



Steve Chernick/Daily News Sun

Checking out plans on the site of the Lending Hands building are Bill Thomas, right, president, and Sandy Goldstein, foundation president.

# Lending Hands needs helping hands

Group seeks funds to construct center

By DEBBIE L. SKLAR  
Staff writer

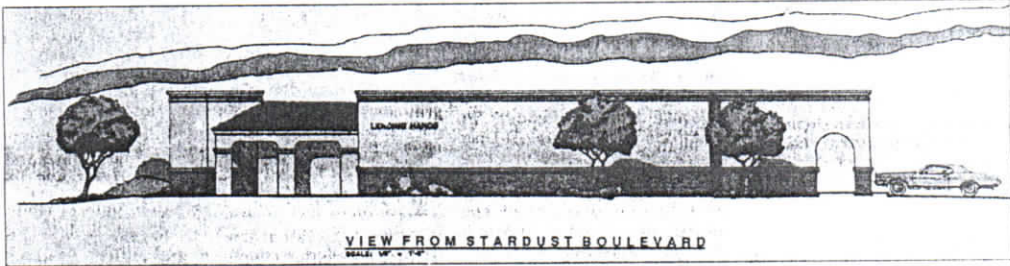
SUN CITY WEST — If the funds come in, Lending Hands, the organization which provides free medical and convenience equipment to residents, will begin construction on a new home Oct. 1.

Lending Hands, located in the Community Services Center at 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd, lends medical and convenience equipment to Sun City West residents with valid recreation center cards.

Since 1994 the Sun City West Foundation has been raising funds for the project, which is estimated to cost \$750,000.

"We have authorized an architect to move ahead and provide final drawings for bid," said Sandy Goldstein, president of the Sun City West Foundation. "Do we have the actual dollars to complete the building today? No. But we do have the money to begin with and we are expecting to raise more through fund-raising efforts. We anticipate to have those funds in hand by the time construction is completed."

The new home of Lending Hands will be built by the Sun City West



Foundation on a less than 1-acre piece of land donated by the Del Webb Corp. at the northeast corner of Stardust and R.H. Johnson boulevards.

The building is expected to be about 14,500-square-feet, Goldstein said.

"Right now we don't really have any reality of the cost," Goldstein said. "We know the estimate of the cost, but will not know the exact figure until the bids are submitted. We are confident that the community will support the project as it has in the past."

Both the Sun City West Foundation and Lending Hands executive boards have approved the preliminary project and will look again at the final drawings upon completion. The

architect for the project is Dean L. Glasco of Phoenix.

"The architect has been given the light," Goldstein said. "We are hoping to look at the plans again together when they are finished."

Goldstein said once the final plans have been completed, there should be a better understanding of the project.

"When the bids come in they will give us an accurate cost of the building," he said. "They'll basically give us the bottom line."

The existing Lending Hands building, in time, will be used for more community meeting space, Goldstein said.

"We have not given those plans to the architect yet," Goldstein said. "Our prime focus is getting Lending

Hands open and running. We'll be looking at using the vacated space for more community rooms because the needs are there."

Goldstein said Lending Hands needs a new home because of traffic congestion that exists at the current facility.

"Lending Hands also needs a new home because the community is really growing and there's a need for additional space for storage and equipment," Goldstein said.

Fund raising for the project began in 1994 with a fund-raising letter to residents asking for donations. Proceeds from the annual luminaria sale at Christmastime also are earmarked for the building project.

In March, the Sun City West Foundation sent letters requesting donations.

# Sun City West organization offers a helping hand during holiday visits

By **Jeremy Pearlman**  
Independent Newspapers

It can be a joyous time when grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other children come into town for a holiday visit.

But these visits can also lead to stress and anxiety for people trying to prepare accommodations in domiciles designed and furnished for only one or two older occupants.

The predicament of what to do when kids come to town is easily solved by those who do not mind purchasing expensive items for short-time usage.

For everyone else, these trips can pose a financial and logistical nightmare trying to properly shelter youthful guests.

There is another option available for Sun City West and Sun City Grand residents besides buying new items.

An organization exists to provide some short-term assistance just for these types of situations.

Helping Hands has numerous items available to make a grandparent's home kid-friendly this holiday season.

From high chairs to potty chairs, gates to baby monitors, rollaway beds to portable cribs, Helping Hands offers a slew of kid-oriented furniture and equipment.

These items are available from 30-to 60-day periods at no cost to Sun City West and Sun City Grand residents with a

“

*When the grandchildren come for a visit, it's not so much of a hassle.”*

**Kathy Browne**  
On Helping Hands program

valid Rec Center card from their respective community.

Under the auspices of the Sun City West Foundation, Helping Hands is solely separate from the Rec Centers and is funded through donations from residents who use the service.

