he said. "You've got 40,000 people, and they're experts

in law, medicine, nuclear science — everything. They all want to give you their time and talent."

Briscoe said there are problems because people have different priorities, but he said most disputes are settled amicably. He said a key issue in mediating differences is coming up with a plan that is affordable to everyone.

That gave Elton an opening to discuss another fallacy.

"There are only rich people in Sun City — that's been the impression over the years, that we're all millionaires," he said. "We do have some millionaires, but we have a lot of people on food stamps, too."


**February 10, 1999**

# Tribute to volunteers

*Artist hopes to build memorial for those who give back to community*

By **CHRIS RASMUSSEN**  
Independent Newspapers

Art and volunteerism are about to collide in Sun City.

Connie Turner has created an "idea whose time has come" — a monument recognizing the countless hours donated by Sun City residents.

Ms. Turner, a member of the Clay Corner club in Sun City, is garnering support to turn her eight-inch, model clay statue depiction of volunteers into a life-sized bronze statue.

"When you realize the millions of hours volunteers have put in, it is phenomenal," Ms. Turner said. "That is what keeps our community going. We owe them a great deal."

The statue may very well be the first monument in the Sun Cities dedicated to volunteers.

"The main comment I hear is why didn't someone do this sooner," she said. "It is an idea whose time has past."

Putting in over 100 hours, Ms. Turner has created a model version of the statue to be called, "Sun City Volunteers: A Lifetime of Giving." Depicted are several volunteers and objects representing different Sun Cities organizations.

A posse volunteer puts his arm around a Dysart School District student while standing next to them are a Prides and Sun Health volunteer.

"Everything in the statue stands for something. Books denote the 420,000 hours given in the past 10 years by helpers at our library," Ms. Turner explained. A dog is present to represent the 2,999 other pets who found loving homes courtesy of SCAR and 4 PAWS."



Connie Turner displays a miniature model of what she hopes will one day become a full-size salute to those who live in the "City of Volunteers."

Citrus and flowers are for the Rose and Garden Club, the Agricultural Club and Westside Food Bank.

The base of the statue would hold the names of organizations not represented by the statue.

Ms. Turner hopes to turn her statue into a larger than life-sized bronze monument and have it displayed at a site in Sun City.

There is one stumbling block in the way: The project has a price tag of \$100,000.

To pay for the statue, the Clay Corner is seeking donations from residents and businesses, as well as trying to secure public funding.

Ms. Turner said she originally planned to have the statue completed in time for the 40th anniversary of Sun City in 2000, but doesn't expect to have it completed by 2001.

If enough money can't be raised to fund the entire statue, it may be built in stages.

"A 7-foot, six-inch posse figure costs about \$25,000," she said.

"Art is important to the community and some public funding is available.

"Perhaps the Sun City Recreation Centers board will decide to allocate a small percentage of this year's Rec Card fees to honor the thousands of men and women who volunteer their time and expertise to make Sun City such an extraordinary place, not only for the past 40 years but on into the millennium."

Clay Club members Kay Smith and Betty Jane Peters will participate along with Ms. Turner in the statue's construction. After a clay base is sculpted, it will be taken to be bronzed.

As far as a home for the monument, Ms. Turner said she has her eye on the kiosk at Bell Recreation Center.

"The piece should be able to be viewed all around, with access, so visitors can sit on the bench beside the Sun Health volunteer," she said.

The planned statue's model will be presented to the public Feb. 27 during the Recreation Centers Fun Fair at Marinette Recreation Center.

"We hope everyone can see themselves in this, because almost everyone volunteers," she said.

# RESTORING SMILES

Sun Citians perform dental work on volunteer basis

By MARK CASSIO  
Independent Newspapers

After a lifetime devoted to creating smiles, two retired Sun Cities dentists continue their task in Phoenix.

Dr. Don Meis of Sun City and Sun City West's Dr. Joe Cavanaugh gladly brave interstate traffic from the carpool lane every Tuesday morning to arrive downtown in the state's capital.

Their volunteer efforts at Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Dental Clinic at Dan O'Meara Center, 420 W. Watkins Ave., provide low-income, elderly and disabled residents with invaluable dental work at no cost. Clients here have few, if any,

”  
*The patients are very appreciative. We're really doing a community service. We feel like we're really making a difference.*

**Janice Ertl, administrator**  
St. Vincent de Paul Dental Clinic

alternative sources for affordable dentistry.

The clinic features state-of-the-art facilities and equipment and

operates solely through private donations and grants. Its dental program serves 4,000 patients per year, including about 2,000 children, Administrator Janice Ertl said.

“The demand for dentistry is great,” she said.

Doctors Meis and Cavanaugh are “people persons” who enjoy helping others. Their lifelong expertise in prosthetics — dentures and partial dentures — greatly benefits the clinic and its appreciative clients, Mrs. Ertl said.

“We focus on helping needy people. This is a godsend for them,” Dr. Meis said. “We're very fortunate ourselves to be part of this wonderful organization. We're really thrilled with it.”

See ■ DENTISTS, Page 11

## ■ DENTISTS

From Page 1

“I feel it's a needed service and like we're accomplishing something,” Dr. Cavanaugh said. “(Doing) dentures doesn't have the stress of surgery or fillings. So I can do it comfortably.”

The doctors greet patients in a cordial, professional manner and a light, fun atmosphere prevails in the sparkling office area. Laughter further brightens the already cheerful mood.

“We're always laughing and joking,” Dr. Meis said.

For those who underwent teeth extraction due to infections, or currently preparing for the surgery, dentures can open new doors and provide a fresh outlook toward life, he noted.

“The patients are very appreciative. We're really doing a community service,” Mrs. Ertl said. “We feel like we're really making a difference.”

Clients, enrolled in the program by lottery, can progress through a complete dental process from X-rays and teeth cleaning to fillings, extractions and dentures, if necessary, over a period of about a year.

Dr. Cavanaugh has served at the clinic weekly for two years and Dr. Meis recently finished his first year. Dr. Meis has also volunteered at the St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen in Surprise.

Both dentists are Iowa natives who met following retirement in the Sun Cities. Dr. Meis hails from Sioux City, Iowa, and Dr. Cavanaugh lived about 250 miles away in Perry.

The clinic spends about \$30,000 annually for lab costs only, Mrs. Ertl said. An all-volunteer dentist staff erases the normally high cost for office time. The clinic also staffs some paid dental assistants.

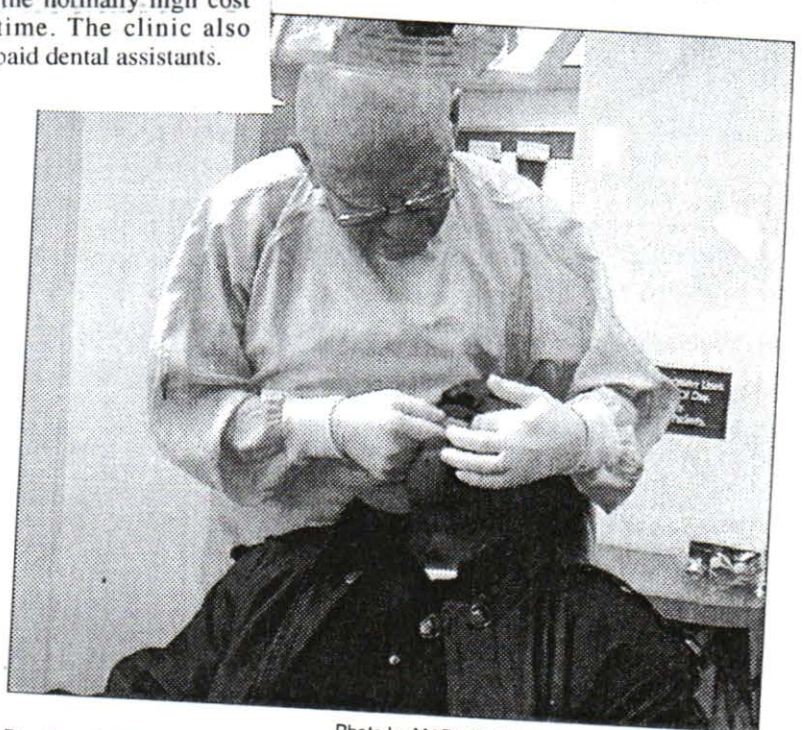


Photo by MARK CASSIO/Independent Newspapers  
Dr. Joe Cavanaugh, retired dentist from Sun City, treats a patient at St. Vincent de Paul's Free Dental Clinic in downtown Phoenix. He and Dr. Don Meis of Sun City West provide volunteer dental service every Tuesday morning to low-income residents.



# Potential 'big' siblings turn out

By JANICE TARLETON  
Staff Writer

Former Californian Hedda Orr had heard of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, but plans to move nixed any thought of becoming involved in the program.

"When the opportunity opened up here I was elated," she said. "This is definitely something I'd like to do."

The Sun City West resident was just one of the more than 60 seniors who filed into Surprise City Hall Council Chambers Tuesday morning to find out more about Project Wisdom, a joint venture between Del Webb Corp. and Valley Big Brothers/Big Sisters aimed at pairing seniors with children in need of a little extra attention and guidance.

It took two years of planning to bring the project to fruition. "We finally decided it was time to quit talking about it and kick it off," Del Webb spokesman John Waldron told the group, adding that the turnout validated his claims that the Sun

Cities are filled with active, volunteer-minded retirees. Project Wisdom, he said, is "a significant way to touch people's lives."

There were a few questions and much enthusiasm as Conrad Hanson of Valley Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the largest of more than 500 such organizations nationwide, told of the needs and rewards of serving as a mentor to a child.

The need is great with 500 to 800 children, mostly boys, waiting for a big brother or sister, but the commitment is easy — to meet for a few hours two to four times a month. "It's about friendship. Just be a friend to a child. You're not a walking piggy bank. You don't have to spend money to spend time together," Hanson said.

His comments were underscored by an impromptu testimonial from Moriah Bradford, a member of the Surprise Planning and Zoning Commission, who served as Big Sister to "Sabrina" from fourth grade

through high school in Indianapolis, Ind.

"When I met her as a little fourth-grader she was like Mike Tyson and now she's married and has a child and she calls me once a month," said Bradford, who heard about the meeting when she stopped by City Hall to pay a bill. "If I had not interceded in her life at that point, there's no telling where she would be at this point in her life. It was a very rewarding experience and we're friends for a lifetime," she told the crowd.

Bradford said later it was by talking with Sabrina — finding out that she wanted to be a police officer — that she was able to encourage her to quit fighting to fulfill that dream. Today Sabrina is pursuing a degree in criminal justice and has set a new goal: to become the police chief of Indianapolis.

Hanson fielded questions from the audience about what volunteers needed in order to be a Big Brother

or Sister.

"The only requirements are that you have to be 18 years old. I guess we've got that one covered," he said, as the audience, mostly white-haired and mostly women, erupted into laughter. Volunteers must have transportation, a valid driver's license and insurance, as well.

"What if you're not a full-time resident?" one woman asked. Hanson's answer: Just keep in touch and pick up the match again later.

There were other questions too. "What about siblings that might need help too? What if they don't speak English? What about liability?"

"I wanted to know if I could bring her to my home and apparently that's OK," Orr said. "We'll do arts and crafts, and baking. That sort of thing. And we have a swimming pool to use in the summer."

For information about Project Wisdom, call Conrad Hanson at Valley Big Brothers/Big Sisters, 264-9254. Make sure that you mention the project by name.

1/2/98



John Waldron of the Del Webb Corp. addresses the audience at an information meeting about Big Brothers/Big Sisters at Surprise City Hall

Tuesday. More than 60 people attended the meeting, forcing it to move to a larger room.

Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

## Retirees enlisting as pupils' mentors

By Herb Whitney  
The Arizona Republic

It may seem redundant, but another volunteer opportunity is being offered to residents of the Sun Cities.

Consider this:

Of the 80,000 retirees living in Sun City, Sun City West and Sun City Grand, more than 35,000 of them already do some kind of volunteer work, according to research done by Del Webb Corp.

That figures out to nearly 44 percent of the population working for no pay in hospitals, nursing homes, schools and recreation centers.

On Tuesday at 10 a.m., Del Webb and Valley Big Brothers/Big Sisters will introduce a joint venture called Project Wisdom during an informational breakfast at the Surprise City Council chambers, 12425 W. Bell Road.

Interested residents are invited to the free breakfast to discuss plans to match them with at-risk children, ages 6 to 15, living in the northwest Valley.

Lucille Hudgens, 86, plans to attend the breakfast. The 49-year Sun City West resident used to belong to a Sun Cities group called the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bridge Club.

In the 10 years she participated in bridge tournaments and luncheons, she said the club managed to raise nearly \$50,000 to benefit the organization.

"I think most people in the Sun Cities want to help children," Hudgens said. "We had 100 members in our bridge club, and we didn't mind paying a little more for

— Please see **SENIORS**, Page 3

## Seniors share wisdom

— **SENIORS**, from Page 1

lunch to raise money for a good cause."

Project Wisdom represents the first major effort by Big Brothers/Big Sisters to find Sun Cities residents who would be willing to mentor children several times a month for up to two years.

"We haven't asked people in the Sun Cities for their help that much because we're just now identifying children in need living in the El Mirage and Surprise area," said Conrad Hanson, marketing and recruitment manager for Valley Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Of the approximately 800 children in the Phoenix metropolitan area already waiting to be matched with adult mentors, about 130 live in the Glendale/Peoria area, said Linda Searfoss, executive director of Valley Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

"People don't realize the effect they can have by donating a few hours a week," Searfoss said. "And this is what these children need. Someone who will give of themselves and their time."

For the past 20 years, two auxiliaries in Sun City and Sun City West have raised money for the organization, including the bridge club that collected \$50,000.

If you have doubts that surrogate parents who take children on fun trips or who help with homework can make a difference, consider this:

A 1995 independent study by a research company in Philadelphia found that children participating in Big Brothers/Big Sisters are 46 percent less likely to start using illegal drugs and 27 percent less likely to start drinking than their peers who never receive such attention.

Also, the study concluded that the same children are 52 percent less likely to skip school and 33 percent less likely to act violently toward other people.

Why? The study suggested that when neglected children interact with caring adults, their self-esteem gets a boost, making them more trusting of their parents or guardians, and of their peers.

Herb Whitney can be reached at 444-7129 or at [herb.whitney@pni.com](mailto:herb.whitney@pni.com) via e-mail.

“

*No other place are residents as generous or willing to volunteer their time or expertise than in the Sun Cities. The impact they've made on our communities is nothing short of remarkable.*

**PHIL DION**

CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, DEL WEBB CORP.



Suzanne Starr/The Arizona Republic

Volunteers Marge Yeo (left) of Surprise and Marlene Shaw of Sun City West pack doughnuts for distribution by the Westside Food Bank. Thousands of volunteers aid West Valley agencies and organizations with donated time and effort.

# For the sake of Others

*Volunteers find reward within*

By Lori Baker  
The Arizona Republic

Whether they're typing letters into a computer or delivering meals to shut-ins, Jan and Vince Clohisy are proud to donate their services.

"We weren't able to do things like this when we were working and now that we're retired we want to give back to the community," said Jan Clohisy, a retired buyer for a paper manufacturer in Wisconsin. Vince is a retired general sales manager for Montgomery Ward's catalog in New York.

The couple met while volunteering at the Westside Food Bank in 1992, and they've been donating their time side by side ever since. They also give their time to Meals on Wheels and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Sun City

West.

The Clohisy's are among an estimated 10,000 volunteers in Sun City and Sun City West who are giving back to others at schools, hospitals, churches and other organizations.

National Volunteer Week is being celebrated next week to recognize individuals who selflessly give of their time and energy to others.

Although the spotlight on volunteerism comes once a year, volunteering is an everyday occurrence among many Sun Cities residents.

"No other place are residents as generous or willing to volunteer their time or expertise than in the Sun Cities," said Phil Dion, chairman and chief executive officer of Del Webb Corp., which developed the Sun Cities. "The impact

— Please see VOLUNTEERS, Page 3

**FYI****Volunteer Placement**

The Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Services, 14475 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West, contracts with about 150 non-profit agencies to help find volunteers. More information is available by calling 546-1774.

Here are samples of volunteer jobs:

- Drivers for vans/golf carts.
- Deliver meals to homebound.
- Museum host/hostesses.
- Hospital assignments.
- Computer/office/telephone.
- English/math/reading tutors.
- Posse patrolling/Prides.
- Food banks.
- Health care center activity programs.
- Shopping for shut-ins.
- Tax and business consultants.
- Public relations/newsletters.
- Friendly visitors/library aides.
- Thrift shops.
- Social service jobs/hospice.

# Volunteers help daily

— VOLUNTEERS, from Page 1

they've made on our communities is nothing short of remarkable."

To encourage Sun Cities residents to donate their talents in schools, Del Webb this year is providing about \$34,000 to the Peoria and Dysart school districts to pay the salaries of volunteer coordinators to recruit volunteers. Webb has given money for the volunteer program for the past several years.

"Children need the extra attention, and it helps them to feel good about themselves," said Sun City resident Jean Miller, who was last year's volunteer of the year for the Peoria district.

Miller, who is called "Sweet Jean" by Santa Fe Elementary School first-graders, helps the youngsters with their math and reading. She also volunteers at Cheyenne Elementary School's library and assists at the Peoria district office.

"If you don't volunteer, you lose out on so much," said Miller, a retired second-grade teacher. "It's so rewarding."

By donating a few hours a week, people are making a difference. Volunteers average 4.2 hours per week, according to a poll conducted by the Independent Sector and the Gallup Organization based on volunteerism in 1995. The estimated value of the 93 million adult volunteers was \$201 billion nationally.

Examples of the impact Sun Cities volunteers have are:

- The Sun City and Sun City West Prides, who clean up litter and trim bushes along roadways, save Maricopa County an estimated

\$400,000 annually.

- The Sun City and Sun City West Sheriff's Poses donate more than 175,000 hours each year, contributing about \$3.4 million worth of services.

- Boswell and Del Webb hospitals' 2,400 volunteers have recorded more than 4.8 million hours of service in a single year.

Finding the right volunteer job can be a challenge, and the Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Service is available to help.

"Volunteering is a great way for people who are new to the area to become integrated in their new community," said Janet Henningsen, executive director of the Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Service. "You can use your lifelong skills in new ways for the benefit of others."

The need for volunteers increases in the summer because many Sun Cities residents leave town, she said.

Debi Wirth, a Sun City West resident, decided to volunteer at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West after caring for her mother who was dying of cancer.

She chairs the nursing unit's 25 volunteers and acts as a liaison between the volunteers and the nursing staff.

"We do the mundane odd jobs like filling up water pitchers to free up the nurses for more important tasks," Wirth said. "I get great satisfaction knowing that I'm helping someone who is ill to get better. Volunteering just makes you feel so good."

# Time to help students

## Volunteers give boost to schools

By Lori Baker  
The Arizona Republic

EL MIRAGE — The teenage boy paused when he saw the word "pneumonia" and gazed up at Shirley Fullerton.

"The 'p' is silent," Fullerton explained. "Go ahead and try."

After the boy pronounced the word correctly, the Sun City resident gave him a big smile.

Fullerton donates at least two mornings a week helping Dysart High School students in Susan Fernandez's class learn to read and write English. Their native language is Spanish.

"The students are so bright and they work so hard," said Fullerton, who has a college degree in English but never worked outside the home.

"Sometimes, they just don't have a reference for something such as a basement or the ocean floor because they've never seen them. I try to explain it as best as I can."

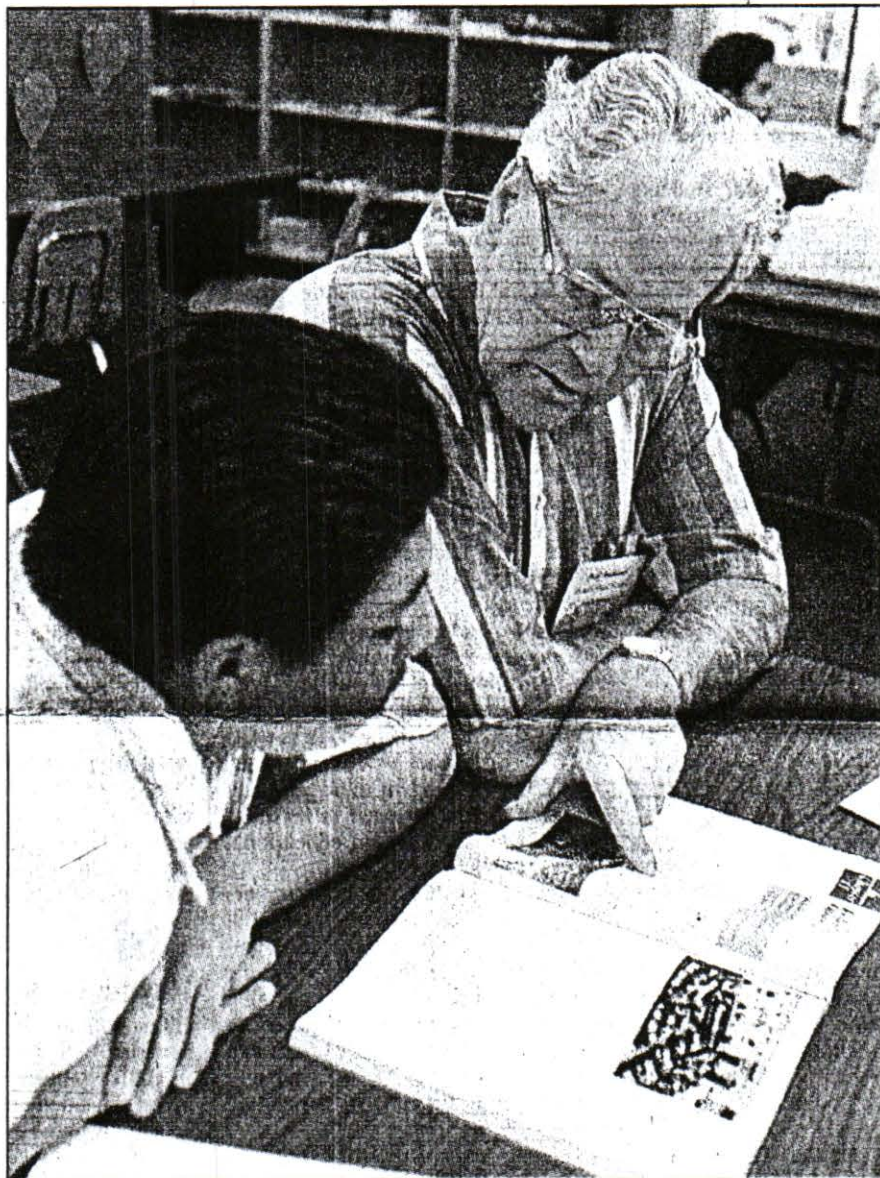
Providing one-on-one attention helps students improve faster, and there is always a need for more district volunteers, said Barbara Townsend, Dysart's volunteer coordinator.

"The students really seem to glow when you give them a pat on the back when they've done well," said Marge Emerson, a Sun City West resident and retired junior high school teacher. She has been volunteering every week in Fernandez's class for more than 10 years.

Emerson also works with Dysart Middle School eighth-grade girls through a mentoring program sponsored by the Sun City West chapter of the American Association of University Women.

