

White Elephant Trumpet

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

FIRST QUARTER 2025



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Chris Cota Kicks-off 2025 as General Manager with Message to CFWE Volunteers

Hello to everyone and a big congratulations on another great year in 2024 at the White Elephant. Welcome back to all the volunteers who are returning for the season and to those who've been away over the holidays!

The amount of revenue generated in 2024 was a big number and it definitely shows off all your hard work and dedication. Thanks to all the volunteers, we can make sure that the White Elephant can continue to give back to the community! We are so very grateful to have all of our great volunteers who do their part and help keep this facility up and running and thriving during this time—one of the busiest times of the year!

The year 2025 at the White Elephant started off with a big bang. During the first three shopping days of January, we brought in \$26,877.45 in revenue! On the first day back alone, we sold \$9,400. I am truly amazed with what this organization and its volunteers can do in just three hours!

Sixty years ago, when the White Elephant first opened up, our revenue numbers were very different compared to now. Who would have thought that this organization would have such a huge impact in the community and surrounding areas? I am honored to be a part of the White Elephant and all the good it does for everyone.

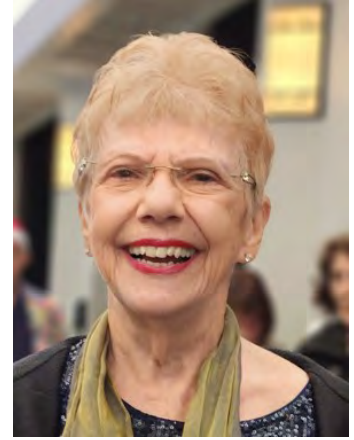
Continued on page 3

2025 Year End Sales - \$2,195,699

We did it! Thanks for all of your hard work!

PAGE 2 **The White Elephant Thrift Store Celebrated “60 Years of Giving”
at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch in December!**

More Appreciation Lunch photos on pages 3 and 16.



The White Elephant Thrift Store Celebrated “60 Years of Giving” PAGE 3
at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch in December!

More Appreciation Lunch photos on pages 2 and 16.



Sahuarita School District to Honor White Elephant Volunteers

This year, the Sahuarita Schools will once again be hosting the White Elephant Appreciation Show on Tuesday, Feb. 4. A light reception will be held for the volunteers at 5:15 pm in the District Cafeteria followed by the variety show of outstanding student productions and talents in the District Auditorium at 6 pm. The reception is only for White Elephant Volunteers and their guests. You all are welcome to bring as many guests as you would like. Please sign up at the volunteer sign-in counter and let us know how many will be attending in your party. We would love to see an amazing turnout of White Elephant Volunteers attending this very special event. Even though the CFWE reception is only for volunteers and their guests, the variety show is open to the public.



Optimist Club Serving-up Free Lunch Again This Year



This fantastic organization will be setting up their trailer and cookers to provide a very delicious lunch to our volunteers in appreciation for the hard work that you all do. I hope to see all of our volunteers enjoying this lunch on Saturday, March 1st starting around 10 a.m. They will be just north of the stairs leading to the store entrance to provide sausage sandwiches, hot dogs, or hamburgers and a soda to all volunteers. Tickets for the lunch will be available from Susie in our main office starting on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Food and sodas will also be available that day for purchase by the public.

White Elephant Thrift Store Attendance Update: Total 2024 Attendance **225,212!**

Once again, I would like to send a very special thank you to all of our fantastic volunteers for everything that you do for the White Elephant. Remember that all of your efforts throughout the 2024 year made it possible for the White Elephant to distribute \$1.7 million to community organizations this past year. That is definitely something to be proud of, and I'm very excited to see where the next 60 years takes us here at the White Elephant.

Tom Cooke President CFWE Board of Directors

Fellow Volunteers:

As we enter our 61st year of service to the community, I want to take a moment to express my sincerest gratitude to all our volunteers. Your commitment to our mission has been the backbone of our success for six decades, and we will continue to build upon that strong foundation as we move into the future.

Each hour that you have volunteered has created ripples of change that extend far beyond what we can see. The more than 35 million dollars that we have given to various schools, non-profit groups and charities over the past 60 years has enabled them to assist in completing their various missions, and helped more people than we can ever hope to know.

In addition, over the years we have provided scholarship assistance to over 100 students to enable them to complete university studies in medicine, teaching, engineering, business administration, and countless other fields. Our scholarship trust fund has a current balance of two million five hundred thousand dollars and it is our goal to increase it to the point where it can provide scholarships in perpetuity without requiring donations from the White Elephant. What a legacy we are leaving!