“When the grandchildren come for a visit, it's not so much of a hassle,” said Kathy Browne, the Foundation's executive director.

“(Residents) can come several days before their grandchildren arrive and pick up the equipment,” Ms. Browne added. “It's clean, it's ready to go and you don't have to look through six different stores to get what you want.”

All equipment is washed, cleaned and sanitized between each usage. Items are also repaired, if needed.

“When people retire, they downsize,” said Leonard Guy, the Foundation's Board of Directors president. “They



By Jeremy Pearlman/Independent Newspapers

**Helping Hands Coordinator Neil Cathcart moves one of the many rollaway beds the organization has available for Sun City West and Sun City Grand residents to borrow when they have youthful guests.**

don't have extra bedrooms or storage.”

Helping Hands stores all items at its facility. Items are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

While boasting an inventory of over 1,400 items for kids, Helping Hands primary service is loaning medical equipment to residents.

Medical items are available from periods ranging from 90 to 180 days.

“We are a temporary service to get you through your problem,” Ms. Browne said.

The organization has over 3,000 medical items available for loan, including: medical beds, exercise bikes, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, commodes and crutches.

Some items are available only with a doctor's note.

Open from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays-Friday, Helping Hands is located at the corner of R.H. Johnson and Stardust boulevards in Sun City West.

For more information or to check if an item is in stock, call 975-5499.

MAY 19-25, 1999 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT —



Photo By MARK CASSIO/Independent Newspapers

## Lending a helping hand

Lending Hands representatives, from left, Sig Sampson, Tom Poole and Gene Pulhamus donate the organization's Chevrolet cargo van to Interfaith Services. Accepting the keys to the van is IFS CEO Robert Pangburn.

# Foundation takes over for Lending Hands

SCW

SCW Foundation  
buys equipment  
of Lending Hands

By MARK CASSIO  
Independent Newspapers

Lending Hands' landlords now run the non-profit business.

Less than a week after evicting Lending Hands former management from its R.H. Johnson Boulevard warehouse, the Sun City West Foundation purchased Lending Hands entire equipment inventory and re-opened the business with its own staff April 15. The move ended a tumultuous week during which Lending Hands clients — Sun City West and Sun City Grand residents — could return, but not borrow needed equipment.

"I think we should thank the Lending Hands people who were willing to work with us to keep the inconveniences to the residents to a minimum," Tom Tibbetts, Foundation board member, said.

The Foundation paid an unspecified cash amount from its reserve fund for a multitude of equipment housed within the 14,725-foot Hands warehouse, including roll-away and mechanical hospital beds, baby strollers and cribs and much

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**Tom Tibbetts**  
SCW Foundation

more medical equipment.

The Foundation owns the warehouse and, until April 1998, leased it to Lending Hands. Hands officials voluntarily terminated the lease in April 1998, seeking to gain warehouse ownership. A year-long dispute between the two community-service organizations ensued and ultimately resulted in Hands' eviction April 9 for non-payment of rent.

The service continues to operate as Lending Hands, but will likely be renamed Lending Hands Foundation in the near future. Foundation board members and three part-time paid staffers will oversee day-to-day operations from

See ■ FOUNDATION, Page 3

9 a.m. to noon.

"As far as the clients are concerned, nothing has changed. If they hadn't read the paper, they wouldn't notice any difference in service," said Roy Gastuch, Foundation board member.

An open house with warehouse

tours — designed to give residents more insight into the service Hands provides — will be held in the near future.

Sig Sampson, former Lending Hands president, said his board held a meeting late last week. "We're getting ready to close up shop," he

said. Mr. Sampson said, after meeting with an attorney to discuss the steps needed to dissolve a non-profit business, his group will disclose the money amount obtained by selling its equipment and what will be done with it.

Foundation board member Rose

Webber said she hopes, as early as fall, to implement a bar-code system to track equipment lent and returned and to introduce computers into the process.

Foundation officials canceled the equipment order placed prior to purchasing the Hands inventory.

# Business as usual — with new name

SCW

## Lending Hands' sale puts Foundation in charge of services

By BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The operation of the former Lending Hands organization continued as usual Monday following the organization's takeover last week by the Sun City West Foundation.

Foundation officials and staff were in the former Lending Hands building — now called Helping Hands — accepting the return of borrowed equipment and signing out durable medical equipment and other supplies for those who want to borrow them at no cost.

Lending Hands sold its warehouse full of equipment to the Foundation last week, the culmination of a year-long lease dispute that saw the Foundation lock out its tenant and order the gear removed from the building.

The sale of equipment did not include the right to use the Lending Hands name, prompting the adoption of the new Helping Hands name.

Helping Hands also has a new telephone number, 975-5499.

Foundation President Lou Lanham declined to say Monday how much the organization paid for the warehouse full of material. But he did say the Foundation paid more than depreciated book value.

