

Elizabeth Mullen, left, and Aileen Garvey have been putting the final touches on a mural in the courtyard at R.H. Johnson Recreation Center in Sun City West that celebrates the many volunteers in the retirement community. [Submitted photo]



## Muralists paint with pride

STAFF REPORT

Elizabeth Mullen and Aileen Garvey have spent a good deal of time in recent weeks in the courtyard at R.H. Johnson Recreation Center in Sun City West, putting the final touches on a mural.

The large painting celebrates the many volunteers in the retirement commu-

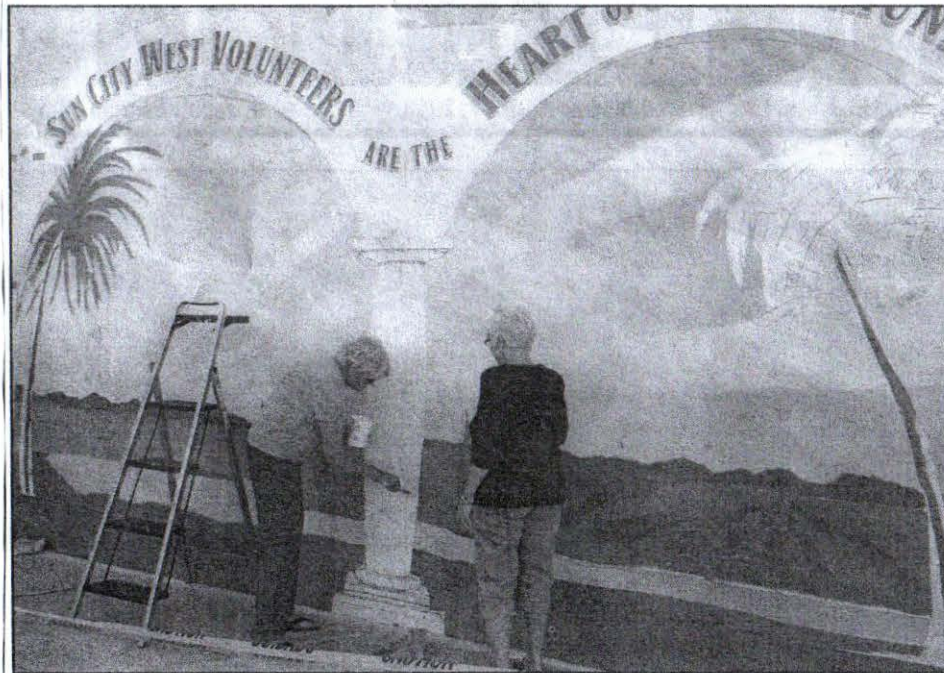
nity.

"We're very honored that we could have the opportunity to do this mural," Mullen said of the piece that cost \$7,000 to produce.

"The mural will definitely tell a story, and there will be a few surprises added in at the same time," she said.

Both Garvey and Mullen are a part of the Sunwest Art Club and have worked on dozens of murals; many of Mullen's murals can be found in California, Michigan and New Mexico.

"Hopefully this will be a mural that we'll all be proud of and celebrate," Mullen said.



Independent Newspapers/Jeff Grant

## Colorful tribute to volunteers

Liz Mullen and Aileen Garvey, both of the Sun City West Art Club, work on a mural recognizing the hundreds of volunteers who serve the community April 3 outside the Lapidary Club at the RH Johnson Recreation campus, 19803 RH Johnson Blvd. The 10-by-20-foot painting, expected to be finished in a few weeks, was the idea of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West's Public Relations Committee as a permanent site honoring the volunteers' efforts.





SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Sun City West Fire District honored its volunteers with an appreciation breakfast Wednesday.

## Corps of volunteers assists SCW fire district

### STAFF REPORT

In honor of National Volunteer Appreciation Week, the Sun City West Fire District had its annual Appreciation Breakfast on Wednesday to celebrate the accomplishments of district volunteers.

Fire Corps members provide such services to the community as blood pressure screenings; lockbox installations and maintenance; smoke alarm checks, installations, and battery changes; injury prevention presentations; CRP training and administration assistance.

During 2011, Fire Corps members volunteered approximately 3,432 hours with the district, providing an answer to nonemergency calls for service, which qualified the group for a President's Volunteer Gold Service Award, officials said.

Those interested in becoming a Fire Corps volunteer with the Sun City West Fire District, can call 623-584-3500 for information. Applications are available Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the district administration office, 18818 N. Spanish Garden Drive.



# RCSCW seeks funds for volunteer mural

STAFF REPORT

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West is collecting donations to assist in the creation of a 10-by-20 foot wall mural recognizing Sun City West's thousands of volunteers.

The mural will be painted on the east side of the Lapidary Club room across from the Member Services Office, R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

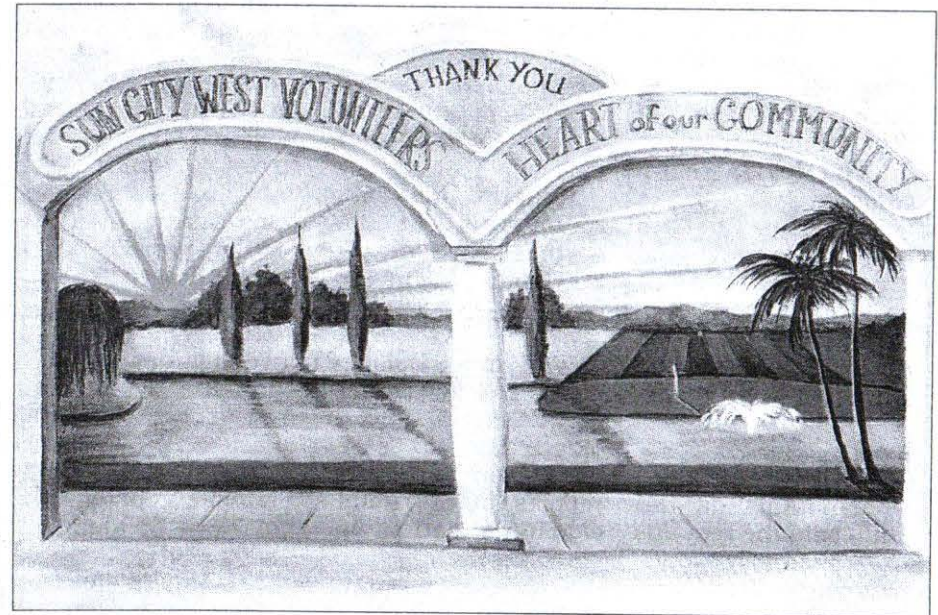
The RCSCW Public Relations Committee plans to raise money for the mural through community donations by individuals or organizations. Public Relations Committee members also will be available at regularly scheduled events such as those at the Kuentz Courtyard. A canister for those wishing to make donations is available at the Member Services Office. The governing board will also accept donations at its regular workshop and governing board meetings.

The artwork is designed to honor

the time contributed by individuals to the Rec Centers' facilities, such as the Library, Village Store and chartered clubs, as well as all of the community's groups, including PORA, the Posse, PRIDES, Community Fund, Foundation, the churches, Meals on Wheels and Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center.

"Many of our community's most devoted volunteers work outside of organized groups. They're individuals who simply do good works on their own, helping their neighbors grocery shop, or getting them to doctors' appointments," said Jack Steiner, RCSCW public relations chairman. "We wanted to honor all of these individuals, as well as our volunteer-based organizations for all that they do to make Sun City West a wonderful place to live."

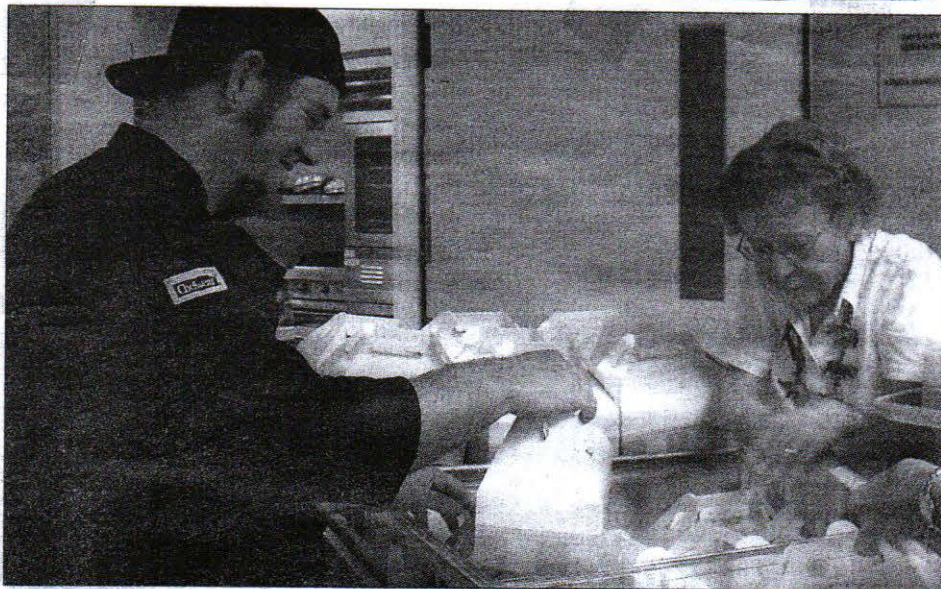
The mural, designed by members of the Sun West Art Club, is expected to cost about \$7,000 and is slated for completion by the summer.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This is an artist's rendering of the mural which will be painted on the east side of the Lapidary Club room across from the Member Services Office in Sun City West.





ERIN TURNER/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Nolan Frankum, a cook at Grandview Terrace in Sun City West, and Agnes Chapin, a coordinator for the Sun City West Meals on Wheels program work together to get hot and sack lunches to participants in the Sun City West Meals on Wheels program.

## Volunteers roll with change

ERIN TURNER  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

In February, the Sun City West Meals on Wheels program changed food vendors from Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center to Grandview Terrace. A month and a half later, those associated with the program say it is working out better than

ever.

"It's been working very well. The food is wonderful. We started on (Feb.) 16 with not a lot of notice, but it really has worked well. I think the clients are very happy with the food they are receiving," said Evelyn

SEE MEALS A5

## MEALS

### FROM A1

Nelson, president of the Sun City West Meals on Wheels program.

The Sun City West program had been using Del Webb as its food preparation source but due to a change in hospital food preparation and delivery to a more room service-type style, the hospital wasn't able to accommodate the program any longer.

So, hospital officials made arrangements for the Care Center at Grandview Terrace to take over the daily meals, Nelson said.

"Grandview Terrace has limits of 50 meals a day for us, but it's a good number because we have people come and go all the time," she said. "Sometimes people go into assisted living or don't need our services anymore."

ing services at Grandview, said the assisted living center can accommodate specialized dietary needs for Meals on Wheels clientele as the center is accustomed to specialized diets for its residents.

Friday's volunteer delivery team included Sun City West residents Barbara and Ted Sherman, who loaded meals into their van specialized for their recipients, including a "no salt" meal and a meal that included fish for Good Friday observers.

In total, the Sun City West program delivers to 200 clients each week, Monday through Saturday. The \$8 meal includes a hot lunch and a cold boxed meal of maybe a sandwich or a salad, plus sides, juice and dessert, Nassano said.

Sun City West program volunteers who deliver the meals each day around noon said the switch has benefited the program.

"It's worked out great," said

resident who has worked with Meals on Wheels for about a year and a half. "They do a nice job (at Grandview)."

