

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. No offering will be received during the worship. May we suggest that you contribute to your congregation or to a local agency of your choice that lets the love of Jesus, the Risen One, shine in our community.

### The Sunrise Choir

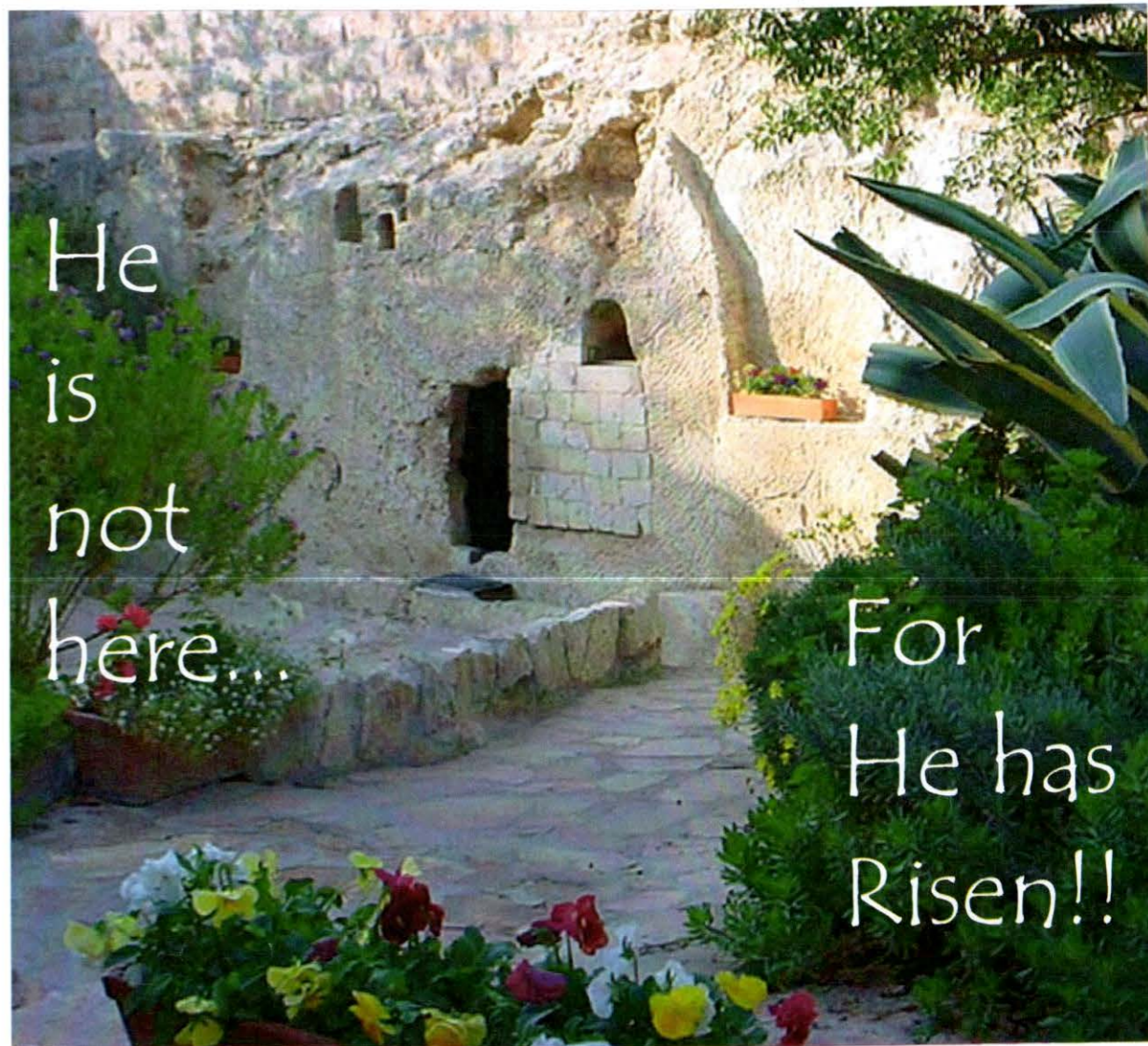
SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
Pauline Beardsley	Linda Cook	Jeane Armer	Pr. Bruce Ayers
Priscilla Clay	Luhleem Davison	Beverly Fletcher	Pr. John Cockram
Ellenmae DeRosia	LaDonna Hardt	Bill Hoskins	Joe Ford
Lyn Dunham	Alice Keller	Dennis Jacobson	Mel Seichko
Bev French	Susan Parker	Chuck Johnson	Dan Smith
Pat Graham	Ginni Summers	Bob Lang	Marlin Wacholz
Carol Hager	Beth Vercourteren	Joanne Lang	
Bobbie Hilton		Eva Schulz	
Joan Jackson			
Ruth Lampi			
Bev Luger			
Grey Pohl			
Tricia Toussaint			

**Ushers:** Mary Knoch, David Cook, Becky Pfeister, Leo Pfeister, Lou Caldwell, Maury Berger, Darlene Berger, Betty Myers, Curt Myers, Donna Impellizzeri  
**Christ Candle Bearer:** Stephan Linthicum



As the sun came up on the morning of April 2, 1961, the residents of Sun City gathered on the patio of Town Hall (known today as Fairway Recreation Center) for the First Easter Sunrise Service held in Sun City. The three trumpets heralded the resurrection of Jesus, praising God, and Rev. E. Duane Thistlewaite, a Presbyterian pastor, gave the Invocation. Music was provided by soloists and a chorus directed by Otto Highfield. Mr. T.G. Austin, representing Del Webb, welcomed the large crowd. The sermon was given by Rev. Walter Witt of United Church of Sun City and readings by Rev. Albert B. Schwertz of Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church and Dr. S.A. Allen. Mrs. Albert B. Schwertz was the organist and Mrs. Otto Highfield was the pianist. As today is the 50th Anniversary of that First Sunrise Service, the first churches to be organized in Sun City are glad that you have chosen to celebrate that our Savior lives, our sins are forgiven, and we can look forward to eternal life with God.

## Easter Sunrise Worship 2011



The 50th Anniversary of the First Easter Sunrise Worship held in Sun City, Arizona  
 1961-2011

The Sun Bowl — April 24, 2011 — 6:00 a.m.



In the Quiet of Easter Morning we pause and pray...  
Sunrise Worship – 6:00 a.m.—April 24, 2011

Gathering *(We gather in the quiet of the morning – waiting!)*

The Service of Light

Pastor Bruce Ayers

Visitation Pastor, Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church

- L Behold the light of God.  
C **The light that makes all things new.**  
L The former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.  
C **God's light renews us all.**  
L In the beginning was the Word,  
C **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**  
L He was with God in the beginning.  
C **Through him all things were made.**  
L In him was life,  
C **and that life was the light of all people.**  
L The light shines in the darkness,  
C **but the darkness has not overcome it.**  
L The true light that gives light to the world  
C **was coming into the world.**  
L He came to that which was his own,  
C **but his own did not receive him.**  
L The Word became flesh and lived among us.  
C **We have seen his glory...full of grace and truth.**  
L This is the light of Christ!  
C **Thanks be to God!!**

Easter Fanfare

"Hallelujah!" Chorus for Three Trumpets G.F. Handel, arr. Kathy Tofanelli  
Trumpeters: Clark Krueger, Jon Eth, Rod Wolber

The Proclamation of Easter

- L It is Easter!  
C **And the first light of the risen Christ is here!**

- L Walking from the empty tomb  
Opening wide the gates of life  
Christ the Lord is risen to-day  
C **Alleluia!**  
L Lord of life  
You defeated death  
To show that we can rise  
From all that binds us to the world  
Pride, envy, anger, fear  
The debt of sin that holds us here  
Christ the Lord is risen to-day

- C **Alleluia!**  
L Lord of life  
You defeated death  
To demonstrate a love that is  
Beyond our understanding  
That reaches out even to me  
Saving Grace to all who hear  
Christ the Lord is risen to-day © John Birch @ faithandworship.com  
C **Alleluia! Amen!**

Benediction

- L Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," and so on this  
Easter morning, may our Risen Lord walk beside you to comfort  
you. May Jesus be above you to watch over you, walk behind you  
to keep you safe, and walk before you to show you the way. May  
God richly bless your Easter Day and every day. In the name of  
God, Father, +Son and Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**  
L Christ is Risen!  
C **HE IS RISEN, INDEED!!**

Postlude

- "He Lives"  
"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

Kathy Tofanelli, Minister of Music,  
Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church  
Alfred H. Ackley  
John Hatton



met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

L It is Easter and this is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon "Go Quickly and Tell" Pastor John Cockram  
Senior Pastor, Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church

Hymn "Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hearts to heav'n and voices raise;

Sing to God a hymn of gladness,

Sing to God a hymn of praise.

He who on the cross as Savior

For the world's salvation bled,

Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,

Now is risen from the dead.

Now the iron bars are broken,

Christ from death to life is born,

Glorious life, and life immortal,

On this resurrection morn;

Christ has triumphed, and we conquer

By his mighty enterprise,

We with him to life eternal

By His resurrection rise.

Prayer Grace Havlik  
2nd Generation Sun City Resident, United Church of Sun City

L From the darkness of the grave

Blood poured out, a crown of thorns

Christ the Lord is risen to-day

C **Alleluia!**

L From the triumph that is won

Over the power and fear of death

Christ the Lord is risen to-day

C **Alleluia!**

L It is Easter!

C **We have come to worship the risen Christ.**

L It is Easter! Christ is risen!

C **He is Risen, indeed!**

L Christ is risen!

C **He is Risen, indeed!**

Hymn

*"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"*

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!

Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

L It is Easter and we proclaim to the world that we worship our God,  
Father, + Son and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen, Alleluia!!**

L Lord God, early in the morning when the world was young, you  
made life in all its beauty and terror; you gave birth to all that we  
know; Behold the light of God.

C **The light that makes all things new.**

L Early in the morning, when the world least expected it, a newborn  
child crying in a manger announced that you had come among us,  
that you were one of us; Behold the light of God.

C **The light that makes all things new.**

L Early in the morning, surrounded by respectable liars, religious  
leaders, anxious statesmen and silent friends, you accepted the  
penalty of doing good, for being God; you shouldered and suffered  
the cross; Behold the light of God.

C **The light that makes all things new.**



L Early in the morning, a voice in a guarded graveyard and footsteps in the dew proved that you had risen, that you had come back to those and for those who had forgotten, denied and destroyed you; Behold the light of God.

C **The light that makes all things new.**

L This morning in the multi-colored company of your Church on earth and in heaven, we celebrate your creation, your life, your death and resurrection, your interest in us; Behold the light of God.

C **The light that makes all things new.**

#### Prayer of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Let us pray together...

C **God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

#### Greeting

Mr. Vance Coleman  
President of the Board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City

Musical Offering "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth" G. F. Handel's "Messiah"  
Soloist: Priscilla Clay, Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church

#### Scripture

Acts 10:34-41  
Read by Cathy Morrell, Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church

*Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how*

*he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

L It is Easter and this is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

#### Musical Offering

"Because He Lives" William and Gloria Gaither  
Soloist: Ginni Summers, United Church of Sun City

#### Reading

"Because He Rose" by Dr. Peter Marshall, Sr.  
Read by Luhleem Davison, Shepherd of the Desert, Daughter of Dr. Albert B. Schwartz, founding Mission Pastor of Shepherd of the Desert, Sun City, who read it in 1961

#### Choir Offering

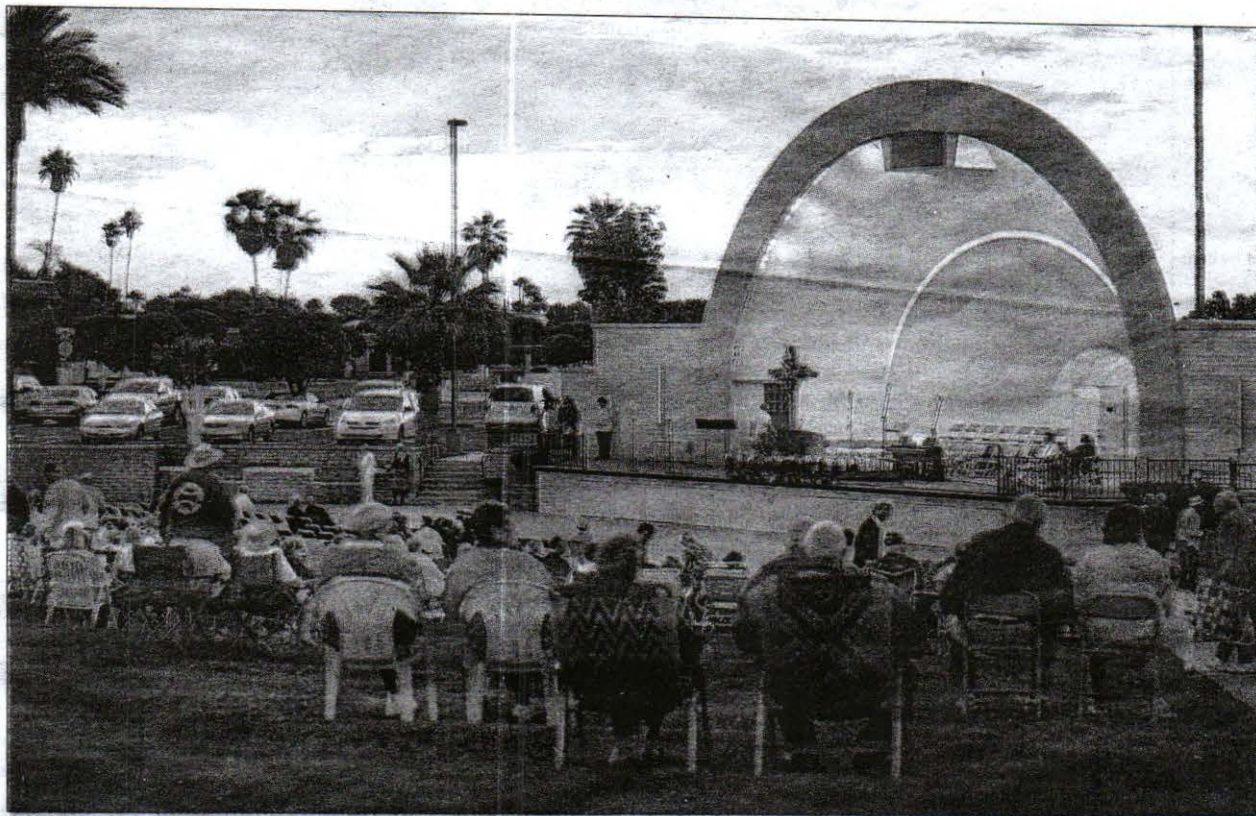
"Beautiful Empty Grave" Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith  
The combined choirs of United Church of Sun City and Shepherd of the Desert  
Lutheran Church of Sun City

#### Easter Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

*After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus*





DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Worshippers gather their lawn chairs and blankets in the early morning light for an Easter service at the Sun Bowl. Sunday's celebration marked the 50th anniversary of the original community Easter sunrise service in Sun City.

# Early to rise

## Worshippers mark 50th anniversary of Sun City's 1st Easter sunrise service

MITCHELL VANTREASE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Terri Grumbach sat in the grass early Sunday morning at the Sun Bowl and listened as Ginni Summers sang "Be-

cause He Lives" to more than 450 Easter worshippers.

The 6 a.m. sunrise service not only celebrated Easter but commemorated the 50th anniversary of the first Easter sunrise worship service in Sun City.

Grumbach, a Sun Citian, said she loved the idea of having a community-wide sunrise service and appreciated the significance of the event.

"I also wanted to be here because of the history, and I really hope that we can do this on a regular basis every year," she said.

Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church and United Church of Sun City co-sponsored the service. Members from both congregations were involved with the event

SEE EASTER, A10





DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Worshippers celebrate sunrise service in the Sun Bowl on Easter. The service was organized by the first churches established in Sun City, which celebrated the community's first sunrise service on April 2, 1961.



DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN



# EASTER

FROM A10

from the musical selections and readings to the sermon.

Both Sun City churches were involved in the original service 50 years ago, along with St. Joachim & St. Anne Catholic Church. The first ceremony was on the patio of Town Hall, now Fairway Recreation Center, and no one seems to know why the event stopped.

The idea for the service stemmed from a planning session of Shepherd of the Desert's 50th anniversary committee. Luhleem Davidson, a member of Shepherd of the Desert, said she was happy with the turnout for the service. She read a piece entitled "Because He Rose" during the ceremony, which meant a lot to her.

The Sun Citian's father, Albert Schwartz, founding mission pastor of Shepherd of the Desert, read "Because He Rose" at the original service.

"I felt this was a way to honor my father and the first churches in Sun City," Davidson said.

During the service, Senior Pastor John Cockram of Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church said he was pleased to see many in attendance and stressed the meaning of Easter.

"God raised Jesus from the dead to let us know who is in charge," said Cockram. "The promise of Easter is that God is still God, and he's filled with surprises."

Amy Schultz, a Sun City resident, said she enjoyed the service.

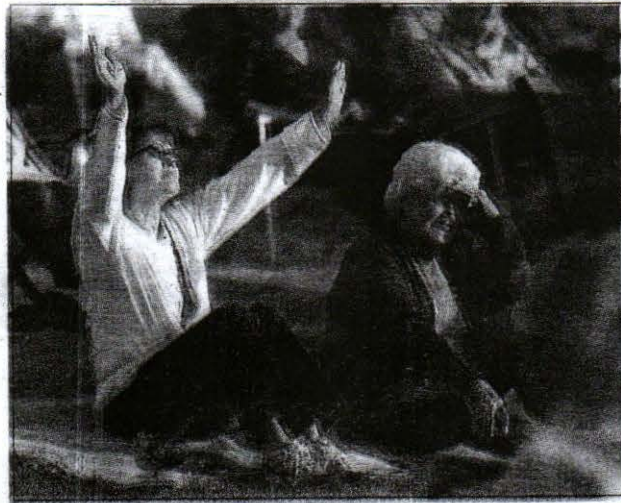
"I really hope they do this again because it was so beautiful," she said. "It's a great place where we can all come together and celebrate this special day."

Clete and Barb Swintek of Sun City agreed.

"It's just nice to see that so many faiths have the same thing in common and that we can all celebrate as one no matter what church we're from," Clete Swintek said.

For Davidson, she felt the service was successful.

"I know that my father would be really proud of this service," she said.



DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Vivian Villarreal raises her hands in worship during the Easter sunrise service at the Sun Bowl on Sunday. With her, is her mother Evelyn Bailey of Sun City.



## 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

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VF SC Volunteers / Volunteerism





**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.** Tom Tingle / Staff photographer

## 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 Beardslay 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.



## SERVICE



Thomasine DeGenero, a PRIDES volunteer for 14 years, and Bob Geier, a volunteer for seven years and a current board member, clean the canal at 99th Avenue and Hutton Drive. [Submitted photo/Francine Jennings]

# STRENGTHENING VOLUNTEER BASE

## Most groups holding their own for members

**By Rusty Bradshaw**  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

While some groups are finding it difficult to find volunteers, Sun City is not ret ready to give up the title City of Volunteers.”

As the number of community homes bought by baby boomers increases, the volunteer base is suffering a bit. Younger buyers are not turning to volunteer work either because they are still work-

ing or are freshly retired and want to enjoy that retirement for a while.

But while some groups, like the Sun City Posse, see their membership shrinking others, such as the Sun City

Visitors Center, have all the volunteers they need. The reasons for the varied degree of membership satisfaction are as numerous as the services provided by Sun City

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VF - SC Volunteers



volunteer groups. "We are shrinking," Mary Heiser, Posse commander, stated in an email. "People moving in are still working. They are snowbirds. Many activities available."

However, the Posse faces other obstacles, most created by a District Court order prompted by a racial profiling case against then Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. The order, among other things, requires Posse members to undergo the same training as sworn deputies, including training for things the Posse cannot do, such as traffic stops and arrests.

"(People tell us) the training is too long," she stated.

Once a force of more than 200, the Posse now struggles to have 100 total volunteers. Those eligible for active patrol is about half that number.

In contrast, the Sun City Visitors Center, now operated by the Recreation Centers of Sun City, is not adding any new volunteers because the slate is full.

"SCVC has a stable team of volunteers and currently is not accepting new applications," Joelynn Higgins, RCSC communications and marketing coordinator, stated in an email. "We utilize one volunteer per shift during summer months and two volunteers per shift from October to May when the number of out-of-state visitors increases."

The Visitors Center also needs fewer volunteers than groups like the Posse and Sun City PRIDES. There are 32 active volunteers, including some who participate as guides or drivers on the center's bus tours, according to Ms. Higgins.

The same is true for Banner Olive Branch Senior Center.

to volunteer as much as we would like." Sun City Community Assistance Network utilizes a small number of volunteers in the office, but has traditionally had a large force of volunteers during tax season for the AARP Tax-Aide program. But that volunteer force took a hit this year due to an obstacle placed from outside the agency, similar to the Posse.

"I know (we) lost some volunteers this year because IRS got new software and some of the volunteers that had been using the same software for years decided not to go through the learning process," Hugh Duncan, Sun City CAN board president, stated in an email.

Sun City volunteers average in the mid 70s in age, with the largest age range being 55-98 at Olive Branch.

As baby boomers continue to move into the community, volunteering may take on a different look.

"Many would prefer to help with single projects vs. large time commitments," Ms. Higgins stated. "Project and task specific duties seem more likely to get volunteers in the future to help."

People's outlook on retirement has changed since Sun City was established, according to Ms. Glinski.

"People retiring today have a different mindset," she stated. "They worked their whole life and now want to do things they couldn't do when they were working."

But that mindset may not last for the rest of their lives.

"They usually come around after a few years when they are bored with retirement," she added.

pay to have something done than to work themselves, even a few hours per month.

"The volunteer mentality of the older people doesn't seem to resonate so much with the younger people moving into Sun City," He stated.

But he agrees their mindset may change.

"This may change as they see the good things being done by volunteers and as they have a shift in their thinking and their priorities," he stated. "I'm not finding fault here at all, as I know we all go through 'seasons' in our lives."

That changing outlook also stems from a lesser emphasis on volunteering in society and schools.

"When I taught in high school our students were expected to be involved in service projects. Even at the college level, students are encouraged to 'give back to the community,'" Ms. Heiser stated. "Somewhere along the way the baby boomers were missed — at least some of them."

The turn away from volunteering is also driven by individual desire.

"Those who have chosen to either not volunteer or discontinue volunteering at the Visitors Center are either busy with other activities or are unable to commit to the education process it takes to be a successful SCVC volunteer," Ms. Higgins stated.

Recruiting volunteers is becoming as much a chore as the services organizations provide. Visitors Center officials plan to conduct a recruiting fair to allow people to see what it takes to operate the center and decide

explained. Similarly, the Posse conducts an annual open house to encourage residents to visit that facility and learn about the organization.

"Individually we try to recruit our neighbors, friends and others with whom we come into contact with," Mr. Smith stated.

Must Sun City service groups also have booths at various expos, fairs and new resident orientations in the community to sign up new members. Word of mouth is also a strong recruiting tool.

"Residents often approach us at the Visitors Center to volunteer via word of mouth from other volunteers who are active in RCSC clubs," Ms. Higgins stated.

Education can also play a part in encouraging new volunteers, according to Ms. Heiser.

"Showing the value of giving service, gratification of helping others, something beneficial to do with their time, which will also make the individual feel good about themselves," she stated.

Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com. Continue the discussion at www.yourwestvalley.com.



"We always have a steady trickle of people coming in to the center who want to volunteer and we also can recruit from the people coming for lunch," Ivy Glinski, Olive Branch director, stated in an email.

PRIDES membership remains stable, but could be seeing some problems in the future as members continue to age, according to Ken Smith, PRIDES president.

"It's staying stable as long as our current people keep volunteering, which is harder as they become older," he stated in an email. "We are



Volunteers / Volunteerism AZ Republic 10/25/2014

# Snowbirds' return provides West Valley boost

PHILIP HALDIMAN  
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Charlotte Confer stays busy as the volunteer coordinator at Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center in Sun City West, as organizing a corps of volunteers to support a large medical facility can be challenging.

Her job gets a little easier this time of year, however, because snowbirds, who make up 20 percent of her volunteer staff, are making their return migration.