The purchase allows the decade-old service to continue under its new name with almost no interruption.

Not included in the purchase was a Lending Hands van.

Among the borrowers Monday was Judy McGough, who was picking up four card tables and 20 chairs for use by her homeowners association for a meeting.

McGough said she had read about



Judy McGough of Summerstar condominiums in Sun City West borrows tables and chairs from Helping Hands Monday morning. The former Lending Hands is now being operated by the Sun City West Foundation.

the Foundation/Lending Hands dispute, but wasn't familiar with all the details. "I'm just glad that the service is still there and you can get what you need," she said.

Foundation Treasurer Roy Gastuch was among the volunteers who helped find the equipment for her and load it into her Jeep.

McGough told the Foundation's executive director, Rosie Weber, who was working behind the counter,

that she understood it was usual for borrowers to contribute something for the loan, and asked what was expected.

Weber ducked the question, saying that people left what they thought was reasonable for what they had used. It is mostly from such donations that the purchase of equipment is financed.

Lanham said the Foundation plans to upgrade the Helping Hands administration soon, using computers

and bar code readers to make borrowing faster.

That's the way Sun City West residents check materials out of the R.H. Johnson Library now, rec centers officials said.

Still up in the air is what happens next to the former Lending Hands. That group, a nonprofit organization, now has only the van, the cash it received from the Foundation and its existing bank account, and no program to carry out.

# New hands

## Foundation buys existing equipment, starts up service

By JOSH KRIST  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Lending Hands is back in business, but it's being run by the Sun City West Foundation.

Today the the Foundation will be loaning medical equipment under the Lending Hands name, in the former Lending Hands building during Lending Hands hours. In fact, the Foundation is loaning the same equipment Lending Hands used to give out after its purchase Thursday of all Lending Hands equipment for an undisclosed amount from reserve funds.

Roy Gastuch, the foundation's treasurer, said, "As far as the public is concerned, unless they've been reading the papers, they won't know the difference."

The Foundation started operating the service this morning, a week after evicting Lending Hands volunteers and board members. The Foundation owns the building the old Lending Hands occupied, finally evicting the group after a year-long lease dispute.

► See Foundation honors, A5

SCW

◀ From A1

The Foundation had ordered \$30,000 worth of medical equipment to carry on the Lending Hands mission, but canceled that order after the purchase. Officials said the \$30,000 figure is less than what they paid for the beds, wheelchairs, strollers and exercise equipment in the 14,725 square-foot Lending Hands warehouse.

Foundation President Lou Lanham, at a Thursday press conference to announce the equipment purchase, said Lending Hands volunteers wouldn't be involved in the new service. Instead, two part-time Foundation employees will handle the incoming and outgoing equipment.

"Also, we've informed Del Webb Corp. that we would honor the commitment Lending Hands made to Sun City Grand to serve these residents also," he said.

People will need a Sun City West or Sun City Grand recreation card to borrow equipment at no cost.

Rosie Weber, a Foundation official, said two employees at the center should be enough during the slow summer season.

"We'll just feel our way and see what the demand is," she said, adding that the Foundation might use volunteers next fall.

Weber said that the Foundation will take inventory — hard to do when some equipment has been out for years — and explore using computers to streamline lending and tracking equipment.