Let us look forward to a year filled with opportunities to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Whether you are a longtime volunteer or new to our organization, your voice and efforts are essential to our mission.

I look forward to working alongside you, and we will celebrate our successes together.

Tom Cooke
White Elephant Board President



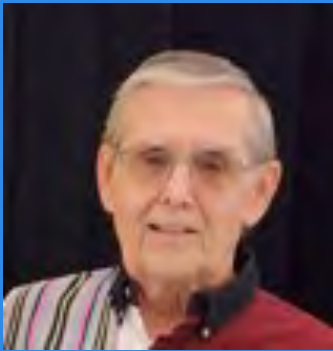
“Your commitment to our mission has been the backbone of our success for six decades!”



**Total 2024 Scholarship Donations—
\$18,507.12!**



“My favorite part about working at the White Elephant is helping people.”



“I always try to have a positive attitude and greet everyone with a smile!”

Welcome Sandy Rockowitz to CFWE Board of Directors

What is the cross between books and bucks? It would be newly elected CFWE Board of Directors member Sandy Rockowitz! That’s because Sandy works as a processor in the Book Department and as a cashier at the front of the store registers! “And, anywhere else I am needed,” she said.

Sandy has been a White Elephant Thrift Store volunteer for over 11 years. When asked why she became a volunteer in the first place and what motivated her to accept a position on the Board, Sandy commented, “I want to give back. My favorite part about working at the White Elephant is helping people.”

“One of most interesting experiences as a volunteer is when people come to the register, and I ask them what an item is. Often, they say they don’t know, but it looks interesting anyway!”

Sandy moved to Green Valley 12 years ago with her husband, Rocky, who also is a White Elephant volunteer. She has two children and two grandchildren who all live in California.

In addition to raising her family, Sandy worked mostly in finance. “I am a proud graduate from the School of Hard Knocks!” Lucky for us Sandy found her way to the White Elephant where she treats everyone like family!

Fred St. Jean elected to CFWE Board of Directors

One of the newest members of the CFWE Board of Directors is Fred St. Jean who is best described as a “People Person.”

“My favorite part being a volunteer is meeting and working with people from all parts of the country – especially those who are from Minnesota which is my home state – and that of my wife Carolle —who also is a White Elephant volunteer,” Fred said.

Fred has plenty of opportunities to experience lots of people because he works in Patio, Furniture, Men’s and Receiving Departments. He also has been on the Distribution Committee for three years helping decide grant allocations – the true mission of the White Elephant. He has served on numerous community Boards in Minnesota and has been a deacon in the Catholic church for 42 years.

Fred and Carolle moved to Green Valley six years ago “because we got tired of shoveling snow,” he added. They have four children and two grandchildren (who still live close together in Minnesota.) “We both enjoy volunteering at the White Elephant and have made some good friends. It’s a great place with terrific volunteers who contribute to the community in a big way!”

Welcome Diane Nanovich to CFWE Board of Directors



“I want to ensure to the community and fellow volunteers that I appreciate them and enjoy my job.”

Being a part of the community is what’s most important to newly elected CFWE Board member Diane Nanovich. “I worked hard all my life – working and raising my sons – now I get to give back and enjoy,” she said.

One of her favorite things about volunteering at the White Elephant is our team-oriented work ethic. “We come from a generation of hard workers and love what we do,” Diane explained.

She also donates time at Friends In Deed where for over 10 years she worked at the front desk. She also provided transportation for ladies’ haircuts, doctor appointments and grocery store shopping.

The White Elephant is fortunate to have Diane in the Furniture Department for six years. She has lived in Green Valley for ten years, but also has lived in Minnesota, Colorado, Idaho, Hawaii and California. She has worked in human resources/payroll, administrative roles, and owned a small business. Diane has three married sons, six grandchildren, “and eight grand dogs,” she added!

“I love walking my dog, Zoey, going to the gym, exercising, taking balance-strength classes and keeping active.” Lucky for the White Elephant she keeps active here too!

Cindy Jacobson elected to CFWE Board of Directors



“I am in awe how much money we make in just one month and all the good it goes to!”

Everybody at the White Elephant loves, honors and respects volunteers who work in the Woman’s Department. They have quite a daunting job to do!

And now, one of them has been elected to the CFWE Board of Directors – Cindy Jacobson! Cindy has volunteered at the White Elephant for two years. She has lived in Green Valley for nearly three years but is no stranger to our community. “I have been coming out here since the late 1970’s when my grandparents retired,” she explained. “I love all the people I have met – and helping others in the community,” she added.

