

White Elephant Trumpet

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

SECOND QUARTER 2026



***“The White Elephant Is A Family
Built On Kindness and Purpose”***

Daniel Esquivel, Executive Director



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It is truly an honor and a joy to be part of The White Elephant. From my very first day, I've been inspired by the incredible mission of this organization to help others by giving back to the many programs and partners that serve our community. Being able to carry that mission forward is something I am deeply proud of, and I'm grateful every day for the opportunity to work alongside such an extraordinary group of people.

What makes The White Elephant special is our volunteers. Hundreds of you give your time, energy, and heart to this organization. I know that each of you has your own challenges, responsibilities, and life events, but despite that, you continue to show up with dedication and a spirit of service. That is what makes this place thrive. Your commitment is the heartbeat of The White Elephant, and it's the reason we're able to make the impact we do.

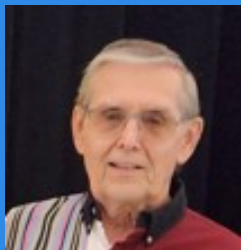
Together, we've accomplished something remarkable: The White Elephant has given back more than \$40 million to organizations and scholarships that help others. That number represents so much more than money, it reflects lives improved, opportunities created, and communities strengthened. Every volunteer should feel immense pride in knowing that your hard work directly contributes to that legacy.

Looking ahead, we're committed to making things even better and smoother across several departments. We're working to improve operations, communication, and collaboration, all so that we can continue growing our impact while making The White Elephant an even more enjoyable and efficient place to serve. Change is never just about progress on paper, it's about people, and ensuring that every person here feels supported and valued.

Thank you again for your dedication and heart. The White Elephant is not just a store or a fundraising organization; it's a family built on kindness and purpose. Together, we'll continue to build a stronger community, one donation, one project, and one act of service at a time.

Message from Fred St. Jean,

President Country Fair White Elephant Board of Directors



**President
Fred St. Jean**

The months of March and April always are a time of transition in Southern Arizona. We move from winter to spring. We bid farewell to seasonal neighbors. We prepare for summer and monsoon. It's a time of reflection: We think about where we were and where we are going.

Jim Luhring welcomed the new year as President of the Board, but unexpectedly ended up on medical leave. As a result, Jim and I switched positions. Now he is the Vice President and I am President. Fortunately, he is making progress, and we wish him all the best. As President of the Country Fair White Elephant Board of Directors, I have been working with Board members who have had to make some adjustments due to unanticipated events that have occurred since January.

It has been my privilege to welcome our new Executive Director, Daniel Esquivel – a native of Sahuarita – and someone who describes White Elephant volunteers as “family dedicated to a purpose.” He has his own message for our volunteers in this newsletter, and I encourage you to read it.

For the first time in many years, “snowbirds” were allowed to volunteer in the store, and they really pitched in. We thank them so very much for their assistance and hope they get “home” safely. We certainly will welcome them back in the fall. In addition, we recently ushered in a new group of year-round volunteers who already are trained and enthusiastically working in both the front and back of the store!

Also stepping up this Spring has been Manny Jacques, Facility Manager, Patti Wilkinson Office Manager, and Reggie Howell, Facility Assistant who worked tirelessly during a period of transition. Their hard work and dedication truly are appreciated.

Kudos to all White Elephant Board and Committee members, especially Board Treasurer Judy Barkley, who helped me navigate many issues as I was making the transition to Board President. All volunteers are working extra hard this year – especially Diane Nanovich and her Volunteer Appreciation Committee who treated us with pizza parties during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 20 – 25. The Contributions Committee members, led by Maureen McCarthy, currently are making visits to some of the non-profit organizations and schools who received White Elephant grants last year. Speaking of the Board, volunteer Beverly Haney recently was elected to the Board and already is contributing on a number of committees.

Without a doubt, there may be a few more “changes” and transitions as we make our way through an already outstanding year. None of this would be possible without the commitment and dedication of all White Elephant volunteers Thank you so very much for all you do and for who you are!



**Vice President
Jim Luhring**

Beverly Haney Elected to the Board of Directors



**Beverly Haney
Board Member**

Beverly Haney recently was elected to the Country Fair White Elephant Board of Directors. She originally became a volunteer “bagger” at the Thrift Shop a year ago to “keep busy,” but quickly began to understand our vision and commitment to the community which motivated her to secure a position on the Board.

“My favorite part about being a volunteer is the socialization, but I must admit I also like the shopping,” she said. “In fact, shopping is my biggest challenge! I buy too much because I have such little space!”

Beverly also finds learning about our customers is very interesting. Recently she sold eight formal dresses to a young lady who competes in beauty pageants! She also volunteers at The Animal League of Green Valley (where she fosters dogs) and at the Community for Performing Arts Center (CPAC.)

Originally from Oklahoma, Beverly has lived in Green Valley for two years. She has a master’s degree in Botany and was a grower for a nursery for ten years. Beverly also worked for twenty years in child welfare for the State of Oklahoma. She has a strong background in communication, fundraising and community service.

We are sure lucky Beverly found her way to the White Elephant!

Patti Wilkinson — New Office Manager



**Patti Wilkinson
Office Manager**

Having an MS in Procurement and Acquisitions and a BA in Business Administration not only prepared Patti Wilkinson for her new position as White Elephant Office Manager, they also led the way for her career in procurement and supply chain management for high tech, pharmaceutical and medical equipment industries.