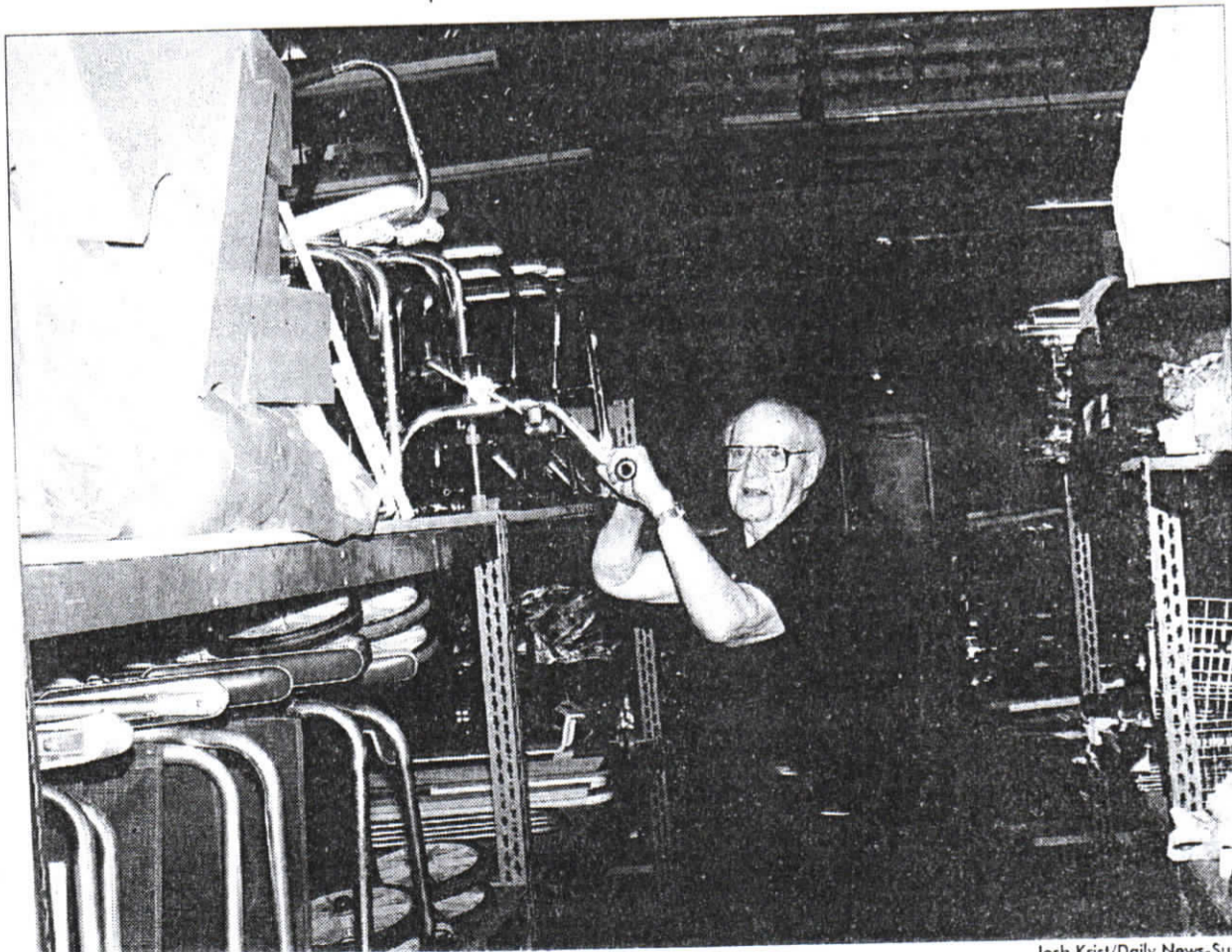
The Foundation took last Friday's eviction action almost a year after the Lending Hands board canceled its lease on the property at 14624 R.H. Johnson Blvd. and told the Foundation that it wanted to negotiate a new lease.

Nothing ever came of those negotiations, Lanham said — except the insistence that the Foundation deed the building over to Lending Hands, which claimed to own it.

A Wickenburg Justice Court judge disagreed with that interpretation. The court gave the Foundation the legal power to evict Lending Hands if it wished.

The Foundation served the eviction notice trouble-free, but on Monday, it took several Maricopa County sheriff's deputies to calm a confused crowd outside the building. Many of those at the building at 9 a.m. Monday hadn't heard about the lockout.

Some didn't want to leave, and became argumentative until deputies pointed out they could be arrested for trespass.



Josh Krist/Daily News-Sun

Sun City West Foundation Treasurer Roy Gastuch examines the inventory the Foundation purchased from Lending Hands. Under the Foundation's stewardship, Lending Hands will operate under the same rules and hours as it did before.

# Lending Hands dispute drags on

## 'I give up,' says negotiator, PORA president Phil Garner

By BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Lending Hands and the Sun City West Foundation are no closer to resolving a dispute over the Lending Hands building than they were three months ago — despite intense mediation by Phil Garner.

Lending Hands had sought help from Garner, president of the Property Owners and Residents Association, in resolving the increasingly bitter, nagging dispute.

Garner said Thursday that he had met numerous times with directors of both non-profit groups to see if he could resolve the claim by Lending Hands that it is the true owner of the building it occupies, and should be given title to the structure by the foundation, the uncontested legal owner.

Nothing was accomplished, Garner said.

Put plainly, he said, "the only thing they want is the title to that building" — something the foundation isn't willing to give up.

In a last ditch effort to resolve the dispute, Garner said, he worked with the foundation to prepare a lease for the structure that would be acceptable to both sides, but Lending Hands directors turned it down on March 1.

"I give up," Garner said Thursday. Directors of Lending Hands have called a special meeting of its members March 20, a Saturday, at 2 p.m. in the R.H. Johnson Social Hall.

Purpose of that session, "is to report on the status of our relationship with the Sun City West Foundation," the meeting notice says.

The dispute began almost a year ago when Lending Hands gave notice that it wanted to cancel its lease on the building and negotiate a new one.

Little happened until fall, but a new lease couldn't be agreed on. Instead, Lending Hands officials said they wanted title to "their" building. Foundation president Lou Lanhan said last year.