"Eighth grade is a low point of interest in school for girls and we try to get them motivated," Emerson said.

About 37 women are matched up with eighth-grade girls, accompanying them on field trips to places like Walter O. Boswell Hospital or to a theater to watch



James Garcia/The Arizona Republic

One-on-one instruction is among the benefits volunteers provide to a classroom. Paul Kummel, a former principal, shares time with Tony Santoyo at Dysart High School.

a Japanese musical.

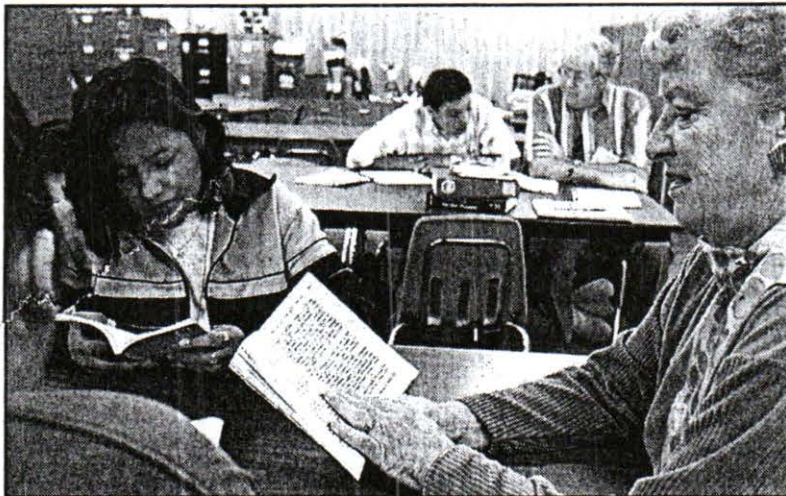
Emerson and Fullerton are among the estimated 350 volunteers in the Dysart Unified School District. They donated nearly 13,000 hours last year, saving the district an estimated \$100,000.

"Many of the volunteers are grandmothers and grandfathers who are far away from their grandchildren and they want to be around kids," Townsend said.

"Volunteers come from all walks of life."

Retired entomologist Roy Fritz has spent 20 years volunteering at Surprise Elementary School. He currently works in teacher Sharon James' fifth-grade classroom.

— Please see **SUN CITIES**, Page 3



James Garcia/The Arizona Republic

Longtime volunteer Marge Emerson works with Josie Hernandez at Dysart High School. Emerson takes a particular interest in helping young women.

## Sun Cities volunteers give boost to schools

— SUN CITIES, from Page 1

"I do anything the teacher asks me to do — tutoring, filing, grading papers and working with flash cards," Fritz said. He accompanied students on a trip to the state Capitol in January to alert legislators to Dysart's financial plight.

Townsend, a Sun City resident, is in her third year as Dysart's volunteer coordinator, a position financially supported by the Del Webb Corp. This year's contribution was \$18,000.

While there has been negative publicity about the senior citizens' opposition to bond and override proposals for Dysart, Townsend said she sees retirees touching the lives of students in a positive way.

Volunteering helps people stay alert and healthy, she added.

"The volunteers tell me that they get more out of working at the schools than the children do," Townsend said.

Dysart's program was patterned after the volunteer program started eight years ago by Webb in the Peoria Unified School District. Webb has provided \$16,500 this year to the Peoria district.

The investment has paid off, with

the return coming from the more than 3,000 volunteers who donate about \$1 million worth of time annually, said Gloria Warnick, Peoria's volunteer coordinator.

"These volunteer coordinator positions serve as a bridge to get seniors into the school," Del Webb spokesman John Waldron said.

Townsend and Warnick recruit volunteers from civic groups, churches and parent groups to work at the schools.

"There is a real need for volunteers who speak Spanish and for people who want to work with middle school students," Townsend said.

Some volunteers are having so much fun that they encourage their friends to donate their time, too.

Paul Kummel, a retired elementary school principal, was recruited by Emerson to work in Fernandez's classroom. They knew each other in their home state of Minnesota.

"I enjoy being with the kids and there is such a need here," Kummel said. "The students are so polite and appreciative of our help."

For information about volunteering, call Townsend at the Dysart office, 876-7083, or Warnick at the Peoria office, 486-6052.

# Rip 'N Sew Club members deliver goodies

By JANICE TARLETON  
Staff writer

**C**hristmas came early at Glendale's Discovery Elementary School Friday thanks to members of Sun City West's Rip 'N Sew Club.

Some 150 children were each treated to an outfit, handmade by group members, along with three new pairs of socks and underwear, pajamas, if needed, a goody bag containing candy and toiletry items, and their choice of a jewelry item to take home to mom.

"It's just an incredible program for these kids," said special education teacher Judy Cotner, whose mother, Lou, is involved with the group. "It's like Christmas when they come."

Twice a year for five years now — in the fall and spring — the group stitches up outfits to give away. "At first we made one complete outfit for about 35 kids," said Dot Gelineau, co-chair of the club's Sewing for Kids



project, but production increased once the women saw the needs. "The ladies were heartbroken when they saw the socks with holes bigger than the sock. You learn what the needs are from being there."

In addition to the outfits, socks and underwear, members make pajamas and hair "scrunchies," then peruse thrift stores for items they can't make, such as shoes, jeans and jackets. "We make five or six trips to the thrift stores. We only pick the cream of the crop," said member Sharon Jasmer.

The children, many of them wide-

eyed with excitement and anticipation, others blushing shyly, were greeted at the door of the classroom converted to store by an adult who took them "shopping" for their special outfit. After making a final selection, alterations, if need, were done on the spot, then children were escorted through the line to choose shoes, a coat, a hat knitted by the Encore Ladies Club, and to receive a goody bag. Pajamas and nightgowns, also handmade, were an option.

One boy refused the offer of pajamas, then asked, "What are they?" said Gelineau. "When we explained what they were for, he said 'I sleep in my school clothes.'" The boy ended up taking a pair with him.

Not all children at the school are included in the program, only those identified by staff members as having a need, Cotner explained. "The child gets to make the decision, to choose what they want. Once in a while we'll have someone come through that doesn't find anything they like. That's OK. The motive is to provide an op-

tion for them," she said, adding, "but most are really thrilled."

Extra clothes are left at the school for distribution as needed.

Members of the Rip 'N Sew club keep current on fashion trends by looking at Target, Mervyn's and J.C. Penney advertisements. They get an idea of sizes from measurements taken earlier in the year. But, one of the requirements of selecting an outfit is that it has to fit. "A lot of them want that saggy look, but we won't let a size 6 wear a size 14," said Therese Rutkowski.

News of the club's good deeds have been spreading and material has come pouring in. Members received two loads of fabric from Chicago, along with many local donations. One club member doesn't sew for the group, but she comes in weekly just to fold, sort and straighten the material. "It's called constructive recycling," said Jasmer. Unused material is sold to members with proceeds going to the purchased items.



# Grandmothers care about everyone

By TINA SCHADE  
Staff writer

A lot of clubs offer Sun Citians the chance to try their hand at arts and crafts.

Others provide opportunities for philanthropies

But Grandmothers and Friends offers both.

Established around 1968 in Sun City, members of the club work on crafts which are sold at the Fun Fair in the spring and the Arts and Crafts Festival in the fall.

But what makes the club unique is its ability to combine the talents of its members with their dedication to helping the community.

One of the nice things about the club is even if you're "craft challenged," Grandmothers and Friends can use your help.

"About half of the women do crafts. There's a kitchen group that makes coffee and cuts cakes and another lady sends out cards and that's all she does is send cards out to people," said Phyllis Roach, the club's vice president.

Members also help coordinate luncheons and garage sales, but it's the clubs commitment to bettering the lives of others which members find most fulfilling.

"I think we're a group of women that truly care. Whether it's the New Life Shelter, whether it's one of the nursing homes or whether it's about one of our own members, we truly care," said June Hermann, club president.

Some of the local beneficiaries of Grandmothers and Friends include Hearthstone of Sun City and the Good Shepherd Care Center.

"We make aprons and afghans for people in elderly homes. We've made bandanas for those with cancer and in the last two years, we've gotten involved with battered women," Roach said.

The New Life Shelter in Litchfield Park, one of the places which receives donations from the club, provides a haven for battered women and children.

The club has made it possible for the shelter to continue its art therapy program, which helps children express emotions through creative projects.

"We had asked for paper, paint supplies, brushes and color crayons. We supplied a list and they really went after those items. I've been so impressed that those women in that club would feel so drawn to help us," said Renea Gentry, executive director of the shelter.

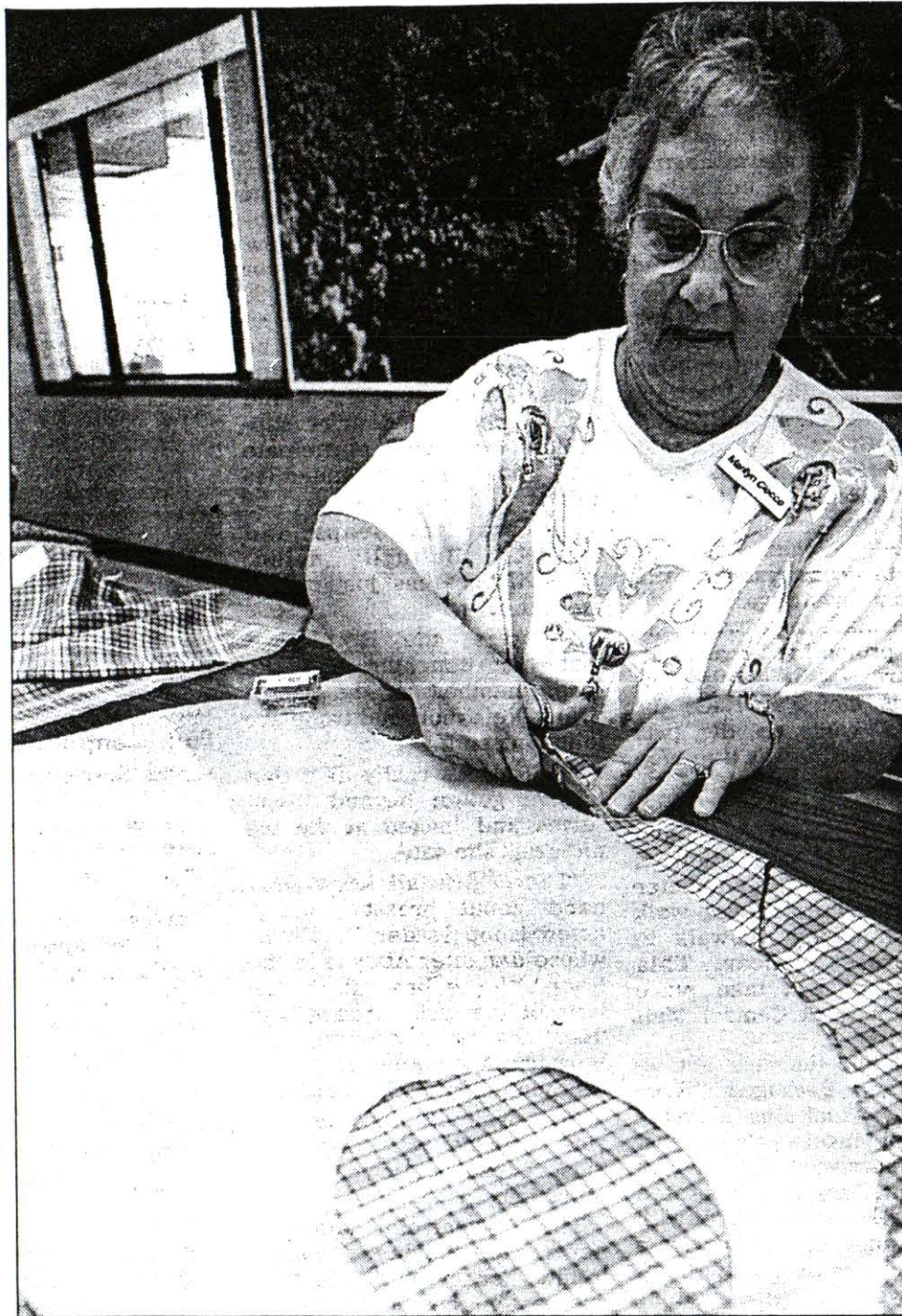
The club also saves Campbell's soup labels for the Southwest Indian School. The labels help the school purchase equipment such as televisions, videocassette recorders and vehicles.

Roach said another unique aspect of the club is the feeling one gets from belonging.

"It's a feeling of working together and caring about each other that I haven't seen in any other club and I've been involved in a lot of clubs," Roach said "I worked in the club office for five years. It's unique in its feeling and I think that's one of the reasons we've accumulated so many people."

The club currently has about 70 to 80 active members.

For information on Grandmothers and Friends, call Phyllis Roach at 972-2609 or June Hermann at 972-4803.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Marilyn Ciocco cuts material for adult bibs at the Grandmothers and Friends club in the Oakmont Recreation Center Monday. Besides donating items to area nursing homes, the club also sells crafts at local craft festivals to raise funds for charity.

Volunteering

# Seniors instill self-worth in school-aged children

*Volunteers relate their life experiences to help youngsters resist prejudice*

By JULIA DE SIMONE  
Independent Newspapers

Sun City volunteers are using hand-made toys and first-hand experiences to help fight prejudice in Arizona's schools.

"Presentations by Seniors: Fighting Prejudice" was created five years ago by the late Basil Barwell of Sun City. Mr. Barwell wanted to encourage self-worth among K-12 children across the Valley, mostly in the north and northwest are of Phoenix.

The first presentations of this school year will be held Oct. 14-16 at various schools in Maricopa County. There are currently 29 volunteers working for the non-profit organization.

Volunteers focus on three main topics: the Holocaust, which includes a two-day program featuring a video and a presentation by a survivor of one of the many concen-

tration camps; World War II, which includes presentations by veterans of the Armed Forces; the Depression, which is characterized by toys and other items used by residents during that era.

Jerry Hirsch, Sun City volunteer for the program, said his hand-made toys, including wooden go-carts, convey to students the reality of life during the Depression.

Each presentation revolves around a specific message from obtaining self-worth to appreciating diversity in race, color and ethnic background.

"We are a dying breed," Mr. Hirsch said. "The Holocaust, World War II and Depression (survivors) are dying. The things that are going to stay are fighting prejudice, having self-worth and love."

More than 37,000 students have been exposed to the presentations since the non-profit organization

See ■ PREJUDICE, Page 7

## Recalling simple pleasures

Jerry Hirsch of Sun City displays his hand-made, wooden go-cart, which he uses during his "Presentations by Seniors: Fighting Prejudice." The programs help convey to students the reality of life during the Depression. The volunteer group was created five years ago by the late Basil Barwell of Sun City. To request a presentation call 258-6797, ext. 143. Residents interested in volunteering should call Mimi Kaplan, 258-6797, ext. 143; Bob Nelson, 974-6395; Jerry Hirsch, 974-2412.



Photo by JULIA DE SIMONE/Independent Newspapers

## ■ PREJUDICE

From Page 1

first formed, Mr. Hirsch said.

Last year alone, volunteers made 595 presentations to 16,648 students at 49 schools within Maricopa County. Volunteers logged 3,000 hours for the 1996-97 school year.

Presentations are free and revolve around the teacher's lesson plan but must be requested by school officials.

Students are asked to write a

paragraph on what they learned from the presentation.

"I have one (letter) that read, 'You are the best actor that came to our school.' They all feel great about it."

Mr. Hirsch said they hope to expand their program within the state and eventually nationally.

Free training classes are provided to volunteers.

# Volunteer placement in jeopardy

With only half the needed funding, agency may be forced to close

By DAVID MILLER  
Staff writer

Sun City is sometimes called the "City of Volunteers," and that epithet isn't an exaggeration. Hundreds of seniors typically show up in schools and service agencies, lending a hand in everything from math lessons to help with Alzheimer's patients.

That help may be seriously curtailed, however, as a local volunteer referral agency is on the verge of closing.

Funding for the Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Service, a group placing about 1,500 seniors a year in volunteer work, has been cut in half, said its executive director.

The organization, which has an office in Sun City West and two part-time employees, is now examining its options in the wake of this financial shortfall.

"This is going to hurt a lot of agencies," said Executive Director Janet Henningsen.

In the past, the group has been funded by the Sun City and Sun City West Community Funds, as well as from a few other private

grants.

The community funds gather money for local service groups. But contributions have been down of late, and this year the volunteer service received half its normal funding.

As a result, everyone from the posse to school districts, daycare centers and even Luke Air Force Base may soon be seeing the last of their volunteering seniors.

Henningsen estimates that about 150 agencies will be hard hit if the center closes.

Giving a quick estimate, she said the group is responsible for setting up some 240,000 hours a year of volunteer work. And while the work comes free of charge, a monetary accounting of the volunteer hours — at the minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour — has a total value of \$1,236,000.

That's the estimated benefit of the service to the local community. And all for the price of a few employees and some office space, Henningsen said.

"It's a shame that for such a small amount of money we're going



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Volunteer Dorothy White of Sun Village in Surprise calls service providers to update the Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Services' files Tuesday.

to lose all that help," she said.

Dusty Rhodes, president of the placement service's board of directors, said the organization typically has stayed out of the fundraising arena.

Too many groups are already out there looking for donations, he said.

In fact, he said the service has "never had a fundraiser." But now plans are up in the air, with a special board meeting set this week to discuss the issue.

Still, the group would like to keep from extending its hat, if it can. "We'd rather not go to the community," Rhodes said. "We'd rather get our funding from large corpora-

tions."

Regardless of where funding comes from, however, one school official hopes the group continues sending seniors to her door.

Gloria Warnick, volunteer coordinator with the Peoria Unified School District, calls seniors "vital role models" to Peoria kids.

She said some 3,000 volunteers stepped in last year to help with everything from theater programs to reading lessons. And many were locals sent by the Volunteer Placement Service.

"I cannot stress enough the importance of having seniors in our schools," Warnick said.



# Auxiliary provides prescription of help

By JEFF OWENS  
Staff writer

A sign just inside the south entrance to Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital gives the number of hours contributed by Sun Health Auxiliary volunteers over a 28-year period.

From 1968 through 1996, they donated 5,839,974 hours of their time.

Men and women from all over the Sun Cities volunteer at the hospital. Some are merely in their 60s and 70s. Most are in their 80s. And an amazing handful are in their 90s.

Some of them gathered in a first-floor break room Friday morning for the first of the day's two "break



parties," which have been going on all week. To celebrate Volunteer Week and to thank them for their help, Sun Health officials decided to

throw a couple of parties each day for their volunteer force. Dozens took a break from their rounds to stop by for refreshments.

"It's a way to show our appreciation," said Andi Holland, Sun Health coordinator of volunteer recruitment retention.

Holland explained that there are more than 130 positions to be filled every day at Boswell — everything from organizing nursing supplies to driving "courtesy cars" which ferry visitors from the crowded parking area to the hospital doors. Some positions include contact with patients, many others don't.

And they're always looking for help, Holland said.

"We always have openings," she said. "If you can smile and talk and have a caring heart, that's what we're looking for."

No medical experience is necessary — just ask volunteer Rose Marie Bessant, president of the Sun Health Auxiliary. She began her volunteer work at Boswell as soon as she moved to Sun City seven years ago.

"Medical experience? Heavens, no — I'm a housewife," she said. "I feel very comfortable working in a hospital. That's where I've done the bulk of my volunteer work. All you need is a well-rounded personality."

Jean Peschau, seated next to Bes-

▶ See Auxiliary fills, A5

For subscription or delivery questions, call 977-8347.

## Auxiliary fills shifts

■ From A1

sant, said she's made many friends in her 17 years as a volunteer.

"There's something for everyone," she said. "This is the most perfect place to meet new friends. When I'm addressing newcomers, I tell them, 'I know you're all new, and I know you're anxious to make friends' well, my dearest friends have been made through the Sun Health Auxiliary."

Also at the table was Ginny Seibert, who said volunteering was not only a great way to meet people, but also the thing that kept her from getting bored when she moved to Sun City West in 1980.

"I could keep so busy doing all kinds of different things," she said, just before hurrying off to the recovery room.

Holland said the Auxiliary tends to get more female volunteers than male, and that many volunteers are people who have been patients at the hospital before.

"They feel they want to share, to give something back," Holland said.

There are three different types of shifts available to volunteers. During the regular weekly schedule, there is a one-day-a-week shift of four hours, a substitution schedule for which volunteers are called on to fill in for others who are unavailable, and a program for periodic special events in which they are called on up to half a dozen times yearly.

Anyone interested in becoming a Sun Health Auxiliary volunteer may contact Sun Health's Boswell hospital office at 876-5387.

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# Placement service puts people in touch with people

by Heidi L. Rheingold

Looking for a worthwhile way to spend some spare time? Want to lend a helping hand? Then consider visiting the Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Services (SCVPS) office. It could be your connection to a good cause.

Uniting people in need with others who have the time and desire to help, SCVPS serves as a clearinghouse for Sun Cities-area residents who wish to volunteer within the Northwest Valley.

"We put people in touch with people," said Janet Henningsen, executive director of SCVPS. "There are a lot of folks who want to volunteer, but don't know how to start. We show them the way."

SCVPS receives requests for volunteer assistance from a wide variety of non-profit organizations, such as hospitals, libraries, schools, community centers and social service agencies, and refers local residents to all sorts of interesting, enjoyable and meaningful jobs.

Take these for example: delivering meals, working in a thrift shop, playing the piano at a nursing home, caring for rescued animals at a shelter, serving as a museum docent, entering data into a computer, driving a golf

cart, and assisting at sporting events.

To begin volunteering, one trip to the SCVPS office is all it takes. Prospective volunteers meet with Henningsen or one of the SCVPS volunteers (yes, they operate with the generous aid of volunteers) and describe the kind

computing skills, and ultimately put this newly learned proficiency into practice.

Sometimes Henningsen is even able to tailor a task. If, for instance, someone asks for a photography assignment, but no agencies have requested a photographer, Henningsen will call around to

locate camera work.

"Our primary purpose is to serve the needs of the Sun Cities-area residents. So we accommodate individual requests. We do our best to make people happy and find the jobs they want," Henningsen said.

When prospective volunteers make no specific requests, Henningsen narrows down the possibilities, asking whether they want to do something they have done in the past or try something new. She inquires about special talents, previous professional experi-

ences and recreational activities. She finds out in what area of town they prefer to work and how many hours per week they have to give. Once Henningsen has enough information, she reviews her list of volunteer opportunities and makes suitable suggestions.

Basically, SCVPS can assist in career continuation or make life-long dreams come true. "Just because you've retired professionally doesn't mean that you can no longer use your medical



HELPING WITH CHILD care at Dysart School are Jan Shapiro, left, and Jane Weir.

of volunteer job they desire. They are then referred to one or more possible positions.

For example, if a person says, "I used to be a teacher, and I want to work with children," Henningsen might suggest tutoring or reading to children at area schools. Or, if someone remarks, "I've never worked with computers before, but I think I'd like to," Henningsen will find opportunities for the person to learn about computers, develop

OVER

knowledge or accounting skills, for example. Likewise, if you've always wanted to work with children, but never had the chance, doesn't mean you can't begin today," Henningsen said.