When the snowbirds — people who live in Arizona in the winter and cooler locales in the summer — leave, she needs to fill in the gaps and get creative with scheduling.

“And then you also have regular local volunteers who are taking vacations during those times. Some locals might be gone for a month at a time, so you’re filling many different shifts with many different people,” she said.

West Valley residents are well aware of the increase in traffic when the snowbirds return, but many cities and organizations rely on them as part of the volunteer force, as well as a source of revenue for some communities.

Vicki Gerber, senior manager of volunteer resources at Banner Boswell in Sun City, said active adults are very dedicated, working at least once or twice a week and who often have key assignments working directly with patients and the public, such as at the nursing unit or the information desk.

“They are not casual volunteers,” Gerber said. “We’re delighted when they get back, and we really do feel it when they leave.”

Peoria officials say they see a noticeable increase in usage of some community facilities when the snowbirds return.

Jackie Stanley, supervisor at Rio Vista Recreation Center, said seniors have been a big driver in the advent of Peoria’s pickleball program. Since it debuted in August 2013, the program has grown from two courts every Tuesday and Thursday to as many as four courts. Friday night games have been added for younger adults.

The city started with eight to 10 players each day and now has up to 25 depending on the time of year, she said.

“Numbers can be impacted by time of year, first in summer when it’s too hot for some to play outdoors and then when snowbirds come in early winter,” she said.

Although 17.3 percent of Peoria’s population is 60 years old or older, the demographic is 23.6 percent in Surprise, ac-



## Banner medical centers

Banner Health relies heavily on volunteers, a large portion of whom are active adults. The organization had 5,730 volunteers last year in Arizona, amounting to 911,000 hours in donated time equaling about \$17 million in free labor or service. About one-third of those come from Boswell and Del E. Webb, which are staffed by many active adults.

Here's a look at how many snowbirds make up the volunteer staffs at Banner hospitals in the West Valley:

### Boswell, Sun City

Volunteers: 770.  
Snowbirds: 100.

### Del E. Webb, Sun City West

Volunteers: 1,233.  
Snowbirds: 247.

### Thunderbird, Glendale

Volunteers: 400.  
Snowbirds: 3.

### Estrella, Phoenix

Volunteers: 280.  
Snowbirds: Up to 98.

Source: Banner Health

## NW Valley retirement community population estimates

### Sun City

Population: 40,000.  
Homes: 27,500.  
Summertime drop: 40 percent.

### Sun City West

Population: 28,000.  
Homes: About 12,000.  
Summertime drop: Up to 50 percent.

### Sun City Grand

Population: 17,000.  
Homes: 9,802.  
Summertime drop: 33 percent.

### PebbleCreek, Goodyear

Population: 7,000.  
Homes: more than 4,200.  
Summertime drop: 37 percent.

Sources: Sun City, Sun City West, Sun City Grand and PebbleCreek



MARK HENLE/THE REPUBLIC

Volunteer Lewis Payne wheels Ralph Brewer to his car at Banner Boswell Medical Center in Sun City this month. Payne is among 770 volunteers that help keep the hospital running.

According to the 2010 U.S. census.

Snowbirds have a tremendous effect on Surprise's economy, dining out and shopping at the city's retailers, Vice Mayor Skip Hall said. Revenues are higher from October to May, compared with the rest of the year.

"We welcome them with open arms when they return," Hall said.

Both their annual return to the Valley and their departure in the spring has an effect on public safety, according to Sgt. Mike Donovan, a spokesman for the Surprise Police Department.

When the winter visitors leave, the city's seasonal population can decrease by 30 percent, so certain communities within Surprise become targets of criminal activity, such as burglary and theft, he said.

Conversely, he added, during snowbird season, the population increases, meaning many more vehicles on the streets.

"Getting accustomed to the heavier volume of traffic is sometimes difficult for some people to get acclimated to," Donovan said. "This heavier traffic volume contributes to an increase in traffic collisions and other traffic-related incidents."

The city is close to the retirement communities of Sun City and Sun City West and home to Sun City Grand. The

three communities have a combined population of about 85,000 adults.

Retirement communities in the West Valley offer a variety of programs for their residents throughout the year, and officials with those communities say the schedule generally slows down during the summer, when some communities lose up to 50 percent of their population.

Gary Sorrels, a sales manager with PebbleCreek, a 2,300-acre retirement community in Goodyear, said more than 60 percent of the 7,000 residents are year-round, but returning snowbirds have a noticeable effect.

"Upon their return, PebbleCreek quickly begins buzzing with an increase in restaurant, golf-course and clubhouse activity, and also an increase in meeting-room rentals, weekend concerts, DJ/dances" and other activities, Sorrels said.

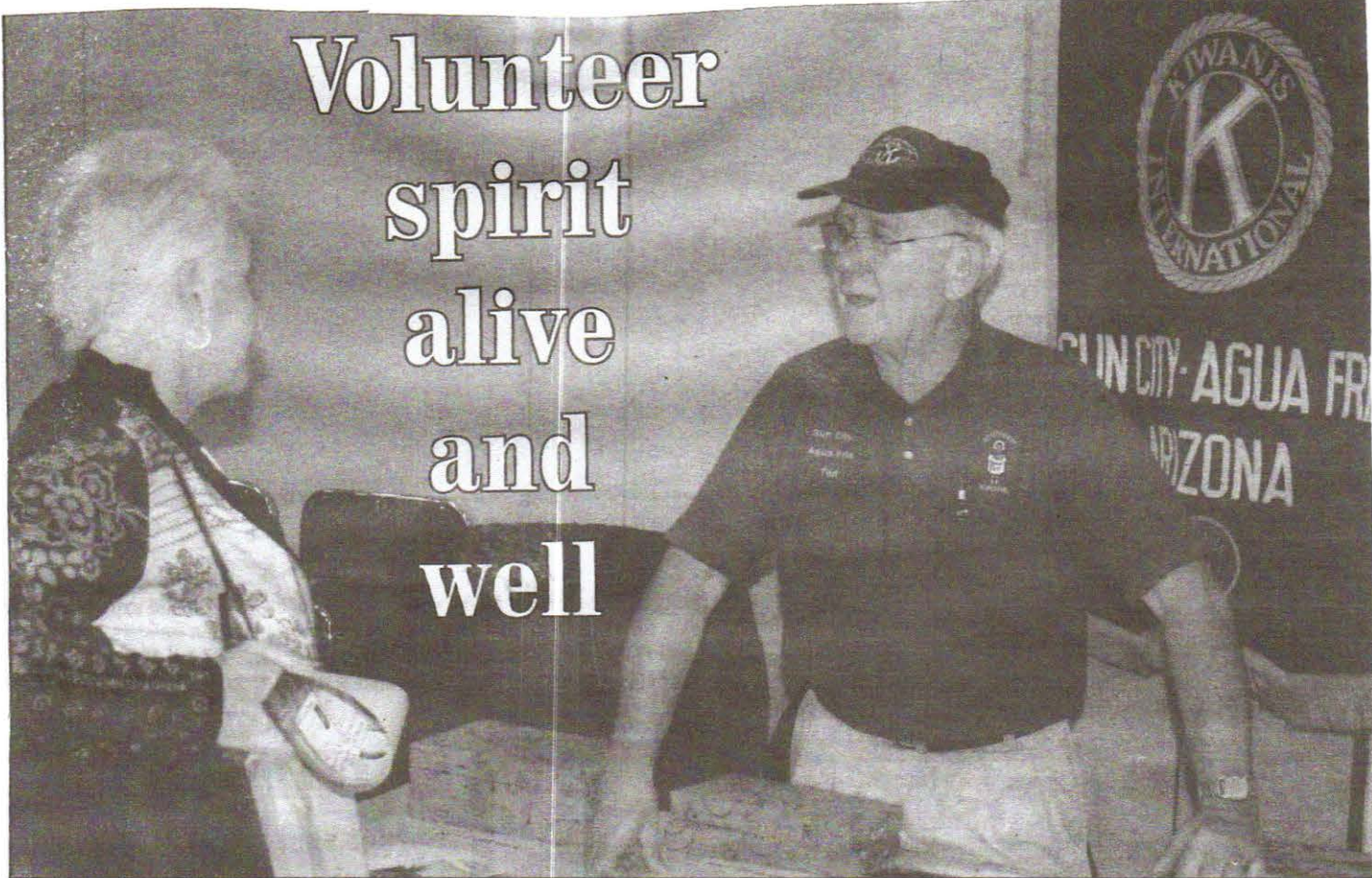
Randy Robinson, a 12-year resident of Sun City West, said he spends the hot months in Sequim, Wash., a city of more than 6,000 people, northwest of Seattle on the Olympic Peninsula.

Robinson, 69, was a factory manager for Boeing in the Seattle area and has been a snowbird for as long as he has lived in Sun City West.

He lives near a golf course in both places, but has many more neighbors here.



# Volunteer spirit alive and well



Ted Olson, eight, of the Kiwanis Club of Sun City Agua Fria talks to a resident during a Sun City expo at Sundial Recreation Center about joining the club. Some organizations are struggling to gain new members as attitudes toward volunteering change. Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

## Demographics, approach change the face of giving

**By Rusty Bradshaw**  
Independent Newspapers

A high volunteer spirit earned Sun City the nickname "City of Volunteers." However, some organizations see that spirit waning.

Community service clubs, like Kiwanis and Rotary, see reduced member rosters, as do some of the Recreation Centers of Sun City sanctioned clubs. The Sun City Posse, a standalone organization, has seen a steady decline in membership through the years.

"We're getting regular recruits, but we're just keeping pace with the ones we lose," Art Jenkins, Posse commander, explained.

## Related Link

[www.experiencemattersaz.org](http://www.experiencemattersaz.org)

That is a trend seen by many clubs and organizations. It is tied to the longevity of its members, and a shift in how people give of their time.

While volunteer numbers are down for some groups, they are steady or growing for others.

During a presentation to the Kiwanis Club of Sun City Agua Fria, Judy Cicotte said the Meals On Wheels agency has a strong volunteer pool that remains steady.

"We have a set, strict schedule, and I think that's why we have so many volunteers," she said.

Meals On Wheels delivers two daily meals to about 100 Sun City residents who are

homebound and cannot produce their own meals at home. In addition to the seldom-changing schedule, Meals On Wheels volunteers develop ties to the people to whom they deliver, according to Ms. Cicotte.

"That makes them want to keep doing it," she said.

The volunteer decline seems most apparent in getting candidates to run for positions on the community's two governing bodies, Recreation Centers of Sun City and Sun City Home Owners Association. After two years of ballots with either not enough or just enough candidates, RCSC and SCHOA officials tried something new to attract people to run for open board positions. Both agencies conducted surveys this year in an effort to enhance people's interest in serving.

The initial results have them cautiously

See Spirit — Page 17



# Spirit

Continued From Page 1

optimistic there may be a race in the 2013 board election. RCSC, whose candidate applications were available in June, had nine people pick up candidate application through the end of August and SCHOA, which made its application available Aug. 20, had three picked up.

RCSC officials sent 6,300 surveys to residents on their e-mail list and included the survey in the May Sun Views. Hard copies were also available at the April 8 member/director exchange and April 25 board meetings. By the middle of last week, 64 were returned, and 37 of those asked for contact from a board member.

"That's just over 1 percent, and while that may not seem like a lot, it is 1 percent more than we had before," said Linda Lindquist, RCSC board member and Elections Committee chairman.

The survey asked, in part, if recipients had considered running for the board and, if not, the reasons they had not. Ms. Lindquist and Jim Brasher, RCSC board president, called each resident who wanted board contact.

"Most of the answers that I heard from were people who said they had not considered running because they were not asked, or they did not know how to become a candidate," Ms. Lindquist said.

The RCSC and SCHOA boards have three slots open on a rotating basis every year.

The Posse, a support unit for Maricopa

County Sheriff's Office, is comprised of volunteer Sun City residents. The organization serves as the eyes and ears for MCSO, helping spot problems and relaying them to deputies. The organization also performs light duties, such as traffic control at accidents and other incidents, freeing deputies to handle higher-priority issues.

"We couldn't do our job without the help of the Posse," said Tom Miller, a long-time District 3 deputy transferred to another MCSO department.

Sun City Posse members also handle dispatching and administrative duties for the volunteer organization.

Once boasting nearly 200 members, the Posse has seen its numbers drop in recent years as attitudes toward volunteering change, according to Mr. Jenkins. Posse membership remains steady at about 150, just barely enough to maintain patrols and other duties, he added.

Paul Herrmann, Sun City Visitors Center director, believes the volunteer spirit is as strong, if not stronger, than it ever has been. What is changing, he believes, are demographics and the manner in which people give their time.

"We're doing pretty well (with volunteer numbers)," Mr. Herrmann said. "We lost a couple of younger ones who wanted something more than sitting around an office answering phones and questions."

He believes the key is matching people to the volunteer opportunities that are right for them.

"It depends on keeping some of them

active enough," Mr. Herrmann said.

Volunteer organization might have to look harder at a specific project concept to draw more volunteers, according to Mr. Herrmann. Experience Matters is a Valley organization that facilitates recruiting volunteers for just that concept.

"We match professionals with specific skill sets to nonprofits that have specific project needs," explained Eric Dayton, Experience Matters member network coordinator.

Experience Matters uses a variety of programs to meet volunteer the needs of nonprofit organizations. These include Boomer Serving AZ Schools, Your Experience Counts, Encore Fellowships and Service by Design. The agency also has programs for volunteers with no specific skill sets.

"We are also always looking for people who want to volunteer to serve in our programs," Mr. Dayton said.

He recognizes that overall volunteering is experiencing a decline, but believes volunteers with professional skills are on the rise.

"The baby boomers want to give back, but they also want to utilize their time well," Mr. Dayton said.

Skilled or unskilled, communities continue to rely on volunteers, according to Mr. Herrmann. The critical factor in retaining existing volunteers and gaining new ones is finding those who have a passion for volunteering.

"You can't teach enthusiasm," he said.

*News Editor Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com.*



# Bad economy raises retirement age, drying up pool of Valley volunteers

Posted: 06/18/2010



By: Steve Kuzj

SUN CITY, AZ - The fall of the economy has taken a lot from people. Aside from money and wealth it's taken away the possibility of retirement and that's bad news for organizations dependent on retirees for volunteer work.

Boswell Thrift Shop in Sun City sends all of their profits towards improving healthcare in the community. The store's manager, Dave Sayre, said he needs close to 70 volunteers to stay fully operational over the summer.

Volunteers are now in short supply and the store is not able to give full support to those in need, according to Sayre.

"I've been here three years and this is the worst I've seen it," Sayre said.

In the storage room at Boswell's, two retired seniors work hard to sort all the merchandise coming in. The two women in their 70s used to have a lot more help, but as the U.S. economy has struggled, so have people on the verge of retirement.

Nearly all of Boswell's helpers are retirees who volunteer, so when people put off retirement Boswell doesn't get the workers it needs.

"People have jobs, they need jobs and the people that need to work aren't seeing volunteering as a way to fill their time," Sayre said.

The average age of retirement here in Arizona is 65. Because of the toll the economy has taken across the country, the average age is increasing nationwide.

In Illinois, the retirement age of state workers was recently lifted from as low as 55 up to 67.

George Olander teaches Finance at Arizona State University's W. P. Carey School of Business. He said when the housing market crashed, tens of millions of people lost money in their pension plans, 401(k)s, and the homes they invested in, all but destroying retirement plans.

"Volunteerism is down because people have to work," Olander said. "Unfortunately there are too many people my age, early 50s to 60s, who are in a bit of financial stress."

Most of the volunteers at Boswell's are closer to their 80s.

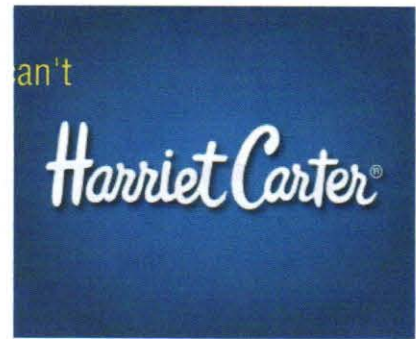
Sayre hopes those kept from retirement will still find it in their hearts to lend a hand.

"Without our volunteers this place wouldn't be able to operate," he said.

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VF SC VOLUNTEERS

SCRIPPS MEDIA JUNE 18, 2010



# Former volunteer honored by center

The following item was submitted by Lisa Guinn, public relations specialist at Banner Boswell Medical Center.

More than 50 children and staff members at Banner Boswell Medical Center's Child Development Center honored Anne Goodard of Sun City on Monday at a flag-raising ceremony on what

**NEWS BY YOU**

would have been Goodard's birthday. "Grandma Anne," as she was affectionately called, died in October. A volunteer since 1989, Goodard donated 11,400 hours to the Boswell campus in a variety of roles, but most notably in the infant room at the Child Development Center. She helped care for more than 100 infants over the years.

See **VOLUNTEER** Page 9



BANNER BOSWELL MEDICAL CENTER

Anne Goodard helped care for more than 100 children as a volunteer at Banner Boswell's Child Development Center.



More than 50 children, staff and friends honored Goodard during a flag-raising ceremony.

LISA GUINN

**VOLUNTEER**

Continued from Page 8

Longtime friend Jane Freeman of Sun City, who donated the center's flagpole in 1997, facilitated the donation of the military flag that was given to Goodard's family by the Veteran's Administration, honoring Goodard's service in the Coast Guard.

"The flag was given to Anne's sister, and she decided to donate it to the Child Development Center. It's what Anne would have wanted," Freeman said.

The ceremony included friends and staff sharing memories of Goodard, a performance of "You're a Grand Old Flag" sung by the center's preschoolers and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.



A Publication of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. *SUN VIEWS*

# Special Volunteer Issue

## Celebrating Sun City's Volunteer Spirit

Our community of Sun City is known to many as "The City of Volunteers." This slogan was coined in 1993 by Sun Citian George Hartman, but the volunteer spirit has always existed here. Sun City is truly a "city of volunteers," full of residents who are ready and willing to offer their time and talents to better their community and that of others. This special issue of *SunViews* is devoted to celebrating

See pages 8 and 9 for information about several Sun City and area organizations that need volunteers!

Sun City's volunteer spirit and encouraging all Sun Citians to serve their community by volunteering.

Volunteering has been a part of Sun City since its inception in 1960. Since Sun City has always been an unincorporated part of Mar-

icopa County, many of the responsibilities for taking care of the community fell to the residents themselves. Sun City residents stepped up and volunteered to provide what the community needed. The Sun City Posse and Sun City PRIDES, for example, were created by Sun Citians to provide the essential services of police

and beautification and upkeep of the community. Many other organizations

followed, and most are still in existence today and continue to serve Sun City with the help of today's volunteers.

Even RCSC itself needs volunteers. Sun City's recreation centers and golf courses have always been



The sculpture "A Lifestyle of Giving," located outside the Lakeview Recreation Center, celebrates Sun City's volunteers.

governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Directors and committee members who volunteer their time and expertise continue to play a very important role in running

## Celebrating the "City of Volunteers"

*continued from page 1*

RCSC.

During Sun City's 40th Anniversary celebration in 2000, an unofficial study found that Sun City had an estimated 11,000 volunteers that worked 5 million hours. You too can join these ranks. There are countless opportunities available for volunteering in Sun City and in the surrounding West Valley.

The Sun City Visitors Center, located in the Bell Recreation Center at 16824 N. 99th Ave., is the community's first resource for volunteering. The Sun City branch of the Sun Cities Area Volunteer Council is located there, and those interested in volunteering can stop by to fill out a volunteer application and learn about the different volunteer opportunities available. Contact the Visitors Center at 977-5000 or visit their website at [www.suncityaz.com](http://www.suncityaz.com).

org. Also, see pages 8 and 9 of this issue of *SunViews* for information about several local organizations that need volunteers. You can also attend the "Take the Volunteer Challenge" on October 12 (see page 9 for details).

"Sun City is peopled by those 'who came to play and lived to work another day'—many of them for others, no task too great, no task too small." These words appeared in "Jubilee: the 25th Anniversary of Sun City," a history of Sun City that was published in 1985, and they are of course still true today. As different generations come and go in Sun City, one thing remains constant—the volunteer spirit on which the community was founded. Please consider becoming a part of that tradition and volunteer today!

*continued on page 4*



# Sun City citrus drive tops out at 223 tons

**ANNIE BOON**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun City citrus drive ended Monday with a record-shattering collection of citrus.

The Garden Club of Sun City sponsored the second-annual citrus drive to benefit the St. Mary's/Westside Food Bank Alliance. The club had set a goal to top last year's collection of nearly 60 tons, but the community response was so great that about four times more citrus was collected this year. The final weigh-in was 223 tons of grapefruit, lemons and oranges, said Pete Petersen, club president.

The citrus drive accomplished its other goals as well — feeding families in need while keeping Sun City clean of fallen fruit.

"It really does help the community a great deal. We use the citrus in a variety of programs," said Cindy Cerf, food bank alliance spokeswoman. "Citrus is a great source of vitamin C, which is essential for not only for seniors but also kids who receive food from us."



ANNIE BOON/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Garden Club of Sun City collected about 223 tons of citrus during this year's citrus drive. Club members gathered at Bell Recreation Center Monday to help send the final load to the St. Mary's/Westside Food Bank Alliance.

The citrus will be distributed to human and social service agencies and will be given to seniors and children in various food programs. Some of the Sun City citrus may make a

cross-country trip. The food bank alliance participates in produce swaps with other states, so any excess citrus can be shipped to Washington in exchange for apples or to Idaho in

exchange for potatoes.

"We work with other programs to make sure it stretches and really goes to people who need it," Cerf said.

Volunteers facilitated the six-week drive. The club's crew gleaned 182 citrus trees at 74 Sun City residences, Petersen said, but there weren't enough volunteers to respond to all 300 requests for gleaned. Other volunteers monitored the three drop-off sites at Bell and Sundial recreation centers and the Sun Bowl parking lot. Residents also contributed to the citrus drive by donating funds to keep the effort afloat and to sponsor a barbecue for the volunteers.

"The members of the Garden Club wish to extend their appreciation to all Sun Citians who helped make the Sun City Citrus Drive 2006 a great success," Petersen said.

For information about the Garden Club of Sun City, call Petersen at 977-4178.

For information about the St. Mary's/Westside Food Bank Alliance, call 602-242-FOOD.



# Volunteer Council helps residents find service projects

MITCHELL VANTREASE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

8-16-05

Paul Hermann has helped many residents find the right volunteer work.

Through the Sun Cities Area Volunteer Council, Hermann placed a number of people in jobs ranging from the West Valley Art Museum to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Posse. It's made it so much easier, he said, for a person to become a volunteer without the hassle.

"If you do it on your own, sometimes it's so hard because you're talking to so many people," said Hermann, executive director at the Sun City Visitors Center. "We can do it for you without the stress."

Hermann said residents must fill out an application with their personal information. Then, they circle a few groups or organizations that interest them.

The council, composed of about 10 people, forwards the forms to the prospective organizations. If the organizations are interested in hiring the resident as a volunteer, they have the option to contact them.

"It's your one-stop shopping for all of your volunteer needs," Hermann said. "This is great for new people who just moved here."

According to Hermann, there are more than 50

## FYI

- **WHAT:** Sun Cities Area Volunteer Council.
- **WHERE:** Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., Sun City.
- **INFO:** 977-5000.

organizations for residents. Some of them have hundreds of volunteers, such as Sun Health.

"We have a great demand for volunteers and need them," he said.

When the council first began, it would gather as a group to place residents. Hermann now does a majority of the work because it's done through applications.

"You don't have to worry too much about being placed because hopefully someone will call you back as soon as the application has been filed," he said.

Bonnie Lind, a Sun Citian, recently received a volunteer job with Meals on Wheels through the council. She has enjoyed her time with the program.

"The volunteer council has been very efficient because in a matter of days I found new work," she said.

Hermann said it's important for residents to volunteer in the community to alleviate

## Volunteers needed

The following is a partial list of where volunteers can work. For more listings call Sun Cities Area Volunteer Council at 977-5000.