Lending Hands' new president, Sig Sampson, insists that the building Lending Hands occupies was its, not the Foundation's.

"We've paid for it," Sampson said in local newspaper ads and fliers.

In January 1998, the Lending Hands attorney, Bill Beyer, said the best bet for solving the problem "would be to use mediation."

That "might offer your best bet for making a settlement with the Foundation which both parties could live with," he wrote to the then-president, Leo J. Storms.

It didn't work, Garner said.

Last October, after the dispute flared and Lending Hands declined to sign a new lease, the Foundation went to Justice Court in Wickenburg and secured an eviction order to regain its property. But it never served the order and didn't try to take possession.

Officials say the order still is valid and may be served at any time, dispossessing the group and leaving it with no place to store its equipment.

That would put innocent residents who need the equipment in the midst of the battle, said Garner, who fears that's the only alternative left to the Foundation.

"Sun City West residents only want assurance that the excellent service that Lending Hands has been providing . . . will continue into the future regardless of who owns the building," he said.

PORA became involved in the dispute as a mediator because both organizations grew out of initial efforts by PORA to provide various services to Sun City West residents. Lending Hands had asked for PORA's help, Garner said.

The Lending Hands building was built by the Foundation and opened two years ago when the organization moved from smaller quarters in the

Community Services Building, which the foundation also owns.

Both organizations are across the street from one another on R.H. Johnson Boulevard at Stardust.

Lending Hands maintains a large inventory of such durable medical equipment as hospital beds, wheelchairs and crutches — and other gear such as high chairs, strollers and rollaway cots — and lends it free to residents who need it. It is a non-profit, tax-exempt concern.

The Sun City West Community Foundation was set up to house, accommodate or provide space for community services or facilities that were not provided by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West. It also is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

It now runs several for-rent meeting rooms, and houses the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West, Interfaith Services Day Health Center, an ASU computer lab, the Prides, the Sun City West Thrift Shop, Volunteer Bureau and other non-profits in its building.

In a written statement ending his role, Garner said "the continuing impasse appears to leave little choice for the Foundation other than to invoke its already established court-ordered eviction notice . . ."

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Tuesday, Sept. 17, 1996 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

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# Lending Hands dedicates building

Staff report

SUN CITY WEST — Chuck Roach, general manager of Sun City West, will be guest speaker at the dedication of the Lending Hands building Oct. 5.

The \$600,000 building, at R.H. Johnson and Stardust boulevards, was completed in late spring. It gives the organization, which lends durable medical equipment to Sun City West residents, more room and a better layout to store the gear.

The ceremony, which starts at 10 a.m., includes a tour and refreshments.

Those planning to attend are asked to park in the Community Services Center parking lot rather than in the Lending Hands lot.

Reservations are requested by calling 584-6851 no later than Sept. 30.

The old Lending Hands' quarters in the Community Services building will be converted to an auditorium style set of meeting rooms plus additional space for the PRIDES, and a 12-station computer classroom for use by Arizona State University.



# Lending Hands prepares to move

Staff report

SUN CITY WEST — Lending Hands, the agency that lets residents borrow durable medical equipment, will move into its new quarters the weekend of May 11 and 12.

To help accommodate the move, which is to a new and larger building diagonally across R.H. Johnson and Stardust boulevards from its current site, Lending Hands will be closed on May 9 and 10, giving staff and volunteers four days to transport hundreds of walkers, crutches, bedpans, hospital beds and other gear to the new, 15,000-square-foot building.

A formal ribbon-cutting will be held in the fall, when more residents are in town, officials said.

Lending Hands board members, and board members of the Sun City West Foundation, toured the virtually complete but still-empty structure on Friday, accompanied by Rod Luker, site manager for Ray P. Petersen Contractor Inc., the builder.

It has taken less than four months for the new \$600,000 structure to be completed. Only parts of the building that serve as office and workrooms have a finished interior; the rest is largely open space with visible rafters and looks like the warehouse that it is.

A large special tile washroom with a hoist can accommodate such things as hospital beds that need to be pressure-washed for cleanliness before being lent again.

The hoist came from the old Lending Hands building, part of the Sun City West Community Services Center.

On hand for the tour, which followed a more formal Thursday afternoon walk-through that was a kind of legal acceptance of the building, were board members Harold Richardson, Melt Bryan and Lou Lanham and their wives.

They and Luker acted as hosts for the other visitors, who showed up a few at a time.

Richardson, who had been in the building

Thursday, said he had a customer even though he had nothing to lend.

"A young woman stopped and said she wanted to pick up a child car seat," Richardson said. "But when she saw me in the empty warehouse area, she admitted she was a little skeptical of our ability to help out.

"I told her she'd have to go to the old Lending Hands building across the street, and she said, 'I didn't know there was an old one.'"