Most people end up volunteering four hours per week. Some take several tasks while others pursue only one position. Some jobs are short-term; others last indefinitely.

#### Long history in area

A non-profit corporation supported mainly by the Sun City and Sun City West Community Funds, SCVPS began in 1982 when the Community Council of the Sun Cities recognized the needs of thousands of residents who could benefit from an office that stimulated and facilitated their volunteerism.

Also realizing the potential payoffs for local agencies sustained by volunteers, the Community Council established the Volunteer Bureau. Over the past 15 years, the Bureau evolved into the Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Services, Inc., recruiting and placing roughly 10,850 volunteers within approximately 200 organizations. In 1996 alone, SCVPS put 1,316 people into

160 locations.

Though many people referred by SCVPS are retirees, Henningsen insists there is no typical volunteer. "We help men and women from all walks of life, ranging in age from 16 to 100," she said.

A few local newspapers support SCVPS by regularly publishing a short list of available volunteer opportunities. "That's mostly how we recruit volunteers," Henningsen explained. "People read about us in the paper. Then they call or stop by."

Kay Soltice of Sun City West visited SCVPS seven years ago. She had just arrived here from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where she had spent many years volunteering, and she wanted to continue giving her time.

She was referred by SCVPS to the Westside Food Bank. "I've been volunteering there since 1990, putting fruits and vegetables into sacks, sorting the goods that come in from food drives, or doing whatever needs to be done. I really enjoy the work, and I've even met some of my best friends at the food bank," Soltice said.

Jean Arlow of Sun City also used SCVPS. Last October she met with Henningsen who suggested Arlow volunteer at the

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic. For the past five months she has spent one afternoon per week running machines that record books on tape.

"I'm grateful for the volunteer placement services office," Arlow said. "I didn't know what I wanted to do. I just knew I wanted to volunteer. I met with (Henningsen), who happens to be



**AT BOSWELL HOSPITAL'S Surgery Family Waiting Room, volunteers Barb McCune, right, and Virginia Alexander greet visitor Dick Briggs.**

just the dearest lady, and she lead me to this job I love. The office provides a wonderful service, and I'd encourage anyone who wants to volunteer to go there."

#### Many organizations benefit

Luke Air Force Base Volunteer Resources Program Manager Ann Warren also appreciates the service. On any given day, working at Luke are 250 to 300 volunteers, many of whom are

referred by SCVPS.

Warren attributes the success of one of Luke's programs to SCVPS. Luke gives layette packages that include hand-made afghans to airmen when their babies are born. SCVPS secures volunteers to knit and crochet the afghans.

"It's been a marvelous program for us, and the Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Services makes it possible," Warren said.

Ginny Burnett, director of the Luke Air Force Base/West Valley Service Center for the American Red Cross Central Arizona Chapter considers SCVPS to be "extremely valuable." Last year, Red Cross volunteers worked 43,644 hours at Luke. "The only way the Red Cross can provide so much assistance to so many people is through the work of volunteers, and we're thankful for all volunteers SCVPS sends our way," she said.

The Westside Food Bank, another volunteer-driven organization, also uses SCVPS. "It's a fabulous service from which non-profit agencies like the Westside Food Bank benefit tremendously," commended Pat Andrew, the organization's volunteer coordinator.

Jane Harker, director of volunteer services at Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City and secretary of the SCVPS board, lauds Henningsen's ability to pair people and positions. "She's sent us excellent, dedicated volunteers, well-suited to Boswell," Harker said.

With such lofty endorsements, it seems SCVPS should be the starting point for every Sun Cities-area resident who ventures into volunteering.

*If you wish to donate your time to a worthy organization, call SCVPS at 546-1774, or visit the office at 14475 R.H. Johnson Blvd. in Sun City West.*

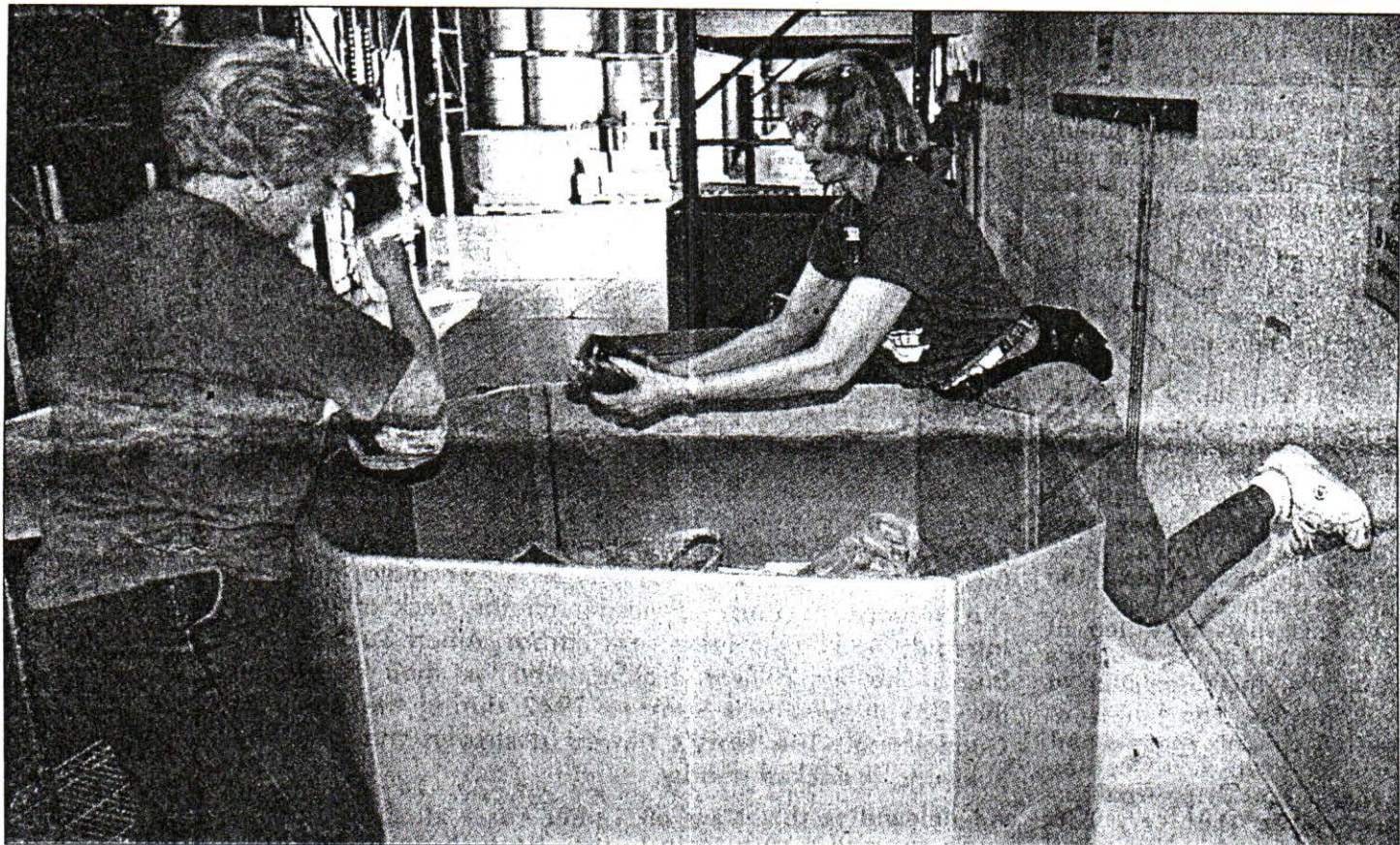


**VOLUNTEERING AT THE Sun Cities Museum of Art gift shop are Beverly Holm, left, and Lois Levy.**

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Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Volunteers Mary Jo Kerr, left, of Sun City West and Jane Jennings of Sun City sort through a box of donated food at the Westside Food Bank Thursday.

## Food bank depends on retirees

By RUTHANN HOGUE  
Staff writer

Mary Jo Kerr knows what it's like to feed a houseful of hungry children. So the mother of seven and grandmother of three doesn't mind spending four hours each week packing boxes to feed needy families.

Kerr works from noon to 4 p.m. on Thursdays in Westside Food Bank in Surprise filling orders, stocking shelves, labeling products and doing whatever else is needed.

"It's very rewarding, and this is a very active area in helping people in need," Kerr said. "So I think it's a wonderful opportunity to volunteer my time here."

On Thursday, she and Janie Jennings started their shift by filling an order for a family of three from

items in the emergency pantry they'd just stocked and labeled.

Jennings reached for a food list as Kerr placed a few cardboard boxes on a steel food cart. Another volunteer quickly mopped up a bottle of spilled worcestershire sauce blocking their access to food on the shelves before they could get started.

"We almost always work in twos," Kerr said, adding that her usual partner, Joanna Prillman, was at home sick. Jennings agreed to fill in.

Jennings selected a can of peas and carrots, two cans of green beans, three cans of soup, tomatoes, tomato sauce, canned apple sauce and crushed pineapple before moving on to the next shelf.

Meanwhile, Kerr gathered a half-pint of blackberries, a head of lettuce, a bag of bagels, a Sara Lee

cake, fresh zucchini, cookies, three Pizza Hut pizzas, one gallon of milk and a half-gallon of orange juice from the walk-in cooler.

"We're able to put together a balanced meal for a balanced diet," Kerr said.

Long-grain rice, pinto beans, elbow macaroni and more were placed in boxes as Jennings and Kerr continued filling the order.

Because the family is Hispanic, refried beans, canned green chilies, tortillas and canned chili con carne were added, too.

The women seemed to enjoy themselves as they worked.

"I just can't imagine being a parent and having a hungry child, what that must be like," Kerr said.

Jennings decided to help out at the food bank after taking a tour.

► See Helpers gain, A5



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# Helpers gain reward

■ From A1

"I was really impressed that anything that comes in here goes where it's supposed to go," she said. "It's not siphoned off here or there or wherever."

Jennings searched the shelves in vain for white sugar. She settled on packing a box of light brown sugar instead. Kerr traded a small jar of peanut butter for a larger one before making sure tuna fish and top ramen noodles were included in the order.

Kerr picked up a can of boiled quail eggs before putting it back and adding popcorn and cookies.

"Now, what do you do with that?" Kerr wondered out loud, reading the label from the quail eggs packed in salt and water by a Chinese company.

After adding the finishing touch with ground coffee, shampoo, razors and toothpaste, Kerr wheeled the cart a few yards away to the front lobby.

"Thank you," said a teenage girl, who had been waiting with her family for the crisis food order.

"Taking a box out front and seeing the children with their eyes this big when they see a box of cookies or a gallon of ice cream," Kerr said, is her favorite part of the job. "Seeing the kids, they are just wonderful."

Kerr began volunteering for Westside two years ago, about 18 months after moving to Sun City West from Denver. Working at the food bank has become a priority, something she tries not to miss.

It's made her more conscious of her own grocery shopping habits. When ramen noodles go on sale 10 for a dollar, for example, or when turkeys are on sale for 29 cents a pound, she stocks up on a few extra items and brings them to the food bank.

"I know other people do that, too," she said.

For information on how to volunteer, call Westside Food Bank at 583-9240.

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# Community leaders work for free

by MARY L. CRIDER  
staff writer

4-17-97

So why do they do it, the people who give uncounted hours of their time, serving on community committees and boards?

It's certainly not for the glamour — most people would rather be staked out on a fire-ant hill than serve out lengthy board terms. It's certainly not for the money — they're volunteers.

"The reason I volunteer is because I think the things I volunteer for are worthwhile, like hospice and the Boswell Board," said Jan Ferguson of Sun City.

Ferguson and her husband just completed three-year terms as elders at Sun City Christian Church. She has served on the Sun City Symphony Board, and she is a member of the Boswell Memorial Hospital Board of Directors.

As a representative of that board, she sits in on multiple area committees such as the five Northwest Valley Community Health Needs

Task Forces formed in the wake of Sun Health's 1996 Community Health Assessment Survey and its steering committee. The goal of the task forces, comprised of members from various area human services and health care agencies, is to reduce modifiable health risks found in the community.

Not only does she attend two or more meetings each week, she spends hours making follow-up calls and performing background research. But the talented people she meets and the things she learns about her community make it all well worth her time, she said.

"I'm really not a club person. I just can't stand sitting around talking about what color decoration to use," the no-nonsense Ferguson said. "The task forces, like the cardiovascular risks and the cancer risks task forces, are pooling information so they don't reinvent the wheel. That's a worthwhile endeavor."

There are two reasons people volunteer, said Hawley Atkinson of Sun City.

"Some do it out of a natural exuberance to do something to help people, with no thought of payment or getting anything back. And there is another group that does it to pay the community back for what it's given them — and that's the group I fall into, the more selfish group probably," Atkinson said, with a self-deprecating chuckle.

Atkinson, a former Maricopa County supervisor, has served as Northwest Valley liaison for an area Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Day celebration, is active in Republican politics and is a member of Republican Forum West. He is also president of Sun City Taxpayers Association and recently volunteered the association to serve on the Transportation Committee set up by the Sun Cities Area Community Council.

Peoria Mayor Ken Forgia, whose job for the past six years has required him to sit on and preside over countless committees, also devotes a healthy portion of his own time to unpaid community service.

Part of a 25-person Neighborhood Pride team, Forgia spent Saturday spreading gravel and building a fence in their assigned Peoria neighborhood. Saturday marked the second Neighborhood Pride Program held in Peoria to clean-up specific neighborhoods. Volunteers mended fences, painted and repaired drives.

"Those are the cream of the crop, really dedicated volunteers," Forgia said.

Jane Freeman's name is another that crops up over and over on lists of area committee and board members. She serves on five Sun Health boards of directors, the Sun City Community Fund Board, Meals on Wheels and the Sun City Library. She's volunteered at the library for 18 years and with Meals on Wheels for 12, she said.

"It beats doing housework," Freeman said with a laugh, but like her fellow volunteers, obviously uncomfortable at being asked why she gives so much of her time to the community.

# Agency services volunteer market

11th in a series

By MARY L. CRIDER  
Staff writer

More than 150 area human services agencies depend on Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Service for their volunteer staff.

"And Sun City being a city of volunteers, we feel we play a part in helping people have a wonderful lifestyle," said Executive Director Janet Henningsen.

The service, located at 14475 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West, matches would-be volunteers with jobs suited to their skills and preferences. It does not do fund-raisers, so it depends on the grants it receives from area community funds to operate, Henningsen said.

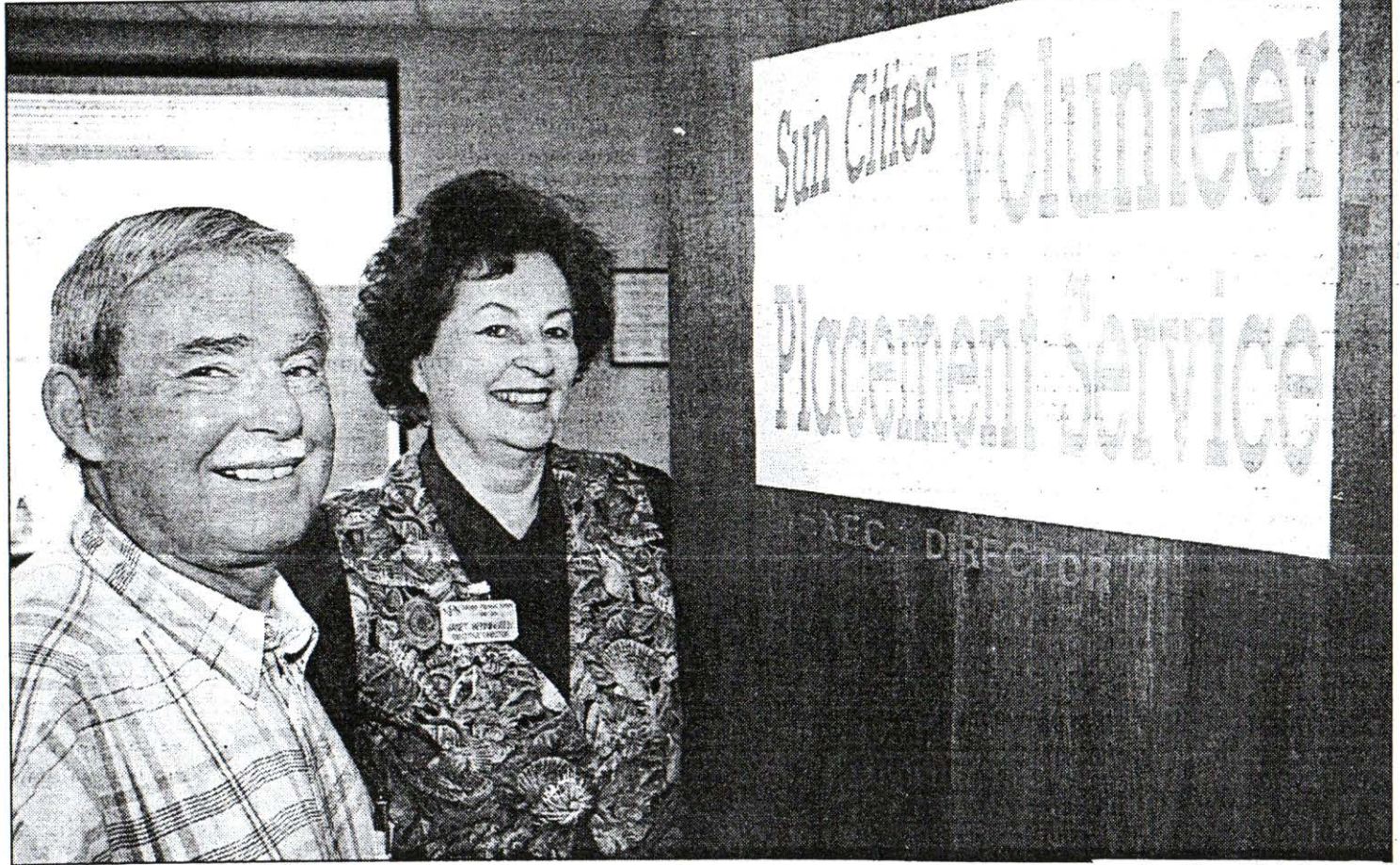
One of 15 Sun City Community Fund-funded agencies, Volunteer Placement Service received \$9,500 for operating costs for the 1997 fiscal year, the same amount it has requested for the upcoming fiscal year, she said.

"We have received funding cuts in the past and so are like anybody else," Henningsen said of drops in donations received by SCCF in recent years.

Started in 1966 as a local alternative to giving to the United Way, SCCF's annual fund-raising drive is now underway. So far, the fund has received about \$124,000 in donations. With requests in hand for more than \$400,000 in grants, fiscal 1998 may be the second consecutive year SCCF faces a drastic drop in donations and is forced, in turn, to reduce funding grants. Donated money stays in Sun City to help Sun City residents.

Volunteers referred through Volunteer Placement Service since it was started by the Sun Cities Area Community Council in 1982 work at a variety of jobs.

"A big percentage are in the



Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Dusty Rhodes is president and Janet Henningsen is executive director of the Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Service.

schools," said Volunteer Placement Service President Dusty Rhodes, "A lot go to hospitals and health care services, especially now with the (Sun Health) Alzheimer's Center and Hospice."

Volunteers work with the Sheriff's Posse, tutoring schoolchildren, at teen centers, PRIDES, Sun City Area Transit, American Red Cross, thrift shops, Interfaith Services adult day cares, libraries, care centers (the only for-profit centers the Internal Revenue Service allows the 501(c) nonprofit agency to staff), Recording

for the Blind and in numerous other areas, he said.

"Plus we are very willing to customize volunteer jobs if there is nothing for them," Henningsen said.

Volunteers placed through the service range in age from 16 to 90-something, and people often call from as far away as Peoria looking for volunteer jobs in the Sun City area, Henningsen said.

"Last year we referred 1,300 volunteers into the community, an increase of more than 32 percent since

1994. I figured it up — I figured it's the equivalent of \$13.1 million if the agencies had had to pay the volunteers we've placed since we started in 1982," Henningsen said. "I was really amazed when I figured it out!"

The service is always looking for new volunteers, Henningsen and Rhodes said.

For information about Volunteer Placement Service, call 546-1774. For information about Sun City Community Fund, call 876-1078.

# THE ART OF GIVING BACK

## Sun City resident volunteers as an art teacher with Interfaith Services

By **JULIA DE SIMONE**  
Independent Newspapers

Robert L. Taylor's conscience started getting to him.

So the Sun City resident did something about it.

"You may say the man upstairs put a message in my computer, 'you'd better do something (to help others),' " he says.

Since July 1996, the local artist has taught art every Wednesday at Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services's Adult Day Health Center in Sun City. IFS is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping area residents remain independent and in their homes for as long as possible.

"I'm volunteering to do that from now on," he says. "I actually have a lot of fun even though I run myself ragged. (But) it really brings a lot of pleasure. It gives you a great feeling."



Photo By **JULIA DE SIMONE**/Independent Newspapers

## Sun City resident gives back to his community

Robert L. Taylor, local artist, teaches art to a resident at Interfaith Services (IFS) in Sun City as volunteer Molly Williams looks over the work. Mr. Taylor said his conscience was getting to him, and he believed this was the best way he could give back and share his talent. IFS is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the area residents remain independent and in their own home for as long as possible. Fees are nominal.

Mr. Taylor zips around resident's tables at the center. He grasps 8 1/2-by-11 examples of watercolor prints in one hand and outlines of the samples in the other. Prints range from desert scenes to a sailboat floating in the water.

IFS employees and volunteers act as additional hands, carrying the paint and water. "The biggest project is getting everybody going," he says.

Residents Ramona Russell, Sarah Vynal and Mary Belle Peterson pay little attention; they're too busy making art.

As Ms. Peterson admires her latest artwork — a budding pink flower surrounded by a green leaf — Ms. Russell dabs some green paint on her cactus.

Kelly King, IFS activity therapist, says many residents at the center have special needs, but function at high level. "This (class) allows them to show their creative side — to keep them stimulated," she says.

Ms. King focuses her attention on Ramona Russell, a blossoming artist.

"She's a real success story," the therapist says. "Some of these people never touched a paint brush, and now, they're very talented."

Mrs. Russell says when she first started the class, she hated art. One day, however, she gave it another try and now can't get enough of it. Some of her prized artwork hangs in the center's bulletin board, along with works by produced by her fellow residents.

"If you can color, you can do

this," she says.

Mr. Taylor says he got 'addicted' to art accidentally.

On his 42nd birthday, his mother presented him with his first paint set. Although he wasn't fond of art, he soon found himself working on a painting project to the wee hours of the night.

He retired as a transportation manager in Minnesota to become an artist in Sun City. He currently lives here with his wife, Marian.

"An artist has to be addicted — you're addicted to your work," he says. "Once in awhile you burn out, but it doesn't last because you're addicted to it."

Today his oil paintings are in many private and corporate collections nationwide. His paintings of the desert and Southwestern archi-

ecture have received many awards. Mr. Taylor also teaches art to Sun City West residents.

"I hope I can do this until I fall over," he says. "It gives me a great deal of satisfaction that I can bring enjoyment to others."

It also brings enjoyment to the approximately 10 residents at the IFS center who wait for Mr. Taylor each Wednesday.