The Sun City Meals on Wheels program is still utilizing the Banner Boswell Hospital Rehab Center for its food preparation, said Linda Smith, publicity chair for Meals on Wheels. The price has increased a quarter per meal, to \$7.25, and is probably less than in Sun City West because Sun City has a much larger clientele base, she said.

"When we heard about Del Webb, we were concerned also, but our numbers are much higher than Sun City West. It was probably too cost-prohibitive for the hospital to provide so few meals. For us, we average about 400 meals a week."

For information about Sun City Meals on Wheels, call 623-974-9430. For information about Sun City West Meals on Wheels, call 623-214-4233.

Erin Turner may be reached at 623-876-2522 or [eturner@yourwestvalley.com](mailto:eturner@yourwestvalley.com)



SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

MAY 15-21, 2002

# New group forms to match volunteers with agencies

## Organization tries to fill void left by VPS closure

By Mike Russo  
Independent Newspapers

Seeking to fill the void created by the demise of the Volunteers Placement Service, a group of residents have formed a new organization to serve as a clearinghouse for volunteer opportunities in the Sun Cities area.

The Sun Cities Area Volunteer Committee began operation last week out of offices in the Sun City Home Owners Association and the Property and Residents

Association in Sun City West.

"With Volunteer Placement Services out of the picture, we will take over that function," said Bob Kortright.

"We will be focusing our efforts on providing people to organizations that serve the Sun City area; not the entire west Valley," he continued. "We are talking about 25 organizations."

"It is a volunteer group operated by volunteers," said Gerry Unger, HOA board president.

Although the new organization just began operations last

week, its genesis actually occurred last year.

"This committee started a year ago as an outgrowth of needs that surfaced at the Presidents' Council and the HOA Long Range Planning Committee," Mr. Kortright explained.

He said it was felt that there was a need to solicit more volunteers because not enough people were stepping forward.

Mr. Kortright spearheaded an effort to attract more volunteers

by creating a sign-up sheet on which people could express their preferences for volunteering their services.

Forms were distributed throughout Sun City during the last year, including at four Fun Fairs, the Apple Dumpling Festival and a swap meet, Mr. Kortright noted. Forms have also been distributed to Sun City churches, and will soon be distributed by Sun City West households of worship.

"We will continue that effort

and expand on it," Mr. Kortright said.

Every new Sun City resident receives a sign-up form in the mail along with a HOA membership application, Mr. Kortright noted.

Mr. Kortright, HOA director, will serve 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 president; 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.

Mr. Kortright said he believes the cumulative effect of exposure will yield more volunteers.

He stressed the benefits to the people who volunteer.

"We strongly believe the volunteer benefits at least as much as the organization they help," Mr. Kortright opined.

Mrs. Schindler said a recent study indicates that volunteering enhances the health of the volunteers.

Mr. Kortright said volunteering is great way to meet new people especially for new residents in the community.

SCAVC wants to furnish volunteers to all sizes of organizations, not just the large ones, Mr. Kortright noted.

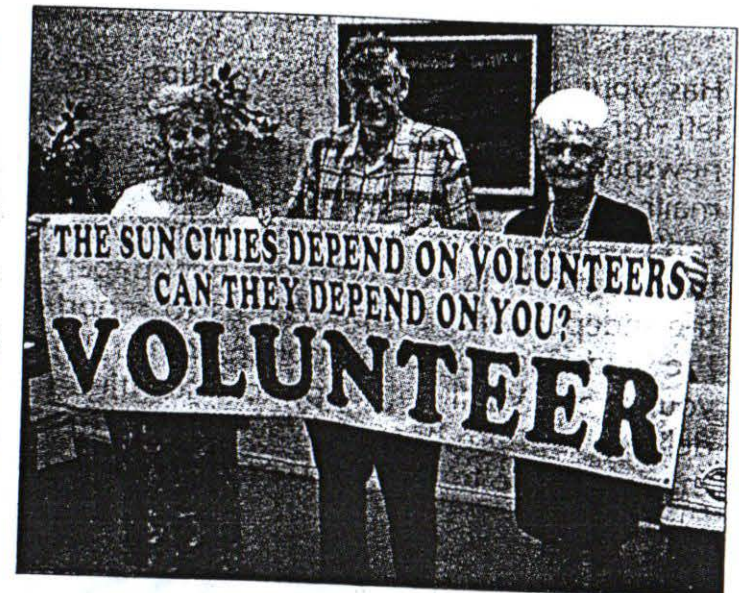


Photo by Mike Russo/Independent Newspapers

Members of the Sun Cities Area Volunteer Committee send out a call for more volunteers. From left, Marge Murphy, committee chairperson; Bob Kortright, interim executive director; and Caryl

"We want to be absolutely sure we cover all the bases, not just the large users of volunteers," Mr. Kortright said. "In our efforts, we have room for all."

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.

"People can call in and we will ask them their three areas of preference and we will place them," Mrs. Murphy explained.

"We are capable of growing and will with the need," remarked Randy Fuller, PORA board president.

Mr. Fuller helped launch the program by personally donating \$500.



# TUTORS AID DYSART STUDENTS

## Ten-year-old program is reaping benefits

By Charlene Patti-Bisson  
Independent Newspapers

A number of Sun Cities residents are living proof that it is indeed better to give than receive.

Not content to fill their days with recreation activities, a small group of local retirees are offering their time and talents to help and teach students at Dysart High School.

"I needed something to do that had purpose," said Sun City West resident Dick Orr. "Working with (students) is a meaningful experience. They are very humble and thankful."

Mr. Orr goes beyond just instructing students — he supports them in their efforts to attend college and assists them with college applications. He has been volunteering with the 10-year-old tutor lab program for five years.

Program coordinator Susan Fernandez has 41 volunteers.

"We started with one ... they keep coming by word of mouth," Ms. Fernandez said.

Her first volunteer was Sun City West resident Margery Emerson, who worked with Ms. Fernandez for 13 years before the tutor class began.

"I like Susan. She is so enthusiastic," Ms. Emerson said. "I like working one on one. I help my student improve in reading and English."

Tutors are assigned specific students. They have diverse trades and backgrounds. Ms. Fernandez explained. Subjects taught range from math to government to English.

"I have 40 to 50 students each day who need help and are serious about school," she said.

Dysart student Juana Garcia expressed how the program has made an impact in her life.

"They help with my homework and my college resume," said Ms. Garcia, who plans on



Photo by Charlene Patti-Bisson/Independent Newspapers

Dysart High School's tutor program students served breakfast to their lab tutors Dec. 12 in the school library. Students thanked them for helping with their homework each week. From left, tutors Wally Berning of Sun City Grand, Dave Forsberg of Sun City, Pat Farris of Sun City West, student Maria Montoya and Sun City West tutor Corinne Mills enjoy eating a big breakfast together.

“

*Tutors help with my homework. It has made a difference.*

**Vivian Saucedo**

Dysart High School student

work," Ms. Saucedo said. "It has made a difference."

Ms. Fernandez appreciates what her tutors do so she honors them each year with a buffet

breakfast in December, where the students serve the breakfast.

"They are not only tutors to the students — they become best buddies," she added.

attending Estrella Community College in the fall.

Second-year lab student senior Vivian Saucedo chooses to take the class because it helps her grades.

"Tutors help with my home-



# Treasured workers

## Couple win national honor for volunteer efforts

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Andrew and Helen Wielkiewicz are known as the "community treasure" of Sun City West.

The seemingly tireless couple do those less-glamorous, tedious tasks that charitable organizations depend on.

Andrew's computer expertise and Helen's typing skills are a perfect combination for their volunteer work.

They've made a hobby out of preparing newsletters, posters, brochures, programs, membership lists and certificates for 16 organizations.

Typesetting is something that causes many people to cringe.

But Andrew, 76, and Helen, 70, say it's their way of contributing to the community. They do not accept a penny for their time.

"It's a life-extending experience to volunteer my time and effort to various Sun Cities organizations," Andrew said. "'Don't thank me. I thank you,' is what I tell people."

The couple bought two computers and a laser printer so they can do their volunteer work. Notebooks full of graphics line the walls in their office.

Lloyd Kilmer, chairman of the advisory board of the Phoenix chapter of the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, said:

"As individuals, Andrew and

**"It's a life-extending experience to volunteer my time and effort to various Sun Cities organizations."**

**Andrew Wielkiewicz**

Helen are such an asset to our community, I refer to them as a community treasure. They are so willing to share their efforts."

Kilmer, also a Sun City West resident, nominated the Wielkiewiczes for the national community service award from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. They each were given a George Washington Honor Medal.

The couple were among five Valley residents to receive the awards at a banquet Nov. 21. They also will be honored at a dinner at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Sun City West Community Center, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd. (Call 584-0722 for reservations).

Nationally, 370 award recipients were chosen from about 1,800 applications.

The Freedoms Foundation is a non-profit educational institution based in Valley Forge, Pa. It honors volunteer efforts of individuals, organizations and corporations in tackling contemporary problems in the community.

Among the groups that the Wielkiewiczes help are Sun City

Area Interfaith Services, the Sun City West branch of the American Association of University Women, the Rhythm Tappers, the Westernaires Choral Club, the Sun City West Women's Social Club and American Legion Post 94.

The two volunteers often are required to create professional-looking literature from handwritten materials. In some cases, though, it is typewritten, and Andrew can simply scan it into the computer.

Andrew's volunteer work dates to 1947, when he helped produce a newsletter for the Springfield (Mass.) Photographic Society.

At a photo session, he met Helen, who arrived by bus. He offered her a ride home. A few months later, they were married. They celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary Nov. 22.

"I have been volunteering ever since to keep her happy," Andrew said. "Without her, I would not be able to exist and volunteer."

Andrew worked as a toolmaker for several companies, and Helen did clerical work.

Shortly after retiring to Sun City West nine years ago, Andrew started Computers West, a chartered club of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West. It has about 600 members.

Helen enjoys solving jigsaw puzzles, playing miniature golf, gardening and bike riding.



Tom Tingle / Staff photographer

Helen and Andrew Wielkiewicz show off the George Washington Honor Medals they received from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pa., for their volunteer efforts.



# Community Fund & the Volunteer Bureaus

Story & Photo,  
Marie Scotti

The Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities Area, Inc. was established in 1982. The purpose is to serve those individuals in the area



who wish to volunteer their time to help others. It is a non-profit agency supported largely by the Sun City and Sun City West Community Funds, but also relies on contributions.

The Bureau operates out of offices in Sun City and Sun City West. The Bureau advertises for volunteers through local newspapers, church bulletins, welcoming committees and new resident meetings. Since its inception, the Bureau has recruited and placed more

than 8,000 volunteer workers for temporary and continuing work.

"I don't think there is any occupation where we can't use someone," said Janet Henningsen, executive director of the Volunteer Bureau. "I never tell volunteers I don't have anything for them, and I usually place them as soon as they come in."

Henningsen reports that money donated to the Volunteer Bureau goes to pay the Bureau's basic operating costs. The Bureau has two part-time paid staff positions and pays for electricity, building maintenance, telephone, insurance, printing and office supplies.

Over the summer, the Volunteer Bureau computerized its volunteer bank. With the help of the Sun City West Computers Club, the Bureau has created data banks which make it possible to access information much more rapidly.

A regular program of the Volunteer Bureau is the Volunteer-of-the-Month program sponsored by Holland America Line Westours, Inc. Any agency utilizing the Volunteer Bureau may submit a nomination for Volunteer-of-the-Month. A drawing is conducted by the Volunteer Bureau Board and a winner is selected. Holland America donates a free luxury cruise to the organization whose volunteer is selected. The program was developed as a fund raising method to assist community service agencies in the Sun Cities. The prize may be used in any manner the winning organization chooses.