By next fall, the old quarters will have been converted to additional meeting rooms for non-profit-group use, a 12-station computer training area for Arizona State University, an office and work area for the PRIDES, and storage rooms and lockers, as well as a banquet preparation area.

Contributions from Del Webb Corp., other local banks and business, and from residents, helped pay for the new structure and for renovations in the old area, Lanham said.

# Del Webb offers lending hand

## \$100,000 donation secures building for SCW service

By BRUCE ELLISON  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Lending Hands is \$100,000 closer to occupying its new home, thanks to a promised contribution in that amount from the Del Webb Corp.

Lending Hands, a non-profit group that provides medical equipment to residents at no cost, plans to break ground at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 29 for a 14,500-square-foot building.

The site on the northeast corner of R.H. Johnson Boulevard at Stardust Boulevard is across from the Com-

munity Services complex where Lending Hands has a 10,000-square-foot facility.

That building is outgrown, Lending Hands officials say, and more space is urgently needed.

"Plain and simple, we have run out of space," said Bill Thomas, Lending Hands president.

"The new facility will guarantee us that, as the community grows, we will have a place to store our equipment and better serve our customers, especially around the holidays when we are busiest."

Overall cost of the project is about \$640,000, said Sandy Goldstein, president of the Sun City West Foundation, which has raised the money for the building.

With the Webb donation and others, plus anticipated income from this year's lumina-ria project, the foundation "was comfortable going ahead with construction now," Goldstein said.

Fund raising has been a multi-year project, and the foundation still is seeking donations for both the Lending Hands building and for remodeling the community services building after Lending Hands moves.

Plans call for more meeting rooms and additional space for the Sun City West PRIDES, Goldstein said.

From 1978 until 1982, Sunshine Service in Sun City, a similar organization, allowed Sun City West residents to borrow equipment and suppliers.

In 1982, Lending Hands opened its doors, then located in a Del Webb trailer on the old Webb construction site off Bell Road. Five years later, the organization moved into its current building.

The group has more than 3,100 pieces of medical equipment and toddler and infant supplies. Sun City West residents may check out everything from bed pans to hospital beds, infant car seats, playpens and the like.

Chuck Roach, general manager of Webb's Sun City West, said in announcing the company's donation that "there will be future needs from our new residents moving into the community, and we want to make sure that we provide a helping hand to prepare for the growth."

# Agency lends medical, children's equipment

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Lending Hands does more than lend a hand to Sun City West residents.

It has an inventory of \$170,000 in medical equipment and children's equipment available for lending — at no charge.

Since it started in 1982 with a 1,000-square-foot warehouse, Lending Hands has steadily increased its services as Sun City West's population has grown. Today, it has an 11,000-square-foot warehouse stocked with equipment.

Community donations and work by 55 volunteers has helped Lending Hands keep pace with the demand for equipment, said Gene Pulhamus, administrator for Lending Hands, who is the only paid employee.

The volunteers maintain the equipment and help unload and load equipment into cars.

"We receive donations of \$5 to \$50 and some for several hundred dollars," Pulhamus said.

Medical equipment is loaned for up to 90 days. Hospital beds are delivered, but other equipment must be picked up at the Lending Hands office, 14435 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Among the equipment are wheelchairs, bath benches, walkers, canes, commodes, crutches, exercise bikes, mattress raisers, traction sets and bedside tables. A doctor's recommendation is needed for the hospital beds and exercise bikes.

"As residents age, they have health problems that require surgery or recuperation, so they have a temporary need for medical equipment," Pulhamus said. "We're not in the position to lend on a forever basis. For someone who needs something for a short time, they do not have to make the investment for the equipment."

Visiting grandchildren also create a need for equipment on a temporary basis. Lending Hand's warehouse has cribs, high chairs, strollers, playpens, car seats, youth cots, booster chairs, walkers, infant carriers and rollaway beds. These items may be loaned for 30 days.

"Egg crate mattresses are very popular with the grandkids," Pulhamus said. "Grandparents lay them down and tell the youngster they are camping out."

Donations are used to buy and maintain equipment and to pay for the non-profit organization's operating costs. Located in the Sun City West Community Foundation's building, Lending Hands does not pay rent but must pay its own utilities, Pulhamus said.

Hours of operation for Lending Hands are from 9 a.m. to noon

Monday through Friday.

Before Lending Hands started in 1982, Sun City West residents were served by Sunshine Service in Sun City.

But Sunshine Service ran out of space and equipment, so Sun City

West leaders were encouraged to start their own organization, said Wilfred Stevener, administrator of Sunshine Service.