Ramona admires her life-like watercolor of a cat that hangs off the center's bulletin board.

"I really enjoy it," she says. "Oh, it makes me feel like I'm accomplishing something."

The feeling is mutual for Mr. Taylor.

"I think the best part is seeing what people get out of it ... I always said I should be doing this."

# National Volunteer week

Saluting America's volunteers

**L**oving thy neighbor and community spurs the volunteer spirit in the Sun Cities. Thousands of residents give thousands of hours each year to making life better for their neighbors. While the Daily News-Sun recognizes these people every day, we will be focusing on several volunteers and organizations during National Volunteer Week.

## Little things count

### Team approach benefits patients

By JEANNIE JOHNSON  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — It might be running down to the cafeteria to pick up a bagel and cream cheese for the patient in room 200.

It might be telling a spouse to bring a loved one's pillow to the hospital — because hospital pillows aren't always the softest.

It might be listening to a sick wrangler recite cowboy poetry.

"Sometimes I go home at night and wonder what I really accomplished that day," said Sybil Brockman, a patient representative volunteer at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital. "I know a lot of times it's just a bunch of little things. Even if it's just holding someone's hand and saying how sorry you are that they aren't feeling well."

But these little things done every day by the more than 2,600 Sun Health volunteers — about 800 of them serving at Del E. Webb — make a big difference in the lives of a patient.

► See Patient program, A7



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Sun City West's Sybil Brockman, a volunteer at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, visits Harry Marlin in his room. Brockman, who helped set up a patient representative program, volunteers at the hospital four to eight hours a week.

Sybil Brockman

# An experienced army of **VOLUNTEERS**

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

When Joseph Conry helps sixth-graders sharpen their math skills, he doesn't rely on pencils and paper.

He uses wooden boards and pegs.

By playing cribbage, students use their math smarts. The game's object is to form various combinations of cards that count for points.

"I've been playing for 70 years, since I'm 8 years old," Conry said. "It's a fun game and I'm trying to get a new generation of players interested."

Conry, a retired attorney who lives in Sun City West, shares his love of cribbage once a week with Pioneer Elementary School sixth-graders in

Glendale. He is among 100 volunteers nationwide who teach cribbage to children.

"Seniors have so much knowledge and so many talents to share with the younger generation," said Marilyn Henley, volunteer coordinator for the Peoria district, which has schools in Peoria and Glendale.

The ever-growing volunteer army of seniors works in schools and senior centers, feeds the homeless, rocks babies in hospitals and entertains at nursing homes. They're also helping the Attorney General's Office to combat consumer fraud and fill out tax returns, said Martha Taylor, director of the Maricopa Retired and Senior Volunteer Program.

Yet there is a constant need for more volunteers, especially during the summer months when many seniors leave for cooler climes, Taylor said.

To make it easier for volunteers to find where they can be of use, the Volunteer Center of Maricopa County acts as a clearinghouse for 750 Valley non-profit agencies and schools.

"You tell us what your interest is, the time of day you're available and what part of the Valley you can work and we give you two or three places to contact," said Lucia Causey, Volunteer Center director.

Often, volunteers are needed to work one-on-one with people who have special needs.

For example, grocery delivery and

home repairs are among the most sought-after services offered by Interfaith Services of the Sun Cities Area.

"It's a great service for people who can't leave their homes to have someone do their shopping for them," said Barbara Sharkey, Interfaith's home services coordinator. "We have handymen who do things that husbands used to do, such as change smoke-alarm batteries and other odds and ends."

Providing companionship to shut-ins is another way to donate time.

For 10 years, Sun City West resident Rosemary Haas has been a friend to a Sun City woman who has cerebral palsy and lives with her elderly parents. Haas' three-hour visits give the woman's parents a chance to run errands.

"She loves playing games like crossword puzzles and dominos," Haas, 71, said. "I'm helping her write her autobiography."

Why do people volunteer?

A common answer is that they want to give back to their community

— See **GIVING**, page FP13

## Giving enriches retirees' lives

— **GIVING**, from page FP11

because they've had a good life.

"I enjoy helping other senior citizens who might not be in as good of a position as I am physically," said Seymour Harris of Sun City West.

Harris, 76, has driven a Red Cross van for 14 years to take people to medical appointments or shopping.

His wife, Miriam, 79, says she volunteers because she's a "people person." She helps the patients and nurses in the outpatient area at Del E. Webb Hospital in Sun City West.

The benefits are many.

"When you're helping other people, you're helping yourself," said Janet Henningsen, director of the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities, which places volunteers in 150 agencies. "Studies show that people who volunteer stay more alert and healthy."

# Local volunteers win capital attention

Staff report

WASHINGTON — A group of Sun City volunteers made an appearance at the White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C., Thursday night, showing up in a slide presentation during a final dinner banquet for the four-day event.

The slide featured hundreds of volunteers standing outside Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital. It was used in a speech by "Age Wave" author Ken Dychtwald to illustrate the capacity of older adults, said the Rev. Francis Park, pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City and a conference delegate.

"So Sun City was there tonight," Park said in a telephone interview from his hotel room.

Park said Dychtwald underscored the importance of voluntarism in his presentation, pointing out that 40 million people are retired for essentially one-fourth of their lives. "So what do we do with it (the time)?" Park said, paraphrasing Dychtwald.

The author joined Vice President Al Gore and Social Security Administration Commissioner Shirley Chater on the speaker's list for the three-hour banquet.

In his speech, Gore identified the characteristics that have shaped modern-day senior citizens. Citing a tendency to live within their means, a belief in hard work, respect for people and love for their country,

the vice president said those values need to be communicated to future generations of seniors.

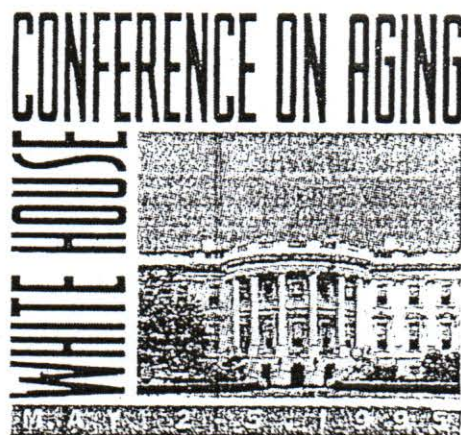
Gore also treated conference delegates to some jokes and personal anecdotes about his own aging parents, said Michelle Dionisio, program manager for Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services who, like Park, is representing the Northwest Valley and Arizona at the national aging conference.

Dionisio said the message underlying Gore's speech was, "We all need to be tuned in to the needs of all parents and loved ones and as we look at all of the (conference) issues, keep in mind what it is that older Americans need."

Earlier Thursday, White House conference delegates heard from first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and a panel of medical specialists about the importance of early detection of such health problems as breast cancer.

Most of Thursday was devoted to resolution development, Dionisio said. A resolution she helped draft that was forwarded to a conference steering committee concerned the availability of long-term health-care services "so people do not become impoverished when they need those services. ... That was one I really felt good about," she said.

Park said he added verbage to an existing resolution during one of his small-group sessions. The addition reflected his desire to train pastors



and religious leaders to work with older adults.

The some 2,250 aging conference delegates will be asked to approve a maximum 40 resolutions during a final plenary session this morning. Those resolutions are to be forwarded to the president and Congress for legislative action.

Park and Dionisio said they are looking forward to seeing what resolutions emerge from two days of small-group debate.

"Tomorrow (today) I think will be the highlight of this whole conference — to know after all this work what's coming of this," Dionisio said.

The whirlwind pace of the conference was starting to wear on both local delegates.

"It has been a long day," Park said, noting that the Arizona delegation was off and running for a breakfast meeting at 6:40 a.m. Delegates didn't see the inside of their hotel rooms again until about 10:45 p.m., he said.

"I can't wait to get on the plane so I can take a nap," Dionisio said.

# Volunteers represent 'pearls of life'

## Jobs vital to area, retirees

By JEANNIE JOHNSON  
Staff writer

Tempe boasts a population of more than 151,000 people. Last week city officials recognized its 2,000 volunteers prior to National Volunteer Week.

The Sun Cities population fluctuates between 55,000 and 75,000 depending on the season. County officials recognized more than 10,500 volunteers in the Sun Cities.

"National statistics show that voluntarism in this age group is down," said Janet Henningson, executive director of the Volunteer Bureau of Sun City. "But in this area that just is not true. The people here are very caring and very giving."

Henningson attributes the exceptionally high number of volunteers to a number of reasons. One reason is the

## salute to volunteers

April 23 through April 29

need for stimulation.

"I think after you retire the fun of playing golf begins to let down, and people find they need to do more," she said. "Some choose to do things along the same lines as their work, and others choose to use their talents in a completely different area."

Delcie Savage chose to put her nursing education to work at the Sun Health Community Education Center and Library.

"I put in about four to eight hours a week," she said. "It helps me stay out of trouble in Sun City. I'm a retired professor of nursing, and this is a great medical education center for nurses. It also keeps my mind active. These are great people to work with."

For others, volunteering is a great way to give to others while feeling good about themselves, Henningson said.

"It goes along with Maslow's theory of self-realization," she said. "They realize they can still be useful and realize they



Jeannie Johnson/Daily News-Sun

Delcie Savage, a retired nursing professor, enters information on participants of a cardiac care program. Savage donates between four and eight hours a week to the Sun Health Community Education Center and Library.

have the skills to help others. It really makes them feel good about themselves."

And for new residents, it's an excellent avenue for getting to know their new community.

"It's a good way for them to get acquainted," Henningson

said. "This way they can become attached to a group, have fun and feel like they belong."

Not only does volunteering benefit the volunteers, but it makes a tremendous impact on local organizations. Groups

► See Local groups, A3



# Local groups rely on volunteer help

■ From A1

such as Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services wouldn't be able to perform all its functions without the help of volunteers, said Gina Griesman, vice president of community relations.

"We were so pleased because when we wrapped up 1994, we had 617 direct service volunteers," she said. "These are the people that shopped for the groceries, delivered the food, worked at the day-care centers, made the phone calls, visited people. That number does not include the more than 300 volunteers who serve on the board of directors, the House of Delegates and the auxiliary.

"As of the end of March, our volunteers have donated 9,915 hours. Just think about the impact they have on people's lives. We cover the social service angle — the visits, the changing of the lightbulbs, the respite care — and it's these little pearls of life which really make a difference."

Financially, the volunteers are lifesavers, Griesman said.

"If we had to pay for their services, our budget would be so far into orbit it wouldn't even be funny," she said. "Through February, it was noted that we had saved somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000



Jeannie Johnson/Daily News-Sun

Lillian Cox has donated more than 5,000 hours to the Sun City Library. The former schoolteacher enjoys spending her time in the stacks of books.

thanks to our volunteers."

Steve Morrow, assistant chief for the Sun City Fire District, can appreciate Griesman's position. The fire department's volunteer inspectors donated 2,062 hours last year.

Other area agencies also benefit financially. The members of the Sun City Posse donated 86,954 hours. Auxiliary members gave Sun Health a record 360,450 hours.

If the volunteers were to be paid

minimum (\$4.35) wage, the cost to Maricopa County and Sun Health would be significant. Sun Health would have to pay \$1.5 million for the services donated, and the county would have to shell out \$370,000.

The Sun City library wouldn't be able to serve the avid readers of Sun City without the help of its volunteers. In 1994, local citizens donated 39,729 hours a savings of \$168,848 if they were to earn minimum wage.

Dick Bryce, chief administrator for Maricopa County Supervisor Ed King, said county officials were delighted to be able to recognize the unique volunteer population in the Sun Cities.

"Each year, the National Association of Counties and various other cities and organizations recognizes the work of volunteers during National Volunteer Week which runs April 23-29 this year," he said. "Since the Sun Cities have no formal government structure, and since they are the largest service area in unincorporated Maricopa County, we thought it would be great to recognize them. You don't see this type of volunteering in most communities and as the government downsizes, it is going more and more to the services of volunteers."

# Volunteers gather for Sundome thank you salute to volunteers

By DEBBIE L. SKLAR  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — New York may be the Big Apple, Detroit the Motor City, Los Angeles the City of Angels, but when it comes to volunteerism, it's the Sun Cities.

More than 80 organizations, utilizing nearly 9,000 volunteers were invited to the Sundome Center for Performing Arts to be recognized for their services Friday.

The event, dubbed Volunteer Appreciation Day, kicked off National Volunteer Week April 23-29. The day was sponsored by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, the Volunteer Bureau of Sun Cities Area and the Del Webb Corp.

"I met a couple from Chicago last week who said they never saw anything like the Sun Cities before," John Waldron said to the crowd of more than 500.

"They said they never saw so many volunteers; everywhere they went," said Waldron, manager of public and community relations for Webb. "This is the volunteer capital of the world."

The event gathered volunteers from many organizations throughout the Sun Cities. With wide smiles and twinkles in their eyes, the volunteers — many in uniform — listened to themselves being honored.

"We're really excited about having the opportunity to be part of this recognition ceremony," said Supervisor Ed King of Goodyear, R-District 3. "It's wonderful to pay



Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

tribute to all of the organizations at once. This is the first time we can honor them all together. They have certainly done their part to enhance the lives of so many around them.

"Not only do they donate their time and money," King said, "but they also donate their materials to

make the organization they volunteer for function."

King said the Sun Cities are a "model community" that continues to stand out against other communities around the nation.

"People always talk about Washington taking responsibility," King

Dutch Schultz of Sun City sings an ode to the Sun Cities and local volunteers at a volunteer appreciation party at the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts Friday.

said. "The Sun Cities have been taking responsibility since 1960 when they first broke ground."

Among the many volunteers attending the appreciation day was Bernice Pokarski, who has been

► See Volunteers love, A5



Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Volunteers from the Sun Cities came dressed in their uniforms for Volunteer Appreciation Day in the Sundome Center for Performing Arts Friday.

## Volunteers love to help

■ From A1

volunteering at the Sundome since 1985.

"I love volunteering at the Sundome," she said from behind the information desk at the center. "We're so proud to show this place off when visitors come. I like volunteering here because it's fun."

Pokarski's colleague Elinor Anderson, said she also enjoyed volunteering at the Sundome.

"I like volunteering because it's stimulating and you meet people from all over the world," Anderson said. "One time this little woman came up and said, 'Hi, I'm Patti Page' and shook my hand."

Luminaria volunteer Ed Klimek said he spends many hours of his time volunteering.

"I volunteer because I love what I do," said Klimek, who is in the process of working on the Luminaria project at his home. "I have a lot of fun

volunteering and it keeps me busy."

Meals-on-Wheels volunteer Bob Cameron said he volunteers because "someone's got to do it."

"I get a lot of satisfaction from volunteering," Cameron said. "It's better than sitting around and not being constructive. I think it's senseless to sit and watch the boob tube. Us old folks still have a lot of talent left over."

## Sun Cities Volunteers: We Salute You

*(To be sung to the tune of "When the Saints Go Marchin' In")*

By **DUTCH SCHULTZ, Sun City**

*(Chorus:)*

When volunteers come marching in  
They bring a smile or a great big grin  
And we're proud to be in those numbers  
When volunteers come marching in

This old world would be a sad place  
If there were no volunteers  
To help the weak, the sick and lonely  
To chase away their cares and fears

Volunteers can brighten up a sad day  
All it takes is a great big smile  
Or a "howdy pardner, how ya doin'"  
That's what makes life seem worthwhile

*Repeat Chorus*

Those little things you do for neighbors  
As you go along life's way  
Your deeds of love will be remembered  
By every soul you've touched each day

To serve your God is to serve your  
neighbors  
Is a very special creed  
We never know for sure that some day  
That we could be the one in need

We're called the cities of volunteers  
And we're proud as we can be  
To be ambassadors of kindness  
T'will be our goal through eternity

*Chorus*

# Spirit of voluntarism remains strong

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Daily News-Sun staff

Sun City can keep its nickname, "City of Volunteers," and even share it with neighboring retirees.

Despite survey data showing voluntarism is sliding across the country, many local social-service organizations that rely on volunteers are reporting no volunteer shortage.

Janet Henningsen, executive director of the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities, said the number of prospective volunteers registering with the center is at a two-year high.

"We've increased every



Part 2

year. We're quite pleased," she said.

During a recent newcomers' gathering in Sun City West, Henningsen said she filled four sheets of paper with the names of people interested in volunteer work.

The Sun City Ambassadors, a volunteer organization that promotes the Sun City lifestyle and operates the Sun City Visitors Center, is about 110 people strong. June Ruick, volunteer coordinator for the visitors center, said she keeps a waiting list of people wanting to be Ambassadors.

"We've been very fortunate here in keeping volunteers," said Norma Pitcairn, Ambassadors treasurer and visitors center office manager.

Thanks to a growing population, the Sun City West PRIDES and the Sun City

West Posse reported membership surges last year. The PRIDES, a volunteer community beautification organization, added 40 people to its membership rolls in the fall, said Paul G. Richards, a former president of the group. Most are from the newest Sun City West subdivisions, but a good number are longtime residents, Richards said.

Nationally, non-profit organizations fueled by volunteers are not faring so well. A study by Independent Sector, a coalition of more than 800 volunteer organizations, found that the number of people performing volunteer work had dropped from 54 percent in 1989 to 48 percent in 1993. During the same period, charitable gifts declined 11 percent.

The study based on in-home interviews with 1,509 adults in 1994, found most of the decline in volunteering was in the form of informal vol-

unteering, or helping neighbors or organizations on an ad-hoc basis. Formal volunteering was defined in the

study as regular work for an organization.

Although the number of  
See Sun Cities, A3

# Sun Cities buck nationwide trend

—From A1

people performing some kind of volunteer work has dropped over the years, the study found the average amount of time volunteers give per week remained constant — 4.2 hours — in 1991 and 1993.

The survey, the fourth in a series of biennial gauges of giving and volunteering in the United States, found retirees were the most generous givers in terms of volunteer time and charitable donations.

Retirees and people 75 and older were two of three demographic groups showing an increase of 5 percent or more in their rate of volunteering, according to a summary of survey results.

The survey results, indicating volunteerism is down nationwide and that retirees are among the most prolific volunteers, serve both to refute and support a statement made by the president of a local non-profit organization during a recent meeting. Dale Shockley, president of the Sun Cities Area Transit System, said he believes newly retired Sun Cities residents are not as volunteer-minded as their predecessors.

Officials with local non-profit organizations say new, younger residents often do bask in their leisure time when they first arrive.

"Anybody who retires, suddenly there's no responsibility from work and it's fun in the sun. Then you

reach a time, like when you eat too much candy, that you think, oh, I want to do something worthwhile," Pitcairn said.

Richards, the PRIDES leader, agreed. Although the new generation of retirees is more recreation-oriented than the 65 and older set, it will come around to volunteering eventually, he said.

"We got a lot of volunteers this year that have been here quite a while. They're new to the PRIDES, but they've been here," he said.

The transition period some newcomers take before diving into volunteer work may be understandable, but it is also a source of frustration for some organizations that need replacements for older workers who have had to give up their volunteer jobs because of physical and health problems.

"I wouldn't want to judge people as being less volunteer-oriented, but when you just retire ... you throw off rules and regulations of getting up at a certain time and being somewhere all the time. Yet organizations need to know they're going to have a certain number of volunteers," said Debbi Ennis, community relations coordinator of the Westside Food Bank in Surprise.

Volunteer recruitment is a constant process, Ennis and other agency officials said.

Valerie Burton, coordinator of

special transportation for the Sun Cities-Northwest Valley branch of the American Red Cross, said she is always recruiting van drivers and driver aides to keep from over-extending her volunteers. Her efforts are boosted by Red Cross volunteers who ask their friends and neighbors to lend a hand to the service which provides Northwest Valley residents free transportation to medical appointments and to area senior centers.

Burton said she could use double the 76 drivers and aides on her calling list.

"A lot of our drivers have been driving for 10 and 15 years. Some of them have had health problems that have made it more difficult for them to spend the hours driving," she said.

Pat Andrew, volunteer coordinator at Westside Food Bank in Surprise, said she could use about 75 volunteers to perform food-salvage and reclamation work for the agency.

"We seem to have a continual need for volunteers in certain areas," she said, citing the salvage program and citrus gleanings.

"I think as money dries up, as we lose federal funding and our donor base shrinks, we'll especially need help in these areas."

Food salvage and reclamation is not a popular job with volunteers because it requires decision making

and accountability — actually choosing which damaged groceries are still usable, Andrew said. "A lot of people don't like to make that choice."

Yet as the need for emergency food grows, salvage programs become more vital. Andrew said as many as 10,000 pounds of food could be salvaged from grocery shelves weekly if the food bank had the volunteers to collect it for the some 300 Valley agencies the food bank serves.

"We could provide food to agencies that are really struggling to maximize resources," she said.

Burton said her Red Cross van drivers and aides may work six- to eight-hour days. That's a turnoff to some would-be volunteers.

"You really have to be committed," she said. The volunteers who are committed, Burton said, "realize one day they may be in that position (of needing transportation) and they want someone (to volunteer) for them."

Burton said the Red Cross vans are not duplicating services already provided by groups like SCAT.

"Our drivers are volunteers and we do organize a little differently. The need is always great. Whether we get called or SCAT, there's not enough (available transportation) to cover everybody."

# Kiwanians pursue more class acts

By JONATHAN DALTON  
Daily News-Sun staff

EL MIRAGE — Members of Sun City's Kachina Kiwanis Club are awaiting their report cards from Surprise Elementary School.

The Kachinas had helped the school in the past, building slates for the students in one project and easels for the teachers in another and all the while donating money to the school and to Dysart Unified School District.

The one thing the Kachinas had not done was enter the classrooms. But that changed last month as part of a trial program.