A current project of the Volunteer Bureau is the Make A Difference Day challenge sponsored by USA Weekend magazine and the Points of Light Foundation. Make a Difference Day takes place on



Janet Henningsen, executive director of the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities Area, Inc., inputs data on the bureau's new computer system.

**Volunteer Bureau**  
Continued on page 5



# SCW volunteers make city work

## Residents involved in the community

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Volunteers make Sun City West work.

Keeping the streets clean. Helping accident victims. Lending medical equipment. Delivering meals to shut-ins. Providing entertainment.

These are among the ways that more than 1,100 residents give their time each day.

"If Sun City West volunteers were paid minimum wage, their annual pay would exceed \$4 million annually," said Dick Egan, president of the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association.

To honor the involvement of volunteers, the property owners group hosted a town hall Thursday at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center.

Speaking to an audience of 400, representatives from various volunteer organizations described how they benefit the community.

"We keep Sun City West clean and make sure all the plants and trees are watered," said Tom Kostel, president of the Sun City West Prides.

The 250 volunteers care for about 12 miles of landscaped area.

The Prides was started 10 years

ago with 35 volunteers, who provided their own brooms.

Today, the group has a van, 10 golf carts and other equipment that was bought with community donations. It spends an estimated \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year on gasoline and other costs.

Preventing crime is the purpose of the Sun City West Posse, a group of volunteers who assist the county Sheriff's Department.

"Patrolling neighborhoods seven days a week is important in preventing crime," said Russ Hood, Sun City West Posse past commander. "We drive 250,000 miles a year."

During the past six months, the Posse responded to 22 traffic accidents, 392 emergency medical calls, checked 17,000 homes while owners were on vacation, and worked with 600 block watch programs. The volunteers also do free home security checks.

Engraving valuables also is important, so officers can identify them if they are stolen. Engravers are available at the Posse office, Stardust and R.H. Johnson boulevards.

Some volunteers donate their time so charitable organizations will have offices to provide services.

About 800 volunteers work on various fund-raisers to pay the operational costs for the Community Services Center, which houses several charitable organizations.

The Luminaria Festival and Monte Carlo Carnival are among the events that the Sun City West Foundation sponsors.

The 30,000-square-foot building was paid for with \$1.4 million donated by residents, foundation president Sandy Goldstein said.

Agencies housed in the center are Lending Hands, Interfaith Services Adult Day Health Center, Sun City West Prides, the Sun City West Community Fund, Sun Cities Area Historical Society, the Sun Cities Volunteer Bureau and the Sun City West Thrift Shop.

An additional 10,000-square-foot building, which will cost \$700,000, is planned on land donated last year by Del Webb.

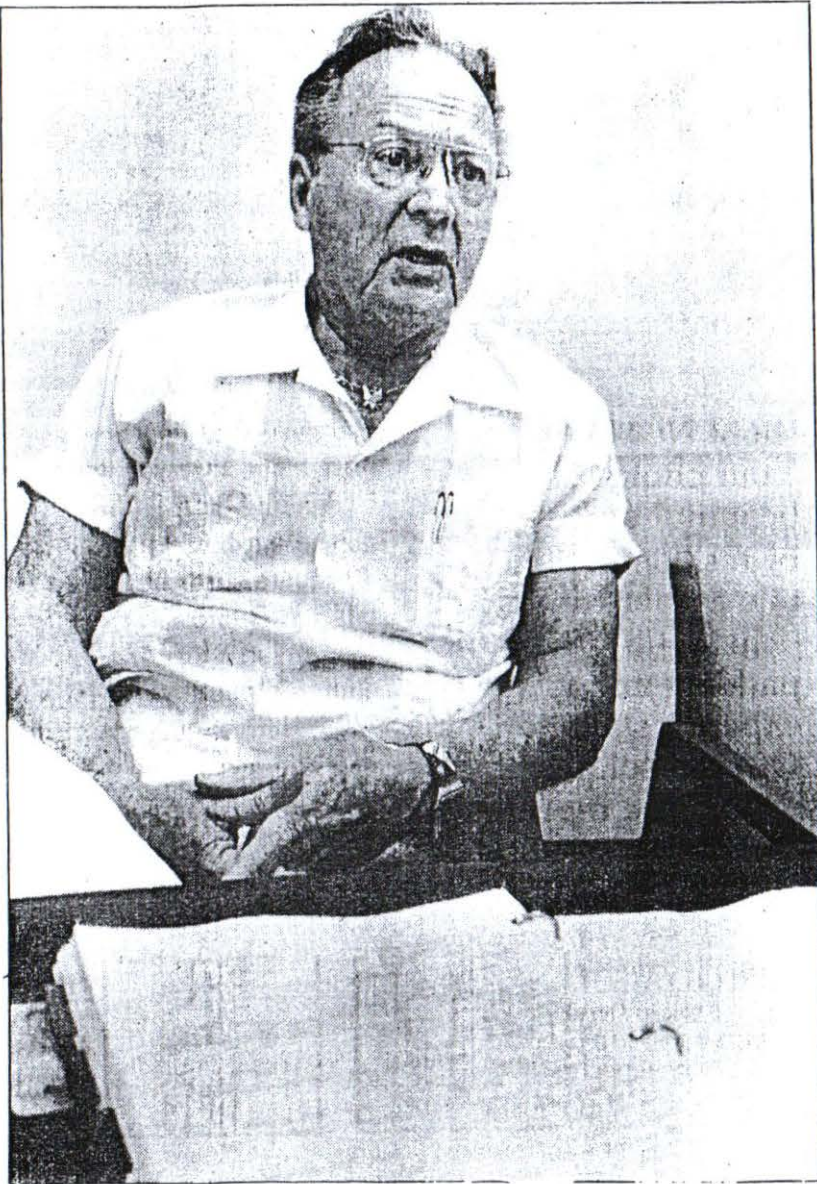
Many volunteers provide social services.

For example, the Sun Health Foundation has a hospice for the terminally ill and their families and a home health-care program.

Seventy-five percent of the services provided by Interfaith Services are handled by volunteers. More than 400 volunteers assist 5,000 people annually — providing counseling, adult day health and social services.

Lending Hands lends medical equipment, such as walkers, wheel chairs and hospital beds, to residents. Volunteers donate 4,000 hours a year managing the \$170,000 inventory.





Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

...a three-year Sun City West resident, wasted little time getting involved in the community after arriving from Fort Worth, Texas.

# Sun City West man fills retirement time

By MIKE GARRETT  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Retirement is often associated with leisure activities but for Jack Lewis retirement means meeting the demands of a full calendar.

The three-year Sun City West resident wasted little time getting involved in the community after arriving from his first retirement home in Fort Worth, Texas.

"We came out here and I became involved in the Posse right away because I think it's one of the finest things any community can have if you have the luxury of time," Lewis said.

Lewis was the Posse's first duty officer. His wife serves as a receptionist at Posse headquarters.

Lewis has written a history of the Sun City West Posse and hopes to produce training videos for incoming Posse volunteers.

On Thursday nights, Lewis is either the announcer or projectionist at the Friends of the Library-sponsored 'Stardust' Theatre movies. Lewis said the first two fall showings have already attracted 570 residents.

On Tuesday mornings, Lewis and his wife work at the physician's mail desk at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital. He said he hopes to produce a training video on proper hospital vol-

'We came out here and I became involved in the Posse right away because I think it's one of the finest things any community can have if you have the luxury of time.'

Jack Lewis

unteer protocol.

Lewis also helped produce a video that the U.S. postmaster general used to illustrate Sun City West's need for a full-service post office.

"He deserves a lot of credit for producing that film," said Howie Wilson, Property Owners and Residents Association Post Office Committee co-chairman.

Lewis retired as national accounts marketing manager for Swift & Co. meat packers, where he worked for 35 years.

He is a member of the Sun City West photography, woodworking, metal and leather craft clubs.

"When I was working, I never brought my (work-related) problems home because I was so busy at home maintaining and creating crafts," Lewis said.



# Local residents master gardening

By MIKE GARRETT  
Daily News-Sun staff

Northwest Valley residents, mostly retirees from the Sun Cities, Peoria and Glendale, have earned their green thumbs.

They took their final test Thursday to complete a 12-week class with 31 others to earn the designation of Associate Master Gardener.

Their classmates, who chose not to apply for associate master gardener status, were mostly landscapers or others who wanted to learn more about Arizona's desert plants.

The associate master gardeners are now qualified to apply their new classroom knowledge to help area residents with their gardening, horticulture and landscaping problems, said Don Copelan, chairman of the executive board of the Sun City West Master Gardener satellite program.

The new associate master gardeners are mostly volunteers who enjoy gardening and want to help others.

The master gardening program has an office in the Property Owners and Residents Association building, 13815 Camino del Sol. The telephone number is 546-1672.

The office is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the same days during the summer.

The class in the PORA building was taught by Terry Mikel, agricultural Extension agent for the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture.

The training and certification program covers such topics as soils, plant diseases, landscape plants, fruits and nuts and problem diagnosis, Mikel said.

"It was really been an eye opener for me," said Copelan of his class experiences. "Everybody has come here from somewhere else. Planting trees and shrubs is so different out here because of soil conditions and climate."

Master gardener training is offered three to four times per year at different Valley locations. Classes are three hours per week for 12 consecutive weeks.

"There are master gardener chapters nationwide," said Sun City West certified master gardener John Kent. He said the 14 new associates can join the 12 existing certified master gardeners in the community after volunteering their new-found expertise for about six months.

The Sun City West Master Gardener satellite program has a new executive board of eight certified master gardeners with several years of experience.

The local program also includes a condominium committee to assist landscape chairmen with the many problems they face in maintaining condominium grounds.

The media committee focuses on increasing community visibility while spotlighting individual master gardener volunteers who help community residents.

Copelan said future Sun City West chapter plans include computerized record keeping, funding its own program and enlarging its PORA office space.

For more information, call Copelan at 584-1436, Mikel at 255-4980, or the Extension office at 255-4456 and ask for Ag Program coordinators Carolyn Chard or Donna Ellsworth.



June 4-10, 1992

THE WESTER

# We Thank 2253+ Volunteers

## SCW Beats State, National Averages

A story in last week's Wester told of Arizona's three year campaign to encourage volunteering and giving.

The editorial staff of The Wester took several weeks to do a survey (unscientific, but the best estimates from reliable sources) of what Sun City West (only) does in volunteering.

Surprise! Surprise! Westers do an average of 5.7 hours a week, compared with Arizona's 3.2 hours a week average, and the national 4 hours per week.

We did not attempt to get into the "giving" portion reported by the

state, what people do in giving to charities, church and other worthy causes.

The staff thanks the many individuals and organizations who cooperated with our writers.

We have recently carried stories of service clubs and their work with the Dysart and El Mirage School systems; Habitat Houses for Humanity and others whose figures were not included in our tally. They all are important, however, to the total picture.

Instead, we tried to concentrate on Sun City West's crafts, golf and large service groups, such as PORA, Del Webb

Hospital, the Library, the fire department and SPAA.

A staff writer contacted many SCW churches and synagogue, but we found numbers of volunteers and their weekly hours of work are not tabulated in a way that we could get a composite picture. We all know that the churches and synagogue do more than their share of volunteer work, and we are sorry we do not have a definitive result.

We did not try to get an annual number of volunteer work efforts, because many organizations are active only nine months of the year.

Forty-eight crafts and

golf groups out of 81 responded to inquiries with the result that we show 968 volunteers working 4579 hours a week. If they were paid the minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour, it would amount to \$19,461 a week.