“One of my most interesting experiences is how many donations the store receives. The biggest challenge for me in the Women’s Department is getting the pile of clothes down to a manageable size,” she laughed out loud!

Cindy originally is from Maine and grew up in Massachusetts. She also lived in California, Texas and Michigan. Her career included working in retail, in the Air Force, and in a school district library and Special Education Department. She says she has two wonderful boys and two very energetic grandchildren – both girls.

We are so very fortunate to benefit from Cindy’s background and extensive experience!

White Elephant 2024 Contributions

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Continental School District | \$14,000 |
| Continental School PTC, | \$ 4,000 |
| Continental School District ED Fund | \$ 3,000 |
| Nogales School District | \$16,000 |
| Nogales High School | \$23,000 |
| Pierson VOC High School | \$12,000 |
| Desert Shadows Middle School | \$14,000 |
| Wade Carpenter Middle School | \$11,000 |
| Coronado Elementary School | \$21,000 |
| Mary Welty Elementary School | \$12,000 |
| Challenger Elementary School | \$17,000 |
| Lincoln Elementary School | \$18,000 |
| RM Bracker Elementary School | \$13,000 |
| AJ Mitchell Elementary School | \$13,000 |

Santa Cruz Valley School District

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Rio Rico High School | \$17,000 |
| Calabasas Middle School | \$18,000 |
| Coatimundi Middle School | \$14,000 |
| Mountain View Elementary School | \$16,000 |
| San Cayetano Elementary School | \$12,000 |

Sahuarita School District

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Wrightson Ridge Elementary | \$19,000 |
| Sahuarita Education Foundation | \$16,000 |
| Sahuarita High School | \$20,000 |
| Walden Grove High School | \$19,000 |
| Sahuarita Intermediate School | \$17,000 |
| Sahuarita Middle School | \$18,000 |
| Anza Trail School | \$29,000 |
| Sahuarita Primary School | \$24,000 |
| Sopori Elementary School | \$16,000 |
| Copper View Elementary School | \$15,000 |
| SUSD Early Childhood Center | \$ 3,000 |
| LINK Program | \$12,000 |
| Sahuarita Digital Pathway Academy | \$ 4,000 |

Total Public Schools \$480,000

PRIVATE/OTHER SCHOOLS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Montessori de Santa Cruz | \$ 5,000 |
| Los Niños de Valle Pre School | \$ 10,000 |
| St. Andrews Pre School | \$ 7,000 |
| Lourdes Catholic School | \$ 5,000 |
| Wings on Words | \$ 5,000 |
| Sheperds Fold Pre School and Daycare | \$ 6,000 |
| Grace Lutheran Learning Center | \$ 5,000 |
| Santa Cruz Valley Back to School Blitz | \$ 10,000 |

Total Private/Other Schools \$53,000

Total Schools \$533,000

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Ballet Continental | \$20,000 |
| Boys & Girls Club - Santa Cruz | \$32,000 |
| Dominate Club Wrestling | \$ 4,000 |
| Funhouse Movement Theatre | \$ 3,000 |
| Sahuarita Music Boosters | \$ 8,000 |
| Wright Flight | \$ 21,000 |
| Girl Scouts of S. Arizona | \$ 4,000 |
| Sahuarita Stingrays Swim Team | \$ 3,000 |
| Santa Cruz Cardinals | \$ 10,000 |
| Rich River Athletic Club | \$ 3,000 |
| Wisdom Sports & Scholars | \$12,000 |
| Red Wolves Music Boosters | \$ 7,000 |
| Sahuarita-GV 49ers Football and Cheer | \$ 8,000 |
| Sahuarita Community 4H | \$ 7,000 |
| Walden Grove Drama Boosters | \$ 3,000 |

Total Youth Organizations

\$145,000

NATIONAL DISEASE

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| American Cancer Association | \$ 4,000 |
|-----------------------------|----------|

Total National Disease

\$ 4,000

FIRE DISTRICTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| AFD Auxiliary | \$13,000 |
| Helmet Peak Vol. Fire Dept. | \$41,000 |
| Santa Rita Fire Corps Volunteers | \$21,000 |