- Assisted-care facilities
- Boswell Hospital
- Del Webb Hospital
- Home Owners Association
- Hospice
- Interfaith Community Care
- Meals-on-wheels
- PRIDES
- POSSE
- PORA
- Recording for the blind
- Recreation Centers
- Rio Salada Community College
- Sun Cities Libraries
- Sun Cities Fire Departments
- Visitor Centers
- Westside Food Bank
- West Valley Art Museum

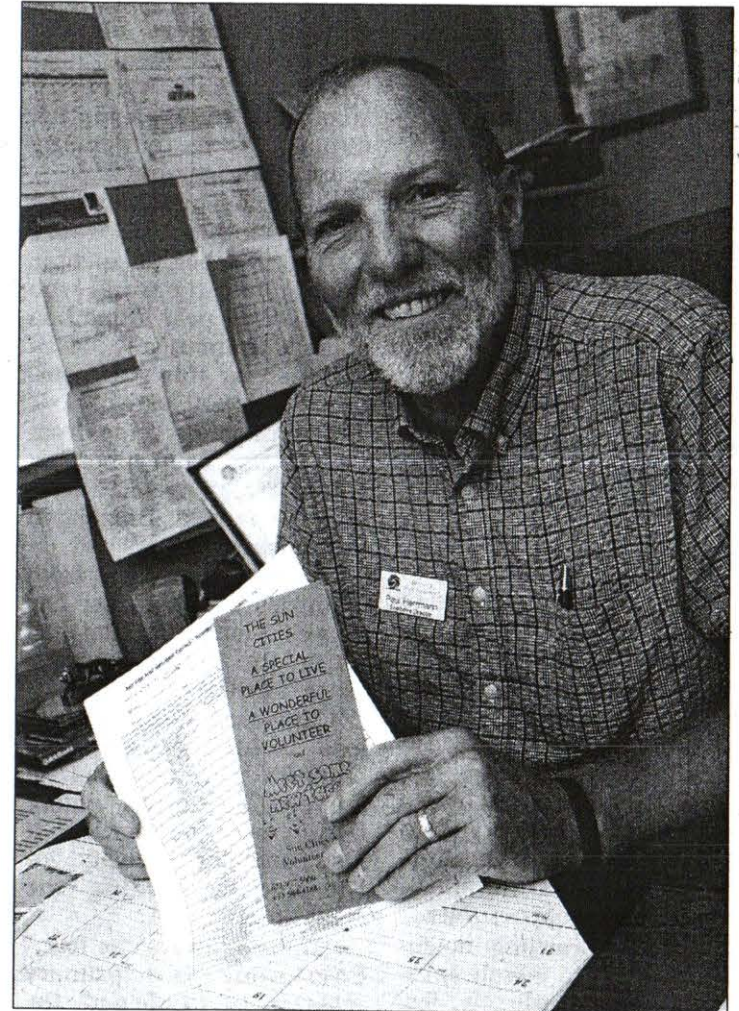
DAILY NEWS-SUN

the agencies and organizations from looking for volunteers.

"It's very important to support the community and help out," he said.

Do you want to nominate someone for a community service profile? Mitchell Vantrease may be reached at 876-2526 or [mvantrease@aztrib.com](mailto:mvantrease@aztrib.com).

## COMMUNITY SERVICE



RYAN D'AGOSTINO/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Paul Hermann explains his role on the Sun Cities Volunteer Council at Bell Recreation Center Monday. Through an application process, Hermann helps residents find volunteer positions that best suit their interests and skills.



# Summer drains pool of Sun Cities' volunteers

MITCHELL VANTREASE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The streets in the Sun Cities are less congested. The lines in the grocery stores are shorter.

Thus is life in the retirement communities in the summer when residents join winter visitors for respites from the heat.

Many of those who leave, though, are volunteers for local agencies that are hard-pressed to fill vital positions in the dog days of summer.

Connie Roberts is among the stalwarts. She has been visiting Dorothy Funk at least once a week for almost six years now.

The Sun City West residents have always loved to spend their time together. From shopping trips to reading books with her, Roberts said she doesn't mind assisting Funk, who is 85 and legally blind.

"I like to do things for other people," she said. "It brings me a lot of happiness."

Roberts is a part of

## Fyi

■ Here's a sampling of organizations in need of volunteers. The Daily News-Sun publishes a Volunteer Corner on Mondays. Send volunteer information in care of Volunteer Corner, Daily News-Sun, 10102 Santa Fe Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351 or e-mail Valerie Warner at [vwarner@aztrib.com](mailto:vwarner@aztrib.com).

- Interfaith Community Care, 584-4999
- Sun City PRIDES, 972-6558
- Sun City Sheriff's Posse, 972-2555
- Sun City West PRIDES, 584-2878
- Sun City West Sheriff's Posse, 584-5808
- Sun Health Volunteers, 876-5432

Interfaith Community Care's Friendly Visitors program, which helps seniors combat loneliness by partnering them with another person. They can read, write mail, play games, share a meal or just visit.

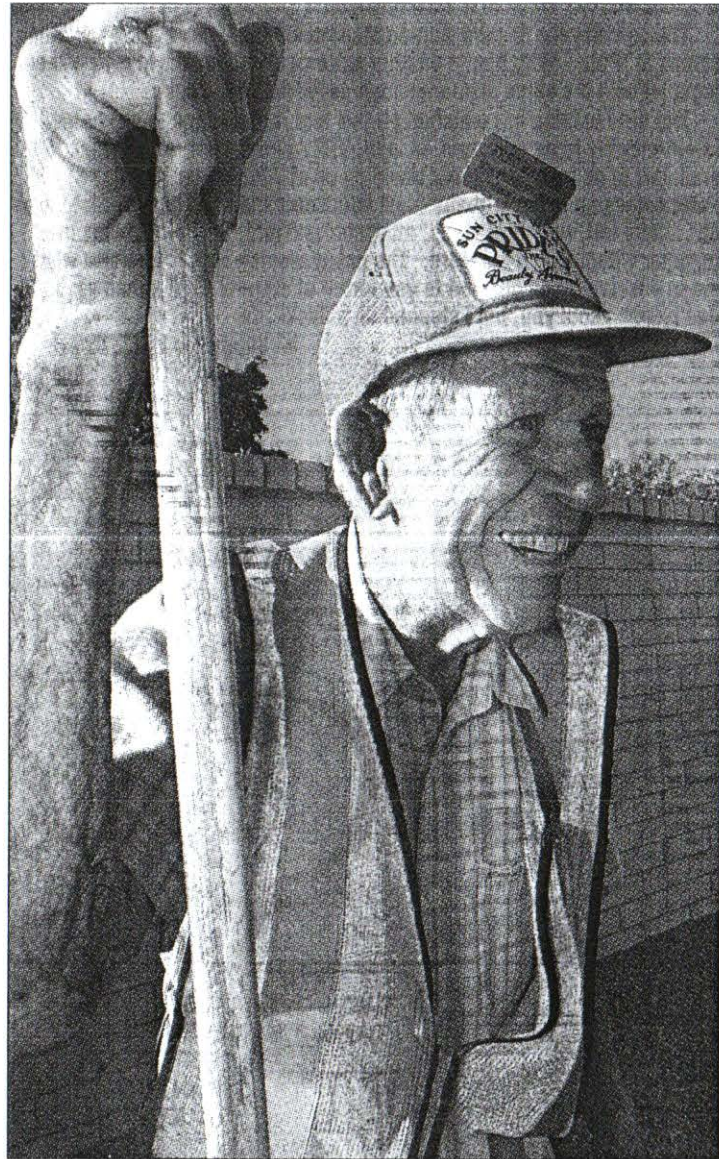
Michelle Dionisio, executive director of Interfaith, said

See **VOLUNTEERS, A5**



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Connie Roberts, left, a volunteer with the Interfaith Friendly Visitors program, visits with Dorothy Funk in Sun City West.



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Fred Hafner, 92, the oldest member of the Sun City West PRIDES, digs into clean-up chores Saturday.

DYER



# HOSPITAL HELPING HANDS

## Junior volunteers buoy Boswell, Del Webb

MITCHELL VANTREASE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

As visitors walked into Sun Health's Boswell Memorial Hospital, Javier Ibarra greeted them with a smile and few words.

"How are you doing today?" he said as a woman went inside using her cane.

The 15-year-old welcomed people into the hospital Wednesday afternoon. It's one of his many duties in the Junior Volunteer Program, which started at Boswell last week.

"I like the environment and vibe of the people around here," he said.

Jane Harker, director of volunteer services, said this program has been in existence since 1971. About 179 Valley students are involved with a lot of work at both hospitals. Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital's program in Sun City West started this week.

"We've had a long-standing history of teenagers," she said. "It's really about young people having an opportunity to experience a workplace setting and the healthcare industry."

The volunteers also work at several care centers, research institute and the child care center, helping fill in for adult volunteers on vacation.

Harker said there are 50 new people this year, and the rest returnees. They assist in everything from the gift shop to the employee child care center.

Vicki Ross, the volunteer coordinator, has overseen the teens in the program for three summers. She's watched as several of them grow during the last few years.

"They're wonderful students with so much energy," she said. "It's fun to see some

**'I'm having a great time. I want to be a physical therapist one day and volunteering here has been a good start.'**

**Karie Wilson  
junior volunteer**

evolve, since being here for a few summers."

The junior volunteers are between the ages of 13 and 18 and often recruited through schools. Some the teens are children of Sun Health employees.

Ross said they work an average of 16 hours a week with some juggling a part-time job.

"Many of them learn about responsibility through this program," she said.

Stephanie Morales, 17, of El Mirage is balancing her volunteer duties this summer with a part-time job at Kohl's in Surprise. However, she said it's worth the time and effort.

Morales has a variety of jobs, but on Wednesday worked at the child care center in the "infant room." It's her second day as a junior volunteer.

"They're so cute and lovable," she said. "I'm having so much fun."

Karie Wilson has been in the program for two years, and works in the pharmacy. The 17-year-old Glendale resident thought being a volunteer would give her a nice opportunity to learn about healthcare.

"I'm having a great time," she said. "I want to be a physical therapist one day and volunteering here has been a good start."

Mitchell Vantrease can be reached at 876-2526 or [mvantrease@aztrib.com](mailto:mvantrease@aztrib.com).

OVER





PHOTOS BY MOLLIE J. HOPPES/  
DAILY NEWS-SUN



Sun Health junior volunteer Javier Ibarra, 15, above, greets folks entering Boswell Hospital in Sun City Wednesday. This is the second summer Ibarra has volunteered at the hospital. Karie Wilson holds toddler Christopher Albert, left, at Boswell's Child Care Center. Wilson and Stephanie Morales, at left, are both junior volunteers at the center.



# Volunteers honored for 800,000 service hours

More than 800,000 cumulative hours of service were celebrated recently as nearly 300 Sun Health volunteers were honored during a special awards luncheon March 5 at Union Hills Country Club in Sun City.

Pins celebrating milestones of service were distributed to 273 local individuals who have given between 1,000 and 26,000 hours of their time to Sun Health.

"We're extremely proud of our volunteers and their accomplishments," said Volunteer Services Director Jane Harker. "Sun Health would not be the organization it is without the support it receives from the community, and it is vital that our volunteers know what an important role they play in west Valley health care."

At the top of the "hours pyramid" is Sun City West resident Jim Hudson. At 26,000 hours of service, Mr. Hudson has the distinction of contributing the most hours in the history of the Sun Health Auxiliary.

His career experience as deputy director of the American Nurses' Association has made him an invaluable member of the Volunteer Services leadership team. He serves as policies and procedures coordinator for the department and has assumed a key role in the orientation and training of new volunteers as well as the design and development of training programs and materials.

In receiving his 20,000-hour pin, Sun City West resident Dick Webber joins an elite group of only four volunteers in Sun Health's history who



Submitted photo

**Some of Sun Health's heavy-hitting volunteers who have given 10,000 hours or more of service include (back row, left to right) Rita Nicholson of Sun City, Marilyn Keim of Sun City West, Olga Walker of Sun City, Monty Langhamer of Sun City, Dick Webber of Sun City West, Jim Hudson of Sun City West, Ruth Wood of Sun City, Eleanore Strasser of Sun City, Celia Karpin of Sun City, (front row, left to right) Ruth Graham of Sun City and Lu Putao of Sun City West.**

have served 20,000 or more hours. Mr. Webber is "right-hand man" to his wife, Harriett, a Sun Health employee who manages the auxiliary's gift shops at Boswell and Del E. Webb hospitals.

Ruth Wood has contributed the majority of her 19,000 hours to food service, helping both at Boswell Hospital and in the Sun Health Care Center. The Sun City resident continues to assist patients with their menus and deliver meal trays and is a key leader within Food Services, providing much of the training for new dietary volunteers.

Now in her 24th year of volunteer service, Eleanore Strasser received her pin for 18,000 hours. A Sun City resident, Ms. Strasser has served in several Boswell Hospital nursing units as well as in the surgical family waiting room and at many hospital reception desks. She now serves as a morning dietary assistant.

Marilyn Keim of Sun City West has served in several auxiliary leadership positions since she first came to Sun Health in 1989 and now works regularly in the Endoscopy Department at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital. She was

honored for attaining the 17,000-hour mark.

Another longtime volunteer, Olga Walker of Sun City, received her 16,000-hour pin. Ms. Walker began her service in 1977 at Boswell Hospital's main lobby reception desk, where she still works today.

Peg Richardson of Peoria was honored posthumously for contributing 15,000 hours of service since 1975. Sun City resident Celia Karpin was rewarded for amassing 13,000 hours. Peoria resident Grace Miller received her 11,000-hour pin, while Wynne Herzberg of Sun City claimed her service pin for 12,000 hours.

Among the honorees serving 10,000 or more hours were Sun City residents Ruth Graham, Monty Langhamer and Rita Nicholson, as well as Dorothy Johnson of Peoria and Lu Putao of Sun City West.

More than 250 other local residents were applauded for contributing between 1,000 and 9,000 hours of service, with a collective total at the awards ceremony of 816,000 cumulative hours served by 273 individuals during their volunteer service careers with Sun Health.

Sun Health President/CEO Leland Peterson and other dignitaries — including Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital Vice President/CEO Jo Adkins and Boswell Memorial Hospital Vice President/CEO Tom Dickson — presented service pins at the event to recognize the invaluable contributions of the non-profit organization's volunteers.



# Sun Health appreciates volunteers

## Need is greater with snowbirds returning to their homes

By **Geno Lawrenzi**  
Independent Newspapers

Sun Health is beating the drum for volunteers.

The prime health organization headquartered in Sun City has always used volunteers for such things as blood drives, child care, community education, hearing screening and to assist patients at Boswell Memorial and Del E. Webb Memorial hospitals and its other scattered facilities.

But today, said Jane Harker, director of volunteer services, volunteers are playing a bigger role than ever in

improving the quality of health care for the elderly, the hospitalized and the invalid.

"There are no negatives when it comes to volunteers," she said. "We go through the intake process of getting to know the volunteer and then we place them where their skills can be most useful."

While the locations and job assignments vary, volunteers may be assigned to any health facility owned and operated by Sun Health — from Boswell Memorial Hospital to the Olive Branch Senior Center.

"Volunteers provide so

many extras," said Ms. Harker. "They free our professional staff to do their work."

One volunteer she admires — and she has good feelings for all of them — is Peggy, a woman in her 70's.

"Peggy came here as a young retiree," she said. "She was a professional in social work.

"What I find about her is she is always ready to give every ounce of energy to working with patients and their families. She is kind,

See **Volunteers** — Page 2



Photo by Geno Lawrenzi/Independent Newspapers

**Surrounded by three of her volunteers, Jane Harker, third from left, director of volunteers for the Sun Health System, discusses what the volunteerism has done for the Sun Cities and West Valley. These volunteers are working at Boswell Memorial Hospital.**

## Volunteers

Continued From Page 1

caring, a good listener, and she has a smile that makes people feel welcome and secure. She knows she makes a difference."

The oldest volunteer at the hospital is 98-year-old Eraine Copeland who, with her son, Marv, works at the hospital.

The Sun Health systems has 3,800 employees and approximately 3,000 working volunteers. They staff the lobby and the parking lot, where they operate courtesy carts to pick up patients as well as visitors and drive them to their cars.

About two thirds of the volunteers are women, she said. Volunteer positions are broken down into five broad-based areas: reception servic-

es, department support, patient services, community services and fund-raising.

"If a volunteer has a unique talent, our Volunteer Services may even create a position for that particular ability," said Ms. Harker. She joined the Sun Health system in 1980 and has been involved with volunteers ever since.

One aspect of volunteerism involves Sun Health's Telephone Reassurance program. A daily check is made on elderly people who live alone and who may have problems involving their mobility and ability to care for themselves.

"Our volunteers follow-up after the patient is released to make sure the person is okay," said the director. "They have found people who have fallen in the night and can't get back up. Our volunteers have also contacted relatives and neighbors to check up on

people."

While Sun Health always has a need for volunteers, the need has increased with spring arriving and the snowbirds leaving.

It is easy to spot a volunteer, said Sun Health spokeswoman Linda Tyler. Just look for the person wearing a uniform that is topped off by an aqua top, white socks and name tags.

As for compensation, the volunteers receive none.

"Volunteers are showered with recognition and appreciation," said Ms. Harker. "They have this great feeling that they are helping and giving back to their community.

In 1968, a group of 31 founders and 127 charter members organized a unit that today is the Sun Health Auxiliary.

Peggy Polly is president of the auxiliary and a volunteer

as well.

The auxiliary ranks as the largest hospital volunteer organization in Arizona and possibly the nation, said Ms. Tyler.

"As of January 2004, our volunteers have given more than nine million hours of their time," said Ms. Harker. Auxiliary contributions to Sun Health last year totaled \$840,251.

"These gifts are necessary to help Sun Health purchase a variety of medical equipment," a Sun Health fact sheet noted. "These gifts shot total auxiliary contributions to \$6.3 million since 1968."

For more information on becoming a Sun Health volunteer, call 876-5387, 214-4058 or 974-7041.

"You'll be in outstanding company and very much appreciated," said Ms. Harker.



# Sun Citian earns award

DAILY NEWS-SUN

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2003

## Interfaith honors retired Minnesota electrical engineer

ERIN REEP  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sometimes it's fixing a broken fan or a frayed electrical wire. Other times, it's simply listening to stories of days gone by, told by a lonely senior.

Retired electrical engineer Lowell Pepper has a way of relating to people that shows he cares, in addition to being handy with electrical problems. That's why the Interfaith Community Care volunteer was chosen as Volunteer of the Year, said Rita White, Interfaith's volunteer home-services coordinator.

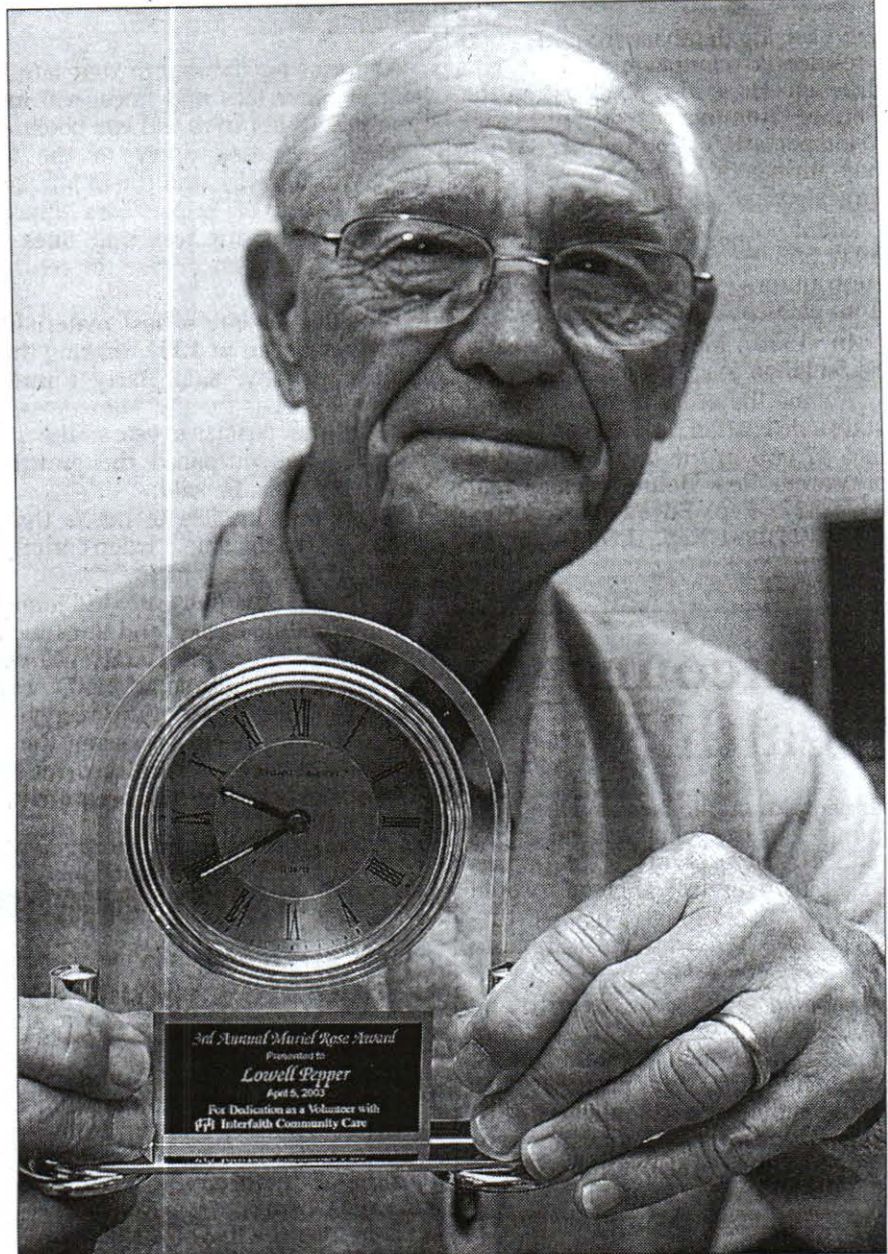
Pepper, 77, was awarded the third-annual Muriel Rose Volunteer Award at Interfaith's 22nd-annual breakfast on April 5. His flexibility in covering three regions for Interfaith and his dedication to the people he serves were factors in the choice, White said.

Since 1998, Pepper has volunteered more than 300 hours as a handyman. He has installed new ceiling fans, repaired appliances, and served seniors in the Northwest Valley-area by performing a variety of jobs.

Pepper is originally from Minnesota. He worked as an electrical contractor in Austin, Minn., for 10 years before joining 3M Corporation in St. Paul, Minn. He worked for the company for 25 years, beginning in the electrical-engineering department, then moving into the electrical-products lab as an international-applications engineer. Pepper oversaw the Central and South American region and travelled extensively. He was later transferred to the Far East. In 1985, Pepper lived in Shanghai for six months, overseeing construction of a 3M production facility.

"We built a plant and got it into production, and turned it over to the Chinese," he said.

Pepper and his wife Helen celebrated 58 years of marriage this year, and Pepper remembers spending his 40th anniversary with Helen



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Lowell Pepper displays his Muriel Rose Volunteer Award from Interfaith Community Care.

at the Shanghai Mansion Hotel: "3M Company paid to have my wife come over and visit with me."

Pepper retired in 1987 and moved to Green Valley, Ariz., near Tucson. He came to Sun City West in 1991 and began with Interfaith a few years later.

"I started in 1998 — I think I saw an ad in the paper," he said. "I asked that it be mostly electrical work."

Lowell became part of the organization that now includes 500 local

volunteers, with 250 active volunteers per month, said Interfaith Marketing Director Chelsea Evans.

Interfaith has three service offices in Peoria and the Sun Cities, and also covers Surprise, El Mirage and Youngtown.

As a volunteer, Pepper "really does more than electrical work," White said. He has done everything from fixing a toaster that was new in 1927 to installing new cords on lamps, White said.

"As an electrical contractor, I'm

OVER



# *"Ambassador " Shows Spirit of Volunteering*

June Fulton loves Sun City.

She fits perfectly into her element of selling the Sun City community to visitors and newcomers.

Fulton is an Ambassador at the Sun City Visitors Center. She has been there for eight years now, still working three or more days a week and doing the scheduling.

She also fills-in when she's needed on extra days, and "keeps track of who's coming in, going away, and who's doing what," she said.

The 78-year-old keeps herself busy, and looks great. "It's because I have a nice husband," she'll tell you.