Among the larger groups, 1285 volunteers put in 7,705 hours a week, for an average of 5.9 and valued at \$32,746. Not bad for a great bunch of retirees who continue to give on behalf of their neighbors.

Now, when we add the Prides (600 hours a week) and the Posse (1400 hours a week), we get an even greater picture of giving unselfishly, without thought of return. These hours are not included.

The Wester is proud of every last one of you.

### Editor's Note:

Contributing to this story were Marie Scotti, Joyce Salfingere, Mildred Baker, Chuck Currier, Ed Troch and Ruth Borchardt.



Volunteer tutor George Morgan helps freshman Andrea Becker with a math problem in the learning center at Centennial High School.



Mark Henle / Staff photographer

"I got involved because I read in the newspaper that the Peoria district was looking for someone who knew about computers. So I stuck my neck out."

George Morgan

## Programming kids

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

Peoria

**G**eorge Morgan's reason for being a volunteer tutor is simple.

Centennial High School needed a computer expert, and Morgan had the knowledge and time to share.

Morgan, a 73-year-old Sun City West resident, retired after 16 years with UNIVAC, a computer manufacturer in Pennsylvania. Previously, he served 27 years in the Army before retiring as a chief warrant officer.

"I got involved because I read in the newspaper that the Peoria district was looking for someone who knew about computers," Morgan said. "So I stuck my neck out."

Although computers and mathematics are Morgan's specialty, he said he is "quite willing to help in any

## Computer expert volunteers as tutor

subject."

Besides assisting math teachers, Morgan spends time in Centennial's learning center, where students seek help with their studies.

"Whatever problem comes through the door, we take care of it," Morgan said. "If we don't have the answers, we find them."

Morgan volunteers from 8 a.m. until "whenever I can go home." He sometimes is at school as late as 4 p.m.

He also takes work home with him, spending about 10 hours a week preparing lesson plans, grading papers and doing special projects for teachers.

"Volunteering keeps me from going nuts. I like to

keep active," said Morgan, who volunteered for five years at Peoria High School and a year at Alta Loma Elementary before starting at Centennial this year.

Because of his dedication to Centennial students, Morgan received the VIP Award from that school. During a districtwide celebration recently, volunteers were honored from each of the district's 19 elementary schools, and Centennial, Ironwood and Cactus high schools.

"These volunteers are among 1,500 volunteers who have donated about 45,000 hours at Peoria district schools this year, at a savings of about \$200,000 to the district," said Vicki Taradash, the district's volunteer coordinator.

"But more than money, the generous gift of time given to the staff and individual students at the schools in the Peoria district help to create a positive example and better learning experiences for our young people," Taradash said.

Bill Mosley, a reporter for KTVK-TV (Channel 3), See VOLUNTEER, Page 3



# VOLUNTEER

From Page 1

was the guest speaker at the awards ceremony. He praised the Peoria district for its volunteer efforts.

"This is not about awards and recognition. It's about the betterment of our community," Mosley said. "To make it better, we need to take our children in the right direction."

"Kids love to have someone special helping them," Mosley said. "There are so many kids in a classroom that teachers do not have time to give personal attention."

Del Webb Corp. was honored at the ceremony for providing \$12,000 this year to pay the salary for the district's volunteer coordinator, who recruited volunteers from the Sun Cities and within the school district.

"We want to give back to the community any way we can," said Chuck Roach, general manager of Sun City West. "All the credit belongs to you volunteers."

The contributions of the VIP award recipients vary from school to school.

Lynda Tylor has been almost

solely responsible for cataloguing 13,000 of Cactus High School's library books into the school's computer system.

Debra Besser looks for bargains while shopping weekly for 150 students in food and survival classes at Ironwood High School.

At Heritage, Anita Smith has organized a bicycle rodeo to stress bicycle safety as well as tutoring and helping with holiday parties and field trips.

Other volunteers honored include James and Ruth Ficker, Alta Loma; A.J. Fulcher, Apache; Jackie Mutchler, Canyon; Patty Kelly, Copperwood; Jean Alm, Cotton Boll; Jackie Berkshire, Desert Palms; Penny Castillo, Desert Valley; Sonja Enfinger, Foothills; Cathey Cross, Ira A. Murphy; and Myrna McClellan, Kachina.

Also, Melanie Denny, Oakwood; Debbie Bowman, Oasis; Paula Coughlan, Peoria Elementary; Marge Melhead, Pioneer; Lorraine Schoellhammer, Sahuaro Ranch; Toni Ruiz, Sky View; Phyllis Norris, Sun Valley; and Geri Joncas, Sundance.



Fri., Jan. 10, 1992

The Arizona Republic/THE PHOENIX GAZETTE

# Sun Citians volunteer efforts

## Sundome benefits from 2,000 hours

SUN CITY WEST — Volunteers, mostly Sun Citians, have contributed more than 2,000 hours during the past two months for the Sundome Performing Arts Association.

The operation of the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts depends on volunteers to balance the 1991-92 budget, said SPAA President Fred Dunikoski.

Besides helping raise money for the Sundome, the duties of the 230 volunteers include compilation of marketing information, ushering, ticket-taking, program distribution, supervision of VIP parking, lobby decoration, staffing the information desk, office duties and assisting in mailing program announcements. Volunteers also staffed a phone campaign.

About \$143,000 has been raised for the Sundome so far, and the goal is to raise \$300,000 by Feb. 29.

Eight Sundome volunteers will be honored next Friday at a Volunteer of the Year program sponsored by the Sun Cities Volunteer Bureau and Holland America Cruise Lines. They are Mary DiGangi, Don Baker, Helen Marie Florey, Eleanor Ernest, Eva Romano, Joe Paselk, Tillie Klien and Howard Allen.

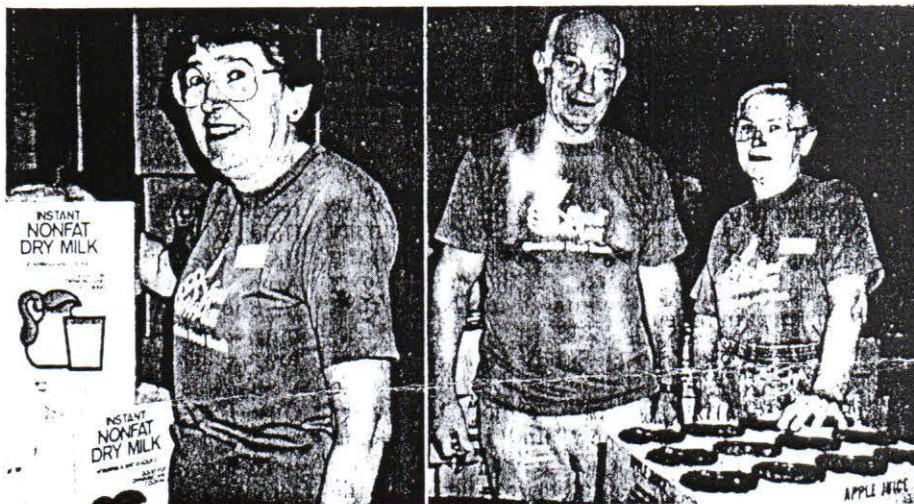
One volunteer from the various Sun Cities area agencies will be randomly selected to receive a cruise for two, courtesy of Holland America.



# Volunteers: Money In The (Food) Bank

by Mildred Baker

**THE WESTER**  
June 20-26, 1991



Kathryn Willits reduces cartons of dry milk to family-size allotments and Hank and Claire Kotkowski place 5 cans of apple juice in each family package. (Photo by Mildred Baker)

"It's wonderful to have a new group of enthusiastic volunteers arriving every four hours," asserts Debbi Dorman, Director of Community Relations at the Westside Food Bank warehouse in Surprise.

She refers to a thousand individuals, many from Sun City West, who give four to 40 hours each week to various branches of this emergency and supplemental food program.

Monie McFadden, Sun City West, keeps track of referrals stored in her computer.

"I update these records several times a week," she offers, referring to outlying food banks at Glendale, Agua Fria, Aguila, Bantania, Buckeye, Gila Bend, Wittman, and Wickenburg.

On a tour of the 32,000 square foot facility, Director Dorman points out supplies for emergency pantries of 22 surrounding senior centers which receive 3,000 brown bags weekly... prepared here.

Most of the volunteers wear blue shirts awarded by Westside after six months. Logos indicate departments; "Superman" for the 80-plus years of

age; lined jackets awarded after one year of volunteering. There are over 50 "Super 80s".

Recent down trend in the economy resulted in

more people being dependent on the center for nutritious food. "Response to our call for volunteers

Continued on Page B3

## Volunteers

Continued from Page B1

was gratifying," explains Debbi.

"Because of the Sun City West churches...Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic, Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist, and Covenant Presbyterian...we increased the number of boxes assembled each month from 3,600 to 10,000".

Throughout the facility other Sun City West volunteers work with Temporary Food Assistance, Emergency Food Box (which feeds a family of four four-five days), Food Plus (a monthly food box and nutritional education to small children, pregnant and post partum women) and other programs.

Kathryn Willits confides, "It's fun being given a choice of jobs each time I come...each day something different".

Kathryn, Claire and Hank Kotkowski spend the morning assembling boxes of nutritionally balanced food...speedily transferring dry milk and apple juice from

scores of cartons to family-size containers.

Individuals and organizations learn that for each dollar donated here, \$45 worth of food is distributed to the needy.

That dollar goes far here because people like Dorothy Hughes and Rita Crowley go through damaged cases of supplies to wash and reassemble salvageable units. In another area, Betty Murphy and John Grindinger tackle a formidable array of five-pound packages of cheese to make household-sizes suitable for family distribution. They re-package flour, sugar, rice, beans and cornmeal.

During the 18 years Westside Food Bank has been functioning, it has received numerous state and national awards for outstanding community service, for innovativeness, for excellence. These volunteers may claim a large share of credit.

If you'd like to add your name to the Sun City West volunteers or visit this state-of-the-art warehouse, America's first food bank with its own cannery, phone 242-3663 or 583-9240.



THE  
PHOENIX  
GAZETTE

# METRO

O

SECTION

**B**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1991

## Seniors frequent volunteers

### Elderly called great untapped resource

By Victor Dricks  
THE PHOENIX GAZETTE

America's rapidly growing senior population represents a significant but largely untapped resource of volunteers, according to a new study.

The nationwide study was commissioned by Marriott Senior Living Services and the U.S. Administration on Aging. It was released Tuesday in conjunction with National Volunteer Week.

The study, which was based on interviews with nearly 1,000 Americans age 60 and older, found that 41 percent of America's 37.7 million seniors worked as volunteers last year. Most said they worked an average of 3.5 hours per day.

But in addition to the 15.5 million active senior volunteers, another 37 percent of the elderly population said they might or would be willing to donate their time if asked. This comprises another potential pool of 14.1 million people.

"The findings confirm what we already knew," said Carol Crecy, deputy director of the U.S. Administration on Aging. "Older volunteers are providing important services to their communities and are available to give even more."

Among seniors, the study found that men are more likely than women to volunteer. But the number of female volunteers is greater because they comprise 57 percent of the senior population.

A genuine desire to help people and the need to feel useful were the major reasons cited by seniors for volunteering. Other motivating factors include a feeling that volunteerism is a moral or social obligation, offers companionship and is a means to alleviate loneliness. Fewer than 1 percent of the seniors surveyed said they volunteered time to alleviate guilt.

More than half the volunteers worked for church or religious organizations. Most said they did so out of a desire to help children and other seniors but indicated they would donate time to civic groups and businesses. Political organizations and environmental groups are among the least likely to have senior volunteers.