Total Fire Districts

\$ 75 ,000



White Elephant 2024 Contributions

ADULT/CHILD ASSISTANCE

| | |
|--|----------|
| Amado Community Food Bank | \$43,000 |
| Arivaca Action Center | \$ 3,000 |
| Arivaca Community Center - Facilities | \$ 2,000 |
| Arivaca Community Center - Park and Rec. | \$ 4,000 |
| Arivaca Helping Hearts | \$ 7,000 |
| Arivaca Human Resources | \$22,000 |
| Friends of Arivaca Schoolhouse | \$ 3,000 |
| Candlelighters Childhood Cancer | \$13,000 |
| United Way of Santa Cruz | \$ 6,000 |
| Parkinson's Support Group | \$16,000 |
| Military Officers of America | \$ 1,000 |
| Big Brothers and Sisters of Tucson | \$ 700 |
| Borderlands Food Bank | \$55,000 |
| Posada Life-Adult | \$18,000 |
| Posada Life-Community Center | \$16,000 |
| Crossroads Nogales Mission | \$39,000 |
| Green Valley's Got Talent | \$ 3,000 |
| Green Valley La Canoa Lions Club | \$ 7,000 |
| Valley Assistance Services | \$24,000 |
| Green Valley CERT Council | \$ 1,000 |
| GV Community Food Bank | \$43,000 |
| GVR Community Foundation | \$ 5,000 |
| Hands of a Friend | \$11,000 |
| AZ Rangers Madera Company | \$10,000 |
| Rebuilding Together | \$17,000 |
| Ben's Bell | \$ 7,000 |
| St. Andrew's Clinic | \$28,500 |
| Santa Cruz Sheriff DARE | \$11,000 |
| Santa Cruz Search and Rescue | \$10,000 |
| Santa Cruz Training Center | \$ 8,000 |
| Santa Cruz Valley Historical Society | \$ 4,000 |
| SAV Green Valley | \$37,000 |
| Sun Sounds of Arizona | \$ 9,000 |
| Teen Challenge | \$ 4,000 |
| The Salvation Army | \$42,000 |
| Tu Nidita Child & Family Clinic | \$ 2,000 |
| Tucson Children's Museum | \$ 6,000 |
| Youth on Their Own | \$10,000 |
| Bag It | \$ 7,000 |
| Nogales Community Food Bank | \$43,000 |
| Pima Council on Aging | \$ 8,000 |
| Sahuarita Police Department | \$ 8,000 |
| Friends in Deed | \$ 5,000 |
| Sahuarita Food Bank | \$69,000 |
| Military Order of the World Wars | \$ 3,000 |
| Rio Rico Historical Society | \$11,000 |
| Residents of Rio Rico RoRR | \$ 8,000 |
| Nogales Police DARE Program | \$ 5,000 |
| Pimeria Alta Historical Society | \$ 2,000 |
| GVC Foundation (GDDT) | \$10,000 |
| United Community Health Care | \$31,000 |

Total Adult/Child Assistance \$758,200

COMMUNITY ARTS SUPPORT

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Green Valley Concert Band | \$ 4,000 |
| Green Valley Stage Band | \$ 2,000 |
| Hilltop Art Gallery | \$ 8,000 |
| Tubac Center for the Arts | \$10,000 |
| Community Performance & Arts Center | \$15,000 |
| Green Valley Community Chorus | \$ 3,000 |
| Big Band Sounds of Green Valley | \$ 800 |

Total Community Arts \$42,800

AREA AND NATURE STUDY

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Friends of the Presidio | \$ 3,000 |
| Tubac Nature Center | \$ 2,000 |
| Santa Cruz Humane Society | \$20,000 |
| Friends of Madera Canyon | \$ 3,000 |
| Tubac Historical Society | \$ 3,000 |
| Paws Patrol | \$ 3,000 |
| Equine Voices | \$ 8,000 |

Total Area and Nature Study \$42,000

**Community Grants
\$1,600,000!**

**White Elephant
Scholarship Foundation
\$137,500!**

**Total Grants in 2024
\$1,737,500!**

CFWE Distributed \$1,737,500 In 2024!



Grant checks were distributed to over 130 local schools and non-profits.



Elephante Blanca kept a close eye on CFWE Management, Board of Directors and Contributions Committee Members

Distribution Day Continued

2024 Was the Year of Plaques and Awards!



Anza Trail Middle School won the "Best Application of the Year" Award!



SCC Sheriff's Office DARE Appreciation Award



SCC United Way Diaper Bank Sponsor Award



MUWW Patrick Henry Patriotic Achievement Award



Boys and Girl's Club of SCC Appreciation Award

**Thank you
White Elephant
Volunteers!**

Around the Country Fair White Elephant



Regina Ford has accepted the position of Manager of the Day (MOD) for Fridays. She has been a CFWE volunteer for over 25 years, beginning in 2001 as an emcee for the White Elephant Parade. Regina has been a member of the Board of Directors (including holding the offices of President and other Executive Committee positions.) She also has been a bagger at the front of store registers, worked in the Women’s Department and served in other volunteer positions.