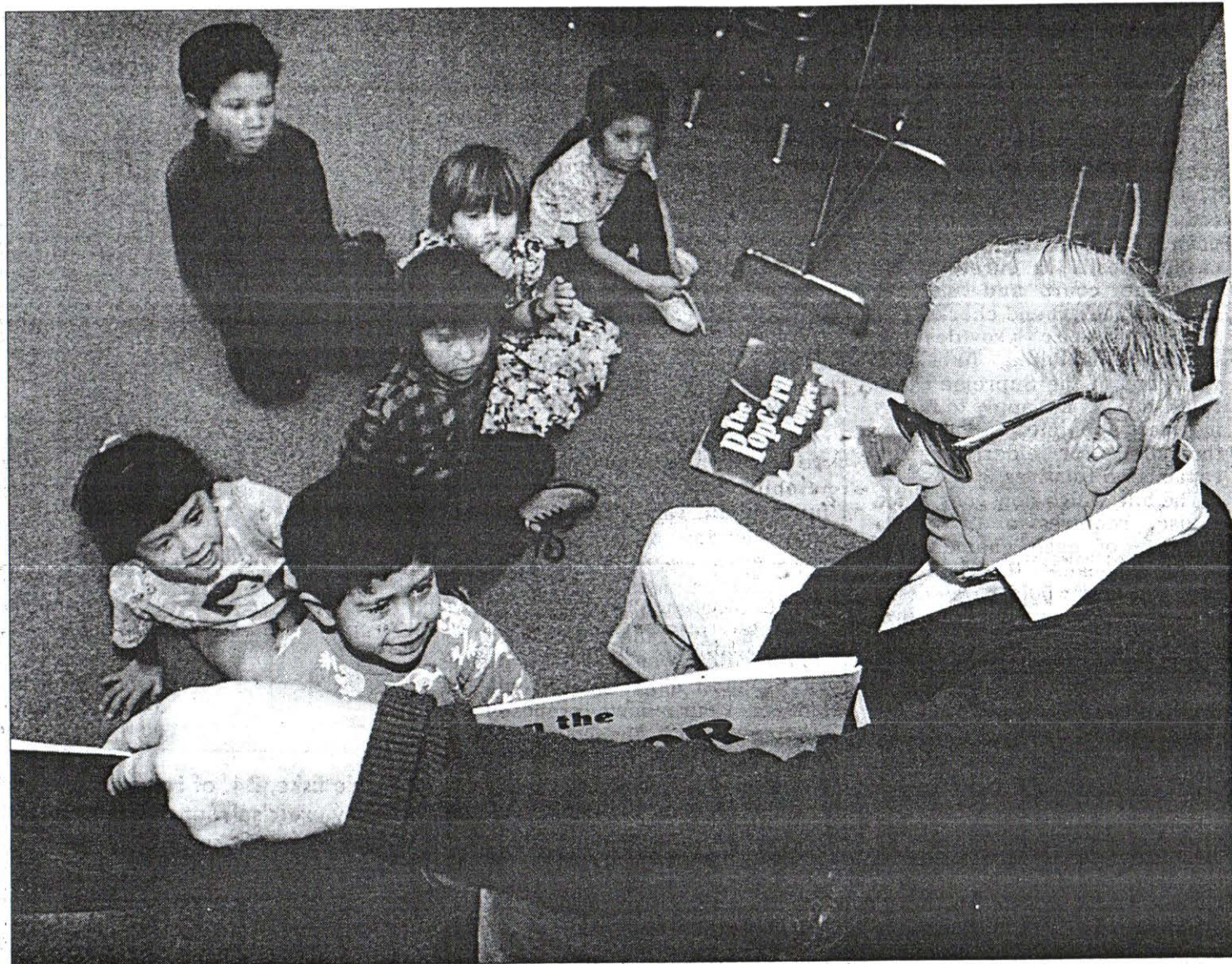
Eleven of the Kachina Kiwanis' 35 members volunteered their time to read to the school's kindergartners in a series of 30-minute sessions. Ten times a week during the program's four-week trial, a Kachina went into the classroom to read to a different set of pupils from books selected by the teacher.

"We've had a partnership with the Kachina Kiwanis for several years," said Surprise Principal Fernando de la Ossa. "One of their goals is to help younger kids. Every year they do a different activity, and this was this year's."

The program concluded Friday, and now the Kachina Kiwanis volunteers are awaiting their grades to see if the program will be implemented again either later during this school year or in the fall.

"We'll see if we've succeeded or been of help," said John Knight, one of the program's organizers. "If we have, well, we'll want to try this two or three times through the course of the year."

Leo Smith, another of the pro-



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Wayne Fisher of Sun City, a member of the Kachina Kiwanis Club, reads to kindergartners at Surprise Elementary School. The students are from left, Tomas Hernandez, Stephanie Camacho, Erica Hernandez, Alex Alejanders, Echo Blasure and Christian Capucino.

gram's masterminds, said he liked the personal touch provided by volunteering in the classroom.

"This really was interesting," Smith said. "It's better than saying, 'here, we'll give you \$200.' That's fine, but it doesn't make much of a first-hand impression. But we don't

know just what the teachers are going to say about the project."

The early returns are favorable. De la Ossa said during the middle of the project's run.

"I think their support for kindergarten will go on through the year," de la Ossa said.

The Kachinas' efforts didn't stop with the reading. Smith said the group bought 110 copies of 14 different books for the pupils.

"If we can start youngsters with an interest in books and keep them with it, that's an accomplishment," Smith said.

# What's in a name?

## Community dubbed 'City of Volunteers'

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD  
Sun Cities Independent

Residents of Sun City may be familiar with the tremendous volunteer spirit that exists within their community, but now visitors passing through will also be made aware of it.

In 1993, Sun City was officially designated the "City of Volunteers" and eight signs proclaiming the motto were placed at various entrances to the community.

John Counts, community traffic engineering assistant for the Maricopa County Department of Transportation, says signs are in place at the following entrances:

- Bell Road east of Burns Drive;
- Bell Road west of Sun City;
- 99th Avenue south of Beardsley Road;
- 107th Avenue south of Union Hills Drive;
- Olive Avenue east of 99th Avenue;
- Olive Avenue west of 111th Avenue;
- Grand Avenue east of 99th Avenue;
- Grand Avenue west of 113th Avenue.

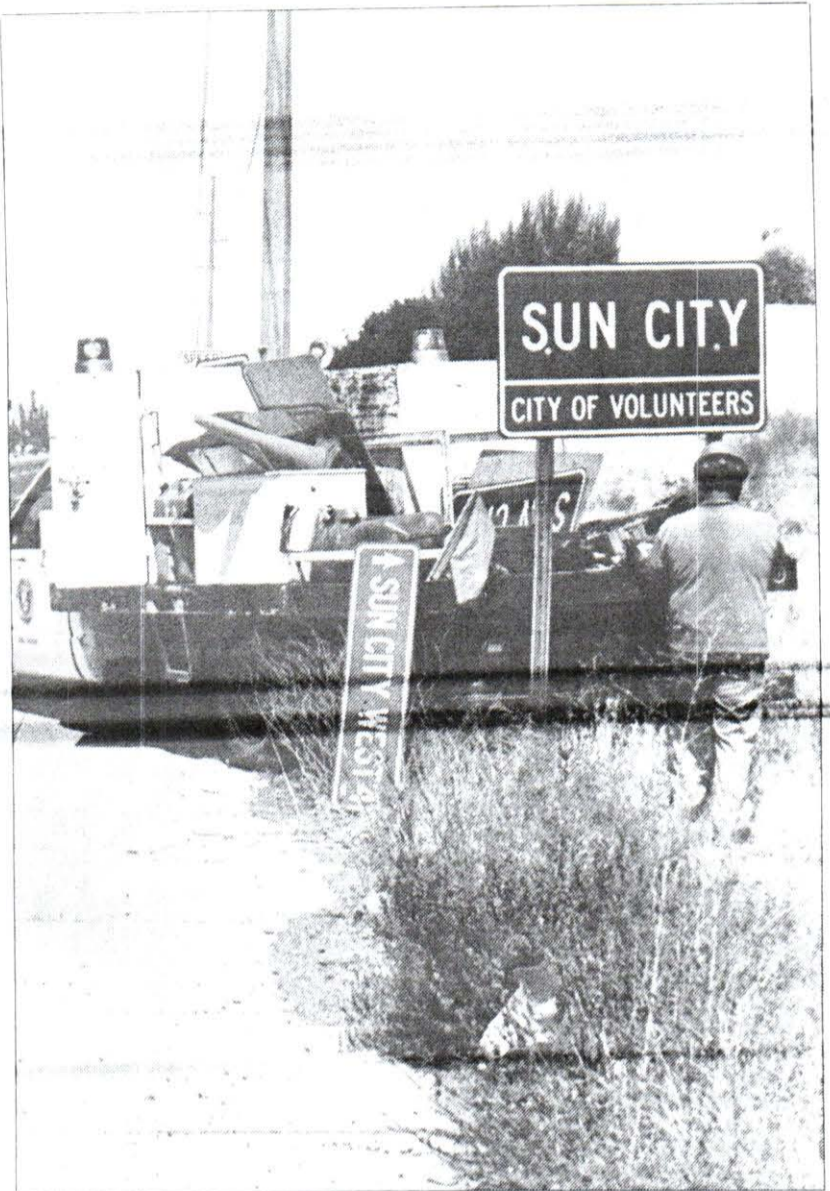
Funding for the signs came from the state Highway User Revenue Fund, money collected by the state and distributed to each jurisdiction, says Louis Schmitt, assistant county manager for Transportation/Public Works.

The signs cost \$25 each and Mr. Schmitt says he feels the cost of the signs is minimal compared to the money saved by volunteers.

If employees were paid to do the work of the Prides, salaries would amount to about \$400,000 a year. If employees were being paid to do the work of Sheriff's Posse of Sun City members, the county would have to fork over \$2 million annually.

The county is responsible for maintaining all streets and medians in Sun City and is assisted in this task by the Sun City Prides.

District 4 Supervisor Ed King,



A worker from the Maricopa County Department of Transportation erected signs proclaiming Sun City the "City of Volunteers" in 1993.

who represents the Sun Cities, says he endorsed the sign campaign because he feels Sun City volunteers should be recognized for their efforts.

"I think (volunteering) is one of the characteristics that make Sun City as unique as it is," Mr. King says.

"Those volunteers save hundreds of thousands, maybe millions, of dollars. This is just a way to recognize all the good things they do."

George Hartman, who serves on the boards of the Sun City Home Owners Association and the Recreation Centers of Sun City, ini-

tiated the drive to adopt the motto.

"This gives the community another identity," he says.

The motto is imprinted on HOA stationery. Mr. Hartman says he hopes the Rec Centers and the Sun City Taxpayers Association also adopt the slogan.

Mr. Hartman also envisions bumper stickers, coffee cups, pens, key chains and other paraphernalia depicting the slogan.

No organization or individual, he adds, will have exclusive rights to the slogan.



## Survey shows many hands make light work in Sun City

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — About \$13 million in volunteer services are donated by residents of Sun City each year, a survey shows.

The price tag of volunteerism is probably even higher because only two-thirds of agencies have responded to a questionnaire prepared by the Sun City Home Owners Association. Results are still being tallied.

"I think the value of volunteerism is more like \$20 million a year if all the agencies are included," said Lynn Arend, president of the homeowners association.

Arend said the survey validates Sun City's designation as the "City of Volunteers," which is touted on road signs at the community's entrances and on some agencies' letterheads.

Volunteers save Maricopa County and the state money because government employees would have to be hired to provide

the services. That could cause an increase in taxes, Arend said.

About 40 agencies reported that volunteers spend 1.28 million hours working annually. The value of their time was computed at \$6 to \$15 an hour. These numbers do not include Sun City West residents.

Organizations with the biggest impact are the Sheriff's Posse, Sun Cities Area Community Council and the Sun City Prides. Others are the Walter O. Boswell Hospital, Sun Health Auxiliary and the recreation centers.

Arend said the survey results will be sent to government representatives to show how Sun Citians take care of their community through volunteerism.

Will future Sun Citians carry on the volunteerism tradition?

The homeowners association has hired Arizona State University to forecast whether volunteerism will remain strong in five to 10 years. The study is being financed by Del Webb Corp., developer of Sun City.

# Helping others less fortunate

## Resident volunteers time to make Christmas brighter for others

By ANNE RYMAN  
Sun Cities Independent

He doesn't live at the North Pole, wear a red suit or own reindeer.

But for Navajo children in northern Arizona, Sun City resident Ben Franklin might as well be the real Santa Claus.

Last week marked the third year he journeyed north with a truck and van packed with toys and clothes for Navajo children and their parents.

His destination was the Church of the Good Shepherd, an Episcopal church at Fort Defiance, five miles from Window Rock along the Arizona/New Mexico border. From there, the goods were distributed to a half-dozen churches throughout the reservation.

"The mission up there has an outreach program to clothe babies born of destitute families. Some are dirt poor and hardly have the money to buy warm clothes to take the babies home from the hospital," Mr. Franklin says.

The Episcopal Church of the Advent in Sun City West began collecting toys, clothes and afghans for the Navajos three years ago after women in the congregation heard a priest from Fort Defiance talk about the children's plight. They had no problem gathering donations, but the task of



Photo by ANNE RYMAN/Sun Cities Independent

Ben Franklin of Sun City doesn't look like Santa Claus, but to many residents of the Navajo nation he may be the next best thing. For the past three years he has been collecting toys and delivering them to children on the northern Arizona reservation. "It's a very moving and inspiring experience for me," he says.

(continued next page)

"I jumped at the chance," says Mr. Franklin, who is a real estate agent for Ken Meade Realty and serves as the church's junior warden, responsible for building and grounds.

He has a special appreciation for the Navajo people and their culture. Growing up on a dude ranch in southwestern Colorado,

his family hired Navajo workers to help operate the ranch.

"I learned to have a high regard for Navajos. They're very independent, industrious, they love their land and that's where they want to be."

The project allows Mr. Franklin to spend the Christmas season helping others.

"All my life, I've spent Christmases somewhere other than in the conventional way," he says.

His unconventional Christmases include visits to Catholic missions in Colorado and Missouri as well as his most recent trips to Fort Defiance. He has found this last

venture particularly fulfilling.

"It's a very moving and inspiring experience.

"I'm impressed by people having such a strong faith. I think that's why I do this. It sure beats sitting around a tree. In those communities, you could forgive them for having little faith and hope because so many are poor and disadvantaged."

One experience, in particular, had a profound impact on him. Last year as he was headed north with a carload of unwrapped toys, he had visions of a riot breaking out once the children saw his load. He left the distribution to the minister.

"She looked at one of the boys and nodded and he went forward and got his present and he had a big grin on his face. Then the other children went forward and got their presents.

"There wasn't one complaint, not one word. That's the way they are. They don't really dwell on their shortcomings and misfortunes. They were brought up to be tolerant and accept what comes along."

He plans to return to the reservation for Christmas, which he describes as pretty conventional. Many decorate their homes, and even their hogans, with Christmas lights in celebration of the season.

# Generation gap fades when students visit

## Teens bring joy to care center

By IAN MITCHELL  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — A senior care center is unfamiliar territory to most high school students.

"I remember the first day I came here I was scared because I didn't know what to expect," said Kara Wolfe, a junior at Maryvale High School.

But after meeting and talking with residents, Kara said she got used to being in a care center and started looking forward to her visits to Brighton Gardens.

"Everybody has interesting stories to tell," she said.

Kara is one of several Maryvale students who have been taking a summer class in community service and volunteering three days each week. The program ended earlier this week.

Student Kirstie Bussart said she has enjoyed spending time with

Brighton Gardens residents.

"You kind of get an attachment to these people because they've got a whole bunch of stories to talk about," Kirstie said.

The high school sophomore said initial questions about where residents were from and what they did before retiring lead to real conversations.

"I like getting out and talking to people," she said.

Kirstie said she especially enjoyed visiting with resident Tekla Pahnke.

As a child, Pahnke taught herself to play the piano by studying instruction books, and the Sun City resident's musical skills have encouraged Kirstie to think about learning.

"I've always thought that maybe someday I'd like to play the piano."

Pahnke said she has also enjoyed the visits from the Maryvale High School students.

It's kind of a thrill, really, having young people like that come to you," Pahnke said.

Resident Reed Gennaria, a re-

tired Navy doctor, said the students were a little shy when they first arrived.

"So I went over and talked to them," he said.

"I started out with what they wanted to do when they finished high school," Gennaria continued. "We got to know each other pretty well."

Kathleen Magann, head server in the dining room, said she's noticed how the students' visits cheer up residents. The students have been "beautiful," she said.

"The interaction and the rapport that they have with these older people is just precious and they (residents) just love it," Magann said.

But Darlene Breckon, one of six teachers supervising the program, said the visits benefit the students as well, teaching them self-esteem.

"This has really been a mutual experience," Breckon said. "It is definitely a two-way street."

From their visits with the resi-  
See Students plan, A6



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Two generations share a laugh as Maryvale High School senior Doug Underwood chats with Brighton Gardens senior Velma Nissen.

OVER

# Students plan to return

—From A1

Students, students have learned  
“old is just another way of  
being a person,” Breckon said.

The 57 students in the  
monthlong program spent two  
days a week in the classroom  
and three days volunteering.

Students could pick where  
they want to work, Breckon  
said. Options included  
Brighton Gardens, Westside  
Food Bank, the American Red  
Cross, the Phoenix Zoo and  
other locations in the Valley  
which have expressed a need  
for volunteers.

“This group of kids just  
keeps coming back,” Breckon  
said.

Senior Doug Underwood  
said the contact with residents  
made Brighton Gardens his  
favorite place to volunteer.

“You have a feeling of being  
with people,” Doug said.  
“Other places you do commu-  
nity service, but you’re just  
unpacking boxes and stuff.”

Some of the students told  
Breckon they would like to  
continue their visits even af-  
ter the summer class in com-  
munity service had ended.

Ann White, Brighton Gar-  
dens’ activity director, is  
ready to take the students up  
on their offer.

White said the care center  
would send its own bus to pick  
up the high school students if  
transportation was a problem.

The senior residents enjoy  
mixing with the younger gen-  
eration, White said.

“They just light up when the  
they see the kids come in,”  
she said. “It seems like it  
gives them a lift for the whole  
day.”

# Signs display Sun City's volunteerism

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Sun Citians have taken to the streets to show off their greatest source of pride — volunteerism.

Green-and-white signs proclaiming "Sun City/City of Volunteers" have been installed by county workers at various entrances to the retirement community.

The signs were the brainchild of resident George Hartman, who wanted to give Sun City an identity.

"We want to let people know that there is an awful lot of volunteering going on in this community," Hartman said.

Hartman volunteers on several boards, including the Sun City Home Owners Association and the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

County Supervisor Ed King, who represents Sun City, said the signs present an opportunity for the county to show its appreciation to Sun Citians for their many hours of volunteer work.

"Sun Citians are most noteworthy for their volunteer work in various charities, food banks, school support programs and

See SIGNS, Page 2

## SIGNS

From Page 1

the Sun City Prides, which keep the city spotlessly clean," King said.

The new signs were installed on Olive Avenue east of 111th Avenue; 99th Avenue south of Beardsley Road, 107th Avenue south of Union Hills Drive; 98th Avenue and Bell Road; and 114th Avenue and Bell Road.

Other signs are planned on Grand Avenue east of 111th Avenue; Grand Avenue east of 99th Avenue; and Olive Avenue east of 99th Avenue. "Volunteerism is part of what has given Sun City a worldwide reputation," said Lynn Arend, first vice president of the Sun City Home Owners Association.

Doug Wright of the Sun City Ambassadors said the signs are great for the community.

"We emphasize, as Ambassadors, what's unique about Sun City is its volunteerism," Wright said.

Since 1989, about 60,000 people have stopped at the Sun City Visitors Center, 99th Avenue and

### Between the Sun City and Sun City West posses, taxpayers saved the county about \$2 million, according to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

Bell Road. Visitors have been from across the United States and more than 20 countries, including Japan, Germany and the Philippines.

Janet Henningsen, executive director of the Volunteer Bureau board, said the agency directs about 1,500 residents to organizations that need help.

The volunteers give about four hours a week, and many work for more than one group, she said.

Thousands more volunteer on their own at hospitals, schools, the Sheriff's Posse, the Westside Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity.

Hartman says volunteers save taxpayers a substantial amount of money.

For example, the Sun City Sheriff's Posse, a volunteer security group, donates about 73,000 hours annually.

Between the Sun City and Sun City West posses, taxpayers saved the county about \$2 million, according to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

The Sun City Prides, which help maintain streets and parkways, along with their Sun City West counterpart, save the county \$400,000 a year, county officials said.

Hartman has more plans to promote the City of Volunteers motto.

He wants the area's 300 volunteer clubs and organizations to use it on stationery, pens, key chains and other promotional items.

The recreation centers board plans to use the motto when the rec centers' letterhead is redesigned.



Tom Tingle / Staff photographer

**Lynn Arend, first vice president of the Home Owners Association of Sun City, shows off one of the signs put up by the county to highlight Sun City's volunteerism.**

# Signs salute SC

By BRITT KENNERLY  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — The word hit the street Monday — Sun City is showing signs of voluntarism.

Seven green-and-white road signs boasting "Sun City — City of Volunteers" have been planted at every entrance to the volunteer-rich community. One more sign will be posted on Grand Avenue as soon as the OK comes from the Arizona Department of Transportation.

What goes on behind the signs — and scenes — in Sun City might seem more than reason enough to salute voluntarism.

In a four-month period spanning from October 1991 to January 1992, a survey conducted by groups including Sun Health Research showed that of 800 Sun City households, about 58 percent had volunteered sometime during the pre-

vious year, with the average volunteer effort totaling 274 hours per year.

Such factors were considered definite signs of the times by the Sun City Home Owners Association's long-range planning committee, headed up by George Hartman, said HOA President Glenn Sanberg.

"We are proud of the fact that Sun City is a city of volunteers," said Sanberg. "They're the machinery that makes this community go, and we wanted to promote that idea. We realized this is an important part of our public image, so we contacted the county supervisor about having the county furnish the signs."

District 4 Supervisor Ed King, who represents the Sun Cities, agreed, said Sanberg, and King sought approval for the signs' construction and erection.

See Uniqueness hailed, A5



Rick D'Elia/Daily News-Sun

Patty Wittenburg, a member of the Sun City Prides, cleans debris from the shoulder of Santa Fe Drive between 99th and 107th avenues Saturday morning. The Prides is one of the service organizations that depends on Sun City's volunteers.

## Uniqueness hailed

—From A1

"A letter from the assistant county manager told us that Supervisor King appreciates the talent and commitment of our volunteers," Sanberg said.

So does Janet Henningsen, executive director of the Volunteer Bureau.

"There are no cities quite like us in the country in terms of volunteers," she said.

To view the signs, head for one of the following locations: 99th Avenue just south of Beardsley Road; Bell Road just east of Burns Drive; Bell Road east of 114th Avenue; northeast of 99th Avenue and Thunderbird Road near 94th Drive; 99th and Olive avenues; 111th Avenue just off Olive Avenue; or the north and south entrances to Sun City on Grand Avenue.

OVER



# Signs salute SC

By BRITT KENNERLY  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — The word hit the street Monday — Sun City is showing signs of voluntarism.

Seven green-and-white road signs boasting "Sun City — City of Volunteers" have been planted at every entrance to the volunteer-rich community. One more sign will be posted on Grand Avenue as soon as the OK comes from the Arizona Department of Transportation.

What goes on behind the signs — and scenes — in Sun City might seem more than reason enough to salute voluntarism.

In a four-month period spanning from October 1991 to January 1992, a survey conducted by groups including Sun Health Research showed that of 800 Sun City households, about 58 percent had volunteered sometime during the pre-

vious year, with the average volunteer effort totaling 274 hours per year.

Such factors were considered definite signs of the times by the Sun City Home Owners Association's long-range planning committee, headed up by George Hartman, said HOA President Glenn Sanberg.

"We are proud of the fact that Sun City is a city of volunteers," said Sanberg. "They're the machinery that makes this community go, and we wanted to promote that idea. We realized this is an important part of our public image, so we contacted the county supervisor about having the county furnish the signs."

District 4 Supervisor Ed King, who represents the Sun Cities, agreed, said Sanberg, and King sought approval for the signs' construction and erection.

See Uniqueness hailed, A5



Rick D'Elia/Daily News-Sun

Patty Wittenburg, a member of the Sun City Prides, cleans debris from the shoulder of Santa Fe Drive between 99th and 107th avenues Saturday morning. The Prides is one of the service organizations that depends on Sun City's volunteers.