Providing companionship and transportation are the two jobs most often performed by seniors.

Crecy said the 14.1 million seniors who indicated a willingness to donate time if asked represents a huge "reservoir of talent" that needs to be tapped.

"There is some very practical, very important data here," said Brian Swinton, vice president of Marriott.

He said groups wishing to attract senior volunteers should structure opportunities to permit seniors to donate time in 3½-hour blocks. Clearly, he said, the survey indicates that this kind of half-day



## Dysart Community Center Benefits From Sun Cities Volunteers

SUN CITIES, AZ -- Without the generosity of the residents of Sun City and Sun City West, Nella Martinez believes there would not be a Dysart Community Center.

Since it opened 28

years ago, residents of the two retirement communities have volunteered thousands of hours of their time at the center, located in the mostly Hispanic community of El Mirage. With such a

strong volunteer force, the center is able to successfully operate its Laubach Literacy Program for adults and the 4-H program for children.

"We couldn't survive without them," said Martinez, director of the center. "This center was formed by Sun City residents and they have continued to be the active force behind its success."

With just one part-time and two full-time employees, Martinez said the center is fortunate to have the volunteers' help in tutoring, teaching, planning, and organizing.

The majority of the residents volunteer their time to the center's adult literacy program, teaching residents of El Mirage and Surprise -- many of whom are migrant farm workers -- to read and write. The 300 participants, in the eight-month program, are matched by an equal number of volunteers, allowing for one-on-one tutoring. Residents receive 20 hours of training before being paired with a student. Some volunteers tutor more than one student, and on occasion some teach several at once in a classroom-style setting.

Although still speaking in broken English, Connie Rios, an El Mirage resident, finds the words to praise her tutor Ray Fortune of Sun City West, who taught three students during the last Laubach Literacy Program session.

"I like Ray very much. He was a nice man to volunteer his time to help me," said Rios. "He let me work at my own speed. I'd like him to be my teacher again."

About 50 Sun Cities residents devote their time to the 200 underprivileged children ages 9 to 14 who participate in the center's after school 4-H program, teaching classes ranging from knitting to jazz dance, and helping organize parties during the holidays.



# SUN CITY WEST *Your Community Weekly* **INDEPENDENT**

INSIDE	
COMMUNITY NEWS.....	2
OPINIONS.....	4
CALENDAR.....	8
HEALTH.....	10
ARTS.....	B1-3
SPORTS.....	B4
CROSSWORD.....	B6
RELIGION.....	B7
CLASSIFIEDS.....	B8-12

• Volume 31, Number 12 •

• COVERING THE NEWS OF SUN CITY, SUN CITY WEST AND YOUNGTOWN •

• MARCH 20-26, 1991 • 25 cents •

## Lending a helping hand

### Volunteer efforts by area residents help young children in nearby schools

By PEG KEITH  
Sun Cities Independent

There are nearly 800 volunteers in the 22 schools of the Peoria Unified District. Most are parents, but a significant number are Sun Citians.

"There are unique things they do," says Catherine Smith, district volunteer coordinator, calling attention to remarkable

resources and skills of retired volunteers.

Sharing these resources with students is a weekly routine for Dr. Miner Patton, Mae A. Katzberg and Bill Lane, of Sun City, and Gregory Wgingell, of Sun City West.

Mrs. Katzberg is a volunteer, "because it keeps me going."

This "Jacqueline of All Trades" is the quintessential Sun Citian, enjoying active retirement.

She works with first and second graders who exchange love and devotion, as the Sun Citian visits them at Desert Valley Elementary School every Thursday.

Her schedule leaves little opportunity to sit at home or sleep late in the morning. She divides her volunteering efforts between the school, the Sun City Library, and Sun City Information and Referral Service.

Mrs. Katzberg was a Dictaphone operator

before she retired. She never taught school, but gained experience as a volunteer tutor in El Mirage.

"I worked wherever they needed me."

A resident of the retirement community for 18 years, she has volunteered nearly that long with the Sun City Library.

"I love to read. And I love children." With an infectious laugh, she adds, "Out of the

See VOLUNTEERS, Page 6



## ■ VOLUNTEERS

From Page 1

mouths of babes ... One of the children said to me, 'Mrs. Katzberg, I know you are 80 years old. Does that mean you're going to die soon?'

"I told him, no, I don't have time."

Del E. Webb Corp. played a key role in preserving the Peoria School District's volunteer-coordinator position.

Martha Moyer, Webb's head of public affairs for communities, says it came to attention of the corporation last year that there were budget cuts in line for the Peoria District. The volunteer coordinator position was to be eliminated.

Webb Corp. offered the district a \$12,000 grant to recreate the position, just for the school year.

Ms. Smith is working very hard, says Ms. Moyer. She adds that, in addition to recruiting and training volunteers, the coordinator is developing informational programs and is producing a video.

"In our effort to enhance the image of the Sun Cities, we wanted to encourage more volunteerism," Ms. Moyer says, adding that a significant number of volunteers — and a pool of talents and resources — come from the Sun Cities.

"When you think about it," Ms. Moyer says, "there are residents from all 50 states and 50 foreign countries here, with varied career backgrounds and experiences."

One of these volunteers, Dr. Miner Patton, is a chess enthusiast who has taught moves and

strategies of the mind game for more than 13 years.

"Dr. Patton does wonders," the district volunteer coordinator says. "Chess is something the children can continue to use."

Dr. Patton agrees. Another active 80-year-old, he's a former resident of Sun City who now resides in the Sierra Winds retirement community in Peoria. He's also interested in music as "something children can take with them," and has returned to the fifth and sixth grade band in a second-clarinete position.

After his retirement in 1975 as an elementary school principal in Oregon, Dr. Patton turned to community service, putting his love for chess to work. He looked first to nursing homes where he discovered

that people who knew chess were sometimes willing and able to play.

Those who had never played chess, though, were not motivated to learn, as they had energy enough just to get through the day.

The educator told himself, "If I can't teach in the nursing homes, maybe children could learn. And when they reach maturity they will know how to play."

He took his expertise to school where he found about half of third graders were able to catch on.

Beginners' chess training in fourth grade was more gratifying. Here, he says, 95 percent of children will pick it up.

"Some will be very interested. Some will not be interested, but others will ... They'll come back

and keep learning ... we'll see what they will do with it."

Fourth graders are favored, for another reason. "They're low persons on the totem pole when it comes to extra-curricular activities."

Dr. Patton says fourth graders aren't ready for major sports; many are seeking something to do.

He recalls a conversation with a chess player: "a very small person, about 4 feet tall," who could never achieve anything. "She tugged on the back of my coat and said, 'Dr. Patton! I won a game today!'"

Dr. Patton is founder, first president and secretary for the Sun Cities Ski Club. He was a major force in development of the Senior Open Chess Tournament. Saturday

mornings, he hosts the Junior Division of Sierra Winds Chess Club. Players usually are five children and one adult, although numbers vary.

Speaking of devotion, consider 85-year-old Sun Citian Bill Lane, who is in his 15th year of volunteering and is described as "a vital part of Alta Loma Elementary School" in the Peoria District.

"Although Mr. Lane's strength hasn't been what it used to be, he still travels from Sun City to Alta Loma two days a week to work with the children," says Ms. Smith.

Mr. Lane has an advanced form of arthritis. He can walk, a little, but needs a wheelchair to get around

See VOLUNTEERS, Page 7



---

## ■ VOLUNTEERS

---

From Page 6

the school and campus. The children love to push the chair.

He started teaching when he was 18 and taught for 47 years in the New York City school system, with classes from elementary to college level.

He retired in 1971 and came to Arizona in 1974.

You can't really say he's retired. Now, he teaches sixth-grade poetry classes, reads poetry, sings to teachers and tutors young readers on a one-to-one basis.

"I guess you could say I like kids," he says.

His love for poetry is readily apparent, as well. Background is part of the regular lessons.

The former school principal also initiated an essay contest on

brotherhood, which has been held for 12 years at Alta Loma.



# Best of the best

## Sun City West projects earns \$10,000 'Action Arizona' community award

An all-volunteer project that helped build an expansion to the Dysart Community Center has earned a group of Sun City West residents a \$10,000 community service award from Valley National Bank.

The bank announced the winners of its 1989-90 Action Arizona awards during a special ceremony held last week at the Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West.

The Dysart expansion project was chosen the best among 13 other entries.

The competition, which began April 1, 1989, and ended March 31 of this year, challenged towns and cities with populations of 35,000 and under to design a project that would improve the appearance, economy or lifestyle of the town.

The town of Buckeye won a second-place prize of \$7,500 for renovation of its rodeo grounds.

Three other communities each received honorable mentions for their entries.

Black Canyon City, Lake Havasu City and Sedona each received a check for \$1,000.

The Sun City West effort included help from literally hundreds of residents and members of the local Habitat for Humanity chapter.

The project was started a year ago when a steering committee began developing a plan to help the city of El Mirage in its efforts to expand its community center.

The steering committee recruited volunteers from Sun City West who not only helped raised the necessary funds, but actually constructed the 3,400-square-foot facility.

The entire project consisted of erecting a protective fence around the property and adding new facilities, including meeting rooms, classrooms and restrooms, to the existing building.

Construction began last fall and was completed earlier this year.

According to Al Spanjer, one of the organizers of the project, the \$10,000 will probably be turned over to the Dysart Community Center.

Among the other communities competing in the western division of Action Arizona:

Avondale, for a litter campaign; Black Canyon City, for cleaning up its main thoroughfare; Camp Verde, for planning a new recreational area.

Also, Cottonwood, for its effort to renovate Clemenceau Heritage Museum; Gila Bend, for developing a driving tour featur-

ing sites of interest; Kingman, for creating a system of town bike paths.

Also, Lake Havasu City, for

developing a community park; Prescott, for renovating courthouse grounds; Sedona, for creating a recycling program; Well-

ton, for building bike paths; Yarnell, for developing various youth programs.



Tyson Kuhrt/Independent

**WINNER'S TROPHIES** are admired by Sun City West residents Al Spanjer, left; Marcie Yeager and Barbara Knudsen, right. Representing the Action Arizona project is Nella Martinez, second from right.



# Separate lives

## Mother, daughter find work at Webb Hospital fulfilling

by TIFFANY MEANS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — In a community that abounds with husband-wife volunteer teams, Clara Maas and her daughter make an uncommon pair.

Both Sun City West women volunteer at the community hospital, although their work interests and schedules seldom merge.

Maas works outside of the critical care unit on the third floor of Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital. Carolyn Mayotte, Maas' daughter, works on the first floor as the hospital's gift shop bookkeeper.

On Tuesdays, the two meet for a mother-daughter day of lunch and shopping.

"It's nice to have a day set aside to be together," Maas said. "Otherwise, we don't live in each other's pockets. We're not that way."

When Maas moved to the community in 1984, she began volunteering at Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City. She transferred to Webb soon after it opened. The non-profit Sun Health Corp. operates both hospitals. Volunteers in the hospitals work through a subsidiary, Sun Health Foundation.

Wearing a pin earned for more than 500 volunteer hours, Maas said that she does not particularly care for hospitals, but likes to help others.

"I feel I do my duty. I don't

want to sit around and stagnate," she said.

During her Tuesday and Thursday four-hour shifts, Maas helps visitors to the critical care unit find out if patients are ready for guests. She also helps nurses with duties such as packaging syringe kits.

Maas uses her hands more creatively on Wednesdays when she meets with fellow members of the Silk Flower Club, she said. On Fridays, she takes a neighbor grocery-shopping.