Maybe it simply is her love of people and volunteering.

Before moving to Sun City in 1994 from Omaha, Nebraska, she volunteered at her local hospital for 17 years. She worked the information desk and made deliveries of mail and flowers to the patients for the Red Cross.

"I was hoping for 20, but Sun City got in the way," she teases. So it's no wonder she started working upon her arrival.

"I was going to start working at the hospital here, but one of my neighbors told me about the Visitors Center. I started working right away."

Fulton said the element she loves best about her job is the people.

"I enjoy it," she said, "I like meeting the people. They're so friendly and happy. They're so happy to be down here, and they love all the things they can do here."

Fulton recently celebrated her 59th wedding anniversary with her husband Al. They have twin granddaughters by their only child, a daughter, and a great-grandbaby on the way — and she's happy to tell anyone within earshot that she "can hardly wait!"

Fulton holds much pride for Sun City, and thoroughly enjoys the time she has spent at the Visitors Center, being the people-person that she is, she of course loves her coworkers as well.

"We all get along real good. Everyone is really good about volunteering for an extra day when we need them. It's a great place to work," she said.





SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT November 27, 2002

# New volunteer committee is making a difference in area

## Betty Camilleri coordinates effort

By **Mike Russo**  
Independent Newspapers

Betty Camilleri felt a bit lost when her husband passed away in February 2002, so she decided to immerse herself in volunteer work.

She had been working as a volunteer part-time with the Recreation Centers of Sun City Club Committee. But she was looking for something more fulfilling. She found it with the Sun Cities Area Volunteer Committee.

She has been serving as the volunteer coordinator for SCAVC, which was formed in May to fill the void created by the demise of the Volunteers Placement Service.

The organization, which operates out of the Sun City Home Owners Association office, serves as a clearing-house for volunteer opportunities in the Sun Cities area.

Although SCAVC began operations just six months ago, its genesis actually dates to last year. It was an outgrowth of needs that surfaced at the Presidents' Council and the HOA Long Range Planning Committee, according to Bob Kortright, one of the group's



**CAMILLERI**

organizers.

Mrs. Camilleri staffs the SCAVC office one day a week; answering telephone inquiries from those interested in volunteering and from organizations seeking volunteers

"I also pick up phone calls from home," she said.

She is enjoying her role.

"I needed something to occupy my time and this has been wonderful," Mrs. Camilleri said. "It is very fulfilling and can be more fulfilling if I could get out to speak to more groups."

Mrs. Camilleri said many people in the City of Volunteers donate their time to multiple

See **SCAVC** — Page 5



Photo by Mike Russo/independent Newspapers

**Members of the Sun City Area Volunteer Committee pose with the group's new photo display. Directors are, from left, Irene Mead, Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic; Nancy Danielson, Sun City Library; Bob Kortright, Sun City Home Owners Association; Paul Hermann, Sun City Visitors Center; Caryl Shafer, Property Owners and Residents Association; Arlene Schindler, Sun City PRIDES; and Marge Murphy, HOA.**

OVER



# SCAVC

Continued From Page 1

organizations.

"I try to place people where they will be content and stay awhile," she explained. "I want them to be happy.

"We are trying to stimulate interest in volunteering," Mrs. Camilleri continued. "I want to get more people involved." She has recruited some of her friends.

"I think people will feel better if they volunteer," Mrs. Camilleri observed. "It gives them better self-esteem.

"They can meet different people and make a better life for themselves," she added.

Arlene Schindler, PRIDES president and SCAVC board member, pointed out that recent surveys indicate there are health benefits to be derived from volunteering.

She said she recently attended a conference in Portugal in which the benefits of volunteering were emphasized.

"Volunteering can provide a wonderful reason for living," Mr. Kortright said. "Volunteers are happy residents.

"Volunteering is a two-way street," Mr. Kortright continued. "It benefits the volunteer as much as it benefits the organizations they serve."

SCAVC board member Jane Freeman observed, "You get back what you give."

SCAVC is currently working with approximately 35 local organizations, according to Mr. Kortright. "That is constantly

expanding as we find out the needs of organizations," he said. "Our focus is local; the Sun Cities."

Quantifying the success of SCAVC has been difficult because some people go directly to the organizations to volunteer, according to Mr. Kortright.

"Our job is to supplement the organization's effort to volunteers," he said. "We do not need the credit."

Although it has been difficult to gauge SCAVC's success, several board members, representing different participating organizations, reported success stories.

"We get a lot of applications and inquiries because of information that has been printed in the newspapers," Mrs. Camilleri said.

"I have had good response from ads and articles in newspapers," said Paul Hermann, Sun City Visitors Center director.

He is encouraged that younger people have stepped forward to volunteer.

"They bring enthusiasm," Mr. Hermann said.

Mr. Kortright said targeting newcomers is a goal of SCAVC.

Diane Thompson, director of Volunteer Services for Sun Health, has been encouraged by the progress made by SCAVC.

"Every time there is an article in the newspaper, we get a response," she said.

Sun Health is always in need of volunteers, Ms. Thompson said.

"There is a perception still out there that Boswell Hospital does not need volunteers. That is erroneous," Ms. Thompson said. "We are always looking for volunteers because we have a lot more services we have to staff."

Boswell has about 1,200 volunteers, according to Ms. Thompson.

Mr. Kortright believes the ongoing campaign to highlight the volunteer needs of individual organizations in The Independent has been beneficial.

"If we can put a name to call rather than just a telephone number, that is more productive," he said.

Mr. Kortright said there seems to be a heightened interest in voluntarism.

"There seems to be more interest in volunteering this year than last year," he remarked.

"People are willing to volunteer but today they want to be asked," he added. "We have to go out and ask for people's help."

Mr. Kortright said SCAVC has operated in a very frugal manner.

PORA, where Sun City West residents may go to volunteer, recently made a \$400 donation and Randy Fuller, PORA president, previously made a \$500 personal contribution, Mr. Kortright noted.

HOA provides free office space and use of a telephone.

"We are working together for a common cause," Mr. Kortright said.

Anyone wishing to volunteer can stop by the HOA office, 10401 W. Coggins Drive, Sun City, or call 583-8099. In Sun City West, volunteers may stop by PORA, 13815 W. Camino del Sol, or call 584-4288. Organizations seeking volunteers may also contact SCAVC and PORA at those numbers.



DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2002

# Voluntarism suffers while seniors toil

MICHAEL MARESH  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City West resident Renate Lubitz continues to work well into her golden years, forgoing volunteering so she can collect that needed paycheck.

Lubitz is like many other seniors who are either working longer or giving up volunteering in order to return to the work force to make ends meet.

"The ones we have are getting older, and there are no other ones who are volunteering," said Lubitz, an Interfaith Community Care employee. "I just think people are working longer. It's a case of economics."

Interfaith Marketing Director Chelsea Evans said some seniors are too tired to volunteer after putting in a full day of work on their regular jobs.

"Their schedules are so busy," she said. "They need some part-time work to supplement their benefits. The challenge has always been there."

Jane Harker, director of volunteer services for Sun Health, said that over the last six to 10 years, Sun Health has also seen residents quit volunteering so they can return to the work force.

"The number of people who are looking for employment is increasing," she said.

Interfaith Activities Therapist Kelly King said some seniors retire and realize it is not what they envisioned, which drives them back to their old professions. King said while she would like to volunteer when she gets older, she is not sure if it will be possible.

"I just have to wait and see whether I can afford it," she said.

Interfaith and Sun Health are now looking at other ways to attract volunteers.

Harker said Sun Health is making its volunteer positions more



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Renate Lubitz talks Monday of continuing to work as a paid health aide at the Interfaith Center in Sun City West well into her "retirement" years.

flexible in an attempt to attract residents who want to donate their time.

"We do have the ability to place those who are working (in relation) to their paid positions," she said, adding that weekends and late-night positions are those where help is most needed, which also suits the needs of most salaried employees.

"It's a trend we have seen over a number of years, and it continues to increase" she said. "Many people are retiring early, but some have some regrets, so they go back to that role."

Interfaith Executive Director Michelle Dioniso said it is a trend with which organizations that rely on volunteers are having to deal.

"What we are feeling is people may not have the same pensions as others have had in the past," she said.

Dioniso said her hope is families will fill the void of the seniors who decide to return to the work force.

"We are finding other ways to attract volunteers," she said. Dioniso said different types of volunteers may be needed as well.

"We will see other people stepping up to the plate," she said, adding that her organization already has volunteers who have to juggle donating time with their full-time jobs.

Evans said that with Interfaith knowing seniors need extra income, it lets volunteers set their own hours.

"We just let them choose what fits them," she said, adding the organization needs a lot more volunteers.

"We have got to be flexible," Dioniso added.

Michael Maresch can be reached at 876-2513 or [mmmaresch@aztrib.com](mailto:mmmaresch@aztrib.com).



April 23, 2003

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

# Interfaith names volunteer of year

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

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

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

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

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



DAVIDSON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And on Sunday, she delivers Meals on Wheels.



SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT AUG. 14-20, 2002

## Local group searches for more volunteers

### Education process continues

By Mike Russo  
Independent Newspapers

It has been slow going but organizers of the Sun Cities Area Volunteer Committee remain optimistic that the new group can fill the void created by the April closure of Volunteer Placement Services.

The new organization was formed in April to serve as a clearinghouse for volunteer opportunities in the Sun Cities area. An office was established in the Sun City Home Owners Association and the Property and Residents Association in Sun City West.

Bob Kortright, HOA director, has been serving as the organization's interim executive director and Marge Murphy, HOA director, is the committee chairperson.

Other committee members include Nancy Donelson, Sun City Library; J.R. Reese, Interfaith Community Care; Arlene Schindler, PRIDES pres-

ident; Caryl Schafer, PORA director; Pat Andrews, Westside Food Bank; Jane Freeman, Jane Harper and Vickie Ross. Representatives are also being sought from the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Board of Directors and from one of the area's smaller organizations that relies upon volunteers.

Betty Camelleri is serving as the volunteer coordinator and she staffs the office at HOA on a part-time basis.

"Betty is vital to the program," Mr. Kortright said.

The number of volunteers placed over the last three months has been minimal, but Bob Kortright, one of the organizers, feels inroads have been made.

"While we would like to measure our success by the number of applicants we have had, we are satisfied that we are creating this awareness or vol-

unteer opportunities," he said.

"We feel like we have created a further awareness for the need for volunteers," he continued.

The organization's focus is on providing people to organizations that serve the Sun City area, according to Mr. Kortright.

"We have emphasized that the focus is on the organizations that serve Sun City, but if we have people who want to volunteer outside the community, we will try to place them," Mr. Kortright said.

Part of the problem facing the SCAVC has been the lack of

staff to keep its office open.

"We are staffed infrequently," Mr. Kortright said. "We are always staffed on Wednesday, and Marge (Murphy) and I are in and out."

Although there may not always be a person in the office, answering machine is always available to record requests for volunteers or the names of people seeking to volunteer.

"We then try to get back to them as quickly as possible," Mr. Kortright said.

In an effort to enlist more volunteers, the group has reached

out to Sun Cities churches and "we are trying to involve the assisted living facilities. We also want to reach the service clubs more effectively," according to Mr. Kortright.

"Just recently we have been talking with ASU and a county representative and we hope to explore with them the ways we can be more effective," Mr. Kortright said.

Mr. Kortright is hopeful the program will become successful enough to expand to nearby retirement communities.

"We would like to eventually

expand to other retirement communities, like Westbrook Village," he said. "We would like to get Sun City Grand involved. They are served by Interfaith and the hospitals; Recording for the Blind."

"We think we are not as effective as we might be, but we are still trying," Mr. Kortright said.

Anyone wishing to volunteer can stop by the HOA office, 10401 W. Coggins Drive, Sun City, or call 583-8099. In Sun City West, volunteers may stop by PORA, 13815 W. Camino del Sol, or call 584-4288.

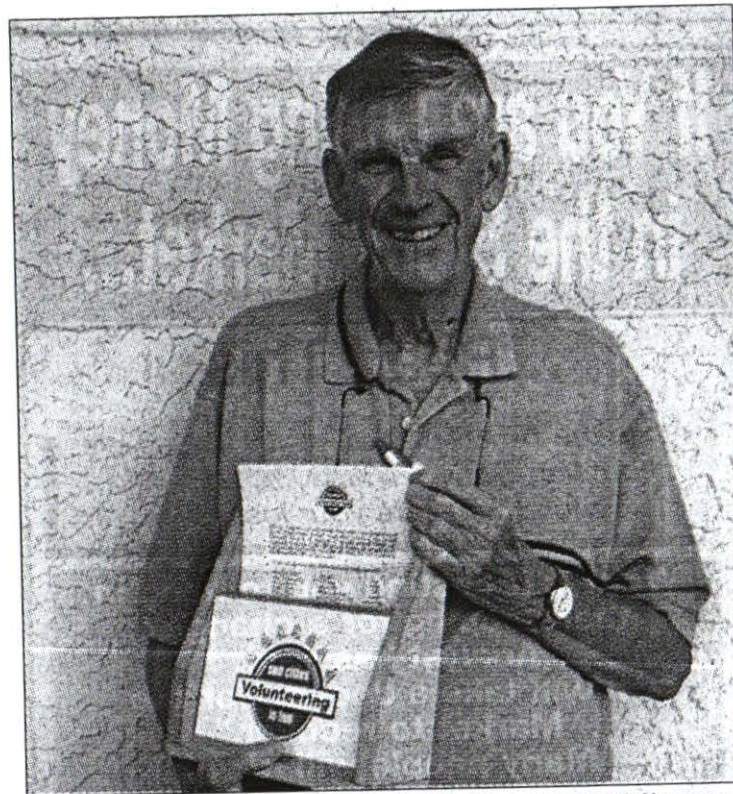


Photo by Mike Russo/Independent Newspapers

Bob Kortright displays volunteer registration forms, which are available at various locations in the Sun Cities, including the Independent office.



© THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2002

# Too few mentors for W. Valley kids

By Robin N. Clayton  
The Arizona Republic

More children are waiting for a Big Brother or a Big Sister in the West Valley than in any other part of the Valley.

And because fewer West Valley adults volunteer to mentor children, the wait for these children is often as long as four years.

"Of more than 400 kids on our waiting list, the majority of them come from the west side," said Laura Capello, vice president of marketing and communications for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona.

The chapter is the third largest of the 508 national agencies, having matched more than 25,000 adults and children since it began in 1955. Currently, the agency oversees more than 1,350 matches in the Valley.

According to Capello, the Big Brothers Big Sisters program enhances more than the lives of the children.

"The majority of our volunteers end up having more fun than the kids," she said. "It's just a matter of being a friend to these kids and letting them know there is someone else out there who cares about them."

Lori Tollen, outreach specialist for the organization, said the West Valley's demand is driven in part by the high number of single parents living in a number of low-income areas. More than half of the children on the waiting list are from West Valley communities. The high number of children and the low number of volunteers means children from the West Valley have as much as twice as long a wait for a mentor as other children do.

Project Wisdom was one program formed to meet the West Valley's need. Taking

advantage of retirees in the area, the agency matches adults from the Sun Cities with children attending Surprise Elementary School in a kind of grandparent program. So far, 30 volunteers work in Project Wisdom. Capello said the idea originated with the Del Webb Co. The residential developer, which built Sun City, Sun City West and Sun City Grande in the West Valley, sponsors days

of fun for the children and mentors.

"We have also had people calling asking if there is an age maximum," Capello said. "Absolutely not."

She said she hopes the over-55 population in the rest of the Valley will get involved in the program.

Big Brothers Big Sisters also recently added a full-time recruiter to focus on the West Valley's need for volunteers.

Capello said part of the

area's problem is the transience of its population. Matches are closed out when either the mentor or the child move, Capello said, citing a possible reason for the area's lackluster track record of longstanding matches between adults and children.

Reach the reporter at  
robin.clayton@arizonarepublic.com or  
(602) 444-6918.

OVER





Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

**Big Brother Big Sister volunteers John and Gloria Lowe help Juan Hernandez, 10, with his reading at Surprise Elementary School.**

## Program finds match for Juan

By Robin N. Clayton  
The Arizona Republic

Every Wednesday, Gloria and John Lowe have a date with Juan Hernandez at Surprise Elementary School.

They spend an hour at the school and then go for ice cream.

It's a ritual the three of them have come to anticipate and value since last November when they were paired.

The Lowes are two of 30 volunteers in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Project Wisdom program that matches Sun Cities residents with students from Surprise Elementary School.

It's the organization's way to try to cut a four-year wait most West Valley children have until they're matched with a volunteer Big Brother or a Big Sister. This is a kind of grandparent mentoring program that fills the need, according to Laura Cappello, vice president of marketing and communications for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona.

"I just like to spend time with them because they are fun," 10-year-old Juan said. He's a fourth-grader.

John is taking Juan to an air show where Juan will actually get to fly a plane. The Lowes have taken him to basketball games, science museums, Rawhide, golf camp and to see Christmas lights and angel exhibits among other things. The Lowes are also helping Juan make a scrapbook. They take photos of the things they do together and get double prints — one for Juan and one for them. The Lowes' grandson lives in the Valley and often joins them on outings.

Along with the outings comes the quality time at school. They meet either in the gym or at the picnic tables to work on homework or just talk about the day.

"A lot of it is just talking," John said.

On this particular Wednesday, Juan sits at the picnic table and reads aloud from his book. He has three more pages before he is done, and can begin reading the new Hardy Boys books Gloria brought for him.

"We don't use the whole hour (after school) to do homework, but we always bring him something to read or work on," Gloria said.

Juan has three older sisters and two of them have Big Sister matches through the organization.



# VOLUNTARISM COUNTS!

## Retirees fuel Sun Cities' reputation, culture and lifestyle

**A**t the dawn of each day, you can count on retirees to fire up the engines and propel their communities to action. Their actions as volunteers are countless. Their deeds, priceless.

Volunteers are the Sun Cities' most precious assets and we salute them during this national week of recognition. They set the tone for the retirement havens by stepping up to the plate and delivering home run after home run. Their deeds are unprecedented.

Just check out the PRIDES, who make a striking picture in their orange vests as they sweep through the communities cleaning trash from streets, whitewashing the ornamental orange trees, raking leaves from gutters.

Visit the Westside Food Bank and pitch a hand next to the volunteers, knowing the work is just one facet in the expansive efforts to help feed the hungry.

Volunteers play an integral role in benefiting society and offset hundreds of thousands of dollars by providing worthy services.

Look at the volunteers at Boswell and Del Webb memorial hospitals — from the cheery shuttle drivers to the men and women who greet you with broad smiles in reception areas and help you navigate your way through the maze of departments. And don't forget those folks who sit on the boards offering input to help facilitate the success of the nonprofit Sun Health network.

You'd be hard-pressed not to bump into a volunteer in these parts. They are your community leaders — those devoted servants

on the boards and countless committees that constitute the core organizations such as the recreation centers, the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association and the Sun City Home Owners Association — and they serve without regard to recognition in the many groups whose missions are to enhance the quality of your cultural life.

Your first brush with the law in the Sun Cities may come from a member of the sheriff's posse, calling to let you know your garage door is open. You soon learn that posse members — all volunteers — render countless services and are the watchful eyes at work trying to protect you from harm's way.

And don't forget those who make the wheels of social services run so smoothly, from reaching out as a phone pal through Interfaith Community Care to delivering meals for your homebound neighbor.

While the westside communities are enriched by the high level of voluntarism — be sure to check out the mentors in nearby school districts, or visit a Habitat for Humanity work site — the quest for people willing and able to serve, especially in the summer, is unrelentless.

Elsewhere on this page, the Sun Cities Information and Referral makes a plea for volunteers. Other organizations, too, are under the strains of an evaporating reservoir of workers as winter visitors take their leave.

If you haven't already, step up to the plate: Volunteer.



Daily News-Sun • Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28, 2002

# Sun Citians reap rewards of voluntarism through work at Boswell

## SUN HEALTH: 3,000 donate time, services

MICHAEL MARESH  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

While the nation continues to celebrate National Volunteer Week through today, two Sun City volunteers say they are not donating their time to receive special recognition.

Joe Isaac and Vern Buxton, volunteers at Sun Health since 1995 and 1996, respectively, make sure all areas of Sun

Health's Boswell Memorial Hospital have the proper number of oxygen bottles.

"I am glad the nation is recognizing us for our efforts," Buxton said. "As true volunteers, we don't care if we get recognized. We are going to do it anyway."

Isaac said while the nation is appreciating them for their efforts this week, volunteers are always benefiting as well.

"To me, the true gift of giving is done in silence," he said. "It is nice to know that there is public

awareness for all the fine work volunteers do."

Jane Harker, director of Sun Health Services, said Buxton and Isaac are just two Sun Health volunteers out of the 3,000 who donate their time and services.

Isaac, who moved to Sun City in 1992, said that since retiring he has had more time to help others.

"The reason I volunteer is, I felt it was time to give something back for all the good things that have been



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Vern Buxton, 81, left, and Joe Isaac, 68, volunteers at Sun Health's Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City, stand outside the oxygen room this week. The men deliver oxygen tanks throughout the hospital.

given to me," he said.

Buxton said that by volunteering, he is able to remain active in his golden years.

"You are retired. You come to a place like Sun City," he said. "If you are feeling good, you look for something to do. We both think it is important to volunteer."

While there are thousands of Sun Health volunteers, Isaac said he is surprised at the number of people who choose not to give back to the community.

"Volunteering takes very little effort," Isaac said, adding he is not sure why some people refuse to help others.

"It's so little effort for so much personal fulfillment,"

Buxton added. "It's not a physical thing,"

Harker said as winter visitors return to their summer homes, Sun Health will have to attract other volunteers somehow in order to continue to provide the extra services.

"We hope to recruit additional members," she said, adding that the Junior Volunteer Program that is in place will help to some degree.

Buxton said what he enjoys the most through volunteering is helping those who are physically unable to care for themselves.

"When I leave the hospital,

I am under my own power," he said. "After seeing so many people who are incapacitated, it makes you feel good in the heart to know that you did something to help those people."

Isaac agreed: "The true satisfaction I have is being physically able to help others who are not as fortunate."

Isaac and Buxton said when they first volunteered at Sun Health, they looked at their work as a long-term commitment.

Harker said volunteers like Isaac and Buxton are

cornerstones to some of the benefits Sun Health is able to provide.

"They have been the key to our organization since the very beginning, when Boswell opened," she said. "They provide many of the extra supplemental services for us."

Harker said most volunteers get some level of satisfaction through giving back to the community.

"We hope they gain as much in contributing in a meaningful way to the community," she said.

Michael Maresh can be reached at 876-2513 or [mmaresh@aztrib.com](mailto:mmaresh@aztrib.com).





Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Independent Newspapers

Clay and Wilma Grimstad have been volunteers for Sun Health for the last nine years. To honor their efforts, both Mr. and Mrs. Grimstad were recently named Boswell Memorial Hospital's Volunteer of the Month by the Sun Health Auxiliary.

## GIVING THEIR ALL

### Sun Citians epitomize voluntarism

By Jeremy Pearlman  
Independent Newspapers

Whether it is cleaning the community as a member of the PRIDES, patrolling the streets as a member of the Sheriff's Posse, building a house with Habitat for Humanity, working the information desk at the hospital, taking a neighbor to a doctor's appointment or donating time in any of myriad ways that benefit society, volunteers are the backbone of the Sun Cities.

It is for these unsung heroes of the community that National Volunteer Week was created to honor.

Created by a presidential executive order in 1974, National Volunteer Week is a time to recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers at the local, state and national levels, according to the Points of Light Foundation, a nonprofit organization devoted to pro-

moting voluntarism.

But National Volunteer Week means more than that to Dr. Arlene Schindler, who has been involved in volunteering in one way or another, her entire life.

Having worked professionally with such organizations as the U.S. Peace Corps in Africa and for the National Center for Voluntary Action (now known as the Points of Light Foundation), Dr. Schindler has spent many years helping to facilitate and train volunteers. In addition to being the president of the Sun City PRIDES, the Sun City resident currently donates her knowledge and experience to help train volunteer coordinators from across the world.

"During National Volunteer Week we're bringing attention to the phenomena of volunteering," Dr. Schindler said. "It's recognition of everybody giving to society because they

want to.