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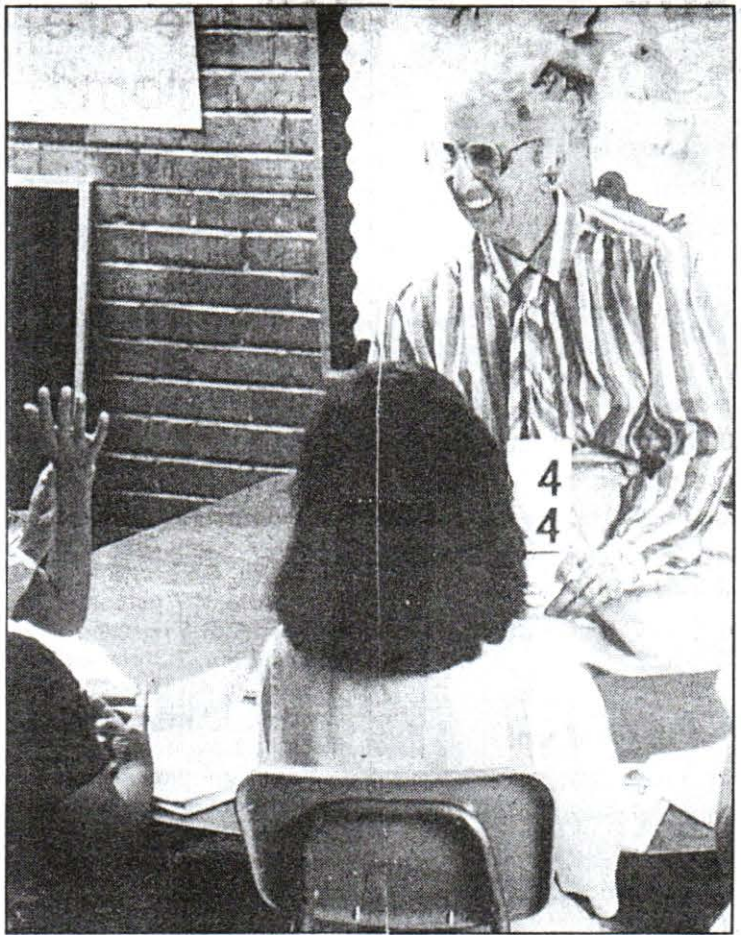
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COVER

Frank Gonzales, an employee of the Maricopa County Traffic Division, puts in place one of eight new signs proclaiming Sun City a "city of volunteers." The signs have been posted at seven entrances to Sun City, with another to go up on Grand Avenue after approval by the Arizona Department of Transportation.





Sun City resident Doris Lamb has dedicated more than 16 years coordinating Sun Cities volunteers with the Dysart school district where she enjoys being a volunteer at El Mirage Elementary School.

## *a Helping Hand*



Jean Alm likes to recall the day she made a breakthrough with one of her reading students. The Sun City resident who volunteers as a reading tutor in the Peoria Unified School District had been working for weeks with a 16-year

old girl from the Dominican Republic when during one of their tutoring sessions there came a sign that all of the hard work had paid off.

"One day she turned around with a tremendous smile and  
*see SUN CITY page 24*

One of the reasons Sun City resident Jean Alm chose to retire here was the proximity to the schools where she volunteers as a reading tutor.

# Sun City residents go back to the classroom as volunteers

*continued from page 5*

said, 'For the first time I know what I am reading and now I can go to high school,' " Alm said. "That was the highlight of all my years of tutoring. That's why I do it."

Alm is among hundreds of Sun City and Sun City West residents who volunteer their time in the Dysart and Peoria unified school districts. With schools in Peoria, El Mirage and Surprise, the districts benefit from their proximity to the retirement communities and the generosity of their residents.

The volunteers, many of whom are retired educators, provide the schools with a valuable resource — educated assistants who allow teachers more time to give individual attention to their students. The

retirees offer help at all levels, from actually instructing classes in their areas of expertise to performing clerical duties to organizing extracurricular activities.

"For the people of Sun City, volunteering our time at the schools is a wonderful idea," said Alm, who chose to spend her retirement years in Sun City because of the proximity of the schools. "If you like children and have time on your hands, you can be a tremendous resource to the schools."

Dr. Frank Galas, Dysart superintendent, agrees. "The Sun City volunteers have been significant in this district for 20 years," he said. "It is a magnificent program, and I am 100 percent supportive of it. I

trust and hope it continues."

Both the Dysart and Peoria districts have volunteer coordinators who work in conjunction with volunteer organizations and clubs in the Sun Cities. One such organization is the ten-year-old Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities, Inc., which has offices in Sun City and Sun City West. The bureau places dozens of retirees in six schools on both a permanent basis and for one-time events.

"We get calls directly from teachers who need help," said executive director Janet Hennington, citing a recent request by a high school teacher to have a Sun City resident visit her class to give the students tips on how to maintain a

*see SUN CITY page 27*

# Sun City residents go back to the classroom as volunteers

*continued from page 24*

garden. "The teachers are very appreciative. They tell us to send all the volunteers we can."

In addition, many retirees offer their assistance independently.

"We have a number of retirees come to the schools and say, 'Here I am. What can I do to help,' Galas said. "Working with the children keeps them young, vibrant and active. It has an enormous impact on their attitude."

"Once a retiree has spent time with the students, they are hooked and return each year without fail," Galas said.

Sun City resident Doris Lamb has spent 17 years coordinating volunteer efforts between the retirement communities and the Dysart school district and is a teaching assistant at El Mirage Elementary School. "They like

children — and you don't see many in Sun City — and see it as a great way to lend a helping hand and share the knowledge they have gained over the years."

For the past nine years Alm has spent three days a week as a reading tutor at Cotton Boll Elementary School working with children in first through eighth grade. She sees it as the best of all worlds — spending her retirement years helping children who she believes need and deserve the attention.

"I get a lot more out of working with the children than I put in," she said. "I don't want to work for money. I was taught that if there is something you can do to make this world a better place you should do it."

Teachers benefiting from the generosity of the volunteers do not overlook their contribution,

said Fernando De La Ossa, principal of Surprise Elementary School. "For the teachers who do not have paid aides, the retirees are a welcome addition to the classroom," he said.

Marcia Wikoff, a second grade teacher at El Mirage Elementary school, speaks highly of her volunteer teacher's aid. "I wish I had more like her," she said. "We need all the help we can get. From the help I receive I am able to spend more time giving students individual attention."

# Hospitals cite volunteers

By IAN MITCHELL  
Daily News-Sun staff

Sun Health Corp. officials have a million reasons to thank their auxiliary volunteers.

Actually, it's more like seven million reasons.

Since the Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary was founded in 1968, volunteers have donated more than four million hours of service and raised more than \$3 million in funds to support health care in the Sun Cities area.

The Sun Health Auxiliary is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year with donations for Sun Health and awards for volunteers.

Ginney Seibert, 1992 auxiliary president, presented Sun Health President Leland Peterson with a check for \$257,924 at the auxiliary's annual meeting in January.

The money will be used to buy medical equipment and supplies for Boswell and Webb hospitals as well as Sun Health's CHOICE Lifestyle Enrichment Program, care center, hospice and home care services.

The auxiliary raised the funds through its thrift, consignment and gift shops in addition to special events such as luminaria sales, raffle drawings and a celebrity benefit

## Wickham voted auxiliary leader

daily News-Sun Staff

Sun Health Auxiliary has installed officers for 1993, the group's 25th anniversary year.

Peggy Wickham will serve as president of the organization. She will be joined by Lorraine Cockle, executive vice president; Bob Schrader and Rosemary Weik, vice presidents; Jane Barber, secretary; and Ruth Wright, treasurer.

The 2,000-member auxiliary supports Sun Health Corp. through volunteer efforts and fund raising.

show.

At an awards banquet Monday, Sun Health officials honored hundreds of volunteers for their work at the company's health care facilities.

Majorie Wilson, 88, received a special pin marking 20,000 hours of service. She was a founding member of the auxiliary in 1968. When she started working, Boswell hospital hadn't been built.

Wilson said she started her auxi-

liary work in public relations, and now helps out in the Olive Branch Senior Center.

"I have received far more than I have given," Wilson said. "I have met so many nice people. I have learned a lot and I have had the satisfaction that I am helping others."

Other auxiliary members were saluted for their service Monday as about 400 volunteers were awarded with service pins for their hours of service.

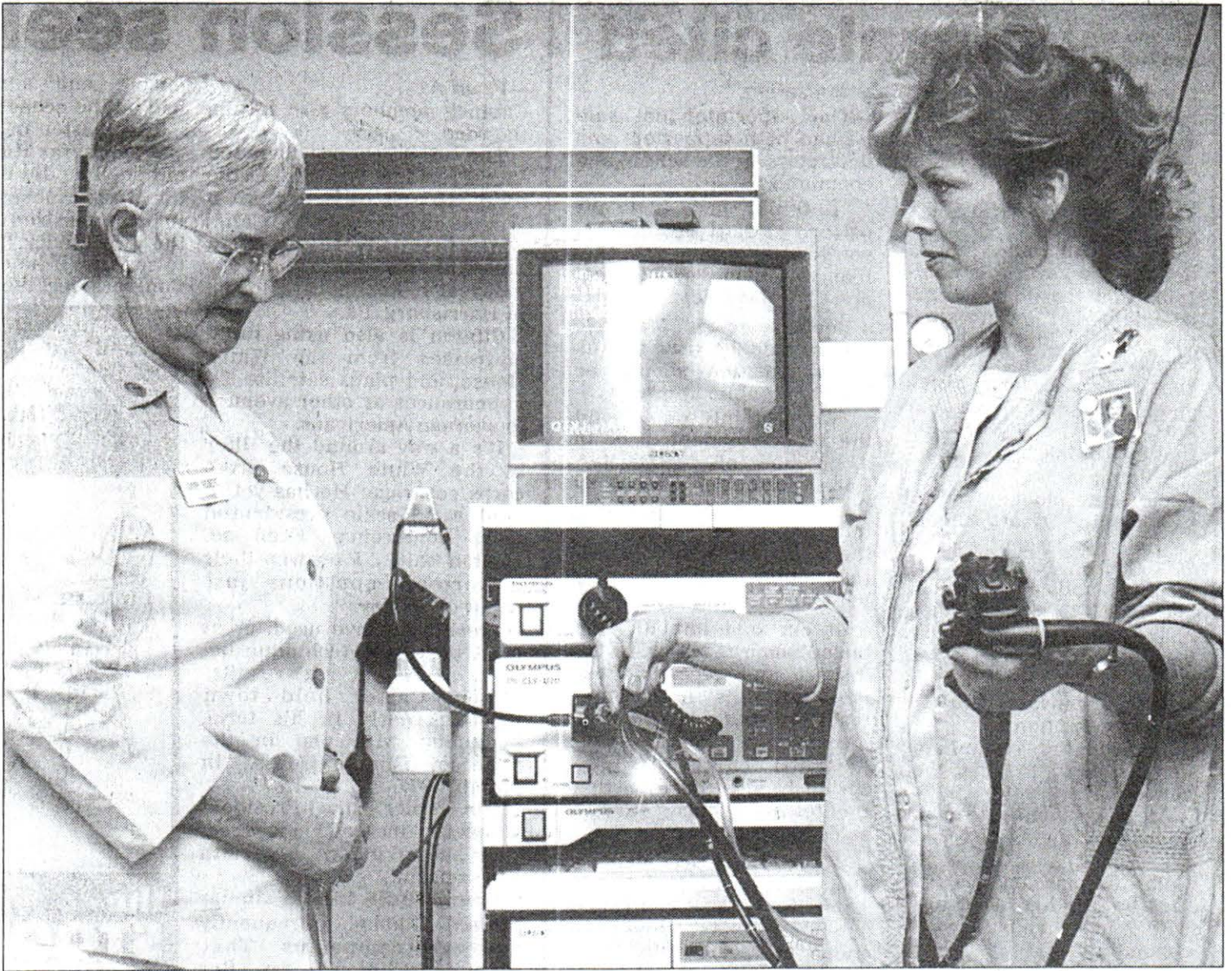
In 1992, volunteers provided 329,838 hours of service, Sun Health officials said.

One Sun Health auxiliary member received not a service pin but an ocean cruise at a recent luncheon sponsored by the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities Area.

Charlotte Freeman, a volunteer with Sun Health Auxiliary, was named "Volunteer of the Year" at the Jan. 29 event.

Freeman, who works in the clinical lab at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, received a seven-day cruise to Alaska or the Caribbean. Her name was drawn at random from the 12 Volunteer of the Month winners.

ORL 15



Frances Guarino/Daily News-Sun

Ginny Seibert, left, past president of the Sun Health Auxiliary, watches as Kathy Denz, a registered nurse at Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, demonstrates a video endoscopy. The equipment was pur-

chased with funds raised while Seibert was in office. Since the auxiliary was founded in 1968, volunteers have raised more than \$3 million in funds to support health care in the Sun Cities area.

# GOING STRONG

## Longtime hospital volunteer, 88, not ready to slow down

By Betty Latty  
Special to Community

*"I have received far more than I have given. I have learned a lot, met nice people, had fun and, feeling I've helped out someplace, I've had the satisfaction of doing something worthwhile."*

— Marge Wilson

GLENDALE — Marge Wilson, who will be 89 in May, is a firm believer in keeping busy.

"I don't want to quit working with people, and I think it is foolish for (older) people to do so," she said. "I think if one is physically able to get around, it is such a mistake to hole up."

Wilson, who resides in the Glencroft Retirement Community, began volunteering for Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City long before its Jan. 24, 1969, groundbreaking.

"I was privileged to be one of the founders of the auxiliary, about two years before the hospital actually opened," she said. The first patient was admitted in November 1970.

Wilson and her late husband, George, who was Boswell's first personnel director, moved to Sun City in 1964 from Kansas City, Mo. The couple moved to Glencroft several years ago.

The early auxiliary members spent many hours raising funds for the hospital.

Marge Wilson has never forgotten one man she called on. "He was so provoked, saying it was foolish to build when people could go elsewhere, so I excused myself to leave, and he called me back and made a generous donation,"



Nancy Engebretson / Staff photographer  
**Longtime volunteer Marge Wilson plays cards with Lester Kline at the Olive Branch Senior Center. She has passed 20,000 hours of volunteer time at Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital.**

she said.

Marge Wilson continued volunteering even as her husband launched a second career at Boswell. He had retired as a personnel director with the U.S. Postal Service in Kansas City.

"It was wonderful working with my husband," she said. "We touched many departments, and it was so interesting."

"It has been a thrill year by year to see things added to the hospital. Every year there was something."

One of Marge Wilson's early assignments at Boswell was the public relations department, where she launched a monthly newsletter for the auxiliary. Mary Simunich of Phoenix, then director, remembered Marge Wilson as a "remarkable, and a genuinely wonderful person."

Wilson still helps out in what is now the public affairs department. "She is an amazing woman, with a great sense of humor, and such determination," said Linda Braverman, manager of community relations. "Her desire to help is so strong, it keeps her going. She often beats me to the office."

### Senior center volunteer

Wilson is also a favorite volunteer at the Olive Branch Senior Center, 10765 W. Peoria Ave., Sun City, where she helps out two days a week filling in wherever she is needed.

"Marge is a delight, and so gracious," said Ivy Wixson center manager. "The best thing she does is to be a companion to our people, playing games, getting them cof-

**"Marge is a delight, and so gracious... she willingly does whatever we ask of her, even working in the kitchen, which isn't easy for anyone her age."**

Ivy Wixson  
Manager  
Glencroft Retirement Community

fee. But she willingly does whatever we ask of her, even working in the kitchen, which isn't easy for anyone her age."

When Wilson hit the magic number of 20,000 volunteer hours, Jane Harker, director of volunteers for Sun Health Corp., the hospital's parent company, quickly organized a small party.

"I knew my hours were just about there, but the party was such a surprise," Wilson said. "They were very gracious to have it."

### To be honored again

She will be feted again Monday when Sun Health salutes its volunteers with a coffee and dessert at the Lakes Club in Sun City. Wilson, one of 388 volunteers scheduled to receive awards, will be presented with a service pin containing a diamond.

Wilson often accompanies Glencroft's chaplain on pastoral calls and volunteers in its community. However, she confided, no matter where she is assigned, she plans to keep on giving of herself, "at least another couple of years."

"I had an aunt who lived to be 103," she said, "and I hope to go until I'm 92."

# Local volunteers hope to meet nationwide challenge

By ROSA De SIMONE  
Daily News-Sun staff

Members of the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities Area believes they serve in the volunteer capital of the world and they are ready to accept a challenge to prove it.

On Nov. 14 the Sun Cities will join other communities throughout the nation in the Make A Difference Day challenge.

The event's goal is to make a one-day commitment to helping others by organizing record numbers of people to volunteer on one given day.

"Because we are so well-known for our volunteerism, it sounded like a natural thing for us to be involved in," said Connie Watson, a Volunteer Bureau board member.

The program works like this: The Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities Inc.

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'We're hoping to get a variety of projects so that everyone may be included.'

Connie Watson  
Volunteer Bureau board member

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will match volunteers to a specific project on Nov. 14. People who want to volunteer, or who are members of non-profit organizations that need volunteers to help with projects, may contact the bureau to get involved, Watson said.

Although the challenge is a one-day only event, projects may be ongoing.

Many organizations have already indicated a need for volunteers to help accomplish tasks.

The Sun Cities Animal Rescue seeks volunteers to help either paint the ex-

terior of its Youngtown shelter to help get it ready to sell or to help get its new shelter north of Sun City ready to use, Watson said.

Dysart Community Center needs to have a storage shed built, and Centro Adelante Campesino needs help to build an outdoor patio, make a playground or plow its garden, she said.

"We're hoping to let people use their imaginations and say, 'What have I always wanted to do if I had 50 people helping me?'" Watson said.

The volunteer bureau's goal is to

make a difference with 1,000 volunteers.

"We're hoping to get a variety of projects so that everyone may be included," Watson said.

After the day of volunteerism is over, a panel of judges will select six national winners, which will each receive \$1,000 to be donated to a charity. The judges will also choose 10 honorable-mention projects to receive \$250 donations each.

Make A Difference Day is sponsored by "USA Weekend" magazine and the Points of Light Foundation.

Winners will be featured in a special issue of "USA Weekend" in April and key participants will be invited to the awards ceremony in Washington D.C. during National Volunteer Week in April.

Janet Henningsen, executive director of the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun

Cities Area, said Make A Difference Day will have a two-fold benefit.

The day will give people who are regular volunteers an opportunity to try a new project and give newcomers a taste of volunteerism, she said.

"I think people like to do different things. We find volunteers who like new challenges all the time and some people like to do a one-shot deal. They may not want to make a long-term commitment," Henningsen said.

Make A Difference Day may even spark an increase in the volunteer bureau's membership, which now stands at 1,000, she said.

"We'd like to see more people volunteer - (after all) this is a big community," Henningsen said.

The first Make A Difference Day in February attracted 68,000 volunteers nationwide.

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# They care

## 2 Sun Citians honored for volunteer work

By ROSA De SIMONE  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Jean Alm and Jack Lee are supposed to be retired — supposed to be.

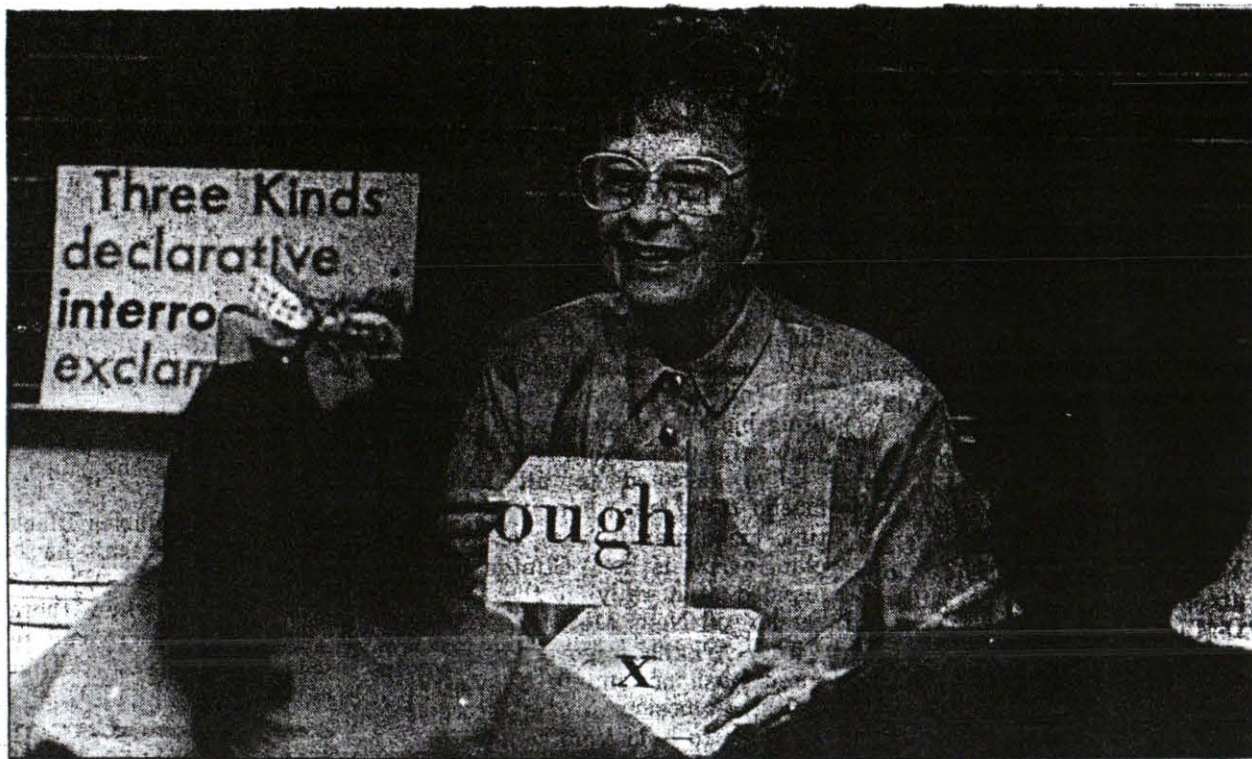
Instead, these Sun Citians don't spend all their time playing golf or watching television. No, they work toward helping make other people's lives better.

Lee has been building homes for low-income families for the past five years as a volunteer with Maricopa Habitat For Humanity, and Alm is starting her 11th year tutoring for the Peoria Unified School District.

These two active seniors, who have never met, have been chosen as recipients of the 1992 12 Who Care Hon Kachina Awards.

Lee and Alm will be among the 12 Arizonans honored for their outstanding community service during a live awards program Oct. 24.

The 16th Annual 12 Who Care Hon Kachina Awards Program is sponsored by The Luke's Men, a volunteer organization of professional men affiliated with St.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Jean Alm tutors reading to students at Cotton Boll Elementary School in Peoria. Alm is one of two local recipients of the 1992 12 Who Care Hon Kachina Awards.

Luke's Medical and Behavioral Health Centers, and KPNX-TV 12, the NBC affiliate in Phoenix.

"I grew up learning that we all take out of this world, and we should all look for ways to put back in," Alm said of her volunteer work.