Since Mayotte and her husband moved to Sun City West in 1986, she has kept about as busy as her mother.

A retired bookkeeper, Mayotte also has an educational background in medical technology.

"I was looking for something to do and I wanted to do something worthwhile, something that might help other people," she said.

Taking over some duties of gift shop clerks on vacation has added to Mayotte's time at the hospital, said Jean Stahl, Webb volunteer coordinator.

Maas also has worked extra shifts to cover for vacationing helpers, Stahl said.

"We call on our volunteers who stay through the summer to do extra duty and they've been awfully good about it," she said.

Maas and Mayotte represent a good example of the variety of work areas available at the hospital to volunteers, Stahl



Daily News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**VOLUNTEER DUO** — Clara Maas, seated, and daughter Carolyn Mayotte volunteer at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital. Maas works near the intensive care unit and Mayotte is the bookkeeper in the gift shop.

said.

Webb's 400 volunteers perform clerical and receptionist work, patient and support services, community outreach jobs and auxiliary work.

Many of the areas need more

volunteers, Stahl said.

"If Webb can't meet volunteers' schedules or doesn't offer work that interests them, we will look throughout the Sun Health Foundation to find them a position," Stahl said.



# Bus tours to take in Sun City West sights

By TIFFANY MEANS

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — New residents soon will have the option of exploring their community on bus tours sponsored by Del Webb Communities Inc., the developer of the Sun Cities.

Residents will be able to sign up for the free tours during Sun City West newcomer coffee meetings, Martha Moyer, Webb spokeswoman, said.

"When people move in, they are immediately concerned with unpacking. Then they may venture to rec center facilities," Moyer said. "But many opportunities extend beyond the rec centers that are of equal importance."

Tentative stops on the tour include the lobby of the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts, the Property Owners Residents Association building, the headquarters for the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West, Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital and the Community Services Center, which houses the Sun City West Foundation, Thrift Shop, Lending Hands and the Prides.

Once built, the Interfaith Services Day Center also may be a stop on the tour.

To be included, Moyer said, the organizations on the tour

## Volunteers sought

Residents who would like to serve as volunteer tour guides, explaining sites that the tour bus passes on the way to participating organizations, should contact Martha Moyer of Del Webb Communities Inc. at 876-3567.

Webb has scheduled six tentative tour dates: Oct. 25, Nov. 29, Jan. 24, Feb. 28, March 28, and April 25.

stops will have to make a commitment to fund the tour project after the first year.

"We are in a transition phase and Webb is trying to educate the community organizations about how to do things after we leave so the community won't grind to a halt," Moyer said.

The six participating groups should have to pay less than \$50 each per tour, to cover the cost of about a \$250 fee for monthly bus rental and gas, Moyer said.

"In return, the organizations will receive greater community awareness about what they do, which is important to all of the groups," Moyer said.

Most of the groups on the tentative tour schedule already have provided either oral or written commitments, Moyer said.

The Sun City West Foundation will take part as a tour stop if at least four other groups agree to share the funding for the first year after Webb stops sponsoring the tour, said Barbara Knudsen, Foundation executive board member.

The Foundation must be careful about how it spends its money and will only join the project if enough groups participate to make the cost minimal, Knudsen said.

"What better way to become a part of the community than to get a hands-on tour," Knudsen said. "If newcomers can see the offices and people working to help them, they might reciprocate and put in volunteer hours for an organization."

Posse members also believe that the tour would promote participation in their organization, Cmdr. Dick Baikie said.

"We want newcomers to become acquainted with the functions of the Posse and see what services we provide to residents," Baikie said, "but the tour would also make membership more readily available to them."



# Volunteer keeps posse rolling

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

**SUN CITY WEST** — After retiring from more than 30 years in mechanics, Dick Niedzwiecki is getting his fingers greasy again.

Since January, he has been replacing water hoses, repairing fuel pumps and sealing radiator leaks as head mechanic for the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West.

Niedzwiecki, a former experimental engineer for Ford Motor Co., works about 80 hours a month keeping the posse's fleet of vehicles in top shape.

"It's like a bus driver going out for a drive or a postman going for a walk. If it's in your blood, you do it," Niedzwiecki said. "This is all for a good cause because all of us want to make this little city of ours stay nice. It makes me happy to contribute to the posse."

Niedzwiecki started volunteering for the posse about two years ago, shortly after he moved to Sun City West.

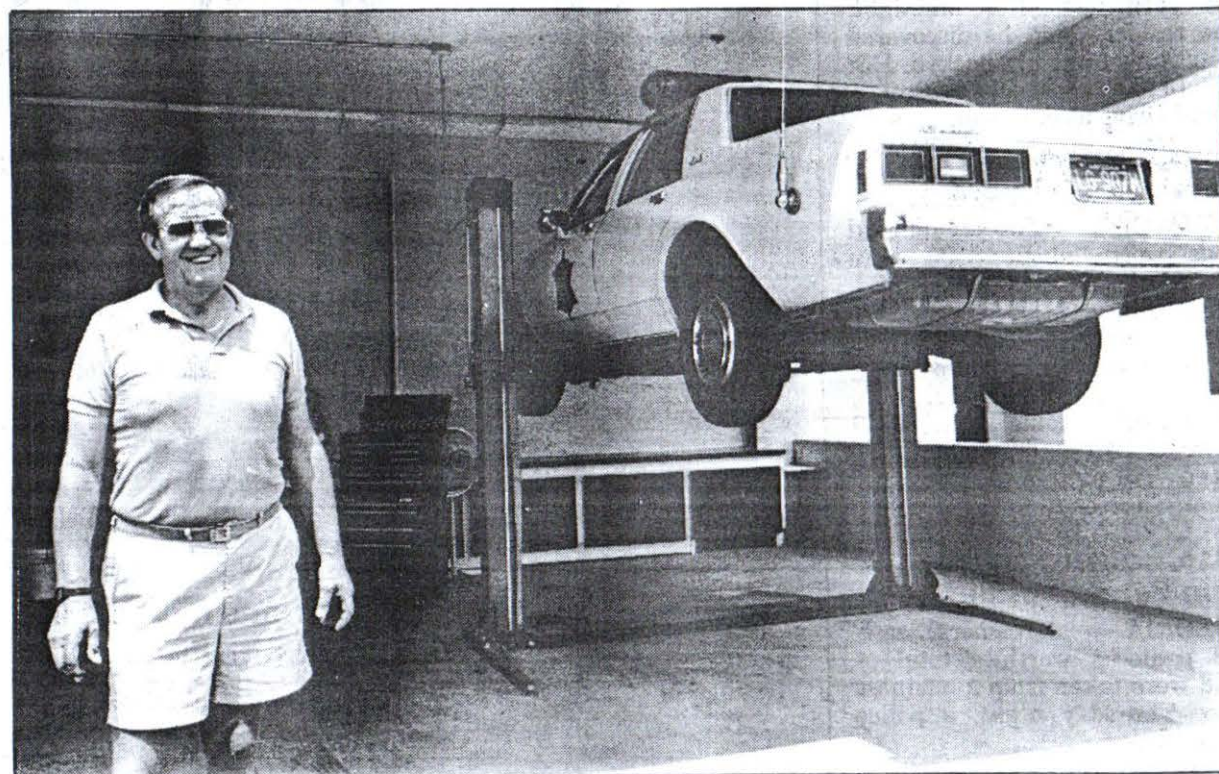
In addition to the approximately 80 hours he spends in the garage each month, Niedzwiecki volunteers 20 hours a month for the posse's vacation watch.

The posse has seven vehicles used for patrol, two golf carts used for vacation watch and a van used for transportation and search and rescue missions.

Niedzwiecki said he and volunteers Ed Bundy and Walter Pieloch work on the vehicles after volunteers who drive them report any complications.

In addition, fluid levels are checked in all vehicles every Friday.

Mechanics do not work on four of the posse's vehicles because



Daily News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**KEEPS CARS IN SHAPE** — Dick Niedzwiecki, head mechanic for the Sun City West Posse, does most of his work in a

garage at the rear of headquarters. Niedzwiecki, a retired Ford Motor Co. engineer, has help from two volunteers.

they are still under warranty with the dealership.

When he first started working as head mechanic for the posse, Niedzwiecki said he replaced all the brakes on the entire fleet of posse vehicles.

"There is always something happening to one of the vehicles. This weather is notorious on rubber. I have replaced a number of power steering hoses," Niedzwiecki said. "We buy parts as we need them and do the work. Everybody here does a lot of work. It's not just me. So many volunteers are really dedicated."

Niedzwiecki's wife, Gerry, also is a volunteer with the posse.

Niedzwiecki was appointed as head mechanic in January by posse commander Joe Opalek.

Opalek said Niedzwiecki has helped save the posse a considerable amount of money in labor costs.

"Before, we always had to take our cars to local mechanics. He can do the same job for \$40 that we would pay a garage to do for \$180. When you figure the cost of labor, I'm sure he has saved us thousands of dollars," Opalek said. "He's a real brain when it comes to mechanics."

We're proud of him. He is a tremendous asset to the posse."

The Sheriff's Posse of Sun City also has volunteers who work on their fleet of vehicles, said Dick Hunt, training officer for the posse.

Hunt said volunteers help with work such as oil changes, but take the vehicles to local garages for major mechanical problems.

The Sun City posse has 12 patrol cars, two utility vehicles and one motor home that was converted and is now used for search and rescue missions.



## A kachina for Bob

by Joe Keenan

## VOLUNTEERING:

Like Ma Bell,  
Knox reaches out

Surrounded by the formal ambience of Paradise Valley's Camelback Inn, Bob Knox sat there absolutely elegant in white boutonniere, white hair, black tie, and tux.

It was Hon Kachina Night, and the Men of St. Luke's were honoring the Twelve Who Care—a small group of selfish altruists who crave the supreme inner glow that comes only from helping others. It was a night for celebrities to appear, for champagne to pop, for crystal to gleam. And Channel 12 NBC cameras were there, along with anchors Patti Kirkpatrick and Kent Dana, to capture every minute of the program live on prime time.

But, Bob Knox's mind wasn't concentrated on the brief speech he would soon deliver, or the handcrafted Kachina, or the \$500, or the Jefferson Award Medallion he would soon receive. Instead, he flashed back to an incident in Santa Cruz, Calif., in 1974 that hooked him into becoming a do-gooder.

It's a heart-warming story.

Knox and his bride, in their early 50s, were in year three of a second-time-around marriage. His five children and her three had long deserted the nest. The freedom was glorious. Within 10 years Bob would be retiring from the U.S. Navy with the rank of Commander, with even greater freedom to travel and explore.

That's when Grace said, "Bob, I miss children so much. Couldn't we have a baby?"

The commander couldn't have been shaken more by a torpedo. But, after a short silence he, in effect, saluted and said, "Honey, we'll see what we can do."

Within a few months Bob and his



BOB KNOX, award-winning volunteer of Sun City West, is shown with Grace, his wife of 18 years, and Taffy, part cocker they found wandering in Sun City in 1986.

Amazing Grace became foster-parents of a six-month-old charmer named Viana. Like most foster children, Viana was a product of a broken home. Her mother was separated from the girl's father and had been living with a lover who was a drug addict and a child abuser.

Expertly, the Knoxes applied heaping doses of TLC, watched the child heal and gain in strength, showed her off, fell in love with her, then suffered the inevitable foster-parent depression upon giving her up to adoptive parents at age two. Today, Viana is a beautiful, well-adjusted youngster of 13 and the Knoxes regularly hear from her and her parents.

Grace and Bob sought immediate broken-heart repair by taking in one-

month old Frankie, whose schizophrenic and alcoholic mother had left him in the street outside a bar.