Sunshine Service gave Lending Hands a start. The Men's Club of Beth Emeth Congregation will hold its Shabbat Dinner at SUN CITY WEST — The Men's

Shabbat Dinner  
and schedules



Ernie Ongert (left) and Leo Storms, volunteers at Lending Hands, move a rollaway bed inside the agency's storeroom. Tom Tingle / Staff photographer

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz., Thursday, Feb. 25, 1988

# Sig Sampson prepares to hand over reins at Lending Hands

By CHRISTINE SELIGA  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Behind his desk at Lending Hands, Sig Sampson's head is bowed. He is talking on the phone to a volunteer. She's got the flu that's been going around.

"By golly you take care of yourself," Sampson says as he assures her he will find a substitute.

Getting a substitute won't be that difficult. Sampson has a list of substitutes, a testament to his amiability as well as the popularity of Lending Hands.

"It's a happy organization," said Rosemary Burr, who volunteers as a secretary and receptionist. "I've never heard anyone criticize him or the organization."

Lending Hands is a non-profit organization that lends out hospitality as well as medical equipment to Sun City West residents at no charge. The office and warehouse at 14435 R.H. Johnson Blvd. stores canes, hospital beds, shower benches, rollaway beds, cribs, playpens and child car seats for visits by children and grandchildren.

After five years as the administrator of Lending Hands, Sig T. "Sig" Sampson will be retiring March 1. Sampson has been the organization's only chief.

Bill Thomas, first vice-president of Lending Hands, said Sampson's foresight and

guidance have made Lending Hands the smoothest running organization in Sun City West.

"He's been the whole show except for the volunteers," said Thomas. "His recommendations to purchase new supplies have been wise and keeping ahead of need."

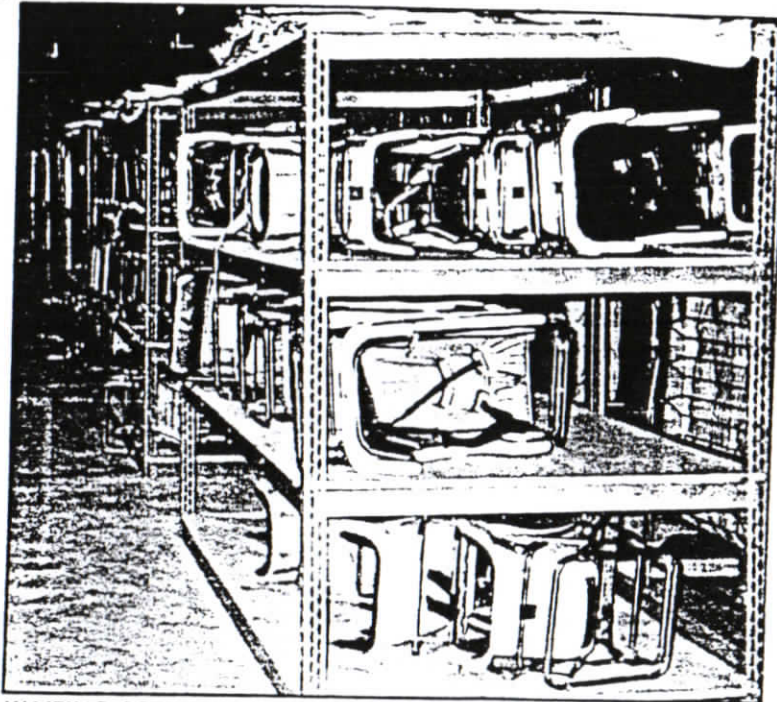
Sampson was involved with Lending Hands when it was just a friendly warning from Sunshine Services in Sun City. Sunshine Services, a similar lending organization, advised the Property Owners and Residents Association (PORA) to set up a Sun City West lending organization.

Sampson's business background helped him run the organization. From 1942 to 1945 he was in the Army Quartermaster Corp. in Europe. After the war he worked for Midland Cooperatives Inc. in Minnesota. He started with the farmers cooperative as a local manager and worked his way up to the presidency of the company.

Sampson said that he wasn't ready "to hang it up" when he retired to Sun City West in 1981. So when Lending Hands was established in 1982 and PORA asked him to run the organization, he willingly took the helm.

Lending Hands started with a \$10,000 inventory, he said. Today it has a \$120,000 inventory and he predicts the inventory will peak at \$200,000.

Lending Hands now has 375 rollaway beds, 100 cribs, 140 wheelchairs, 150 walkers and 13 hospital beds. Everything is



**WAITING FOR BORROWERS**—Rows of rollaway beds and children's car seats are awaiting borrowers in the Lending Hands warehouse at 14435 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West. (News-Sun photo by Christine Seliga)

loaned free of charge. A doctor's prescription is needed to borrow stationary bicycles and hospital beds. Sometimes a loan can last more than a year.

When people return borrowed items they usually give a donation. The group probably couldn't operate without these donations.