"There are so many people volunteering," Dr. Schindler continued. "We should use this week to think about the tremendous impact of volunteering on the community. That's the significance of National Volunteer Week, to focus on how important volunteers are to our society."

Two volunteers who have had such an impact are Clay and Wilma Grimstad.

Working together at Boswell Memorial Hospital for the last nine years, the Grimstads are co-chairmen of the evening volunteers at the main-lobby reception desk and work in the hospital's admitting department and at the pre-admission testing reception desk.

"We said we'd do anything that they wanted us to do as long as we could work together," Mrs. Grimstad said.

er," Mrs. Grimstad said.

Moving into Sun City in 1992, the Grimstads began looking for volunteer activities after seeing the PRIDES work in the community.

"I saw the guys out there in the hot sun making the town look nice and I said, 'If they can do that, I should do something,'" Mr. Grimstad noted.

Not wishing to volunteer for the PRIDES or the Posse because Mrs. Grimstad recently had back surgery, the couple began working at the hospital. They haven't stopped since.

Combined, the couple has donated approximately 9,400 hours to Sun Health in the nine years they have been volunteering with the healthcare organization.

"I think the Lord intended us to help others," Mr. Grimstad said.

Recently Mrs. and Mr. Grimstad were recognized for their efforts as Boswell Memorial Hospital volunteers of the month for April and this coming May by the Sun Health Auxiliary.

The Grimstads provide just one example of the many people who donate their time to help build a better world.

Working with volunteers from many other societies, Dr. Schindler believes that volunteering is the outlet for an innate characteristic within humanity.

"The basic motivation of a human being is to live in peace as opposed to strife," Dr. Schindler said. "A human being that believes that looks for ways to help society.

"I call it the do-good gene," Dr. Schindler continued.



'I'm in my 14th year with Volunteers for Hospice. I enjoy working with patients, and I find it very rewarding to see how families handle a terminal illness with a loved one.'

— Barbara Brelsford, Sun City resident

## Service brings rewards

**HOSPICE:** Volunteers are like warm blankets comforting terminally ill

ERIN REEP  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Marsha Long has gained wisdom and insight as a hospice volunteer.

"It's been so fascinating," she said as she described one of her first patients.

"She talked non-stop for four hours, telling me her whole life story," Long said.

The Phoenix woman works with Volunteers for Hospice, a non-profit organization in Sun City serving the Northwest Valley since 1979.

Volunteers for Hospice will be honoring Long and its



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Mabel Johnson, who serves with Volunteers for Hospice, hugs Emil Kroeplin of Sun City, who suffers from renal failure. Johnson is among hospice volunteers being honored today at Union Hills Country Club.

other volunteers with a luncheon today at Union Hills Country Club in Sun City.

"We presently have 220 active volunteers," said Bill Proctor, executive director. About 100 volunteers are expected at the luncheon.

Volunteers receive 33 hours of training when they enter the program that offers free services through contracts with 11 Medicare-certified hospice agencies.

The volunteers serve a unique role in the team of people surrounding dying patients in hospice programs.

"The volunteer just acts as a mediator, really," said Elizabeth Wilkinson, director of development for the organization. "The volunteer is there to serve the patient with no agenda. They're just there to be a friend."

Hospice patients can feel a little overwhelmed when they enter hospice care, Proctor said. There are suddenly new people, including doctors, nurses and social workers, coming into their homes, as well as new equipment they may not have seen before.

With all the changes taking place, hospice volunteers enter the scene as "neutral" parties — somewhat like friends or good listeners.

"We do a great job of sitting with the patient," Proctor

## 'It's like a warm blanket that gets wrapped around the patient and the family.'

Hospice volunteer Betsy Kuchar of Surprise

added. "We are notorious for our ability to play cards and dominos."

Long, 53, has gotten to know her 84-year-old hospice patient well.

"She would write little stories and poems. She has remained totally sharp and witty," Long said.

"I'm really gonna miss her," she said, looking away as tears filled her eyes.

"It's not always sad," she added quickly, regaining her composure. "I'm happy for her, because she's ready to go. She's been in that bed a long, long time."

Long said one of the misconceptions about hospice is that it's a depressing type of volunteer work.

"There's lots of smiles and joy and laughter in it too," she said.

Betsy Kuchar of Surprise has been a hospice volunteer since 1990, first in New Mexico and then in Arizona. Kuchar was a retired occupational health nurse who found that hospice was a kind of volunteering that came naturally to her; it seemed to be an extension of

what she'd done as a nurse.

"It's like a warm blanket that gets wrapped around the patient and the family," she said of hospice.

Kuchar said she is amazed at how volunteer coordinators link volunteers with patients. "They find the perfect volunteer every time. It's almost like magic," she said.

Kuchar and Barbara Brelsford of Sun City are "assessors," volunteers who go into the homes of hospice patients and families to make initial contact with them.

"The assessor goes into the home and just meets with the family," Wilkinson said.

The assessor takes stock of the situation in the home and explains to families what volunteers can and cannot do. For example, volunteers are not allowed to administer medication, she said.

Often, the assessor is a retired nurse or someone with a medical background.

"I'm in my 14th year with Volunteers for Hospice," said Brelsford, who won Volunteers for Hospice's "Volunteer of the Year" award last year. "I enjoy working with

patients, and I find it very rewarding to see how families handle a terminal illness with a loved one."

Brelsford has been on the Volunteers for Hospice board of directors for 10 years, serving as president, vice president and treasurer.

Proctor said hospice has gained recognition from health-care providers in the past decade. In 1990, there were about 96,000 hospice patients nationally, he said. According to census information, there were 700,000 hospice patients in 2000, he said.

"Physicians are more and more accepting of hospice" and are recommending hospice to families of terminally ill patients, he said.

The recognition luncheon today will feature entertainment by the Greenway High School choral group, directed by Jeff Yoder. Volunteers will receive awards of excellence and the Volunteer of the Year will be recognized. This is National Volunteer Week.

For information about Volunteers for Hospice, call 583-4490.



Daily News-Sun • Saturday, April 20, and Sunday, April 21, 2002

# COUPLES CLEAN VISTAS

**LAKE POWELL:** Sun City West couples spend week picking up others' trash

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Four Sun City West residents are perfect examples of what National Volunteer Week — which starts Sunday — is all about.

Jim and Nancy Vogt, along with friends Tom and Marsha Franklin, recently came back from Lake Powell, where the two couples spent a week cleaning the shoreline and waters as part of the Trash Tracker Program.

In their week at Lake Powell, the four collected more than 1,920 pounds of trash discarded on the shoreline or on the lake.

The Franklins volunteered before, and told the Vogts about the program. The Vogts applied three years ago and last year were accepted. The two couples enjoyed their volunteering so much they are returning in October for second and third tours of duty.

Jim and Nancy Vogt are recognized in this weekend's USA Weekend as two people who have made a difference by volunteering time and effort for worthwhile causes.

Tom Franklin said their day started at 9 a.m., when they would take a trash-tracker barge to certain portions of the lake.

"We would spend three to four hours in the morning picking up trash," he said, adding that in all they filled up 48 40-pound trash bags.

Marsha Franklin said some of the discarded items they found were surprising, including golf balls, different types of clothing and beer cans. As part of their volunteer work, the four had to collect trash for 32 hours in a five-day period.

"That is what they planned for us," said Jim Vogt. "We compressed that into four of five days so we could explore and enjoy the lake on the fifth day."

"It was the best working vacation any one of us have been on," Tom Franklin added. "We covered 26 miles in four full days."

The Vogts said they will continue to volunteer as long as they are healthy enough to do so.

The four were part of a six-member group responsible for cleaning debris in week 24 of the annual 26-week program at Lake Powell. Each week, a different six-member group cleans the shores and lake.

Nancy Vogt said the scenery and the work

were more than she could have imagined.

"It was a great experience," she said. "We found the most unusual things. You expect to find the cigarette butts, but we also found rotting clothing and beer cans."

Their Lake Powell experiences have prompted them to volunteer even more of their time. Nancy Vogt said they are now more aware of trash on the streets.

"Now we pick up trash wherever we are," Marsha Franklin said. "It has made us more aware. Where is the recycling in the state of Arizona?"

"It made us aware of the fact that we have to do our part," added Nancy Vogt.

The two couples are no strangers to donating their services to worthwhile causes. The Franklins donate time to Interfaith Community Care, the ASU Sundome Center for the Performing Arts and the highway department.

"But of all the volunteer work we have done, this is the most gratifying," Tom Franklin said of their work at Lake Powell.

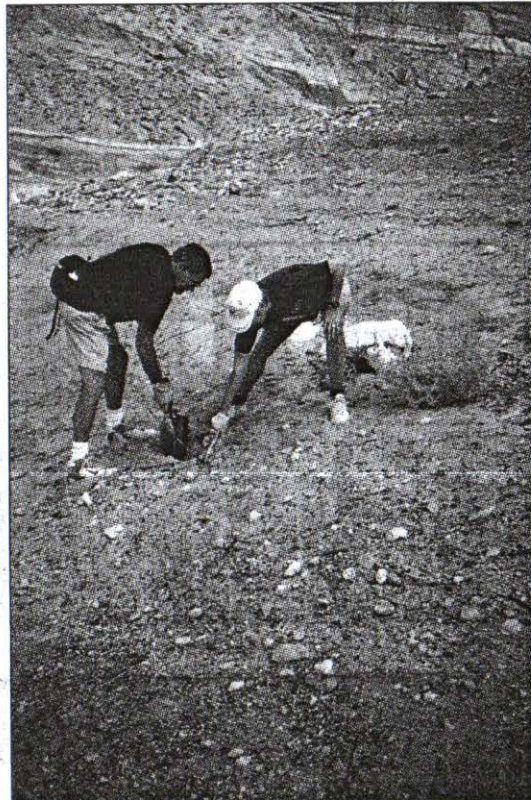
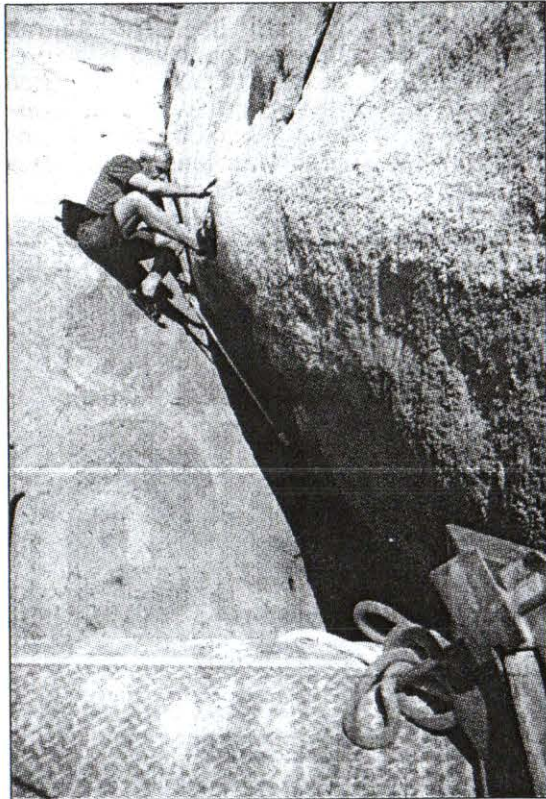
"We have become tree-huggers," Jim Vogt added.

To learn about the program, visit Web site [www.lakepowell.com](http://www.lakepowell.com).

Michael Maresh can be reached at 876-2513 or [mmaresh@aztrib.com](mailto:mmaresh@aztrib.com).

OVER





SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Left, Sun City West resident Tom Franklin uses an extension to collect a can discarded on the shore of Lake Powell as part of the Trash Tracker Program. Center, Jim and Nancy Vogt of Sun City West pick up trash on the shore. Right, Franklin's wife Marsha uses a picker to load trash into a garbage bag.





**THE VOLUNTEER STATUE COMMITTEE**

Betty Jane Peters, Chairman  
Connie Perrin Turner, Art Director  
Kay Smith, Art Consultant

Gil Haake  
Tree and Frank Wilkus  
Maronee and Curt Ulman  
Kitty and Roger Yadro  
Colonel and Pat Dilmore  
Jack McManamon  
Marian and Don Carlsen

Henry Smith  
Sterling Murphy  
Katie Wall  
Sonia Abrams  
Gordon Peters  
Bert Groenewold  
Rosellen Doherty



We wish to thank our guests and all those who have contributed so generously to make this dream a reality.

A special Thank you to the men at the Bell Metal Club and to Snell and Mary Johnson, for believing in us.



# *Sun City Volunteers*

## *a Lifestyle of Giving*



***The International Year of the Volunteer***  
***Saturday, March 17, 2001***





**WE HAVE TAKEN THE SPIRIT OF OUR COMMUNITY;  
 MOLDED IT WITH CLAY;  
 CAST IT IN BRONZE AND RETURNED IT TO YOU  
 SO THAT YOU MAY CONTEMPLATE YOUR SELFLESS WORK  
 AND KNOW THAT IN GIVING, YOU RECEIVE.**

**CONNIE PERRIN TURNER  
 KAY SMITH AND BETTY JANE PETERS  
 SUN CITY SCULPTORS**

This memorial was completed under the direction of  
 Internationally known sculptor, Snell Johnson, and cast  
 at **BRONZE WORKS** in Big Timber, Montana.



## A TRIBUTE TO THE SUN CITY VOLUNTEERS

**Prelude** ..... **Sonoran Brass Band**  
 Burt Johnson, Jene Kreipler, Don Johns, Tom Macon,  
 Bill Fedor, Dave Leppanen, Director

### PROGRAM

**Master of Ceremony** ..... **Jerry Swintek**  
 President, R.C.S.C.  
**Invocation** ..... **Rev. Franklin L. Bartel, V.F.**  
 Pastor, St. Elizabeth Seton Church  
**Byron Healy** ..... **V.P. West Valley Art Museum**  
 Board of ~~Directors~~  
*TRUSTEES*

### THE UNVEILING

**The Pride** ..... **Curt & Maronee Ulman**  
 Sponsors  
**The Student** ..... **Margaret C. Ptolemy**  
 Sponsor  
**“Sparky”, the S.C.A.R. dog** ..... **Don E. Hutchings and**  
**Gilbert M. Haake, Sponsors**

The POSSE figure and the SMOCK LADY were sponsored by  
 community donations. The bench was crafted by members of the  
**BELL METAL CLUB.**

**Daniel Maynard** ..... **2001 Chairman, HON KACHINA**

### THE TIME CAPSULE

Jim Hawks, representing the Sun Cities Historical Society, will  
 assist Bob Briscoe, R.C.S.C. Board member, in placing the capsule  
 which will be opened in 2060.



You are all cordially invited to attend a reception at the Lakeview  
 Patio immediately following the ceremony, courtesy of the sun City  
 Players Community Theater Club. Music by Doyle New.



# It's worth it



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Irene Gagnon of Sun City holds 4-month-old Mira Draksin at the Sun Health Child Development Center at Boswell Memorial Hospital, where she volunteers working with infants and toddlers.

**VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** In Sun Cities, services estimated to save agencies millions of dollars

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Although communities across the nation will be celebrating Make a Difference Day with volunteer projects Saturday, voluntarism is an everyday happening in the Sun Cities and Youngtown.

Annualized, it's also a multi-million-dollar industry of giving.

The retirement communities of Sun City, Sun City West, Sun City Grand and Youngtown have an abundance of volunteer programs, said Patrice Barry, executive director of Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Services.

While local Make a Difference Day events are being held, residents of the four retirement communities don't need a specially designated day to volunteer, according to figures from Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Services.

With 160 service agencies in the Sun Cities, volunteers provide immense value with little expense. Many of the agencies wouldn't exist if not for the volunteers.

Barry said 1,000 to 1,200 people call the volunteer office on an annual basis to ask how they, too, can give of their time to help out in Northwest Valley communities.

According to the Points of Life Foundation started by former President George Bush, these volunteers would earn an average of

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## From A1

\$14.30 an hour in the workforce.

The 60,000 to 80,000 hours donated on a weekly basis by the 15,000 to 20,000 volunteers in these retirement communities equates to a range from \$858,000 to more than \$1.14 million worth of services injected into the area.

And that's just in one week. Multiplied over a year, the impact is anywhere from almost \$44.6 million to \$59.48 million.

Barry said some volunteers work four hours a week, while others will work five days a week.

Interfaith Services, with about 350 active volunteers, benefits from about 2,000 working hours a month.

Interfaith Marketing Director Chelsea Evans said the organization's volunteers work one to 39 hours a week, though 39 hours a week is extremely rare.

If the Interfaith volunteers were in the work force, Evans said they would earn about \$12 per hour, which equates to \$24,000 a month. Most of the 350 volunteers Interfaith relies on works four hours a week, but Evans said there are some who volunteer more and some who volunteer less.

Evans said Interfaith could not survive if it weren't for its volunteers.

"We always consider our volunteers the gold of the organization," she said. "If we didn't have volunteers, we wouldn't be here. We are so appreciative of them."

Sun Health is another organization that relies heavily on volunteers to make sure it has all the resources that are needed.

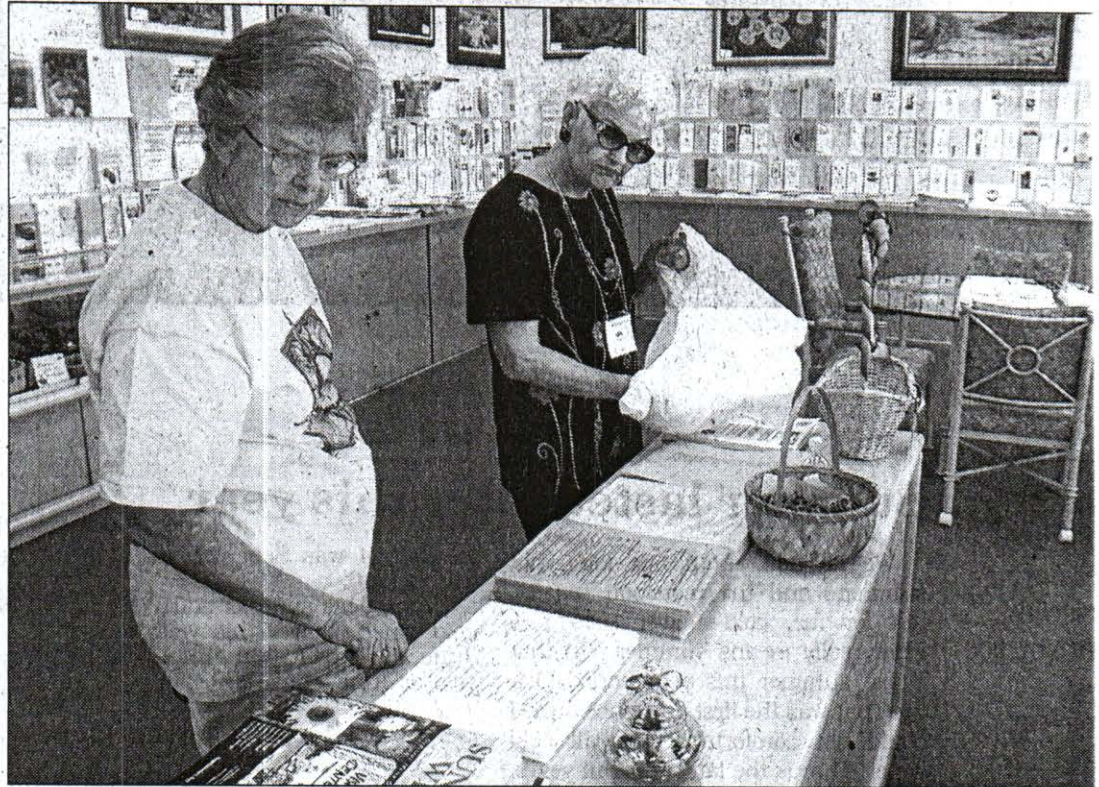
Sun Health's 3,600 volunteers donated 435,000 hours in 2000, and since 1968, they have given 7.8 million hours of service.

Jane Harker, director of volunteer services for Sun Health, said its volunteers fill 250 positions throughout the



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

In photo below, Ruth Darnell, left, a new winter resident of Sun City West, visits the Sun City West Visitors Center where volunteer Lee Foringer helps her gather information about the community. At left, volunteer Irene Gagnon walks with Anna-lise Elizaldi, 11 months, at the Sun Health Child Development Center.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun Cities.

"We really feel our volunteers are so wonderful that they are priceless," Harker said. "They provide the extra services that wouldn't be available if it were not for them."

Other agencies with several volunteers include the Sun City Visitors Center with more than 400 and the Sun City and Sun City West posses

with another 400.

Most of the volunteers say they donate their time simply because they enjoy giving back to the community.

"It's the reward of volunteering in itself and being appreciated," said Surprise resident Hazel Jaworski.

Jacquie Mitchell of Sun City said she sees voluntarism as an expansion of learning and developing skills,

as well as a valuable use of time that garners verbal acknowledgement.

Sun City West resident Patsy Dene said she, too, enjoys giving her time to help others. She said she volunteers because she is rewarded with "new friends and thank yous for time well spent."

Michael Maresh can be reached at [mmaresh@aztrib.com](mailto:mmaresh@aztrib.com) or a 623-876-2513.



# CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

## Voluntarism on the decline in Sun Cities

By Mike Russo  
Independent Newspapers

The City of Volunteers is experiencing a shortage of one of its more valuable commodities — volunteers.

Organizations such as Sun Health, Interfaith Services, Westside Food Bank and the Visitors Centers in both Sun City and Sun City West are dependent upon volunteers to function. But they have had to scramble in recent years to fill volunteer slots.

An effort spearheaded by a Sun City Home Owners Association director Bob Kortright, is being made to stimulate interest in voluntarism in the Sun Cities. HOA is working with Sun City West's Property Owners and Residents Association, the Sun Cities Area Volunteer Committee and the Volunteer Placement Service to

recruit volunteers.

Vibrant yellow sign-up sheets are being distributed throughout the Sun Cities hoping to pique the curiosity of residents and spur them to volunteer.

Volunteer sign-up sheets are being distributed through the libraries in Sun City and Sun City West, the Visitors Centers in both communities, the HOA, PORA, Sun City Taxpayers Association, Condominium Owners Association, Volunteer Placement Service and 22 churches in Sun City, according to Mr. Kortright. Churches in Sun City West will be approached within few weeks, according to Mr. Kortright. He



**Kortright**

would also like the sheets enclosed in HOA monthly mailings.

In addition, the sign-up sheets will be available at several upcoming events.

"We will attempt to recruit volunteers during the Oct. 19 annual meeting at Lakeview Recreation Center, Oct. 31 Harvest Moon Festival, the swap meet slated for Oct. 26 at the Sun Bowl and the annual crafts fair, scheduled this year for Nov. 23 and 24 at Sundial Recreation Center," Mr. Kortright said.

"We feel strongly that we will be more effective (getting recruits) when we can talk to people one-on-one at these events," he added.

Completed forms may be returned in person or by mail to HOA, 10401 W. Coggins Drive,

See ■ VOLUNTEERS, Page 3

Sun City, AZ 85351.

"This is an effort to encourage voluntarism in Sun City and Sun City West," Mr. Kortright said. "This essentially is for organizations that serve the Sun Cities. There are about 30 of them and they all need volunteers."

"Nearly all of the nonprofit organizations serving our communities have experienced a decline in volunteer participation in recent years," he continued. "We are nearing a point at which vital services may have to

be curtailed due to a lack of volunteers."

The recruiting effort is still in its infancy and Mr. Kortright said responses have been light so far. However, he is hopeful that more volunteers will come forward once all the winter visitors return and the special events are held.

To spur additional interest, the organizations involved, such as Interfaith Services, PRIDES and Sun Health are forming a speakers bureau to spread the word, Mr. Kortright noted.

The application forms will be mailed to all newcomers, he added.

"The decline in voluntarism is a concern to all of the Sun Cities," Mr. Kortright said.

He said the effort will continue, "until we get enough volunteers for all the organizations in Sun City and Sun City West."

"Voluntarism is not an altruistic activity," Mr. Kortright said. "You volunteer because you get something out of it. We have to prove to younger people coming in that they will get something out of volunteering."