Fortunately, the case had a storybook ending: A young neighboring couple offered to baby-sit, "Any time at all. No charge. Just bring him over." When the Knoxes took advantage of the offer they would be urged, "Don't hurry back." Or, "Why not leave the kid for the night?"

With Bob's assistance, the ponderous and bewildering adoption process was accomplished. The eager sitters became Frankie's legal parents after 25 months with the Knoxes. Bob and Grace wished the happy mother and father good luck and told them, "If you ever need a

**KNOX, Page 42**

(OVER)



## KNOX, from Page 38

sitter, give us a call." Like Viana, Frankie developed into a normal, happy child and the Knoxes still keep in contact.

As the 1970s progressed, Grace and Bob shared their special brand of love with 11 more foster children—nine infants and two brothers, ages 6 and 8. All were "short-termers," staying for periods of two weeks to two or three months.

Meanwhile, Knox met many homeless tots desperate for love—and scores of childless couples pleading for the opportunity to extend that kind of affection. "Why can't they get together?" he asked.

The answer lay in pyramids of unfinished case studies on desks of overwhelmed social workers. So, when his pension became effective in December 1979, the 60-year-old commander resolved to get the ship afloat. Upon moving to Sun City West, he became a volunteer in the

Attorney General's office in Phoenix.

But, commanders are monarchs of the sea. Knox's resume included a master's in engineering from the Naval Academy and managerial positions with Waukesha Motor (Wis.) and IBM (Rochester, MI.) plus some familiarity with case study (severance) forms. Nothing in law.

"He just appeared on our doorstep," said Lydia Seales, in charge of volunteers at DES (Arizona Department of Economic Security). "And, because he had no formal background in law, I'm afraid we treated him as a gofer and file clerk. Soon, he began to help the social workers with their severance forms. After awhile he said, 'Why don't I just write 'em up myself.' And he did."

Informed that publicity credited Bob with helping to certify 200 children for adoption, Seales protested. "That's wrong. We started counting the other day; we figured it amounts to 600.

"But, the greatest testimonial to Bob's efficiency came when the department finally hired a full-time worker to do the same work. Bob still comes in one day a week. You can say he's the most valuable man we've ever had here in volunteer services."

Asked how he could function without any legal background, Knox said, "All I did was become an expert on one page of Arizona law."

St. Luke's Men, on the prowl for dedicated people, were almost certain to track down Bob Knox. He seems to have all the ingredients:

He's more than a hugger. He's a squeezer, and a handholder, a softie whose gears slip easily from "Smile" to "Laugh" to "Cry."

A party-lovin' soul who, dressed in drag as "Dancy Reagan," was crowned Miss Monte Carlo 1987 by 1986 Queen Fanny Roundbottom.

A genuine rarity—a guy who asks, "How ya doin'?" because he wants to know. Square dancer. Animal lover. Baritone soloist. PORA committee. SCW Rec Board. Choir member, Desert Palms Presbyterian.

On Tuesdays, he visits two nursing home patients—a 93-year-old woman and another bedridden by

multiple sclerosis. Shortly after his mother died, Bob made a deal with the 93-year-old.

"Suppose I adopt you as my mother, and you adopt me?" He still calls her "mother."

"One Tuesday, the lady with multiple sclerosis, who has difficulty speaking, managed to say, 'I need you.' Nicest compliment I ever had," Knox said.

As a member of Music Makers and Sunshine Serenaders, Knox has performed in rest homes all over the Valley. Director Frances Decker, who founded the Serenaders in 1981, says:

"Bob's first to come and last to leave. That gives him time to roam, giving hugs and holding hands and telling jokes. Best of all, he listens. And he's so handsome—that doesn't hurt a bit, you know."

The Knox's concern goes out not merely to the young and the old and the in-between. It extends to all of God's creatures. In 1986 their attention was called to a two-year-old cocker spaniel found wandering in Sun City. Though they knew she would cramp their life-style, they "adopted" her. Taffy was so frightened and abused, she hid in the corner or under a bed. Months later, infected with the Knox brand of TLC, she came out of hiding; today she rules the roost.

To top it all, Robert Knox made the supreme Sun Cities sacrifice. When his activities were taking too much time, he gave up golf! **KL**



# Volunteering

## Retiree says his work is 'better than a hole in one'

By CHRISTINE SELIGA  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Robert Knox of Sun City West is a volunteer's volunteer.

"I gave up the men's league and playing golf because I didn't have any time and it cost me money. This (volunteering) doesn't cost me money and it's better than a hole in one," he said.

Because of his volunteer work and dedication to that work, Knox, 68, is one of 12 individuals and organizations receiving the 12 Who Care Hon Kachina Awards for 1988.

"It almost seems criminal to take an award for this," he said.

The award is sponsored by the Luke's Men, an organization of business and professional men affiliated with St. Luke's Medical and Behavioral Health Centers, and KPNX-TV Channel 12.

Each winner received a hand-crafted Hon Kachina, which represents the strongest of healing powers. Each will receive a \$500 cash award and another \$500 to go to a favorite charity. The winners also will receive a Jefferson Award

Medallion from the American Institute of Public Service, which will make them eligible for national awards.

Knox was nominated by Lydia Seales, volunteer coordinator at Child Protective Services at the Department of Economic Security.

When Knox originally went to Seales and offered to volunteer for Child Protective Services, he said he wanted to do something with the court system. So after investigating his background, the department put him the attorney general's office.

He eventually became trained to write severance case summaries for judges.

A severance case examines whether a judge should sever the relationship between a mother or father and a child and allow the child to be adopted by someone else.

Seales said that often social workers who handle the cases don't have time to write up the severance reports. This can keep a child in limbo. Seales estimated about 200 children have been adopted because of Knox's work.

Though some of the evidence of child abuse in

some of the cases is heartwrenching, Knox said he doesn't get sad and his mean streak appears when he searches for evidence in the records on whether the relationship should be severed.

"I dig up every bit of evidence I can to free them," Knox said.

Seales also nominated him because he was doing volunteer work elsewhere. Seales said Knox has put in about 11,000 hours of volunteer work at child protective services.

"He wasn't just doing something for us. He was doing something for everyone," Seales said.

Seales started calling him the mad hugger.

"He believes a hug a day is essential, so whoever he sees, he hugs them," she said.

Born in Kaukauna, Wis., Knox graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy two weeks after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. After serving in World War II, he went back to the academy to get a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

He stayed in the Navy for 15 years and  
See Knox, AA3



# Knox 'goes after the one which is lost'

—From AAI

attained the rank of commander.

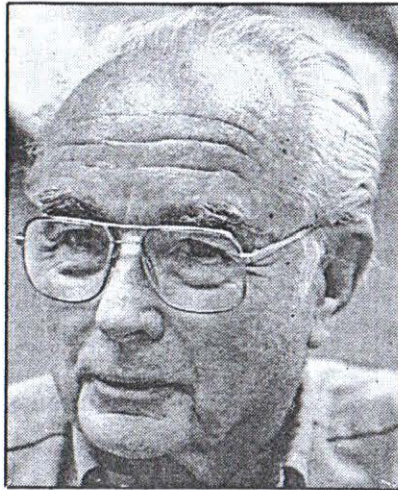
But after the end of his first marriage in the early 1970s, he found himself in Sacramento, Calif. working for Goodwill Industries.

In Sacramento he met up with, Grace, a woman he had known in Wisconsin, fell in love and married her 17 years ago. Knox credits much of his philosophy on life to Grace and the love he found when he met her.

It was while he was working in the Sacramento Goodwill store that he came across a picture with with words "Go after the one which is lost," on it.

"They can take all my possessions but I don't want to lose that picture that's on my desk. That's become sort of my motto," he said.

Knox has gone after the lost. One Christmas while working at the same Goodwill he received a



Robert Knox

Knox originally offered to volunteer for Child Protective Services...He eventually became trained to write severance case summaries for judges...200 neglected children have been adopted because of Knox's work.

letter from a prison convict asking him if he could send the convict a typewriter.

Knox wrote back to the man, beginning a two-year correspondence.

Knox visited the man in prison and eventually helped him get a job when he was released. He married one of Knox's Goodwill workers and they still stay in touch with Knox.

He is proud of the fact that they had been living on government money, now they now are both working and paying taxes.

"I can only conclude the old saying that love isn't love until you give it away," Knox said.

Knox has also been a foster parent. Knox and his wife took in 13 foster children while he was working for Goodwill and the Skills Center in Santa Cruz, Calif.

Knox said that at first he thought his wife was crazy for wanting to take in babies at their age. Knox had five children from his first marriage and Grace had three children from a previous marriage.

But he eventually became president of a foster parents association in Santa Cruz.

And since he has been in Sun City West, Knox has been singing baritone with the Sunshine

Serenaders and has been visiting area rest homes entertaining people.

"Out of this I would like to convey to more people to go into the rest homes and visit a variety of people and if they meet someone they're attached to, adopt them," he said of the award.

Knox received his Hon Kachina at an awards ceremony broadcast on Channel 12 Saturday. Debbie MacDonald, spokeswoman for the awards, said the Luke's Men started the award in 1977 because they knew what volunteers give to communities and wanted to recognize them for their work.

"They thought it would be a good idea to honor volunteerism throughout the state of Arizona," MacDonald said.

The yearly deadline for nominations is in April. MacDonald said this year, 125 peo-

ple or organizations were nominated. When judging the contestants, the Luke's Mens award committee looked at how the voluntarism has affected people and how long the person or organization has been doing it.

Some of the other winners were a disabled man who designs electronic switches, which allow severely handicapped and disabled people to communicate with others through computers, and the evening program at Recording For the Blind in Phoenix.

"I find they (the winners) are very unassuming people. They're not looking for anything for themselves and that's what volunteering is about," MacDonald said.

People who wish to nominate a person or an organization next year should call MacDonald at 251-8640.



# Voluntarism held vital for new town

By Roberta Landman  
Staff Writer

To mark National Volunteer Week, Wester Winifred Culler ties her own philosophy of voluntarism to the history of volunteer services in Sun City West.

"I believe, with all my heart, that we only rent space here on earth, and we should give something back in mind or hands,

not pocketbook, to pay the rent."

Mrs. Culler, chairman of the Sun City West Volunteers, said the young community has more people eager to "pay their rent" in volunteer projects than the community has facilities in which to house future service projects.

IT WASN'T until July, 1981, that the community began to put form to the instincts of "helping out" brought by "talented" retirees from all over the country, she said.

At that time, she said, the Property Owners and Residents Association asked her to form an official volunteer group.

But before that time, she said, Sun City West volunteers in PORA had more immediate concerns for the community's health and welfare.

"THE MOST important thing was to get some medical help out here. One or two men would not take no for an answer, and we received a temporary medical building out here given by Boswell. Paramedics followed."

Mrs. Culler said community response to her call for volunteers was "overwhelming"—so overwhelming that many Westers remain "frustrated. We have all these people who want to work, and not enough to do in Sun City West."

Mrs. Culler described volunteer work a group of Westers does with the Boswell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

"WE HAVE a small cadre of volunteers—members of Boswell Auxiliary—who work at the Medical Building and man an information and educational desk.

"They hand out educational material and answer questions."

In another volunteer effort, the Sun City West Volunteers, in conjunction with Boswell Memorial Hospital, is helping to provide information about hospital services to residents of Sun City West.

"IN JANUARY, Jane Hibbett, director of volunteers at Boswell, initiated a 'Getting to Know your Hospital' lecture series," Mrs. Culler said.