The organization also depends on volunteers. Recruiting and scheduling these volunteers has been a large part of Sampson's daily duties. But because Sampson is so easy to get along

with, people are more than willing to volunteer for him.

"I think he's got an ideal temperament," said volunteer Harry Nickel. "Some of us are a little crabby at this stage of life. It's nice to meet someone who doesn't get ruffled."

Wes Ebert has been Sampson's assistant for three years.

"We never had one misunderstanding," Ebert said. "He's very cooperative and understanding."

SCW

**SELF-HELP CONCEPT*****Lending Hands business booms***

By HELEN ALLEN

Sig Sampson feels very much at home running Sun City West's Lending Hands program.

The reason is, he's been there before.

Sampson began his 42-year career with Midland Cooperatives Inc., of which he eventually became president, starting up a farm cooperative store.

"We handled everything, just like here."

**THE FORMER** "farmer's hired hand," which he kiddingly calls himself, remarked the farm cooperative program is very much like Lending Hands.

"It's a self-help concept where people help each other."

The one major difference, however, is that Sampson, this time, is volunteering his services.

**WHAT DOES** he think of the Sunshine Service equivalent lending program?

"I wouldn't put in this much time if I didn't feel the operation is worthwhile," the Lending Hands administrator commented. "There is no alternative to what we're providing in Sun City West."

**AS PROOF**, he points to the booming business the agency has been doing since opening last December.

"We've been busy until this week," Sampson commented. "Whether there will be another spurt this summer, I don't know. This is our first year, so we're flying blind."

The "hottest" items, so far, have been cribs, high chairs, strollers, and roll-a-way beds.

**DEMANDS FOR** these, Sampson said, were primarily due to residents getting visitors during the holidays and winter months.

He believes demands will shift to medical equipment as Sun City

West's population gets older. The biggest call here, at present, is for wheelchairs.

Sampson doesn't know why, because the agency's policy is not to ask reasons of anyone borrowing equipment. However, of the 40 wheelchairs in inventory, 34 are currently out on loan.

**THE FIRST** he ever heard about either Sunshine Service or Lending Hands, Sampson said, was last fall from a member of his church who was involved in organizing the Sun City West agency.

"I was looking for something useful to do and after touring Sunshine Service with him, I became intrigued," he added. "I liked the self-help philosophy."

The self-help, Sampson said, even extended to getting the Lending Hands program moving, with a number of residents pitching in

to set up warehouse and office facilities.

**THERE ALSO** are about 30 volunteers, at present, giving their time to help operate the program.

Sampson's self-help philosophy developed during the Depression years when his father and neighbors turned to cooperative farming after losing their own lands.

After putting himself through college, working sometimes for as little as 10 cents an hour, Sampson also decided to go the farm cooperative route and joined Midland.

**THE WISCONSIN** native moved up the cooperative ladder and, in 1972, became president.

Retiring from the post in 1980, he stayed on with the Midland for about a year "to complete some work" and assist in consolidating with the Land of Lakes cooperative.



Sig Sampson checks equipment. 5-13-83 (News-Sun Photo)

SCW

# SCW Lending Hands program opens facility

By HELEN ALLEN  
Staff Writer

Last week's large voter turnout in Sun City West and the new Lending Hands program both received commendation from George Reeve Monday.

The Del E. Webb Development Co. president spoke at a ribbon cutting ceremony, opening the new Lending Hands facility.

Some 100 residents turned out for the opening and a tour of the facilities.

REEVE FIRST expressed praise "that so many turned out for the Property Owners and Resi-

dents Association election."

Turning to Lending Hands, he commended Bob Williams for his work in getting the program started and added: "I know the community will be well served."

Operation of the center at 17228 Dysart Rd. began today.

OFFICE AND warehouse space is being leased by Devco for \$1 a year.

Williams, president of the Lending Hands board, reported the formation of the program began nearly a year ago when Sunshine Service officials announced they could not support two communi- ties.

"With a rustic beginning, we are starting a service for each other," he commented.

SIG SAMPSON, center administrator, said Lending Hands will be open from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday.

Sampson expressed appreciation to the PORA board for giving the program birth; to PORA's health and safety committee, for giving it form; Sunshine Service, for a donation of equipment estimated at several thousands of dollars; First Federal Savings and Loan, for a donation of office furniture; and volunteers who

cleaned and set up the facilities.

The administrator said the program will not solicit funds, but will rely entirely on donations and memorials.

HE ALSO URGED Sun City West residents to use Lending Hands, not Sun City's Sunshine Service, for hospital or convenience-type equipment.

Two checks were presented during the ceremony, one for \$1,000 by Jack Bowers on behalf of the Sunrise Lions Club, the other for \$75 by Audre Fox for the Sun City West Jazzercise Club.

The phone number for Lending Hands is 584-5800.