# Charitable mood

10/18/01

## RETURNING RESIDENTS, ATTACKS: Groups report rise in voluntarism, philanthropy

JEANNE WINOGRAD  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

While reports about sagging voluntarism have haunted the Sun Cities in the last few years, the number of people wanting to help in some fashion may be on the rise since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Patrice Barry, director of the Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Service, said her office is receiving more interest from people wanting to connect with specific funds to help victims of the attacks.

"All the issues surrounding that are things people want to help with, to know where their groups or clubs can help," she said. "Some people want to give only to the scholarship fund. We're getting quite specific requests for donations. We're also conducting a survey, and my preliminary results show that the 9-11 attack is not really affecting volunteer hours or activity. It's affecting dollars and donations."

Barry's survey is scheduled for completion later this week or early next week.

Although Barry has seen more of an increase in donations than voluntarism, some local agencies are welcoming more people willing to give of their time to help others.

Jane Harker, director of Sun Health Volunteer Services, said her office has noticed an increase in voluntarism since the attacks.

"It's a bit above what it normally is," Harker said. "In recent months, even this summer, we welcomed a number of new volunteers into the

hospital volunteer program.

"We also have had a great deal of interest in our heart and star pins the volunteers are hand-painting, being sold in the auxiliary gift shops, thrift shops and the consignment shop," she said. "All proceeds are sent to the 9-11 Fund."

The pins are painted like an American flag and cost \$3. Harker said nor-

mally all funds generated by auxiliary projects and shops are used for medical equipment for Sun Health's

**'If you're looking to be a hero, there are plenty of opportunities in the social-services arena.'**

**The Rev. Tim Wright  
Community Church of Joy**

health-care facilities.

"Our efforts continue at a good pace," Harker said. "The auxiliary has 3,000 members, working in all of our Sun Health facilities and in the many fund-raising activities of the auxiliary."

Some organizations that are seeing increased voluntarism attribute it to the return of winter visitors rather than a renewed sense of patriotism.

Pat Andrew, director of volunteer services for the Westside Food Bank, said the warehouse has seen a significant increase of volunteers this year, but she doesn't think it has to do with the terrorist attacks.

"I can't relate the influx of volunteers since (Sept. 11)," Andrew said. "The demographics are changing, and we're getting more groups of volunteers coming in. We have a

**See Opportunities to, A5**



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Patrice Barry, executive director of Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Services, helps Don Johnson, president and director of Arizona Rescue Mission Services, load donated clothing Wednesday.

OVER



tremendous number of groups coming in — an increase in the number of families and school groups, even handicapped groups. This is something new for us.

"We have a special group scheduled every day of the week throughout the month. This is a new phenomenon, an overwhelming change in the pattern in volunteers. As more of our seniors come in, I may hear that it's related to Sept. 11, but I'm not now."

Chelsea Evans, marketing director for Interfaith Services, said attributing increased voluntarism to the Sept. 11 attacks "is hard to judge, because October is when everyone returns.

"I know we've gotten quite a few new volunteers. But our new-volunteer numbers for September were a little down,

*while volunteer hours contributed were up. We anticipate new-volunteer activity to increase in October and November, which is typical. We think people are returning later this year."*

Wallace Steffan, director of the West Valley Art Museum, said the museum has seen an increase in the number of its volunteers recently, but he thinks that's mainly due to the return of winter residents.

"We typically get more volunteers at this time of year, but we are getting some new volunteers this year," Steffan said.

Jim Malaska, president of the Sun City West PRIDES, said voluntarism within his group is about average.

"We have some regular members through the summer, but as far as new people coming in, they are new to the community," he said. "We can't attribute voluntarism to

the Sept. 11 tragedy."

Local religious leaders say expectations for community giving — including voluntarism — increase in times of stress such as the weeks following the terrorist attacks.

"The outpouring of support for victims of the tragedy has been wonderful," said the Rev. Walter F. Wieder, pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Surprise.

"It's easier to raise money for stuff that's high-profile," Wieder said. "We need to make sure we don't forget, in that process, the grind-it-out stuff that so many social-service agencies do that's crucial."

The Rev. Tim Wright, a minister at the Community Church of Joy in Glendale, said, "Part of the great opportunity that charitable organizations have right now, in the wake of the Sept. 11 tragedy,

is to tap into that generosity we've seen unleashed by sharing.

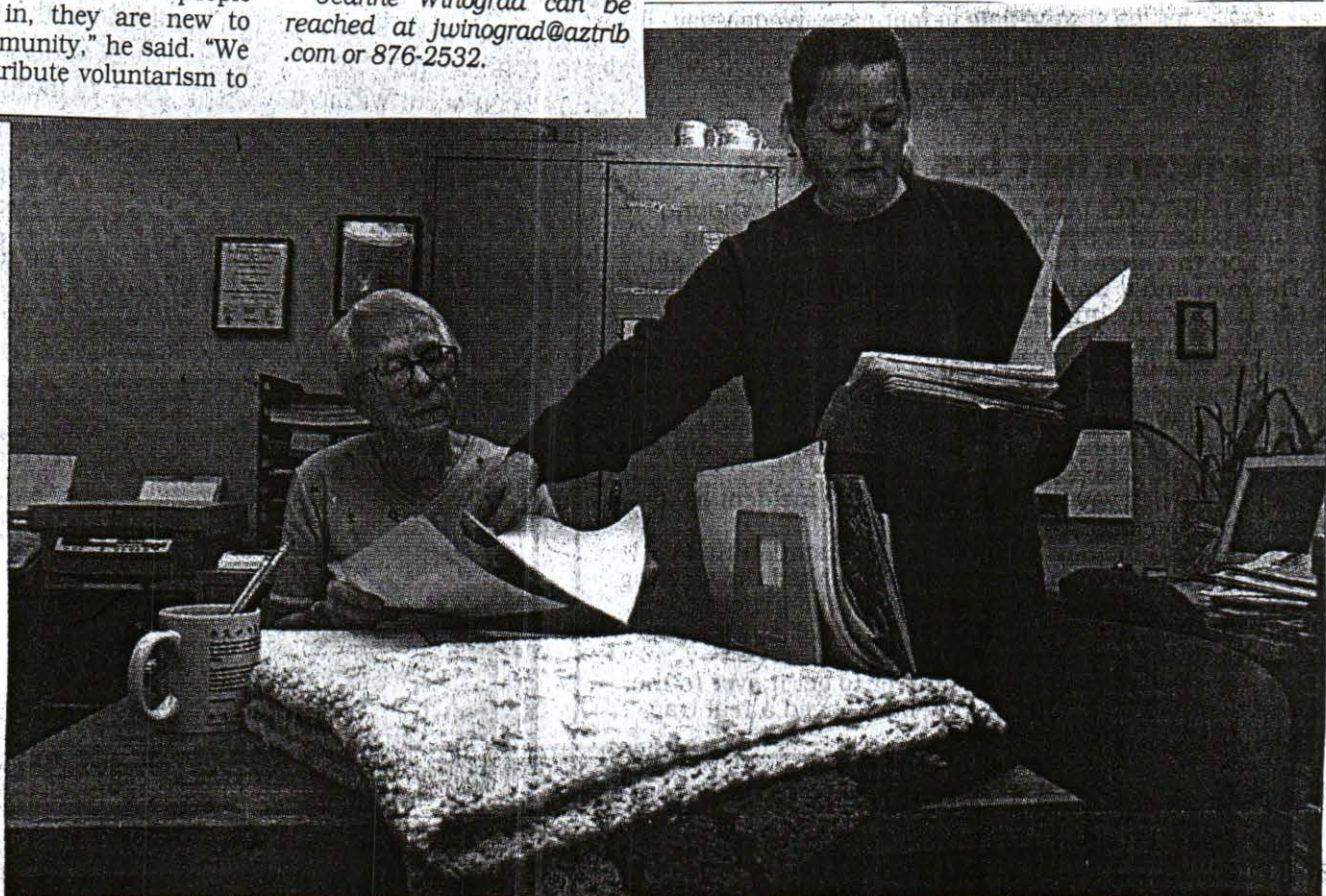
"It's important to feed the homeless and provide to social services, to let people know there are good causes in their home communities, to remind people how good it feels to give locally."

Wright said a good way to find out about volunteering or donating is through places of worship.

"Every church — every place of faith — is a volunteer system and is a great place to get started," Wright said.

"Other organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, use volunteers to do something great. If you're looking to be a hero, there are plenty of opportunities in the social-services arena."

*Jeanne Winograd can be reached at [jwinograd@aztrib.com](mailto:jwinograd@aztrib.com) or 876-2532.*



June Clarke of Sun City West drops off baby blankets she crocheted to Patrice Barry, executive director of Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Services, Wednesday and discusses patterns for future blankets. Clark crochets two or more blankets or lap robes each month for donation to the Red Cross, Luke Air Force Base or Faith House.



# FILLING THE VOID

VOLUNTEERS/VOLUNTEERISM

VF

**WHEN LOSS INTRUDES:** Russ Seick turned to voluntarism to fill the time after his wife died

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Russ Seick was sitting in his Sun City home this February not knowing what he was going to do. The life he had known for the previous 15 years was over.

The 83-year-old Sun City man had been caring for his wife Ileen, a victim of Alzheimer's disease, 24 hours a day, seven days a week — and that was his life.

But Ileen died in February.

Seick said he found himself with all the time in the world to do things, but didn't know what he wanted to do.

"She was scared of being alone, so I had to be in sight in the whole house," he said of his wife.

While he tried to take care of his wife's every need, Seick said, he was not able to provide everything she needed.

"I was trying to do it 24 hours a day," he said.

Seick said his wife became very combative in her last five years, which made his job even tougher. But when she died, he found an expanse of empty time in his life with nothing to fill it.

"When something like that happens, you have to do something to fill the time," he said.



Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2001

STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Russ Seick reads a magazine through a magnifying camera and television. After 15 years of caring for his wife, an Alzheimer's victim who died in February, he now has time to volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association of Sun City and for recreational activities.

Seick decided to volunteer at the Alzheimer's Association as well as take part in activities at Lakeview United Methodist Church at 10298 Thunderbird Blvd. in Sun City. He also now plays pool and cards at Bell Recreation Center at 99th Avenue and Bell Road.

It is a life he is not accustomed to just yet, though.

"I had to spend my time taking care of her," he said.

"Since her death, I have been making more of life. There was a great big hole."

That hole is also filled by watching television, doing crossword puzzles, keeping in touch with his four daughters and reading.

"There are a lot of days where it gets tough," he said. "I was doing everything I could to keep busy."

Rosie Bosch, lead-care

consultant for the Alzheimer's Association, said Seick's experience is typical of most caregivers who lose their spouses.

"Almost every caregiver goes through this," she said. "The support care group is needed."

The problem, she said, is many surviving spouses resist the help that is available. Seick didn't know that

help was available, but he's taking advantage of it now.

Seick said a typical question he'd ask himself most days after his wife died was: "I have a whole afternoon — what do I do?"

Seick is starting to establish his support group now, but he could have helped himself if he'd started that process before his wife died.

See Surviving spouses, A4

OVER



# Surviving spouses tend to resist help

From A1

Bosch said. People caring for their ill spouses around the clock don't always have the time, though.

Bosch said caregivers need to refocus their goals and desires once they have the time to do things.

"They have to take the negativity, learn about the situation and use it to help others," she said. "People can turn their experience into a positive light by sharing.

"You need to make contact with others with that disease."

Seick said with all of his newfound time, he decided to give something back to the community.

"That is the reason I started working with the Alzheimer's Association," he said. "I decided if I could help somebody, that is something I need to do."

Besides moving forward with support networks and finding new activities, there are other things surviving spouses need to do, including deciding whether they should move into a different residence. Preparing for an inevitable death is the key, Bosch said.

"Seick was better prepared," she said. "He would not have been able to adjust without the help of one of his daughters."

Still, it was a struggle for Seick to have so much time on his hands with no primary purpose, he said.

"All you can do is to try to fill the hours," Seick said. "Time heals all wounds, but it takes time. You don't know



STEVE CHERNEK/STAFF

Russ Seick poses with photos of his family and his wife, Ileen, who died in February after battling Alzheimer's disease.

what to do. You have to fill the time."

He said he couldn't fully prepare for the inevitable because he had his hands full as he cared for his wife.

"You try to prepare for it, but you can't because you are so busy," he said.

Trying to care for his wife, Seick said, landed him in the hospital with heart problems.

"Sudden changes like that — you can't prepare for it," he said. "It's a real blow, and a lot of reorganizing is needed to do what you have to do for yourself."

It's been eight months since Ileen died and Seick said he is beginning to form a new pattern for his life, but it

is tough because he is doing it alone.

"I go to caregiving groups, because everybody is in the same boat I was," he said.

Bosch said some caregivers struggling to deal with their spouse's dementia or other progressive illness lose their support group because they stop going to meetings. Then, upon the spouse's death, many caregivers still stay away from the meetings, increasing their isolation.

"Friends don't know what to do," Seick said. "I tried to keep in touch, but as she got worse, people didn't come

around."

After her death, he said his friends did not return.

"People think I am a third wheel," he said. "I had to make new friends."

But Seick said he wasn't too surprised, because he knew his life was going to change when Ileen died.

"As she was getting worse you think ahead and ask yourself: What is going to happen?"

Several bereavement and caregiver support groups are held throughout the North West Valley each week. A list of such groups is published the first Tuesday of each month in the Daily News Sun's Healthy Living section.

Michael Maresh can be reached at [mmaresh@azstx.com](mailto:mmaresh@azstx.com) or 876-2521.

**'Friends don't know what to do. I tried to keep in touch, but as she got worse, people didn't come around.'**

**Russ Seick  
Sun City**



Daily News-Sun • Thursday, April 19, 2001

**DEDICATED CORE:**

Volunteers serve as lifeblood of retirement communities, but agencies worry that this rich reservoir will dry up down the road

**JOHN SOKOLICH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Zelma Warberg can point the way to a realm of new activities and social interactions for Sun Citians looking for something to do.

Donating her time several days a week at Royal Oaks Life Care Center in Sun City, she greets people coming into the main office and points them in the right direction. But more than that, she sets an example of self-fulfillment through voluntarism.

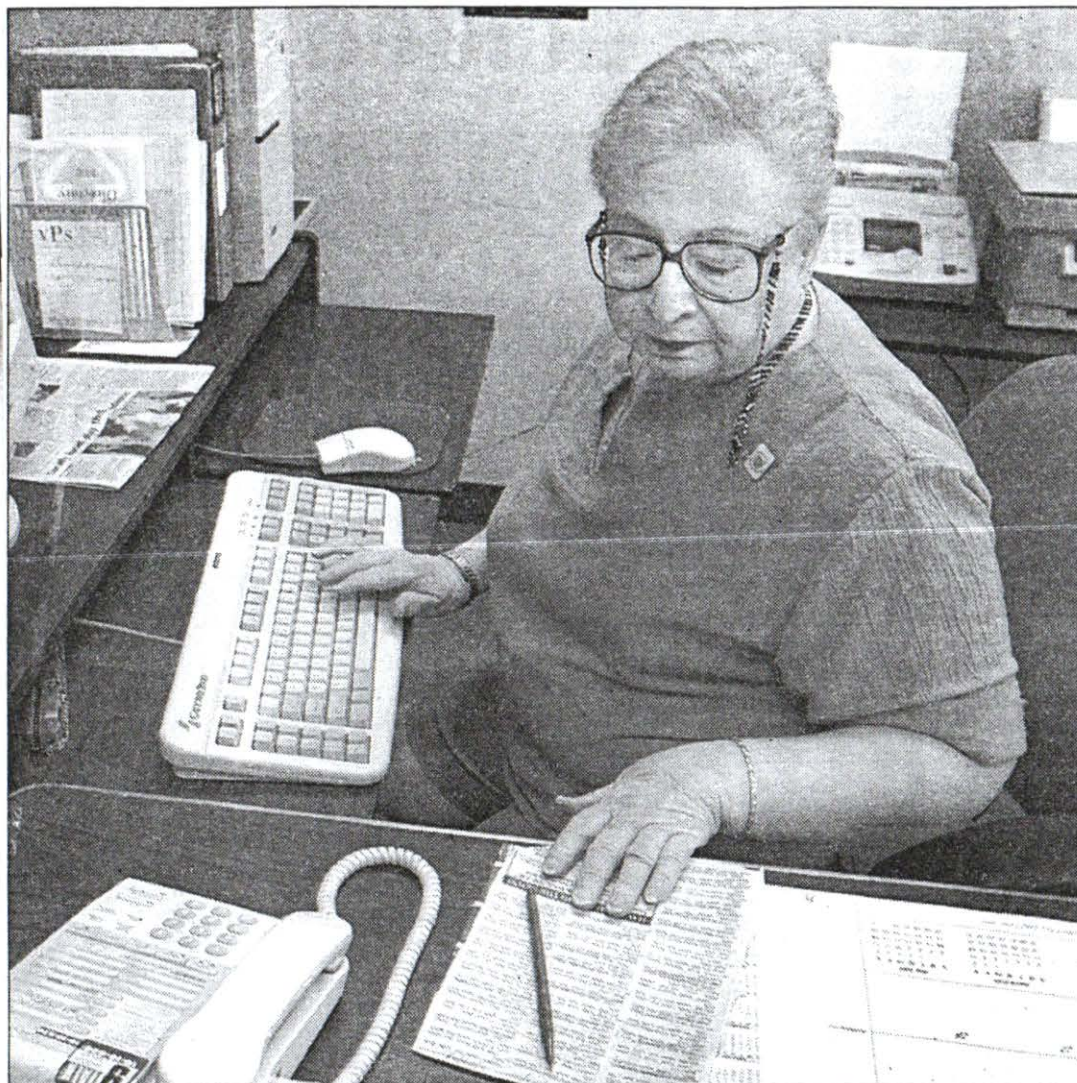
"A lot of people come in here and they are not familiar with the place," she said. "I give them guidance. And in return it gives me a very good feeling that I am helping people."

Dedication and a willingness to help make volunteers a valuable asset in the Sun Cities, but

**Volunteer opportunities**

For those interested in volunteering, brochures are available at Volunteer Placement Services, 14475 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West. Positions range from hospital work to crime prevention, and from working with toddlers to knitting baby blankets.

For information, call VPS at 546-1774.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Phyllis Cohen, a volunteer at Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Services, inputs information in the computer database, used to match volunteers with agencies that need them.

*over*



## From A1

Warberg and others like her are increasingly scarce in the community as fewer and fewer volunteers are offering up their time at area agencies.

Not only is attracting volunteers becoming a problem in the Sun Cities, but retaining them also is becoming more challenging.

The Sun Cities, which rely on volunteers for many aspects of the community's daily workings, are facing a shortage of resident participation. From the local posses of health care services, the volunteer base is growing scarcer, according to community officials.

"We are investigating what we can do to get the word out on getting more volunteers," said Gerry Unger of the Sun City Home Owners Association. "We need to attract new people and change the volunteer picture in the community."

Fellow board member Bob Kortright said several local organizations, concerned with the decline in the number of volunteers, formed a committee to study the problem and discuss ways of retaining current volunteers.

The committee is made up of members from HOA, Interfaith Services, local libraries and hospitals.

"There were good

suggestions coming from each of the groups," Kortright said. "We all recognize that there is a problem. And we know that if we work together, we can find a solution better than working alone."

One solution, which has proven successful in the local posses, is giving some sort of recognition to current volunteers.

"People will only do things when they receive something," Unger said. "That can come in the form of emotional support or recognition. But these days, people don't see volunteering as a community service anymore."

Unlike the founding members of the Sun Cities, Unger said, today's residents probably aren't getting as much satisfaction from their volunteering. He said many people seem to get bored in their positions because they do the same duties over and over.

"We need to find a way to get people into other positions," he said. "This way people can try out different jobs and not get bored."

On success case for keeping volunteers is the Sun Health Auxiliary, which boasts close to 3,000 volunteers — making it the largest volunteer organization in the Sun Cities.

"There are quite a few opportunities in Sun Health," said Jane Harker, director of volunteers services for Sun

Health. "Especially right now with both hospitals expanding — not is the time where we are really pushing to attract more people."

Because of the expansions, additional positions were made for volunteers, such as extra greeters and receptionists, as well as volunteers to escort people to the proper part of the hospitals.

"But Spring is another time we really try to get the word out to get more volunteers, because so many people are leaving for the summer," Harker said. "The need is very great."

Officials at the Sun City Posse, which is consistently looking for new members, said retention is not a problem, but getting the new recruits sometimes is.

"Our recruiting is not good, but it is fair right now," said Jack Daley, former recruitment officer for the Sun City Posse. "The best way we found for attracting new members is through other members. We hear of someone who might be interested and we give them a call."

Once recruits are signed up, Daley said, they receive such positive feedback from the community that keeping them is easy.

"There are a lot of people in the community who are really appreciative of what we do," he said. "Residents

provide great feedback, so members stay on because they know they are needed and wanted."

The Sun City P.R.I.D.E.S., which is in charge of beautifying the community, has just under 300 members, but still is short compared to the amount of land that needs to be cleaned up on a weekly basis. In addition to cleaning up, P.R.I.D.E.S. members also prune trees, pick fruit and spray for weeds on county land within Sun City.

"We would like to up to 350 members. That would take care of our needs better," said Stanley Jones, the organization's president. "The ones we have stay with the group, but as people get inactive because of age or physical problems, it gets more and more difficult to try and replace them with new volunteers."

Rosemary Lynch of the P.R.I.D.E.S. said community feedback keeps many people active in the organization, but the decreasing number of new volunteers has become a problem in the past few years.

"We are always looking to get volunteers," she said. "Some people retire out of the group and it's getting harder and harder trying to find a replacement these days."

Another volunteer-based organization geared toward helping those who cannot

help themselves is Interfaith Services. The organization is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year by expanding its services — but with the expansion comes the need for additional volunteers.

Due to overwhelming requests for services, Interfaith has grown rapidly since its inception in 1981. More than 7,500 individuals benefited from the agency's programs in 1999. And with the service's growth, the need for volunteers is greater than ever, said Annette Valentine, Interfaith's director of planned giving.

"We are always looking for new volunteers," she said. "If someone has a talent and a big heart, we can put them to work."

Valentine said volunteers can work in a variety of jobs including home services, secretarial jobs and entertainment. Other volunteer placements include positions at the libraries, recreation centers, restaurants and in public services.

There's a cornucopia of agencies and opportunities out there just waiting for another Zelma Warberg to help point the way.

*John Sokolich can be reached at [jsokolich@aztrib.com](mailto:jsokolich@aztrib.com) or at 876-2526.*



SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT MARCH 21-27, 2001

## PROGRAMMED TO HELP

### Sun City man enjoys volunteering

By MIKE RUSSO  
Independent Newspapers

"Programs. Get your programs. You can't tell the players without a program," Merle Lockwood bellows at the entrance to Peoria Sports Complex.

Mr. Lockwood, a Sun Citian for nine years, is among a group of nearly 500 northwest Valley residents who spend between four and six weeks each February and March volunteering their services with the Peoria Diamond Club.

The Diamond Club is the non-profit organization that oversees the baseball stadium's operation and

funds it generates are distributed to youth-related charities throughout the northwest Valley.

A three-year member of the Diamond Club, Mr. Lockwood was initially attracted to the organization by his love for baseball.

A Sun City friend, Al Werner, told Mr. Lockwood about the Diamond Club and its charitable endeavors.

The opportunity to give something back to the community and watch baseball proved a strong lure for Mr. Lockwood.

An Iowa native, Mr. Lockwood is a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan.

"I have been a baseball fan for-

ever," Mr. Lockwood said. "This way I get to go in and see the games."

Programs sellers are kept busy hawking souvenir programs for the game's first three innings, then they are welcome to stroll into the stands and catch the remainder of the diamond action.

He works about 11 games during each Cactus League season and makes a point of volunteering for each Cubs appearance in Peoria.