Alm tutors children, first-through eighth-graders from Cotton Boll Elementary School in Peoria, who are having trouble reading and keeping up with their peers.

"It's exciting for me when a child discovers that he or she can read," Alm said.

Alm first experienced that excitement when she began tutor-

ing in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area almost 25 years ago — and she wasn't about to lose that thrill when she and her husband Russ moved to Sun City 10 years ago.

"I wasn't going to live in an old-age ghetto, and there had to be a school available," Alm said. "It was such a part of my life that I knew I wouldn't be happy if a school wasn't available."

Alm had tried other types of volunteer work, "but when I started tutoring, that was my spot," she said.

Alm tutors from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. three times a week, and clocks in extra volunteer time

with other school-related events.

"She works with a lot of kids, and she shows a lot of care for the kids — she's almost like a regular employee," said Doris Poure, assistant principal of Cotton Boll.

"We have a lot of volunteers, and I am aware of no one that puts in the kind of hours she does," Poure said.

Alm's goal is to give her students a taste of success.

"What I have to find for them is something to be successful in," Alm said.

And the feeling of success is

See Volunteer builds, A5



Rosa De Simone/Daily News-Sun

Jack Lee has been instrumental in the construction of 15 houses in El Mirage since the creation of the Northwest Valley branch of Maricopa Habitat For Humanity in 1987.

## Volunteer builds homes

—From A1

reciprocated to Alm.

"Every year there are children I feel are going to have a little bit of a better life because they have learned to read properly," Alm said.

Jack Lee said he gets that same kind of feeling through his volunteer work with Maricopa Habitat For Humanity, an organization that builds new houses for families living in El Mirage.

Lee has been instrumental in the construction of 15 houses in El Mirage since the creation of the Northwest Valley branch of Maricopa Habitat For Humanity in 1987.

Maricopa Habitat For Humanity only charges the families for the cost of materials for the home, which they can pay over a long period of time with no in-

terest charged.

The first home Lee helped to build took six months to complete. Today, the group can build two homes in eight weeks, Lee said.

Lee and his wife Virginia, also a volunteer with Maricopa Habitat For Humanity, moved from New Jersey to Sun City about 14 years ago.

Although Lee has building a home down to an art, that wasn't always the case.

"All I had (when I started) was a blank piece of paper and a pencil — I didn't know who to go to or where to go," Lee said.

Volunteer work has kept him busy, Lee said, adding that with inactivity "you atrophy."

"You get a lot of satisfaction and you get to know a lot of nice people," Lee said. "You just get a nice feeling."

# Army outfits area youths headed back to school

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Sitting on the floor surrounded by nearly 700 pairs of tennis shoes, 8-year-old Brandon took his time trying to decide which ones he liked best.

Finally the Peoria boy's eyes brightened when he slipped on a pair of black hightops. "I like these ones, mommy," he said to his mother, who waited patiently.

Brandon and 425 other needy children from Peoria, El Mirage and Surprise got to pick clothes Wednesday for their first day back to school.

The two-day back-to-school clothing project is being sponsored by the Sun Cities Area Salvation Army at its headquarters, 10730 W. Union Hills Drive.

Andrea, Brandon's mother, said she is very appreciative of the generosity of the auxiliary volunteers.

"It's nice to get this extra help at a time when I really am not able to get all the clothes my kids need," said Andrea, who also has children ages 3, 4 and 6. "I know this means a lot to them."

Members of the local Salvation Army auxiliary have been preparing for the back-to-school clothing distribution for months.

Volunteers sewed 1,400 T-shirts, 1,400 pairs of shorts, hundreds of dresses and other clothing items for the children.

Selma Patterson, project chairman, said the auxiliary's aim is to give every child a pair of new jeans or a skirt or dress, two shirts, shorts, a pair of shoes, three pairs of underwear and socks.

"Our object is to help the children go to school and keep them in school. We want them to feel good about themselves," Patterson said. "Some of these kids come in here barefoot. You

can't go to school without shoes when the kid across the street comes to school with new clothes."

Parents were required to pre-register for the clothing distribution.

The Army's chapel was converted into a clothing storeroom where the parents, with the help of volunteers, could do a little "shopping" for their children.

Many of the volunteers who sewed the clothes for the children were on hand to see the fruits of their labor go to good use.

Georgia Marrone, 85, of Sun City made 200 dresses for the back-to-school project.

"This is my ministry. I tried to make one dress every day. I would plan it all in my mind and coordinate all of the colors before I started sewing," Marrone said. "Sometimes I get inspired at 3:30 in the morning

See Volunteers wrap, A5

# Volunteers wrap up another year of sewing

—From A1

and get up and start sewing dresses."

Marrone, who does most of her sewing at home, is one of many auxiliary volunteers who have dedicated countless hours sewing clothes for the children.

"I've just loved every minute of it. What makes it interesting is that no two dresses are alike," Marrone said. "But my real reward is today. I've been waiting since last fall to see the children's expressions and see their little eyes light up when they pick out a dress."

Margie, who has four of her six children attending Oakwood Elementary School in Peoria,

said she found out about the program from church.

"I think it's wonderful. A little bit helps a lot. I now don't have the worries that I did before," she said.

"The neatest part is that we are able to select the clothes. I picked out a brown shirt and pair of shorts for my son and found out they were all hand made. I like that. It's very special."

The auxiliary raises money for the program through donations and two "Trash and Treasure" rummage sales.

The Salvation Army's next major project is a Christmas food and clothing distribution program.

# Junior volunteers fill halls of local hospitals

## Annual program gives exposure to medical field

By ANNE RYMAN  
Sun Cities Independent

Giselle Limas volunteers at Boswell Hospital because she says she likes to help people. Her reason may sound similar to why many people donate their time, but she is different from most volunteers in the Sun Cities.

Giselle is 14 years old.

She and 80 other students participate in a 10-week Junior Volunteer Program at Boswell and Del Webb hospitals where they greet patients and visitors, copy medical records, deliver food, transfer medication carts and visit with patients.

Boys and girls ages 13-18 have lent a helping hand in the programs at Boswell since 1972 and at Webb



More than 80 students volunteer at local hospitals. From left , Alma Sustalta, Christine Dominguez, Auxillary volunteer Mike Rockett, Monique Oliver and Amanda Hernandez.

since 1988 and come primarily from the Peoria and Dysart school districts.

All volunteers attend a one-day orientation where they learn about the duties and responsibilities of being volunteers and receive one-on-one training with adult

volunteers in specific areas of the hospital. While they help in most areas of the hospital, volunteers do not provide direct medical or personal care of the patient, says Jane Harker, Volunteer Service director at Boswell Hospital.

"All our volunteers act in a

"They're very caring and they want to make a difference in someone else's life."

—Jane Harker, Volunteer Services director

supplementary role by providing extras to make a patient's visit more pleasant."

These could range from filling a patient's pitcher with fresh water to getting reading materials to filing, typing and computer work.

The program offers students the opportunity to explore the health care field and the students help fill the void left by senior volunteers who leave for the summer, says Jean Stahl, Volunteer Services director at Webb Hospital.

"Some think they want to go into the health care field and want to see what it's like."

Holly Leno, a junior at Peoria High School who volunteers at Boswell Hospital, aspires to a career in medicine. "I wanted more experience in the medical field because I want to become a doctor,"

she says. She says she wants to volunteer in all areas of the hospital but wants to one day provide care in the emergency room as a doctor.

Josh Bradley, an eighth grader at Skyview Elementary School, isn't sure if he wants to make a career of medicine, but he's thinking about it.

"I want to see what it's like and learn more about it."

For Jennifer Magee, an eighth grader at Sundance Elementary School, volunteering runs in the family. Her mother works as a registered nurse at Boswell Hospital and her sister and father volunteer there. This will be her first year as a volunteer and one she has anticipated.

## ■ Volunteer

"I've wanted to be a volunteer for three years," she says.

Some students like volunteering at the hospitals so much they return the next summer. Melissa and Ana Camacho, sophomores at Centennial High School, volunteered last year.

"I like helping other people," Ana says.

Many of the junior volunteers come away with fond memories. Giselle Limas recalls the special moments she shared with a lady who had terminal cancer.

"I used to talk to her and she had fascinating stories to tell. She'd tell how her family coped with the Depression. She knew she was dying, but she didn't think about it."



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Repairing talking machines under the watchful eye of Arnold Schmidt at the Sun City and Saguaro Talking Machine Repair Center are from left, John Sobeski, Ellsworth Johnson, Lyle Thomas and Walter Johan. Volunteers, all members of the Telephone Pioneers of America, repair machines for Arizona State Talking Book Library in Phoenix. The volunteers were honored honored this week. Contributing 1,000 hours each were Johan, Gailerd Tisdall, Wesley Mueller, Howard Schmidt and Vincent Brown.

# Volunteer spirit alive and well in the Sun Cities

Latest survey finds  
58% of residents  
volunteer their time

By ANNE RYMAN  
Sun Cities Independent

Sun City has more volunteers than the national average, according to the results of a recent study, but more programs could be developed that link senior citizens with younger people outside of the community.

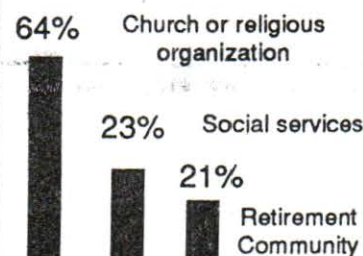
The study, released last week, also found Sun City has many people who have never volunteered but would if they were asked.

Arizona State University and the Center for Health Aging conducted the study on volunteers and how Sun Citizens provide assistance to their friends, families and neighbors.

Among the 400 residents surveyed, 58 percent of the sample said they volunteered and 34 percent of the non-volunteers said

**National Volunteer  
Recognition Week  
April 26-May 2**

## Where do Sun Citizens volunteer their time?



Source: Arizona State University, Center for Health and Aging

they would volunteer if asked.

Morris Okun, director of the Adult Development and Aging Program at ASU, says some of the non-volunteers may have picked the

socially-desireable answer.

"Let's grant that and chop the figure of 34 percent in half and say 17 percent of those would really like to volunteer. We're talking about a sizeable pool of untapped volunteers in Sun City," he says.

Dr. Okun compared the Sun City survey with the Marriott National Survey and found in Sun City, as well as nationally, most volunteers donate time to religious groups.

In Sun City, 64 percent of the volunteers donated time to a church or religious organization, 23 percent to social services and 21 percent to retirement communities.

Altruism, or a desire to help others, was the primary motivating factor in the Sun City survey, Dr. Okun says. Those who volunteered out of a desire to help others also tended to donate the most hours.

Other reasons for volunteering included acquiring knowledge and skills or to fit into the community. Some people also volunteered because it helped them feel better about themselves.

Dr. Okun says the only "controversial" part of the study was the portion where respondents were asked whether they preferred to help young people or seniors.

While 55 percent of Sun City respondents said they would prefer

From Page 1

to work with seniors, only 15 percent in the national survey indicated a preference for working with seniors.

"In the national survey, a lot more people said neither, showing no age preference," Dr. Okun says.

In the Marriott survey, 40 percent said they had no age preference while in Sun City, only 15 percent said they had no age preference.

Dr. Okun says several factors could contribute to this finding.

"One interpretation you might hear in the media is people in Sun City don't care about the younger generation so they prefer to volunteer for seniors. We find no evidence of this."

He says 90 percent of the respondents indicated seniors should get involved in helping young people do better in school or work.

Dr. Okun suggests more programs could be developed where older people volunteer in schools and younger people volunteer in Sun City.

In addition to examining the motivations and of volunteers, the study focused on the kinds of assistance Sun Citizens provide for each other.

Deborah Sullivan, ASU sociology professor, says the survey indicated the helping network in Sun City is very strong and meeting the needs of the residents.

# Volunteer Bureau starts 2nd decade

## Area agency promotes voluntarism

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

**Z**elda Bornstein was legally blind and her vision was getting worse every day.

"I had to wear these enormously thick glasses and have the prescription changed every six months so I could function," Bornstein said. "I was told to look into special organizations for the blind and visually impaired and I became very distressed."

But two months ago, Bornstein, 79, of Sun City had cataract surgery and she now has near-perfect vision — without glasses.

"I feel reborn. I wanted to give something back, so I called the volunteer bureau to see how I could help."

Bornstein and hundreds of

other local residents have found their niche by donating their time with the help of the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities Area.

The bureau was formed in 1982 as a non-profit organization to promote voluntarism in the Sun Cities area, said Alma Weatherly, executive director of the volunteer-run organization.

"We assist retirees in finding useful and rewarding outlets for their time and talents through voluntary services tailored to their skill and experience," Weatherly said.

"It is a clearing center that puts the people who care in touch with the people who need."

The bureau, with offices in Sun City and Sun City West, helps non-profit agencies, schools and health care program find volunteers.

Available are a variety of volunteer jobs, such as tutors, hospital aides, entertaining nursing-home pa-

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Want to volunteer but don't know where to start? The Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities can match volunteers with needs in the community. Call 972-6809 or 546-1774 and let the bureau know your interests, time commitment and other information.

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tients, driving vans, working in food banks, delivering meals and answering telephones.

The bureau makes an average of 50 to 60 referrals every month, Weatherly said.

Residents call either 972-6809 or 546-1774 and let the bureau know their interests, time commitment and other information on their volunteer interests.

The volunteer names are then categorized and placed in a file so they may be contacted whenever local agencies need a helping hand.

"Many of these people spent years raising children and working and they didn't have time to volunteer," Weatherly said. "This is their way of giving back to the community."

The bureau is largely supported by the Sun City and Sun City West community funds and by individual donations.

A 12-member board of directors governs the bureau, which is affiliated with the national volunteer center based in Arlington, Va. There are also volunteer bureaus in Phoenix, Casa Grande, Tucson and Prescott.

Last year the bureau launched a promotion, sponsored by Holland America Line Westours of Seattle, to honor local volunteers.

Every month the company donates a cruise for two that is awarded to an agency that nominates its volunteer of the month. The agency may use the cruise as a fundraiser or give it to their volunteer winner.

"This has served as a great way to recognize the value of the volunteers and honor their work," Weatherly said.

Weatherly staffs the bureau office in Sun City, 9451 N. 99th Ave., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays. Three volunteer office aides help on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

"We have people of all ages and all backgrounds volunteering," Weatherly said. "No matter what it is you can do, somebody here in the Sun Cities area needs you."



## Local volunteers save millions

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Preliminary results of the "Sun City Survey — Building a Caring Community," conducted by Arizona State University and the Center for Healthy Aging Studies, revealed that Sun City must be one of the most caring communities in the

country.

ASU researchers Morris Okun, director of the Adult Development and Aging Program, and Deborah Sullivan of the ASU Sociology Department conducted the survey in Sun City from October 1991 through January 1992. They concluded from the 400 resi-

dent responses that 58 percent of all Sun City residents volunteered an average of 274 hours last year or 5,795,653 total hours.

Based on an economist's \$5.94 an hour assessment of their work's worth, they contributed or saved Sun City and surrounding communities \$34,426,182.

The survey also showed that most Sun City volunteers have done volunteer work most of their lives and 64 percent of their voluntarism was done through their church or synagogue. Sun City volunteers have a significantly higher church attendance than the national volunteer average, Sullivan said.

The survey also showed that a larger proportion of Sun City retirees never had children than the national average and that 55 percent of respondents prefer to help fellow retirees rather than other age groups.

# Volunteers touch our lives every day

## Daily News-Sun staff

Throughout the Northwest Valley, almost any hour of the day, volunteers are dedicating to making their communities, and the communities of their neighbors, better places to live.

In this special edition of the Daily News-Sun, we profile a few of the people and organizations that are helping to make the Northwest Valley a better place to live.

Volunteers are so integral to our communities, it would be difficult to count a day when a volunteer hasn't touched our lives, either directly or indirectly.

The Prides keep the thoroughfares of Sun City and Sun City West clean. A number of Northwest Valley civic groups, from the Lions to the Boy Scouts, adopt a mile of right of way on main roads to keep free of refuse.

We leave town secure that the sheriff's posses in Sun City and Sun City West are watching our houses. Volunteers in Glendale help police handicapped parking spaces to ensure they're available for those who deserve to use them.

Volunteers with the Sun Cities Area Transit and the American Red Cross help keep residents on the move, even when those residents



Stephen Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Hank Tyrell, left, and Bob Constien load equipment into a Prides van on Peoria Avenue. The men are just two of

have no automobiles of their own or are no longer able to drive themselves.

Volunteers from the Northwest Valley help brighten our stays in hospitals, our visits to senior cen-

ters, our trips to the libraries and even our entertainment.

Need a helping hand? Social service agencies and church- and synagogue-based services, run largely on volunteers, help us preserve or

the many hundreds who volunteer each week to help keep public areas of Sun City clean.

better our lifestyles. We can get hot meals delivered, receive referrals for counseling, visit senior and community centers for socializing and borrow medical equipment without charge, thanks in

large part to volunteers who run these services.

Volunteers fill our schools, helping teachers and administrators shape the citizens — and future volunteers — of tomorrow.

## Sun Cities senior volunteers play key roles in helping hand role of Westside Food Bank

(Editor's note: The author is a public relations executive with Del Webb's Sun City West.)

By Martha Moyer  
For Arizona Senior World

SUN CITIES - The sign above the break room at the Westside Food Bank says it all. Named in memory of long-time Sun City volunteer Lloyd Liken, the honor symbolizes how appreciative the food bank is of its volunteer work force which is 660 strong, more than 500 of whom live in the Sun Cities.

"There wouldn't be a Westside Food Bank without them," volunteer coordinator Pat Andrew said of her retired helpers. "They do everything from grant writing to computer work to food handling."

The Sun City and Sun City West volunteers are such an important ingredient to the Westside Food Bank that when it came time to expand into larger quarters, the facility was moved closer to the retirement communities. In 1973, when it was just a small pantry in Glendale, the food bank relied heavily on volunteer help from several churches in Sun City and Sun City West. To take advantage of that volunteer work force, the food bank relocated in 1984 to its present site in Surprise - just a half mile from Sun City West and four miles from Sun City.

"As the need grew, the Westside Food Bank was expected to serve more and more people. To do that we needed more space," said community relations director Debbi Dorman. "It became obvious that most of our volunteers were from the Sun Cities. We decided to move the facility that relied so heavily on volunteers closer to the volunteers."

Sun City and Sun City West residents make up 80 percent of the food bank's volunteer force, working more than 150,000 hours a year. Fifty to 75 residents volunteer at the food bank each day at an average of four hours a week and there are some who put in 40 hour weeks. In addition to the regular volunteers, several Sun City and Sun City West churches and groups frequently offer their assistance.

"We have retired volunteers from all professional levels and we utilize those skills," Dorman said. "We have former executives who write grants and former CPAs who help with the accounting."



JO HAMBLLEN, WILLIAM CRAWFORD AT WESTSIDE FOOD BANK

Volunteers are also instrumental in packaging, canning and sorting food for distribution to more than 100 agencies in Phoenix and western Arizona through seven programs. The food bank is Arizona's largest and this year will distribute a total of 14 million pounds of food.

Among the volunteers are several husband and wife teams like Rose and Paul Klings of Sun City, who have helped at the food bank five hours a day, five days a week for 12 years.

"I like what I am doing here," said Rose Klings, who works at the food bank's work processor writing thank you notes to donors. "I was always very active. My work here allows me to stay active and help others at the same time."

Paul Klings spends much of his volunteer time assembling and coding boxes in the 13,000-square-foot warehouse. "I take pride in my work," he said. "One

year I assembled over 44,000 boxes. It is encouraging to know that my work will help someone who needs it."

According to Dorman, food banks similar in size to the Westside organization usually have staffs of about 34 full-time employees. With just 16 employees, she said the Westside Food Bank keeps pace thanks to the volunteers who are the equivalent of 75 full-time employees.

"We could not operate as effectively and efficiently as we do

without the Sun Cities volunteers because of the talents and skills they bring to us," Dorman says. "With such great volunteer talents we are able to have one of the most efficient non-profit agencies in the country."

Once a Sun Cities resident has volunteered at the food bank, Dorman says they are hooked and remain for years. They are recruited through the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities Area, local churches and referrals from current workers.

# 86-year-old honored as Sun Cities' top volunteer

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

**SUN CITIES** — Whether he is chronicling Sun City's history or being a friend to a homebound man, Glenn Sanberg is benefiting himself while helping his community.

Sanberg, 86, said his volunteer work in five organizations helps him have a healthier and longer life.

After being chosen as Volunteer of the Year for the Sun Cities, Sanberg said his

work is typical of residents in these retirement communities.

"The Sun Cities are unique communities because people are so involved in volunteer work," Sanberg said. "It prolongs your life to be active. The most deadly thing you can do is to be inactive."

When people retire, they view themselves as being "unimportant," and it is a challenge to find ways to be useful, he said.

Sanberg's name was pulled from a fish

**"The Sun Cities are unique communities because people are so involved in volunteer work."**

Glenn Sanberg

bowled by Arizona Attorney General Grant Woods during a volunteer recognition luncheon at the Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West on Jan. 17.

Sanberg, nominated by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, won a cruise for two, courtesy of Holland America Line Westours Inc.

The 196 people from 42 agencies — who had been nominated since May for the monthly contest — had a chance at the Volunteer of the Year Award offered by the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities Area and Holland America. Eight cruise trips already had been awarded to monthly winners.

"I was flabbergasted at being selected. To be chosen out of 200 by the luck of the draw was overwhelming," Sanberg said.

Woods told the Sun Cities volunteers that their work should be an inspiration for others. "What you do each day as volunteers to make the Sun Cities the kind of place you want to live in is an inspiration for the state and the rest of the nation," Woods said.

Master of ceremonies Fred Dunikoski  
See VOLUNTEER, Page 7

## VOLUNTEER

From Page 1

told the volunteers at the luncheon that they represent the thousands of Sun Cities residents who donate their time and talents.

"You are the cream of the crop, and it's one heck of a big crop," said Dunikoski, a Sun City West resident involved in fund-raising for the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts.

Sanberg and Jane Freeman co-authored "Jubilee," a 25-year history of Sun City, which was published in 1985. That effort led to the start of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

"When we were putting the book together, there was no historical society," Sanberg said. "We knew we had to have a better system than the haphazard storage by individuals."

The historical society began in October 1985. The first house built in Sun City, 10801 Oakmont Drive, serves as the society's headquarters, where memorabilia, maps, photos and news clippings about the Sun Cities are kept. A satellite office in Sun City West was opened last year.

Sanberg, who moved to Sun City in 1976, also is first vice president of the Sun City Home Owners Association board, membership chairman of the Bell Lions Club and a member of the Lakes Club board.

He said his most rewarding work is done through a care-giving program provided by Faith Presbyterian Church.

"We are trained in care-giving, and we are assigned to an individ-

ual to help them with their difficulties," Sanberg said. "We don't run errands or put them to bed. We are simply a confidant or a good friend."

Sanberg, who has three children, eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, wrote a column, "Retired in Style," published in *The Arizona Republic* from 1981-84. His weekly column now appears in *The Daily News-Sun*.

"I also speak to service clubs in the Valley, selling Sun City," Sanberg said. "My message is that we have a good life here."

Holland America marketing director Paul Allen announced at the luncheon that his company will continue the volunteer awards in 1992, offering cruises for two for winners in each of the 12 months and another cruise for the Volunteer of the Year.