Make room for Elephants! The White Elephant Thrift Store recently added another cabinet to house our ever growing herd of White Elephants!

Look Ma—No Hands! CFWE Office Coordinator Susie Sierra recently zipped around the store in this motorized three-wheeler! Looks like she forgot her helmet!



Sopori Elementary School recently presented thank you gifts to the CFWE for our support over the years. Pictured with Board Contributions committee members are 5th grade teacher Juliet Swartz and principal Robert Beachy. The gifts were two “be kind” ornaments and a beautiful copper elephant made by Juliet’s husband.

WHITE ELEPHANT CHRISTMAS 2024



2024 Volunteers Honored for 20 Years of Service!

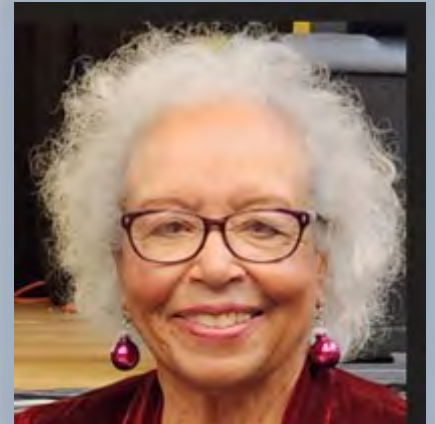
(In no particular order)



Cheryl Dye



Ray Hatcher



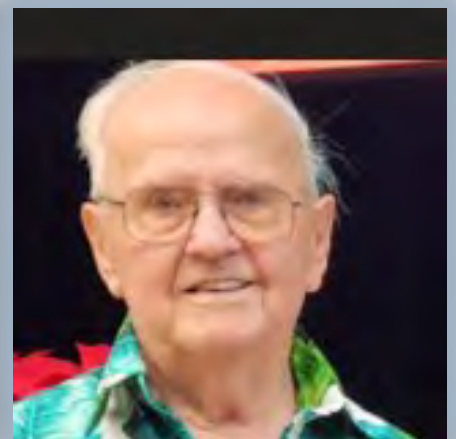
Thelma Pippin



Jim Williams



Patt Penpraze



Ray Asbjornson



A big thanks goes out to the GVR Ceramics Club for furnishing our ceramic white elephant awards!

Around the Country Fair White Elephant continued ...



Recent Donations Nearly Hit the Ceiling!
“Power Sorts” are planned for Wednesdays in February from noon to 3pm. Sign-up on the clipboard in the breakroom!



We Will Miss Her!
Karen Lavo received a fond farewell on December 24—her last day at as General Manager of the White Elephant Thrift Store after nearly 18 years!



Country Fair White Elephant Board of Directors 2025

Executive Committee

- Tom Cooke, President
- Jim Luhring Vice President
- Cene Backus, Secretary
- Judy Barkley, Treasurer
- Sue Woodward, Ass't Treasurer

Newly Elected Board Members

- Sandy Rockowitz
- Fred St. Jean
- Diane Nanovich
- Cindy Jacobson

Other Board Members

- Terri Anderko
- Robin Cain

Board members that are Committee Chairs

- Audit – Larry Pisacka
- Contributions – Judy Barkley & Joan Fischer
- Human Resources – DiAnn Bresina
- Insurance/Risk Management –
- Nominating – Sue Woodward
- Public Relations – DeAnna Walker
- Volunteer Appreciation – Diane Nanovich
- CFWE Scholarship Foundation - Tom Cooke

White Elephant volunteers have *“helped more people than we can ever hope to know!”* President Tom Cooke



WHITE ELEPHANT THRIFT SHOP

601 N. La Canada

Green Valley, AZ 85614

520-625-4119

<https://gvwhiteelephant.com>

Country Fair White Elephant
is a 501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization



Serving Southern Arizona Since 1964

Clothing, Furniture, Electronics, Home Décor and More!

Store Hours – Monday through Saturday 9am – Noon

Donation Hours Tuesdays – Wednesdays – Thursdays and Saturdays 8am-Noon

Donation Drop Off Not Available During Rain Conditions

Customer Pickup Monday – Saturday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Credit and Debit cards are not accepted. Cash or personal check with proper I.D. are accepted.



Tips for future Trumpet issues? Send your ideas to maureenmccarthyaz@gmail.com