Mr. Lockwood remains a staunch Cubs' supporter despite the fact they traded his favorite player, first

See ■ PROGRAMS, Page 12

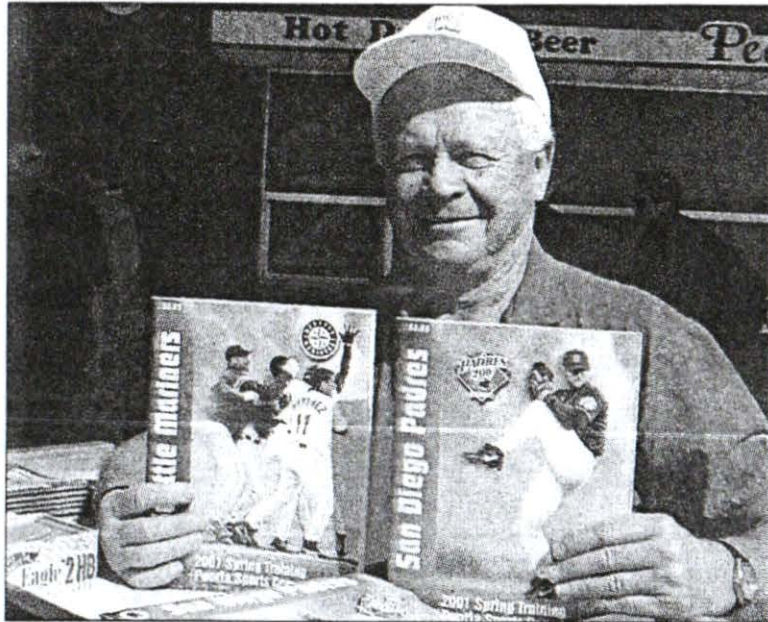


Photo by MIKE RUSSO/Independent Newspapers

Merle Lockwood has spent the last three springs selling programs at Peoria Sports Complex as a member of the Peoria Diamond Club.

baseball fan Mark Grace, to the Arizona Diamondbacks during the off season.

Being out in the warm Arizona spring weather and meeting new people is another attraction for Mr. Lockwood.

"I enjoy the people, especially the kids," he said. "I also like to pay special attention to the handi-

capped."

Mr. Lockwood enjoys the volunteer job not only for the pleasure it brings him but for its intrinsic value.

"It's very worthwhile," he said. "It's for a good cause."

He wholeheartedly recommends joining the Diamond Club to anyone.



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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2000

# Retiring from service?

## Sun Cities' new generation lacks spirit of volunteerism

By Ashley Bach  
The Arizona Republic

The youths are arriving in the Sun Cities, and these 60-year-olds aren't your father's retirees. They're bowing out of homeowners meetings, food drives and litter patrols that have kept these retirement communities running like well-managed clocks for the past 40 years. The newcomers aren't clamoring to earn the 1,000-hour volunteer pins their aging predecessors proudly display.

These new arrivals' energy and skills have won the respect of their elders, who nonetheless fear they endanger the community's strongest tradition: service.

Volunteers make up the police force, cleanup crew and most of the charitable organizations and quasi-government councils. Area schools and non-profits have relied on ready-and-willing seniors ever since the first Sun City resident arrived in 1960.

This break in custom mirrors national trends among seniors, experts say, as younger generations retire but care little about committing themselves long-term to charity. Although volunteer hours across the country and the Valley are holding steady or going up, experts warn that all groups that use volun-



Volunteer Karen Porter (left) talks with Barbara Sneed of Surprise at Boswell, where Sneed's husband had surgery.

teers could eventually be affected by a slowdown among the elderly.

Community leaders in the Sun Cities have seen the problem grow in recent years. It has only been in recent months, however, that area non-profit groups, businesses and resident associations have formally identified the problem and began to think about potential solutions.

Age is the biggest issue. Gone are the days when retirees would arrive in Sun City or Sun City West and immediately volunteer themselves to the community on the com-

munity's terms.

"People came to us and basically said, 'Where do you want us?'" said Jane Harker, director of volunteers for SunHealth, which runs the two area hospitals. "People in the baby boomer generation don't make a lifelong commitment."

Now the new retirees, who are younger and more selective in how they spend their time, often want to volunteer, but only in measured doses, observers say.

"A lot of people seem to be more interested in the kind of

From Page B1

experience where they can pick up a job, enjoy it, feel good about it and then leave it behind," said Patrice Barry, executive director of Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Services.

Bill Arnold, director of gerontology at Arizona State University, said traditional seniors, raised during the Depression, careful and committed to their communities, are dying or becoming too sick to serve. The new retirees, baby boomers and those born around World War II, have different priorities, he said.

They're living longer and retiring earlier, and when they do retire, they often are working at least part-time, either by choice or necessity, Arnold said. When they use what free time is left, volunteering is not what first comes to mind.

"There's not that same spirit, I see, of giving back," he said.

This could make things difficult for volunteer groups nationally, who've relied on the Depression-era generation for decades, said Robert Putnam, professor of public policy at Harvard University and author of *Bowling Alone*, a book on the loss of community nationwide.

"I don't know why we'd think the baby boomers would turn over a new leaf upon retirement when they've failed every kind of civic test they'd had to pass in their lives," he said.

In the Sun Cities, leaders are already seeing the effects firsthand. The problem is worst in Sun City, where the average age of residents is about 76. But Sun City West, about five years younger, is also seeing a large drop in numbers. At Sun City Grand, where the average age is 62, officials are finding they must provide fresh opportunities to attract the younger crowd.

See RETIREES | Page B5



SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT DECEMBER 6-12, 2000

# Volunteers are the lifeblood of Sun Cities

## Thousands of people give their time but more are needed

by JULI NESSETT  
Independent Newspapers

In an age of ever-expanding technology, growing stock portfolios and rising bank accounts, it would seem that money does make the world go round. In the Sun Cities area however, this is not the case. It is the volunteers who make the world revolve.

Many organizations in both Sun City and Sun City West depend on volunteers for a plethora of different

jobs. Yet almost all of them could use more.

Sun Health alone has over 2,500 auxiliary members who give time to allow the non-profit organization to provide the best care possible.

According to Paula Goodson, Sun Health auxiliary services manager, the time given by volunteers is invaluable.

"More and more the Balanced Budget Act has really cut the amount of funding we get. So our volunteers really do make a big dif-

ference in the kind of care we provide," she said.

She couldn't imagine what operations would be like without volunteers, but it is not only Sun Health that reaps benefits from volunteers.

"Volunteers serve a whole lot of different purposes. Many of our volunteers form lasting friendships," explained Ms. Goodson. "I have learned more from my volunteers than I have learned from anyone else.

"They are just amazing. I learn

something new from them every day," she added.

Patrice Barry, executive director of Volunteer Placement Services, said the organization was overwhelmed by the response of volunteers during the Thanksgiving holiday. However, every day is not a holiday, though she wishes it was.

Volunteer Placement Services has over 2,000 people in its database, accrued over the years, and those people give time to 150 different agencies in the west Valley.

"The volunteers really are our most valuable assets. They make the community happen and without them it definitely would not be as pleasant," said Ms. Barry.

The Sun City Visitors Center is also a local organization that depends almost entirely on a volunteer staff.

The center currently has 75 volunteers but is in need of more. It normally has about 90, but due to some of the maladies that come with an aging population, numbers are down.

See ■ VOLUNTEERS, Page 3

OVER



Volunteers for the Visitors Center usually work one afternoon, every other week, though some work every week.

Lila Stephens, Visitors Center manager and the only paid employee, said she depends on her volunteers 100 percent.

"The volunteers here are the backbone of this place. They are the unsung heroes and I can't sing their praises enough," she said.

During the winter months the center receives over 100 visitors a day and volunteers are the first glimpse they get of the community.

"Our whole purpose is to keep the homes in Sun City full and to keep it a vibrant community," explained Ms. Stephens.

Because of this fact, Ms. Stephens is a bit more selective in the volunteers she accepts. It is necessary to have people who know the community, its clubs and what it has to offer new residents.

Another organization in the area that relies heavily on volunteers is the Sun City Library.

Over 200 volunteers staff Sun City's two libraries and, according to Nancy Donielson, volunteer coordinator at Bell Library, volunteers actually run the library.

Residents who give time to the library generally work four hours a week. But again, there are volunteers who work a lot more. Volunteers hours range from 50 to 5,000 hours total.

"It would be very difficult for us to function without our volunteers. We depend very heavily on them," said Ms. Donielson. "They're so dedicated. They are just incredible."

Jobs at each of the aforementioned organizations range from office work to tutoring to driving trucks or shuttles. Volunteers work with children, adults and even animals. Each place offers different areas for volunteers to work in and all are concerned with the changing needs of their volunteers.

According to Carol Pierick, vice president of Volunteer Placement Services, the rewards associated with volunteering go both ways.

"I personally get such a high out of my volunteering. I really get jazzed about it," she said.

"I had heard about the volunteer's high and I thought, 'Oh, sure,' but it's true. It really is a win-win situation," said Ms. Pierick.

In Ms. Pierick's opinion, the Sun Cities would be a different communities without its volunteers.

"It would be horrible without them. I think they keep the commu-

““

*It would be very difficult for us to function without our volunteers.*

**Nancy Donielson**  
Bell Library  
Volunteer coordinator

nity living. They keep it vital," she noted.

She also added the volunteers help to keep the community's streets clean, residents in their homes as long as possible and generally make it a vital, active and wonderful place to live.

## Organizations in search of volunteers

The following is a short list of contact numbers for those interested in volunteering in the west Valley:

- Sun Health — Boswell Hospital, 876-5387. Del Webb Hospital, 214-4058.

Note: volunteers do not only work in the hospitals.

- Volunteer Placement Services - 546-1774.

- Sun City Visitors Center — 977-5000.

- Sun City Library — 974-2569.

- Olive Branch Senior Center — 974-6797.

- Interfaith Services - 584-4999.



# Volunteers' role evolves through years

**MONICA ALONZO-DUNSMOOR**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

**B**etty Lee Bellinger and countless other volunteers have served as pillars of support for Boswell Memorial Hospital even before its doors first opened in 1970.

Area residents have spent more than 7 million hours volunteering at the hospital and have helped raise more than \$5 million to build the hospital and keep it supplied with state-of-the-art equipment.

Bellinger has been volunteering since the first patient was admitted, when the hospital sported two towers.

"We had this little table and there were two of us who worked in the lobby," she said. "I remember feeding a man after he learned he had cancer. When he found out, he didn't want to eat, and I went up there to feed him. And one time I took a woman home after her husband died."

But the role of the Boswell volunteer has changed over the years, and they take a more active role in offering the special extras for visitors and patients.

Jane Harker, director of volunteer services, said the role of the volunteer has evolved over the years.

"We do define very carefully what they do and what paid staff does," she said.

"They make a difference to patients and families. They provide extra special services, like the courtesy cart and the greeter. They run errands and get patients fresh water and stock linens so nurses can devote time to the important health-care task of patients."

What they do has also changed as the hospital grows and adapts to the needs of the community.

"The volunteers had to work with a patient list, and then they had to learn how to use the computers," Harker said.

With an expanding hospital and more services being offered, there is farther to walk and more to learn.

"I enjoy working here very much," Bellinger said. "I'm still doing the same thing, but there are a lot more places and I do a lot more walking. We take people to their destinations, like therapy or to patient rooms or to X-ray. We try to be as helpful as we can."

And the volunteers all say the same thing — they love the work, they love the hospital and they'll continue serving as long as they can.

"I thoroughly enjoy it," said Merri Lay, who is in her second year as president of the Sun Health Auxiliary. "I've volunteered at other hospitals, and Sun Health is the nicest situation I've been in."

The auxiliary is the organization of volunteers, and operates four stores —



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Merri Lay, left, president of Sun Health Auxiliary, and Betty Lee Bellinger, who has been a volunteer for 30 years, talk about their service at Boswell.

two gift shops and two thrift stores.

Harker said the auxiliary was getting ready to open a fifth store in November which will be a consignment store with fine home furnishings.

Volunteers have reached many milestones, both with money and time, along the way, and have marked them in creative ways.

When they reached 2 million hours of service, they buried a time capsule. When they reached 5 million, they

headed over to the Peoria High School football field and stood in form, spelling out 5 million while a helicopter flying overhead took pictures. As they approached 6 million hours, they did a countdown.

All those hours have gone into not only volunteering at the hospital, but also into starting community service programs for their neighbors.

Some of the projects that have continued for several decades include the Telephone Reassurance Program, where residents check in daily.

Since the early '70s, auxiliary members have staffed the phones every day, Harker said.

The Vial of Life program is a program that has lasted more than 20 years. It provides residents a place to list their medical history to keep emergency health-care workers informed of their needs.

Despite having more than 3,500 volunteers, Harker said more are always needed.

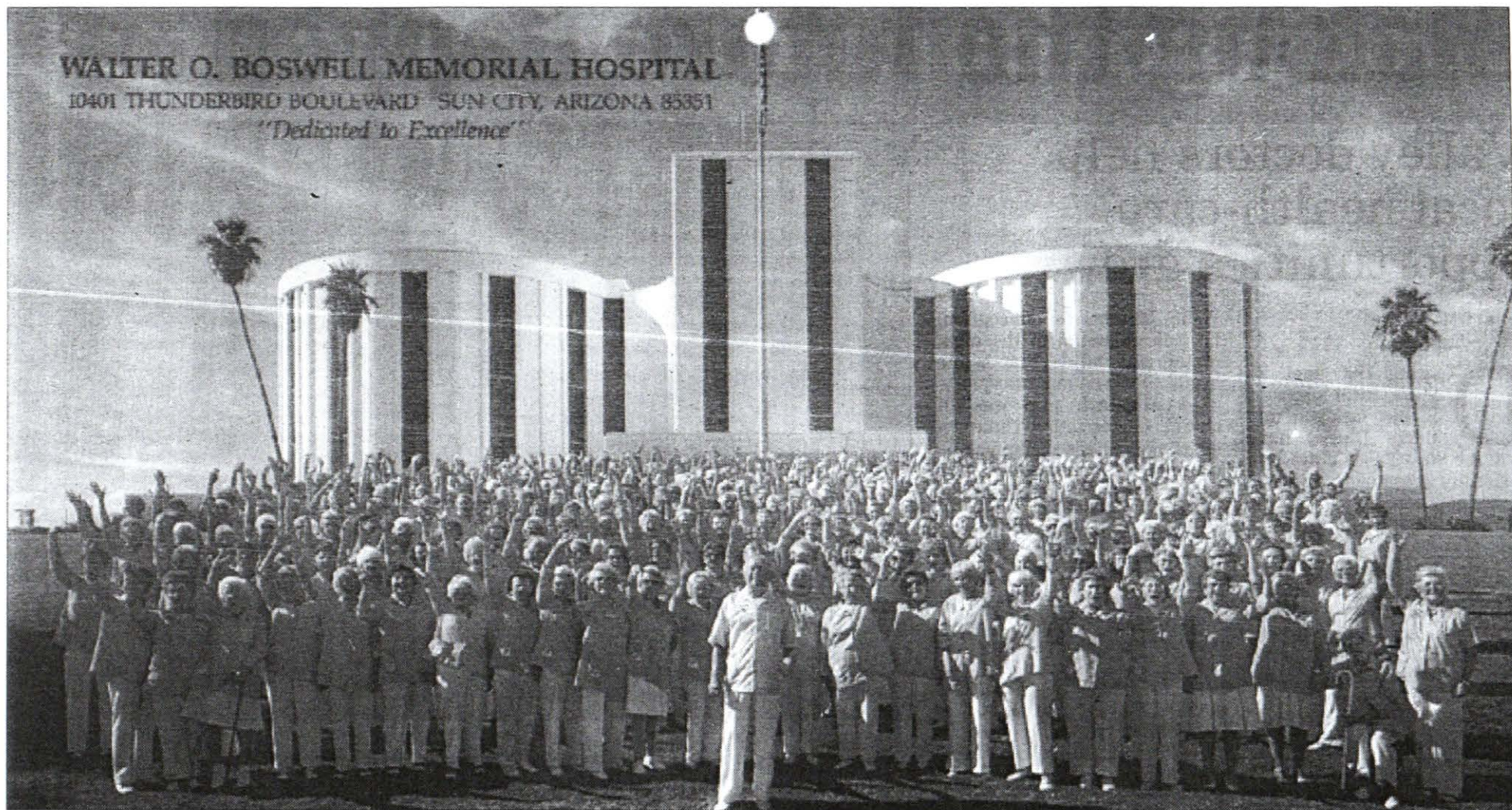
"We are always growing," she said.

For information on how become a volunteer, call Volunteer Services at Boswell Hospital at 876-5387.

Monica Alonzo-Dunsmoor can be reached at [malonzo-dunsmoor@aztrib.com](mailto:malonzo-dunsmoor@aztrib.com) or by calling 876-2531.

*Handwritten signature or mark.*





SUBMITTED PHOTO

Boswell volunteers pose on the hospital campus in this picture from 1987 when their efforts were featured on the "Good Morning America" program.



# Awards honor volunteers for 20 years of service

## SHERIFF'S POSSE OF SUN CITY: Familial bond forms among volunteers dedicated to serving community

VF PATRICK O'GRADY  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Veterans of the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City remember the days when the group was limited to four cars and an office so small members had to go outside to change their mind.

"We had no meeting places," said posse member Art Martin. "We would either have meetings at the rec center or contact the banks and meet in their conference rooms."

This morning an awards presentation honored six members who have stuck around and served the community for more than 20 years.

Those six — Art and Dorothy Martin,

Henry Siebert, Fred Strasser, Chuck Fisher and William Stuke — have among them nearly 120 years of volunteer time with the posse dating back to the group's founding days in the community.

Fisher, 89, has the served the longest. He is working on his 24th year of volunteering with the posse. A former Merchant Marine, Fisher said he first discovered the posse on a visit in 1976 and signed up a year later, when he moved into his Sun City home.

There have been plenty of activities in which Fisher participated, but much of his time in the posse was spent on the pistol range, helping qualify people to carry weapons and ensuring they maintained their skills, he said.

Strasser, 76, said, "the thing that interested me was you could help out the community. You could get quite a bit out of it, depending on what you put into it."

Strasser has worn several hats for the posse, including serving on the group's executive board for a couple of years, he

said. In that time, he has seen many gradual changes. "The building itself is quite an improvement," he said. "It's quite nice."

In the early years, posse members would meet their duty officer in a parking lot where the cars were kept and receive information about where they were to patrol. When the Martins began, they were the first husband and wife to join and patrol together. The couple, who joined in 1979 after a six-month wait for processing and training, said it was another way to give back to the community.

"When I would take walks with my dog, it was so serene that I wondered if there was something I could do to keep it that way," said Dorothy, 74.

Art, 83, said he believes the posse has saved the community from increased crime rates that should have accompanied a community with the growth of Sun City.

"I firmly believe if the posse didn't exist, the crime rate would be about 90 percent higher in Sun City," he said.

The highlight of their posse career came when then-President Ronald Reagan visited the first posse headquarters near 111th and Peoria avenues in 1983.

"I had never been so close to a president in all my life," Art said.

The other highlights come often, when residents thank posse members for the job they are doing patrolling the community. Art said early in their posse careers there was one cul-de-sac that consisted primarily of widows where posse members would patrol regularly. One of the residents flagged Art down once, just to say a kind word.

"It kind of gave me a chill because it wasn't just courtesy that caused her to say thank you, it was from the bottom of her heart," he said.

There also were more duties for the posse in its beginning days, including assisting in medical emergencies, said Siebert, 84, who joined the posse in 1977.

"When we started, we'd help them put patients on the gurneys and then put

them in the ambulance," he said.

Stuke, 85, is the only member being honored who is no longer with the posse. He stepped down last week because of a rule he helped put together that allowed only Sun City residents to serve. A recent move to Peoria put him out of the posse.

"I used to always say we need to put in our bylaws that only Sun City people can be a member, so now I'm getting my comeuppance," he said.

Stuke, however, was an active participant since he joined the group in 1979, spending time as the posse treasurer and doing work with the Vacation Watch program.

Although the posse has had so many new faces in recent years that the veterans have difficulty keeping track, they said the organization remains like a family, and none of them has any plans for stepping down anytime soon.

"I'm going to do this until I die," said Fisher.

Patrick O'Grady can be reached at [pogrady@aztrib.com](mailto:pogrady@aztrib.com) or by calling 876-2522.

OVER





MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Henry Siebert reminisces about unusual calls to which he's responded during 20 years with the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City. Right, Dorothy and Art Martin describe meeting President Ronald Reagan when he visited the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City, one of the key memories of their more than 20 years volunteering with the organization. The three shown and Fred Strasser, Chuck Fisher and William Stuke were honored this morning at an awards presentation for serving more than 20 years.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN



# Volunteers spread cheer at medical centers

## DEL WEBB, BOSWELL MEMORIAL HOSPITALS:

Unpaid workers essential to providing support services

BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

For eight years now, Peggy Murphy of Sun City West has been up before 5 a.m. on Wednesdays.

By 5:30, she's in the cafeteria at Del Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West, preparing a cart with coffee, rolls, juices and accoutrements that she and another volunteer will roll through three floors of patient wings, serving those who can't wake up without their early-morning coffee.

Murphy is a volunteer, not an employee.

Last week, she worked an extra day on Friday to accompany Shirley Cory — a volunteer who's racked up 13 years of coffee-cart duty, whose regular partner was away.

Both ladies are among the hundreds of volunteers who annually donate tens of thousands of hours to the non-profit Del Webb and Boswell hospitals, and to other local Sun Health operations.

"I feel like I'm helping somebody," said Murphy, 83. "After working all your life, you have to get out and do something. And the patients do seem to get something out of it, too."

Similar volunteers have been delivering coffee at Webb hospital since 1981 and at Sun City's Boswell since 1970. They help hold down hospital costs.

The coffee cart operates seven days a week, said volunteer-coordinator Julie Mudric.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Volunteers Peggy Murphy, left, and Shirley Cory deliver coffee, juice and doughnuts to Del Webb Memorial Hospital patient Alice Oosterbroek-Carrington.

"It takes seven sets of volunteers at each hospital, or 28 people — more when you realize we have to cover for those who are away," she said.

Cart volunteers start their rounds at 6 a.m.

Delivering the java isn't quite as simple as it might sound. Patients often are on restricted diets, and while coffee's OK, cream or sugar isn't. Or there may be a restriction on liquid intake because

of an upcoming test.

So the coffee-cart volunteers — almost all of them ladies — start with a register of patients coded as to who can have what, which they check carefully before delivering the goodies.

Just to be sure, they also sign the registers and leave them at nurses' stations so doctors know exactly who had what.

Breakfast in the hospital is about 8:30, so the coffee sometimes is essential

to early risers.

It certainly was essential Friday for Fred Yount of Surprise, nearing the end of his hospital stay.

"I'm like one of those people who's gotta have the coffee a few minutes after I get up," Yount said as he sipped the brew Cory and Murphy delivered a little later than usual.

"I like to joke with people, to have a little fun to start the day," Yount said,

showing off an Irish walking stick that almost could be used to trap a coffee lady not quick enough.

"I don't let 'em in here unless they smile," Fred said of the volunteers, nurses and aides. "When they change shifts, I start in on the next set."

Murphy recalls asking another patient, "Can I get you something?" and having the man answer, "Can you get me a kiss?"

"Needless to say, I was somewhat taken aback," Murphy said. "So I asked again, in a different voice, if I could get something for him. That's when he pointed down to the little silvery wrapped candies on the counter and said again, 'Yes, I'd like one of those Kisses.'"

Down the corridor from Yount, Alice Oosterbroek-Carrington also was among the pleased recipients. But she isn't one of those who needs the beverage to start the day, she said.

"It's nice of them to come by, and I think it's a nice idea, but I don't have to have it," she said.

At home, she'd have orange juice early and drink coffee later, with breakfast, she said.

The cheer that comes from the coffee ladies early in the day may be as important as the beverages they bring, patients said.

As Del Webb hospital is expanded over the next 18 months, Mudric said, "we will need more volunteers in almost every area, so encourage folks to talk to us" about how they could help. With a much larger parking lot, she added, "we know we'll need more golf-car drivers to bring visitors to the door from their cars."

For information, call volunteer services at Webb at 214-4058, or at Boswell at 876-5387.





STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Peter Maland of Sun City chops chilies at the St. Vincent de Paul Society kitchen in Phoenix, where volunteers and staff prepare meals for 18 dining rooms around the Valley. Maland also volunteers at Westside Food Bank in Surprise.

# Retiring to the kitchen

**SUN CITY:** Retiree divides time between volunteer jobs feeding the hungry

HAYLEY RINGLE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Peter Maland of Sun City doesn't see himself spending his retirement without volunteering his time to help others.