The cruises are either used as a fund-raiser for the winning organizations or as a reward to the volunteer.

Monthly winners and their nominating agencies in 1991 were Mildred Auxter, Property Owners and Residents Association; Herb Christofferson, American Association of Retired Persons Tax Program; Ablett Flury, Sun City Area Community Council; Jane Freeman, Sun City Library; James Geer, Recreational Recording for the Blind; Phyllis Houston, St. Vincent de Paul Society; Virginia Pelosi, Interfaith Services; and Donald Schorg, Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West.

# 86-year-old honored as Sun Cities' top volunteer

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# Columnist wins volunteer prize

By MIKE GARRETT  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Sun Cities Volunteer of the Year Glenn Sanberg of Sun City is typical of most area volunteers.

Sanberg does community service work for at least five Sun Cities service groups, not just the one that submitted his name for the award.

Arizona Attorney General Grant Woods drew Sanberg's name out of a fish bowl containing 196 volunteer names at Friday's Volunteer of the Year luncheon at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West.

Like the previous eight monthly winners, Sanberg, or the agency he represents, wins a luxury cruise for two aboard Holland America Steamship Lines.

Unbeknownst to Sanberg, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society submitted his name in November for the Volunteer of the Month award.

Sanberg didn't win the monthly award selected by the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities Area Inc. But his name was added to all the other name submissions by some 40 Sun Cities service organizations since Holland America Line Westours Inc., and the Volunteer Bureau launched the program last May.

"You can't live here, be active and not get involved," said Sanberg. "And there is plenty here to get involved in. This is such a great community to live in."

Sanberg was one of the Historical Society's founders and past presidents and re-

mains on its board of directors.

The society was organized in 1985 to write a book on the history of Sun City. It has since evolved as a non-profit corporation dedicated to the collection and preservation of historical data of the geographic area of the Sun Cities.

Sanberg has written a weekly column "Retired in Style" for the Daily News-Sun since 1985. He retired in 1970 from the American Society of Association Executives, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that operates trade, technical and professional associations and moved to Sun City in 1976.

Sanberg is first vice president on the board of directors of the Sun City Home Owners Association, is membership committee chairman of the Bell Lions Club and was recently elected to the Lakes Club Board of Directors.

"But my real challenge is with Faith Care Ministries of Faith Presbyterian Church (in Sun City)," said Sanberg. "We are assigned to be a friend to a person who is essentially housebound and needs special attention.

"I've found that to be very rewarding," he said. "The main idea of the program is to encourage people to help themselves."

Luncheon master of ceremonies Fred Dunikoski said the 196 volunteers up for the award "represent the thousands of volunteers we have within our communities giving volunteer time and services to help others.

"You are the cream of the crop and it's

one helluva big crop," Dunikoski said.

Woods, the luncheon keynote speaker, said the volunteer efforts by the Sun Citizens should be an inspiration for others.

"What you do each day as volunteers and what you're doing in these communities to make the Sun Cities the type of place they are to live in is really an inspiration to the rest of the state and I hope to the rest of the country," Woods said. "I think the values that are embodied in this room are really what volunteerism is all about.

"What you're doing today is among the best work being done in America," he said. "If young people could just understand that our community is what we make it in our day-to-day actions. It's what we choose it to be."

Woods said Sun Cities volunteers have an empathy and understanding of the frail crying out for help that few others have.

"You understand that human beings are frail and need help and that if you have the time and energy, you will be there to help them," he said. "If our whole society could adopt what you've done and your attitude, then I think great days will truly be ahead for this country. Right now I think the jury is still out.

"I hope that we (as a state) can shine a light on the Sun Cities and on you and what you've done in your lives and maybe this will be an inspiration to other generations for the direction that they should go and for the true greatness we can find as Americans and as Arizonans," Woods said.



Stephen Chernelk/Daily News-Sun

Jane Freeman shares a laugh with Glenn Sanberg after he was named Volunteer of the Year by the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities Area Friday.

## Luncheon honors volunteers

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — The Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities Area and Holland America Line Westours Inc., will honor 196 area volunteers during a noon luncheon Friday.

The Volunteer Bureau and the cruise line will also name the Volunteer of the Year at the luncheon that will be held in Briarwood Country Club, 20800 135th Ave.

Keynote speaker at 1:15 p.m. will be Arizona Attorney General Grant Woods, who will speak on the impact volunteers have on their communities.

The Volunteer of the Year will be selected from among the 196 nominations submitted by 40 area volunteer agencies to Holland America Westours Volunteer of the Month campaign.

Since last May, each monthly winner and or the Sun Cities service organization they represent, has won a cruise. The award may be used in any manner the winning organization chooses.

Monthly winners are not eligible to win Volunteer of the Year. Like the monthly winners, the year-end winner and the organization they represent will receive a free luxury cruise for two from Holland America.

Previous monthly winners were May — Jane Freeman, Sun Cities Historical Society; June — Virginia Palosi, Interfaith Services; July — Ab Flury, Almost Antique; August — Phyllis Houston, Society for St. Vincent de Paul; September — Donald Schory, Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West; October — Mildred Auxter, Property Owners and Residents Association; November — Herb Christopherson, Arizona Association of Retired Persons Tax-Aide Program; December — James Geer, Recreational Recording for the Blind.

# Block watch program revived in Sun City

## Officials hope neighborhood campaign will curb increase in local crimes

By RICK GONZALEZ  
Sun Cities Independent

A communitywide block watch program is being organized in Sun City and officials hope to take a bite out of crime by encouraging residents to watch out for one another.

The announcement was made last week at a press conference held by members of the newly-organized Sun City Block Watch Steering Committee.

According to Dixon Wightman, committee general chairman, five

Sun City organizations are participating. Those organizations are the Sun City Home Owners Association, Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc., Sun City Posse, Sun City Condominium Association and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department.

Each group, says Mr. Wightman, will help finance the program and have equal input as to its operation.

A similar block watch program was tried in Sun City about 10 years ago but failed due to a lack of promotion and organization, according to Mr. Wightman.

Discussions about possibly starting a new citywide block watch program began in early November. Plans are for the block watch program to begin in January.

According to a committee press release handed out last week, the object of the block watch program is to "develop a strong viable group of volunteers to be ever aware of any unusual occurrence in their neighborhood, which should result in crime prevention."

The program's second objective is to "develop strong neighborhood interaction."

The committee is hoping to reach its objective of 60 percent crime prevention and 40 percent neighbor interaction.

"There is no question that the number of crimes in Sun City is on the increase," Mr. Wightman says. "Crime prevention is extremely important."

The most pathetic aspect of Sun City neighborhoods, he adds, is that neighbors do not know their neighbors. Interaction with each other, knowing what is going on in your neighborhood, is important.

"The success or failure of this

program, as I see it, depends on the number of volunteers we get to implement the program.

"Law enforcement officers can only do what they're asked to do. We need the residents' cooperation, too."

The Block Watch Committee is hoping to attract about 300 volunteers. Sun City will be sectioned off into approximately 75 regions, with regional chairmen and block watch captains for each region to oversee the neigh-

See BLOCK WATCH, Page 3

## ■ BLOCK WATCH

From Page 1

borhoods' crime prevention efforts.

Most of the block watch activity will consist of "eyeballing," Mr. Wightman says.

The Sun City Posse will be delivering block watch brochures and other materials to the regional chairmen. Materials for residents will be available at the HOA building, 10401 W. Coggins Drive.

"HOA is going to be the clearinghouse for all of the materials" relevant to the project, says Mr. Wightman.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City will provide a meeting room, free of charge, for block watch meetings.

Metal block watch signs will be purchased from the county and placed in neighborhoods throughout Sun City.

Currently, there are about 20 to 25 independent block watches in Sun City, mostly within the condominium association. Mr. Wightman says he's hoping these groups will join forces with the new groups in the program.

"We don't want to step on them (existing block watches). We want to encompass them."

Mr. Wightman says the block watch committee is also hoping to develop a good working arrangement with the post office. He says

he intends to sit down with the postmaster and try to get the post office involved.

"The postal employees (on their routes) can be the eyes and ears in neighborhoods," he explains.

"There has never been a consolidated and strong effort (for a block watch program) on a citywide basis (in Sun City). I am extremely enthusiastic about this," says Mr. Wightman.

Residents who would like to volunteer and help organize block watches in their neighborhoods should call HOA at 974-4718 or Carolyn Thomas at the Sun City Recreation Centers, 876-3000.



# SC Block Watch

## Volunteers sought for

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — More volunteers are needed to participate in a new neighborhood watch program in Sun City aimed at preventing crime and developing neighborhood interaction.

The Sun City Block Watch Steering Committee unveiled the program last month, calling on local residents to volunteer as program leaders for their neighborhoods.

Block Watch programs encourage residents to observe unusual noises or activities in their neighborhoods, to keep an eye out for each other and to report observations to the police.

There are about 25 Block Watches already in place in Sun City, which would become part of the communitywide program.

The Sun City Home Owners Association, Recreation Centers of Sun City, Sun City Condominium Chairmen Association, Sun City Posse and Mar-

icopa county Sheriff's Office are jointly sponsoring the new program.

Although many people are enthusiastic about the program, said Merlen Ferguson, committee chairman, the committee needs more volunteers to make the Block Watch successful.

"Everyone feels this is a fantastic idea and we're ready to go to work now. We don't have near enough names, but we're getting started," Ferguson said. "With the holidays behind us, we hope to get many more people volunteering."

About 40 people have volunteered to be a neighborhood chairman and coordinate crime prevention efforts with residents who live nearby.

But the committee hopes to get at least 300 volunteers who will help with various aspects of the program, Ferguson said.

Those interested can call the HOA at 974-4718 or Caroline Thomas at the Recreation Cen-

ters, 876-3000.

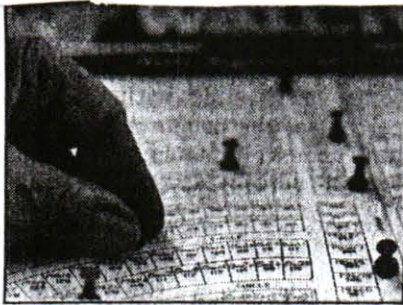
Dixon Wightman, HOA president, said committee volunteers have been tracking volunteers on a huge map of the community that is divided into about 75 regions.

Ideally, each region, or neighborhood, would have a chairman and several assistants.

"We need to identify the block watch chairmen and people to help them. No project of this magnitude is simple. It can't be done just by five entities," Wightman said at an HOA meeting Tuesday. "We need a lot of cooperation from people in Sun City. The question is how do we find people in Sun City willing to lend us their eyeballs and senses to let us know what's going on in their neighborhood."

Wightman said the committee hopes to ask clubs and other organizations to encourage their members to participate in the neighborhood watch.

"Every time we sit down with

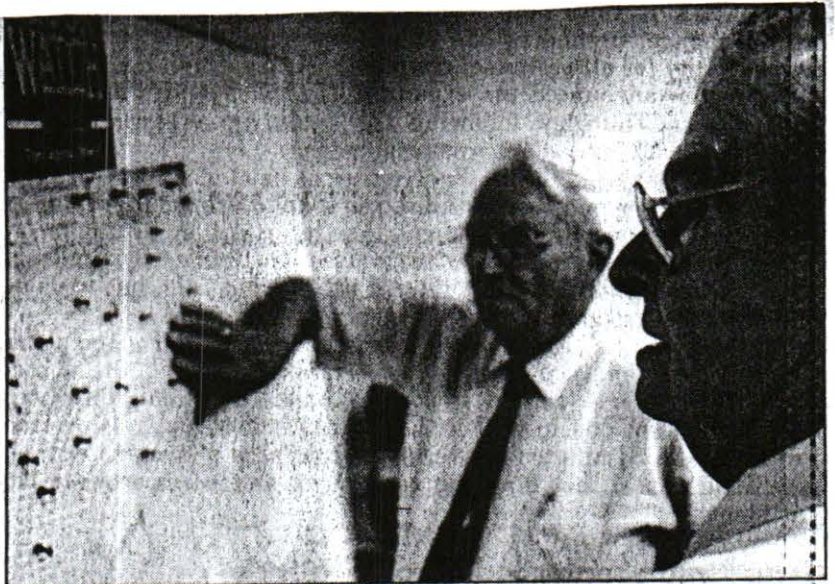


Pins mark the locations of block watch volunteers.

the police they tell us we should expect more crime and vandalism," Wightman said. "It behooves all residents to get this program off the ground."

About 10 years ago a communitywide Sun City Block Watch program failed because it was not well promoted and organized, Wightman said.

Wightman said he is optimistic that this Block Watch will be successful because there are a number of different community organizations involved.



Stephen Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Dixon Wightman, left, and Merlen Ferguson use pins and a map of Sun City to help them organize a Block Watch program. Ferguson is chairman of the Sun City Block Watch Steering Committee, and Wightman is president of the Sun City Homeowners Association.

OVER

# Eyes for the blind

## Volunteers record textbooks needed by students

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Olga Smith paced her voice at 40 words per minute.

Timing and accuracy are important because blind students will be relying on her when they listen to the tape of how to use a word processor.

"For some people, reading a book on word processing may be difficult, but I taught typing for a long time and it is easy for me," said Smith, a Sun City resident who was a high school business teacher for 35 years.

She is among 100 volunteers from the Sun Cities, Peoria, Glendale and Youngtown who lend their time, talents and voices to record books at the Sun City Recording for the Blind studio.

Nationwide, there are about 4,000 volunteers who read books for an estimated 27,000 blind, visually impaired and learning disabled students from elementary school through graduate school.

These volunteers also serve business and professional people in almost every occupation who want to stay current in their fields.

The Arizona unit, which also has a Phoenix office with about 125 volunteers, started in 1951. It was one of the six initial units founded by Anne Macdonald to help blinded veterans of World War II attend college under the GI Bill of Rights.

The organization's belief is that visually impaired individuals should be able to have educational texts available to their sighted peers, including books in law, medicine, the sciences and foreign lan-

guages.

There is a one-time \$25 registration fee, and cassette tapes of recorded books are provided free.

The non-profit Recording for the Blind, with headquarters in Princeton, N.J., receives no government funding and is not part of the United Way. It has more than 80,000 books in its library.

Community donations and volunteer labor keep the service operating. For example, the \$135,000 annual operating budget for the Arizona unit is paid by donations made by individuals and businesses.

"The volunteers are being the eyes for students so they can learn and pursue a career," said Nancy Martin, director of the Phoenix and Sun City studios.

See BLIND, Page 3



Russell Gates / Staff photographer  
Kitty Sonefeld (left) of Sun City West threads a tape recorder as Olga Smith of Sun City waits in the recording booth, ready to read an elementary schoolbook.

# BLIND

From Page 1

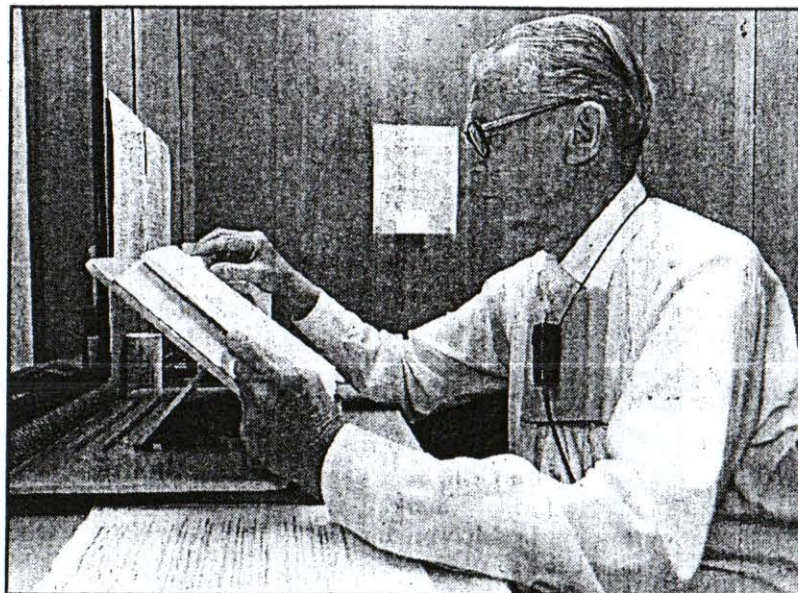
Recording books on cassette tapes makes it more convenient for blind clients than Braille books.

"A 1,200-page book would take up a 6-foot bookcase if it was in Braille, and only one person at a time could use the Braille book," Martin said. "We can duplicate any number of cassettes for students so more than one student can be served by the cassettes."

Besides having a clear speaking voice, volunteers need to have knowledge in the subject area about which they are reading. They pass voice tests in chemistry, law, engineering, math and an array of other subjects.

When a request for a book is made, a search is done among the 31 studios nationwide to match a volunteer with experience in the subject area.

Readers read in soundproof rooms while checkers have duplicate sets of books and check for accuracy. After a book is completed, another volunteer double-checks the accuracy. If mistakes are found, corrections are made.



Russell Gates / Staff photographer

**Bob Hird, 80, of Sun City records a book in the Sun City studio of Recording for the Blind.**

Other volunteers make duplicates of tapes and decide how books should be divided up by readers. Volunteers typically spend three hours a week in the studio.

Dorothy Thaler, a Sun City resident, has generated \$300 during the past three years from her former employer, Honeywell Corp.

"It's very worthwhile volunteering," Thaler said. "We have a

volunteer recognition luncheon and get to meet some of the people who have benefited from our reading."

The Arizona unit does work for students at Arizona universities and community colleges. Students bring the books that they will need during the following semester because it takes several months to record a book.


One of the most challenging books was for a University of Arizona student who was pursuing a master's degree in library science. The book included 20 different languages, such as Chinese, Serbian, Croatian, French, German, Spanish, Greek and Russian.

Martin called Recording for the Blind's New York studio for help. Three people from the United Nations headquarters were able to read all the languages.

Volunteers are constantly being sought and are especially needed in the summer, Martin said. Information on volunteering is available by calling the Sun City studio at 977-6020 or the Phoenix studio at 468-9144.



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Grant Woods is a lifelong resident of Arizona. He grew up in Mesa, Arizona before attending Occidental College in Los Angeles where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa. In 1979, he received a law degree from Arizona State University.

Mr. Woods served as then Congressman John McCain's first Administrative Assistant and later founded his own law firm. In 1990, Mr. Woods led all candidates on the November ballot and was elected Arizona Attorney General. He presides over a staff of 650 employees including 250 attorneys and is chief counsel and law enforcement officer for the State of Arizona.

Mr. Woods is married to Marlene Galan Woods, morning anchor at Channel 12 in Phoenix. He has three children, Austin 9, Lauren 5 and Cole born in April, 1991. Extremely active in the community, Mr. Woods founded the Mesa Boys and Girls Club, which has more than 2,000 members. He was founding counsel for Kids Voting, and past Chairman of the Board of the East Valley Boys and Girls Club.

Drawing for VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

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Visually Impaired  
Sun City West Lioness Club  
Sun City Area Historical Soc.  
Sun City Library  
Sun Health Foundation

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Sun City Art Museum  
Habitat for Humanity  
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Sun City Library  
AARP Tax Program

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Habitat for Humanity  
Sun Health Care Center  
Sun City Information & Referral  
Sun City Information & Referral  
AARP Tax Program  
Dysart Community Center  
Handi-capables Club  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Sun City Meals on Wheels  
Sun City Meals on Wheels  
Walter Boswell Hospital  
Sheriff's Posse S.C.  
Sun Health Foundation

Boswell Hosital

Sun Health Auxiliary

Interfaith Service of S. C.  
Sun City Library  
Handi-capables Club  
Habitat for Humanity  
SunDome Center Performing Arts  
Boswell Hospital  
Westside Food Bank  
Royal Oaks Kiwanis Club

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Dysart Community Center  
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Habitat for Humanity  
Sun City Ambassadors  
Sun Health Care Center

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Sun City Meals on Wheels  
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Sun City Ambassadors  
Handi-capables Club  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Del Webb Hospital  
Dysat Community Center  
Del Webb Hospital  
Del Webb Hospital  
Del Webb Hospital

Sun City Ambassadors  
Sun Health Auxiliary  
Sheriff's Posse S.C.

Sun Cities Art Museum  
American Red Cross

Sheriff's Posse SCW  
SunDome For Performing Arts  
Boswell Hospital  
Interfaith Services  
Kiwanis Club Sun City, Youngtown  
Sun City West Lioness Club  
AARP Tax Program  
Sun Cities Art Museum

AARP Tax Program  
Sun Cities Information & Referral  
SunDome Center Performing Arts  
Dysart Community Center  
Dysart Community Center  
Boswell Hospital

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 Leo Sasseville Sun City Ambassadors  
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 John Shields Sun City Information & Referral Services  
 Dale Shockley Sun City Area Transport System  
 Jeannette Shotwell Sun Cities Area Community Council  
 Doris Simons Dysart Community Center  
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 Louis Slagle Sun Health Care Center  
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 Eleanor Strasser Walter O. Boswell Hospital  
 Conrad Swan PORA

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 John Totten Sun City Meals on Wheels  
 Marie Totten Sun City Meals on Wheels  
 Althea Trott Del Webb Memorial Hospital  
 Earl Trundy Interfaith Services of Sun Cities  
 Trudy Turnbull Sun Cities Information & Referral Services

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 Florence Williams Sun Health Care Center  
 Harold Williams Sun Health Care Center  
 Ray Wilson Sun City Meals on Wheels  
 Helen Wojcik Dysart Community Center  
 Paul Wolf Habitat for Humanity  
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 Johnnie Zumwalt Sun City Meals on Wheels

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 Dr. Edward Anderson Meals on Wheels, SCW  
 Kenneth Anderson B-4-9-Lions Club  
 Lee Anthony Sheriff's Posse, Sun City  
 Mildred Auxter PORA  
 Glenda Averill Baptist Village Retirement  
 Oneita Aungst Sun Health Auxiliary

Don Baker SunDome Performing Arts  
 Clement Balto Sheriff's Possee Sun City West  
 Patricia Barbour Baptist Village Retirement  
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 Joy Beanland Hospice Service of Sun City  
 Paul Beck Sun City Ambassadors  
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 Betty Lee Bellinger Boswell Hospital  
 Mary Ann Berthelson Soroptimist Club  
 Margaret Bidwell Sun City West Lioness Club  
 Eleanor Birkemo Interfaith Services  
 Ralph Bower Habitat for Humanity  
 William Bradford Kiwanis Club Sun City-Youngtown  
 Mary Ann Brisky AARP Tax Program  
 Betty Brixius Sun City Ambassadors  
 Melt Bryan Sun City West Foundation

Helen Cann American Red Cross  
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 Georgia Clark Handi-capables Club  
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 Winifred Culler Sun Health Foundation

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 Mary DiGangi Sundome Performing Arts  
 Jim Donnelly American Red Cross  
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 Pat Duncan Sun Cities Information & Referral

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 Betty Ehlers Interfaith Services  
 Norma Eickman Interfaith Services  
 Robert Ellis AARP Tax Program  
 Eleanor Ernest Sundome Performing Arts  
 Justin Esse Meals on Wheels Sun City  
 Kenneth Esse Meals on Wheels Sun City  
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