"Department heads from various phases of the hospital—of pulmonary, cardiology, rehabilitation, the head nurse of the emergency room, for example—tell us about their work and the facility."

The free lectures, with one more scheduled in May, she said, are held in the Sun City West Medical Building on the first and third Mondays, and are designed to teach Westers "about Boswell in this room, and not as a patient in that hospital."

VOLUNTARISM in Sun City West, born of dreams, she said, has other dreams to bring to fruition.

"Our next big dream? It's going to come—I know it's going to come. It will mean getting all serv-

ices under one roof."

Mrs. Culler's and the community's dream is the Sun City West Helping Hands Center, a centralized complex to house the community's present and future service-oriented and charitable organizations.

"WE HAVE wanted to start so many programs, but haven't had the facilities in which to do them—meals on wheels, a daily check-in for people living alone or who are ill, dial-a-ride, a blood pressure clinic, services for the blind and handicapped, a community fund ..."

When, and not if, the community builds its dream, she said, "then watch the voluntarism go all out here."

At present, Mrs. Culler dreams her community's dreams, organizes future projects and works at already-established projects.

"IN FEBRUARY, I was asked to chair the bank opening and meeting unit

of the Boswell Auxiliary ... I felt this would be a good way to fill our volunteer needs here ... We have our own equipment and serve coffee, punch, cookies and charge and make money for the Auxiliary."

Her outlook for fulfilling future volunteers' work aspirations remains optimistic.

She says: "I'm positive that next year at this time, when we observe another National Volunteer Week, everyone here in Sun City West will be involved in some service and we'll all be earning our spot here on earth."

She bases her hopes on past experience.

Sun City West's "growing pains," she said, are "repeat" experiences for the Cullers.

She says they lived in Brecksville, Ohio, 35 years ago when it was a village. The two pitched in with other community volunteers to turn the community into a thriving city.



WINIFRED CULLER



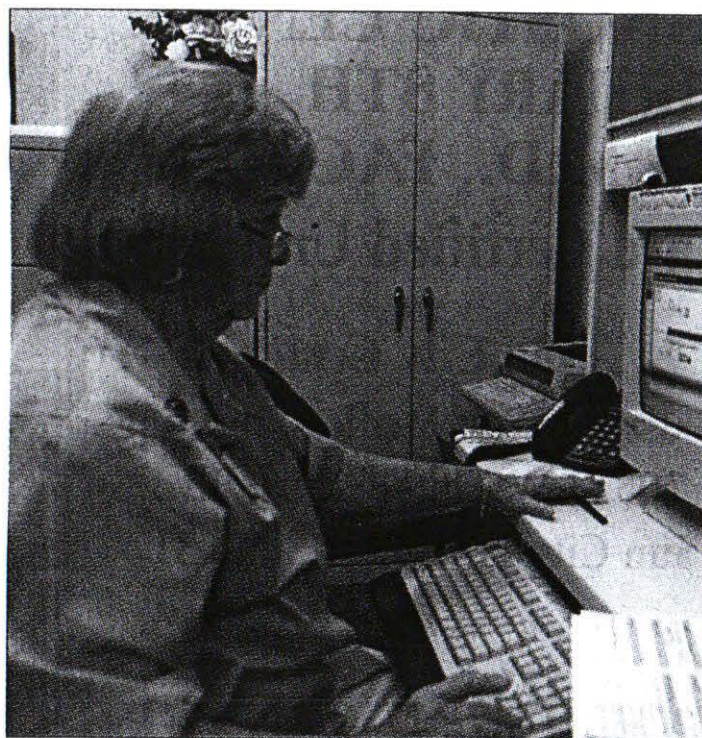


Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Independent Newspapers

Lu Putao enters into the computer the 8 millionth volunteer hour completed at Sun Health. The eight millionth hour volunteer hour was logged Jan. 29.

## EIGHT MILLION WAYS TO GIVE

### Sun Health volunteers tirelessly donate time

By Jeremy Pearlman  
Independent Newspapers

Volunteer achievement recently reached new heights at Sun Health, when the eight-millionth hour of volunteer service was donated.

In the over 30-year existence of the non-profit healthcare network, volunteers have logged the equivalent of over 912 total years in donated service.

This most recent feat of volunteerism is an incredible one, according to Jane Harker, director of volunteer services.

"I feel very fortunate to be part of an organization that has so many wonderful community members who generously give of their time in volunteer service," Ms. Harker said.

Ms. Harker that many of the extra services provided at the

different Sun Health facilities would not be possible if it weren't for the efforts of volunteers.

Working the eight-millionth hour was Ann Denner, a Sun Health volunteer since 1988.

"If you speak to any volunteer ... we all feel the same way — it's kind of nice that we can give something back," Mrs. Denner said. "I sincerely love my work."

The Sun City West resident volunteers approximately 10 hours a week, working as both a patient representative and in the outpatient surgery department at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital.

Sun Health broke the seven-million hour mark in November 1999.

Entering the volunteer data into Sun Health's database and thus, making the achievement

official, was Lu Putao, a long-time volunteer.

"I don't know how the hospitals would work without us," Ms. Putao said.

Ms. Putao has volunteered some 9,000 hours to Sun Health, working in various capacities.

"I was (a patient) at Boswell and I had such nice treatment that I had to pay back," Ms. Putao said.

Currently, 3,500 individuals volunteer with Sun Health.

Working in the healthcare network's two hospitals and various other facilities, volunteer tasks include: providing courtesy cart service, staffing to all information desks, working with families, supporting different departments, working

See ■ HOURS, Page 8

## ■ HOURS

From Page 1

on community outreach programs, contacting patients and making deliveries to patients.

"There are over 300 different volunteer positions at Sun Health," Ms. Harker said. "There's a great variety of opportunities for volunteers and we always need more volun-

teers."

For more information about volunteer opportunities at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, call 623-214-4058. For more information about volunteer opportunities at Boswell Memorial Hospital, call 623-876-5387.



## SCW DESERT GARDEN

# Webb seeks club help

By PAT KOSSAN  
Staff Writer

Del E. Webb Development Co. and some Sun City West residents are passing the buck concerning care of the desert garden which runs the length of Johnson Boulevard. But according to Johnson Center general manager, the real bucks are going to the water company.

The median strip is officially county property, trimmed and weeded twice a year by county employees and watered at county expense.

Rec center manager Bill Woodyard said the semi-annual pruning and weeding is not enough to maintain the highway's ever-flowering borders.

REC CENTER BOARD members allocated \$16,000 for additional median care.

But that amount is needed to water the several hundred trees on the non-county property between the sidewalk and walls which border the boulevard, said Woodyard.

Manager Bill Raymo of Sun City Water-Sewer Co. refused to confirm or refute that figure.

Now Webb officials are attempting to recruit volunteers from Sun City

West master gardeners and gardening club members to keep the greenery manicured.

"GIVEN THE GREAT success of the Sun City Pride group we thought we might generate some interest here to assist in maintaining the landscaping," Woodyard said. "We've simply asked the gardening club but haven't heard yet."

Sun Citian and county supervisor Hawley Atkinson said that the county has agreed to maintain the Sun City and Sun City West medians to a high standard.

"We have an agreement that only desert landscape will be planted which can be maintained with trimming twice a year," said Atkinson. "But the county will remove the weeds using weed killer and even pulling by hand as often as needed."

IF THE MEDIAN strip is in need of maintenance Atkinson suggested that a call to him, supervisor Fred Koory or Robert Esterbrook, county public works director, would be the appropriate route.

"Anyone of the three of us could see it was brought up to standards immediately," he said.

But Atkinson said he feels the job could be done better by a group of volunteers like the Sun City Prides.

"IT'S A HECK OF A good idea to find volunteers," he said. "Sun City would not look as well without the Pride."

But gardening club president Morris Weingarten thinks Woodyard may be barking up the wrong tree.

"If the county doesn't take care of it then the developer should," said Weingarten. "We're going to ask people at our first meeting, but I doubt seriously if we could get anyone interested."

THE COUNTY-TRAINED master gardeners already are obligated to 50 or 60 hours of volunteer work per month said Weingarten.

"And a lot of people are just as busy," he said.

Most gardening club members don't have the expertise to do the required maintenance, said Weingarten. He also feels health concerns would prevent a number of members from volunteering.

"That sort of thing takes a lot of energy and a knowledge of planting and pruning most members don't have."

9-3-81



## MASTER GARDENERS OFFER EXPERTISE

# Future of plants bright in SC West

By CHERYL SWEET  
Staff Writer

Sun City Westers can look forward to a brighter future for their plants.

The community soon will have its own group of horticulture experts to offer advice on everything from sick plants to ecology problems in Arizona.

Eighteen Westers will be the first graduates of the Master Gardener program in Sun City West. Sun Citians, who have been involved in Master Gardeners for the past two years, also are enrolled in the program.

**THE MASTER** Gardener program is a county effort offered through the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Arizona.

The program is designed to help meet the increasing need for urban horticulture information in the county.

Volunteers, trained by extension staff, are used to help answer gardening questions and offer recommendations to their communities.

**APPLICANTS TO** the program must meet certain requirements and be willing to make a commitment to the community upon graduation.

A background or interest in gardening and the will to devote a minimum of 50 hours of public assistance are mandatory.

In addition, certified Master Gardeners must attend monthly meetings for further updating and

participate in regular gardening clinics in their community.

Morris Weingarten, program coordinator for Sun City West, said trained volunteers who come out of the program are invaluable to the county.

**THE PROGRAM** is essentially a "four-year college course condensed into nine sessions," he explained.

Weekly six-hour classes are taught by horticulture specialists from the University of Arizona extension service.

Subjects taught include introduction to plant sciences, indoor and outdoor pests, growing vegetables in the desert, desert lawn and weed control, wildlife in the urban setting and

recognition and control of common plants.

**"THE COUNTY** has invested quite a bit in this. In turn, people must devote time and teaching others what they have learned," said Weingarten.

The program is available through the extension service's county office, 255-4456.

Weingarten, nearing completion of the program, said residents already stop him frequently to make plant inquiries.

"You would be amazed at the number of people everywhere who ask me questions."

**PLANT EXPERTISE** is particularly necessary in Sun City and Sun City West, said Weingarten.

Residents move here from various parts of the country where climate, soil and growing conditions are dramatically different from the desert conditions of Arizona, he said.

"People are trying to adapt plants that will grow in the midwest or east to the desert."

"Trying to adapt plants that are not desert plants in Arizona involves skill and knowledge."

**DIFFERENCES IN** humidity, longer growing seasons and the lack of rainfall are factors that out-of-staters must deal with, Weingarten said.

Probably the major problem people run into here is overwatering their plants, Weingarten said. "Ninety percent of plant failures are due to improper watering."

Landscapers who give residents improper watering information contribute to this situation, he said. "The landscapers are doing a horrendous job."

**"HOMEOWNERS ARE** told by landscapers to put in a bubbler system without any regard to the type of plant it's intended to

serve."

A bubbler system, installed when the landscaping is put in, is the method used in Sun City and Sun City West to water plants. The system employs a timer, set to go off at a specified time.

The problem, said Weingarten, is that landscapers advise lumping various types of plants and shrubbery together on one bubbler. The result is too much water for smaller plants and not enough for others, he said.

**THE MASTER** Gardener trainees are scheduled for course completion soon, at which time they will be bona fide plant experts.

And once familiarity with Arizona's unique growing situations are grasped, plant care can be very enjoyable, said Weingarten.

"One of the beauties of gardening here is that the weather is so good you can grow all year around."

Allen Boettcher, county coordinator for the program, said there are 42 certified Master Gardeners in the county.