Between the Westside Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul's, he spends as much time a week as one would at a part-time job helping out in the kitchen, boxing food and working in the thrift stores.

For his volunteer service, he was selected for a Community Champions 2000 Golden Star level award. A \$5,000 grant from The Prudential Foundation will be awarded to the Diocesan Council for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Diocese of Phoenix at the end of the month.

"When I retired I bought a set of golf clubs and new golf shoes, but they're

still sitting in my closet," said Maland, who retired 16 years ago from Prudential. "I've never used them."

Maland enjoys volunteering with his wife of 54 years, Sadie, and is the treasurer of the Westside Food Bank board of directors.

"Most of the American people don't know what poverty is," said Maland, who has five children and 10 grandchildren. He wants to see more shelters built, minimum wage increased and more help for the mentally ill.

"They think people in need are lazy, but some don't earn more than minimum wage and can't afford to feed their families," said Maland, a resident of Sun City for seven years.

He is also a previous recipient of the Golden Star award, and in 1994 and 1995, a \$10,000 grant was sent each year to the Westside Food Bank.

Thirty-five Golden Star awards are given out each year internationally, and among the 799 Prudential awards, the Golden Star is the highest level, said Mary O'Malley, vice president of local initiatives for Prudential.

"Pete is very dedicated to his work and works an enormous amount," said

**'When I retired I bought a set of golf clubs and new golf shoes, but they're still sitting in my closet. I've never used them.'**

**Peter Maland**  
Sun City resident

O'Malley from her office in Newark, N.J. "This award level is very competitive."

The grant will be used toward the kitchen and the dining area of St. Vincent de Paul, said Steve Zabilski, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul.

"Both Peter and his wife, Sadie, have been very active and are regular volunteers in the food reclamation center," said Zabilski, who wanted to apply the money where the Malands volunteer the most. "They are just two of the kindest, most loving people."

"They are genuine heroes in this society we sometimes take for granted. But they are always there with a smile on their face."





Photos by Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

The streets are clean, and you have them to thank. Members of the Sun City Pride, who hit the road Saturday mornings to pick up litter, wait for the ceremony to begin at the Sun Bowl.

# Sun City honors volunteers' efforts

By Jim Gintonio  
The Arizona Republic

About 4,000 volunteers were honored Monday as part of Sun City's 40th anniversary celebration. Most of them apparently had volunteered to be elsewhere.

For the few hundred who showed up, however, it was a day to remember, as they were reminded of their continuing contributions in the City of Volunteers.

Sun City has about 160 organizations with about 8,000 volunteers combined. About half that responded to a survey and were expected to attend the event at the Sun Bowl.

Each year, the volunteers put in about 3.5 million hours, and that would be worth \$13 million to \$17 million, based on a \$5 an hour salary, according to figures compiled by various groups.

Those who were there got a glimpse of the community's past even as they talked about the future. Bill and Naomi Langdon, who moved to Sun City in September 1960 from Decatur, Ill., shared center stage for part of the activities. They are two of the eight original "snowbirds" who moved to the retirement community 40 years ago.

The chairman of the year-long fete is Fran Park, former pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church.

"I wanted to do this on Valentine's Day, because volunteers are the heart of the community," Park said. "As



Fran Park, chairman of the yearlong fete for Sun City's 40th anniversary, calls volunteers "the heart of the community."

Del Webb said, a community is not concrete, steel and lumber. It's the people. This community has shown what older adults can do."

Park recently said newly retired people don't approach volunteerism in the same manner as those who came before them.

"They go about volunteering in different ways," he said. "There's not a lot of appeal in sweeping the streets, like the Sun City Pride."

The Pride regularly hits the streets of Sun City early Saturday mornings to pick up litter and to spruce up neighborhoods.

Doug Caravaggio, one of the event organizers, said he was a little disappointed in the turnout. He said the leftover

food would be donated to Westside Food Bank and other organizations.

In attendance was George Hartman, who in 1993 coined the "City of Volunteers" motto.

Those attending Monday's event heard a history of the volunteer program and got an update on volunteer activity. Entertainment was provided by the Sonoran Brass, the Sun City POMS, the Rhythm Ramblers and Bobby Freeman, the Diamondbacks organist, and his wife, Charlene, a singer.

"What these volunteers are doing is adding so much to the quality of life in Sun City, and I feel they're getting something from it they're not expecting," Freeman said. "It's just the gratification of what they do."



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2000

## Volunteers gave 422,000 hours in '99

The Arizona Republic

The 3,400 volunteers of the Sun Health Auxiliary put in more than 422,000 hours in 1999. Since the auxiliary was founded in 1968, more than 7 million hours have been logged.

Two other high points were noted at the group's annual meeting in Sun City:

- Almost \$228,000 was contributed to Sun Health facilities through special fund-raising projects and revenue from gift and thrift shops. The auxiliary contributions have totaled \$4.9 million since its inception.

- New managers were hired at thrift shops in Sun City and Sun City West.

"We are so grateful for the loyalty and support of our exceptional volunteer force," said Leland Peterson, president of the non-profit Sun Health community health care network. "Support in the form of volunteer hours and fund-raising efforts is more important now than ever because of the deep Medicare cuts we are experiencing."

Funds raised by the auxiliary help to purchase equipment and supplies for various Sun Health services, including hospitals and other health-care facilities.

Officers elected to the board were: Merri Lay, president; Betty Jamieson, vice president; Patty O'Neal, secretary; Jane Hollingsworth, treasurer; Al Moeser, director of bylaws; Jack Bailey, director of membership; Joan Crawford, director of operated enterprises; Nan Wheeler, director of fund-raising; and Leasen Clark, director at large.



Friday, Feb. 11, 2000

# Turning a phrase

Slogan was designed to improve public image

By MIKE RUSSO  
Independent Newspapers

Signs at most entrances to the community proclaim Sun City's commitment to volunteerism.

But how did Sun City become known as the "City of Volunteers?"

George Hartman, a Sun City resident since 1977, is responsible.

He coined the phrase in 1993 and signs were erected by Maricopa County in June of that year, he recalls.

"We were having trouble in the community regarding the image outside the community. Some people thought we were snobs and didn't like children," Mr.



George Hartman is the person responsible for naming Sun City the "City of Volunteers."

Hartman says. "So I thought we needed something to counter that." Thus, the moniker was born.

Mr. Hartman set about to determine how many dollars the county saved annually by having Sun

Citians provide volunteers services, through such organizations as the Sun City Posse and PRIDES. "I figured there was a

saving to the county of \$13 to \$15 million with work supplied by volunteers," he says.

The volunteer efforts paid off not only in savings for the county but in an improved image for Sun City, according to Mr. Hartman.

Affixing the label "City of Volunteers" began "to change the thinking about Sun City," Mr. Hartman notes. "Eventually, the thinking caught on."

When the slogan was adopted, a concerted effort was made to get the message conveyed.

"We started asking everyone to put it on letterhead," Mr. Hartman remembers.

The public relations effort paid off as Sun City began receiving wide recognition for its high level of volunteer participation.

Sun City's volunteerism has returned to the forefront through the massive effort involved with planning and staging the wide array of events planned for the community's 40th anniversary celebration.

The celebration would not have gotten beyond the formative stage were it not for the cadre of volunteers, Mr. Hartman points out.

One of those cadre of volunteers is Mr. Hartman, who has given much to the community since his move here from Encino, Calif.

During his 23 years of residence in Sun City, Mr. Hartman served two terms on the Sun City Home Owners Association board of directors, as a director for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc., as a director for Blue Cross, Blue Shield of Arizona, as a director for the Red

to the lack of organization's soliciting help.

"You have to ask the new people coming into the community to volunteer," Mr. Hartman says. "In our day, you just did it.

"Also, a lot of the new residents are still working," he adds. "I don't see any reduction in the willingness of people."

He acknowledges that Sun City's service clubs have had difficulty attracting new members but he is convinced people would be willing to volunteer their time and energy to the community if asked.

"If we are to continue with volunteers, we must start asking for volunteers," he emphasizes.

In the 40 years since Sun City's inception, thousands of people have donated countless hours of their time toiling for the betterment of the community, and those still actively involved in volunteer pursuits will be honored during a Volunteer Recognition Day, Feb. 14 at the Sun Bowl. Festivities, including music and food, will get under way at 10 a.m.



## City of Volunteers

# 'CITY OF VOLUNTEERS' MORE THAN A SLOGAN

Civic leader coined phrase to honor community spirit

By **MIKE RUSSO**  
Independent Newspapers

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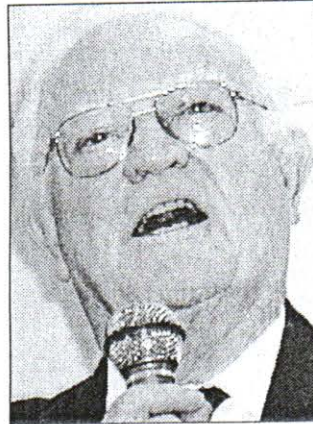
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One of those cadre of volunteers is Mr. Hartman, who has given much to the community since his move here from Encino, Calif.

During his 23 years of residence in Sun City, Mr. Hartman served two terms

on the Sun City Home Owners Association board of directors, as a director for the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc., as a director for Blue Cross, Blue Shield of Arizona, as a director for the Red Cross and as a member of the Community Fund board of directors.

He is also a past president of the Sun City Foundation and the Lions Club.

He not only remains active as a volunteer but he tries to stir people within the community to action through talks on volunteerism he delivers to various organizations in Sun

City.

During his more than two decades of living in Sun City, Mr. Hartman has not noticed a diminished desire among residents to volunteer, but he has seen a reduction in the number of people who do lend their time.

He does not necessarily attribute that to a self-centered or selfish attitude on the part of the residents, but to the lack of organization's soliciting help.

"You have to ask the new people coming into the community to volunteer," Mr. Hartman says. "In our day, you just did it."

"Also, a lot of the new residents are still working," he adds. "I don't see any reduction in the willingness of people."

He acknowledges that Sun City's service clubs have had difficulty attracting new members but he is convinced people would be willing to volunteer their time and energy to the community if asked.

"If we are to continue with volunteers, we must start asking for volunteers," he emphasizes.



A special salute to Sun City volunteers was held Feb. 14 at the Sun Bowl. Residents who volunteer their time to worthy causes were treated to lunch and entertainment.

over



# VOLUNTEERISM IN SUN CITY: BREAKING IT DOWN

Sun City is known as the "City of Volunteers." Based on data provided by approximately 75 responding organizations, the 40th Anniversary Committee found out just how true that slogan really is.

Following is a breakdown on volunteerism in Sun City. Organizations were classified in specific categories:

## Churches & Synagogues

*Based on 18 responses*

Volunteers: .....3,596  
Hours per year: .....2,456,050  
Economic value: ...\$12,280,000

## Service to Handicapped/Needy

*Based on 7 responses*

Volunteers: .....796  
Hours per year: .....202,300  
Economic Value: ...\$1,011,000

## Hospital and Care Centers:

*Based on 13 responses*

Sun City Volunteers: .....2,340  
Hours Per Year: .....413,300  
Economic Value: ...\$1,735,750

## Community Service

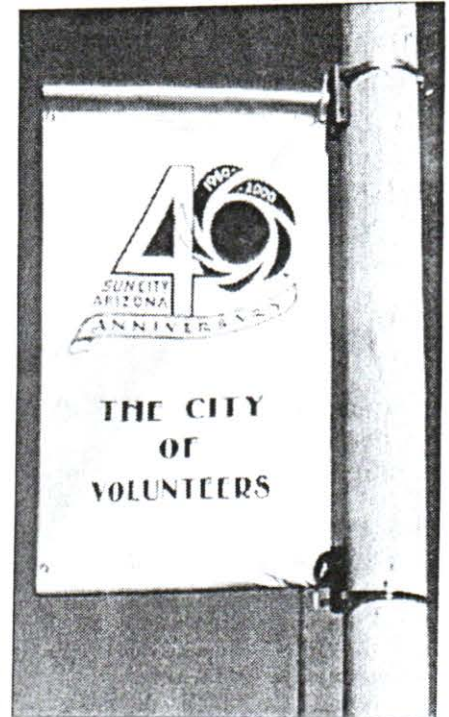
*Based on 24 responses*

Sun City Volunteers: .....1,866  
Hours Per Year: .....94,100  
Economic Value: ...\$2,028,700

## Total of All Responses

Sun City Volunteers: .....8,598  
Hours Per Year: .....3,465,750  
Economic Value: ...\$17,250,000

Source: Sun City 40th Anniversary Committee. Figures do not include any service clubs, schools and only about half of the known organizations that use volunteers.





# SC volunteers to be honored

## Celebration planned Feb. 14 at Sun Bowl

By JULIE RIDDLE *2006*  
Independent Newspapers

They do not call Sun City "The City of Volunteers" for nothing.

In an effort to honor the legions of Sun City volunteers that often go unnoticed, the Sun City 40th Anniversary Committee is sponsoring a Volunteer Recognition Day Feb. 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sun City Sun Bowl. Along with dessert and beverage, honorees will be treated to music and entertainment.

Volunteers are asked to wear nametags or identifying clothing so they can be presented with a special award from the 40th Anniversary Committee.

The first 5,000 identified will be given gifts paid for by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Arizona.

Those who attend are asked to bring lawn chairs and a box lunch. Dessert will be provided along with a free beverage, both donated by Barnett Dulany eye clinic.

While everyone cannot be individually recognized, the 40th

Anniversary Committee hopes to show their appreciation for the people who give generously of their time of energy. Four of those people are profiled below.

### Elaine Olson

Elaine Olson could not help herself.

Touched by the plight of two orphaned dogs whom she had held as a "foster mom," for the Sun City Animal Rescue (SCAR) she decided to give them a permanent home.

See ■ VOLUNTEERS, Page 10

"I always did like animals, so that was an easy one," she said. SCAR, however, is not the only organization to benefit from Ms. Olson's caring. During the 17 years she has lived in Sun City, she has helped a variety of organizations, including the Lions and Sun City West PRIDES, and as an inspector for the North (golf) Course.

"I don't really know what motivated me to start volunteering," Ms. Olson said. "Somebody asked me to join the PRIDES, and one thing led to another."

Almost two decades later, the PRIDES continue to be Ms. Olson's biggest commitment.

"The biggest thing I've done is volunteering for the PRIDES — I've been with them for 18 years," she said. "I was the first woman president, and I've been on the board for six years."

Volunteering, Ms. Olson said, helps make life fulfilling.

"After you retire, who wants to sit on the couch and watch television all the time?" Ms. Olson asked.

Working as a volunteer is also a way to stave off loneliness, she said.

"I think it's getting to meet people. You're never lonely, because someone's always calling you, or inviting you someplace. I enjoy the companionship of other people, and there's always something to do," Ms. Olson said.

### Phyllis Overton

Like birds of a feather, she and books go together.

"I've been reading almost since I was a baby," said Sun City Library volunteer Phyllis Overton. "People and books are my hobby. I couldn't live without books," she said.

Ms. Overton, a 15-year Sun City resident, has spent eleven of those years at the library.

One of the biggest rewards of volunteering is being able to help the various people who walk through the library doors, Ms. Overton said.

"Sun City has a wealth of people of all different talents and interests. On the days I work at the reference desk I talk to these people. They have questions, they have research, and we help with that," she said.

"Books are my constant compan-

ion, so this is a natural home for me," Ms. Overton remarked.

### Bob and Peg Leslie

As people age, independence often becomes a thing of the past. Unable to maintain a home, do the grocery shopping or fix the car, the elderly are often in need of assistance. Two people helping Sun Citians to maintain their independence are Bob and Peg Leslie, both volunteers at Interfaith Services.

"I saw an ad in the paper for volunteers," Bob Leslie said. "I thought it would be interesting, and a great place to volunteer."

The mission at IFS, which has close to 400 volunteers, is to help people remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible, according to Executive Director Rich Kinney.

"We offer home services like grocery shopping and repairs," Kinney said. "We also have an adult day health center, which provides the need for social activity, as well as

counseling and support groups."

Seventeen years after moving to Sun City, both Leslies work in a variety of facets at IFS, including filing, adult day care, transportation and special events.

One job that husband and wife both enjoy is working at the Tradition Golf Tournament.

"We took pictures last year, this year we're helping out and assisting the photographers," Mr. Leslie said.

For Peg Leslie, IFS is one of the many places she has given her time over the years.

"I've been volunteering all my life," she said. "When I was younger I volunteered at hospitals and libraries."

At the end of the day, Peg Leslie says the work is "satisfying."

"I feel good about volunteering," she said.

These four people and the countless others like them, are the folks who make Sun City "The City of Volunteers."



ARIZONA REPUBLIC/PHOENIX GAZETTE  
February 18, 1994

## 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 Citizens take care of their community through volunteerism.

Will future Sun Citizens 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.



# Volunteerism — a way of life

In January of 1960, Del E. Webb created Sun City, Ariz., the first of the "active adult communities," with a challenge to its residents. "Concrete, steel and lumber make the buildings," Webb said, "but people make the community. Together we can create a way of life unprecedented in America."

The Del E. Webb Development Co. (DEVCO), master-planner and builder of Sun City and Sun City West, fulfilled Webb's part of the challenge. DEVCO constructed a community of comfortable homes, golf courses, recreation centers, shopping centers and much more — the concrete, steel and lumber.

1252A  
The people of Sun City and Sun City West also fulfilled their part of the challenge, creating a structure of volunteer activities and services unique in the nation.

Sun City and Sun City West combined are the home of more than 400 civic, service, church, charitable and recreational clubs and organizations. No communities anywhere are more concerned with being involved, with helping other people.

By definition, a volunteer is a person who performs or gives his services of his own free will, without compensation. "Free will"... yes; "without compensation"... not at all. While they don't receive any material

rewards, nearly every volunteer in the Sun Cities admits he gets more out of it than he puts into it.

**VOLUNTEERS COME** from any number of social backgrounds. Some are financially secure while others are more dependent on pensions and social security checks. From all 50 states and as many foreign countries they brought with them one common characteristic: They care for each other and their communities.

Sunshine Services is an excellent example of this caring attitude. Founded in 1963 and operating out of a 16,000-squarefoot officewarehouse built by DEVCO at cost, this landmark Sun City organization has as its motto, "People Helping People."

In any year, more than 32,000 items are loaned to residents. From baby beds and high chairs to rollaway beds and hospital equipment, the value of its services exceeded \$1 million in 1983. Yet, not one cent was charged any recipient, nor was any money solicited or received from any government agency. It was just people helping people.

Sun City is the home of Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, a 355-bed acute-care facility. Recently, its more than 1,700 volunteers hit a milestone by recording their two-millionth hour of service. That's a record no other auxiliary in the state can match, according to Jane Hibbitt, director of volunteers.

"Our volunteers supplement and enhance the quality of our services," Hibbitt said. "Although they do not provide direct person or medical care, they provide many of the extras that make life more pleasant." Volunteers have also raised more than \$1 million for the purchase of hospital equipment.

AS WITH ANY community of seniors, there are a certain percentage who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to prepare their own meals. The 130 volunteers of Meals on Wheels handle these situations seven days a week with hot and cold meals and with special diets where so prescribed. When reci-

ipients are unable to pay the at-cost price for a meal, "the money comes from somewhere," according to one volunteer. The group members also drive their own cars and pay for their own gasoline. Since 1972, they have delivered and prepared more than a quarter-million meals.

Every year Sun City and Sun City West are the subject of documentaries by journalists from Canada, Japan, West Germany, Australia, England and other countries. Among other aspects, these reporters are always impressed by the cleanliness of these communities. The credit goes to a volunteer group known as the PRIDES.

PRIDES (Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services) is a 500-member group dedicated to keeping their communities litter-free. Comprised of doctors, lawyers, housewives, executives, blue-collar workers and people from all walks of life, the PRIDES maintain public landscaping, gather debris, trim and paint trees and generally make the communities more attractive. Never was a title more fitting.

ON MAY 6, 1983, President Reagan visited the Sun Cities to acknowledge the contributions of a group of seniors for their efforts in crime prevention. That group, of which the president is now an honorary member, is known as the Posse.

This volunteer organization of 400 is trained by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department and serves as its eyes and ears in the community. Patrolling in official vehicles 24 hours a day, the Posse is a highly visible symbol of security in the Sun Cities. In Sun City West in 1983, Posse members logged more than 48,000 hours performing vacation watches, directing traffic, answering emergency calls and much more.

Because of their efforts and dedication, Maricopa County Sheriff Jerry Hill has stated that the Sun Cities have the lowest per capita crime rate in the United States.

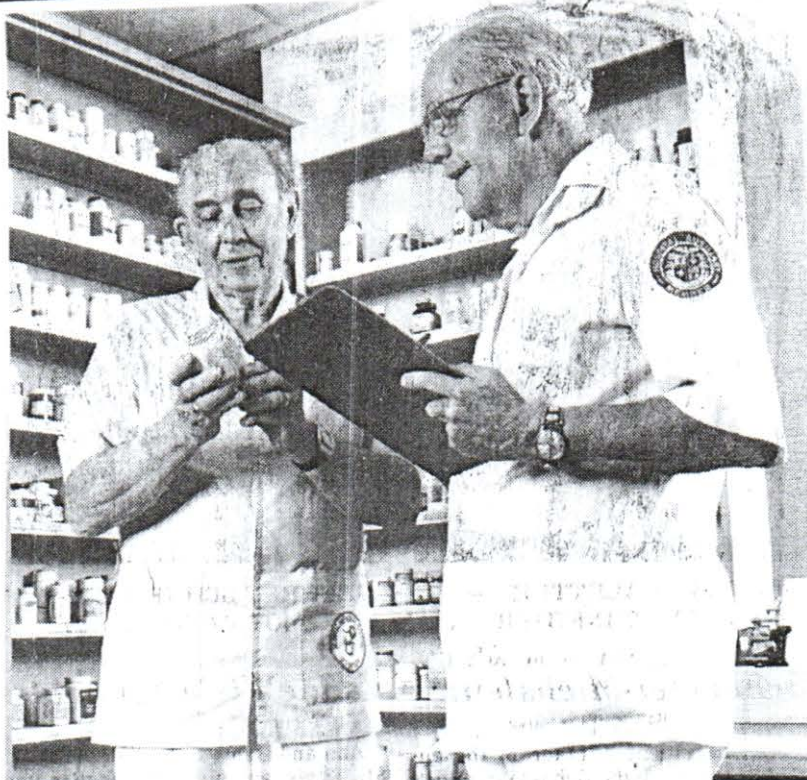
The Sun Cities are also the



In May, 1983, President Reagan visited the Sun Cities to praise the 400 members of the Sheriff's Posse for their efforts in crime prevention. The Sun Cities have one of the lowest per capita crime rates in the United States.

OVER





Two members of Boswell Hospital's staff of 1,700 volunteers, Floyd Belknap, left, and John Hillwig keep a precise inventory of prescription drugs. The volunteers have done their part in keeping health costs under control at Boswell, freeing salaried personnel to perform other tasks.

home of 26 various service clubs including the Lions, Kiwanis, Civitan, Business and Professional Women, Exchange Club, Rotary and many others. Their purpose is to volunteer their members to those in need. When floods ravaged southeastern Arizona not long ago, these volunteers worked round-the-clock to collect and transport food and clothing to these distressed communities.

Many of these same service clubs operate from a centralized Community Services building. Interestingly, the building was paid for from the proceeds of collecting newspapers and magazines for recycling. Continuing evidence of the power of organized volunteerism.

**THIS VOLUNTEERISM** is not confined to Sun Cities services. Retired lawyers sit as hearing officers in county courts; retirees serve on county and state commissions; former educators occupy teaching posts in adjacent

school districts. The International Executive Service Corps has found the Sun Cities to be a deep well of talents willing to travel the world to assist developing nations and industries with their expertise.

From the beginning, DEVCO has recognized this unique spirit of volunteerism. For its part, the developer has donated valuable acreage and significant funds to many of the communities' volunteer groups.

The Sun Cities checkbooks have been ready and liberal volunteers. None of the services outlined here have ever been funded with federal, state or county money. Private contributions, large and small, not only provide necessary funding, but also involve the entire community, including those unable to enlist their physical services.

Volunteerism in the Sun Cities. It's a fundamental way of life which distinguishes these communities from all others.