A thrift store volunteer for three years, Patti has worked as a cashier, bagger, collectables clerk and women’s department worker. Patti said her favorite part about working as a White Elephant employee is “juggling multiple priorities,” but admitted her biggest challenges are “juggling multiple priorities!”

Patti was born in Guadalajara Jalisco Mexico and most recently has lived in Green Valley for four years. Fortunately for the White Elephant, Patti is bilingual in English and Spanish which is wonderful since so many of our regular customers speak no English. She also enjoys traveling, sewing, RVing and spending time with her two dogs (7-year-old Chiweenie “Kira” and 1-year-old Shitzu “Cappy”) and 25-year-old Sulphur Crested Cockatoo “Jabbers.”

Shoppers in 1Q26
 Shoppers in January - 23,324
 Shoppers in February – 23,045
 Shoppers in March – 22,000
 Total Shoppers in 1Q26 – 68,369

Scholarship Donations 1Q26 Totals
 Scholarship Donations for January - \$ 550
 Scholarship Donations for February- \$ 906
 Scholarship Donations for March - \$1,300
 Total Donations 1Q26 - \$2,756

White Elephant volunteers were served as many slices of pizza that they wanted during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 20-25



This year's Volunteer Appreciation Committee Chairperson is Diane Nanovich. She is joined by committee members Vicky Albrecht, Robin Cain, Rhonda Gilbert, Terri Anderko, Sandy Rockowitz and Maureen McCarthy.



White Elephant volunteers were served as many slices of pizza that they wanted during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 20-25





The Optimist Club of Green Valley— Sahuarita Treated White Elephant Volunteers To A Free Lunch



For the 26th year, the Optimist Club of Green Valley-Sahuarita once again treated White Elephant Volunteers to a free lunch on March 7 in appreciation for the hard work they do. Volunteers chose between delicious sausage sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and a soda. The club has been helping youth in our community since 1986 by raising money from sausage sales, food truck events, catering and an annual golf tournament. Thank you Optimist Club for the yummy lunches and for all you do in service to our community!



Jimi Brewer Throws Out First Pitch For Copper Hills Little League

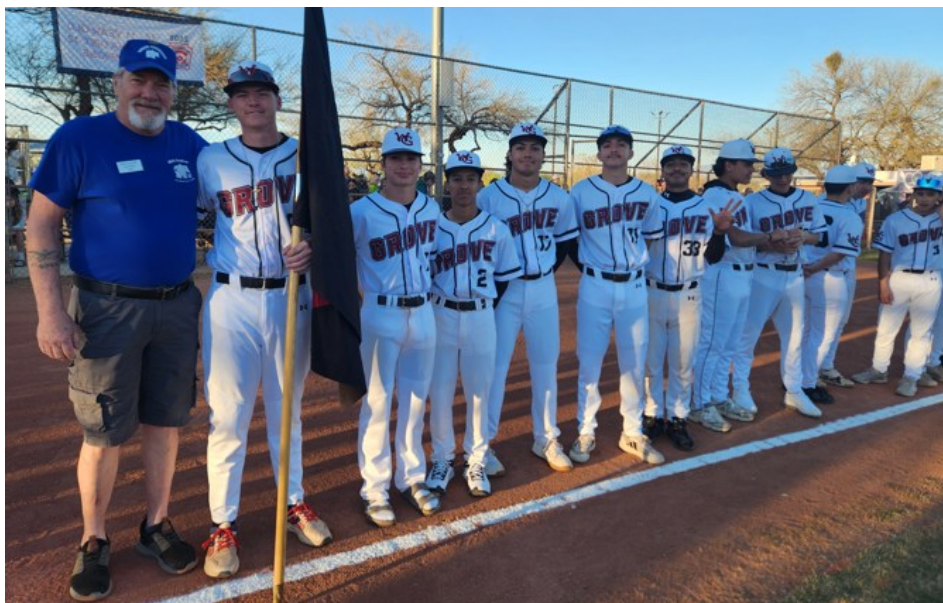
They say that baseball is America's favorite pastime. That must be true judging by the literally hundreds of kids of all ages who participate in Sahuarita's Copper Hills Little League. They received a \$10,000 grant from the White Elephant last year. Thrift store volunteer Jimi Brewer recently was invited to throw out the first pitch at their opening ceremony.



He was the perfect guy to represent the White Elephant at that event. Even though Jimi has been hauling furniture every Friday to the front and back

of the store for the past eleven years, he also spent six years as president of Southern Arizona's BAJA (Born Again Jocks Association.) While he no longer is associated with BAJA, Jimi still can throw a pitch!

His favorite part about volunteering at the White Elephant is that he loves our mission which "gives him a purpose," Jimi admits. "Even though it's a great workout, it's also a tough job that's not for everyone." He also said he enjoys interacting with other volunteers and customers. "Routinely they ask when is the next shipment of XYZ coming - as if we are Nordstrom's or something!"



Jimi and his wife, Karen, have lived in Green Valley over 20 years. He originally is from Ohio, but joined the United States Marine Corps in 1974. He specialized in USMC aviation electronics for 20 years. He also spent 15 years as a technical services engineer in the packaging industry and spent seven years at Raytheon in missile systems asset management. He has an MBA in management and a BS in systems management.

Throughout all that time, Jimi has travelled the world. He has been to over 25 countries on six continents and to all 50 states. Fortunately for the White Elephant and Southern Arizona, Jimi includes both baseball and volunteering among his favorite pastimes!

Around the White Elephant ...

They served their purpose well, but the plexiglass enclosures at store register stations recently were removed – much to the joy of volunteers and customers!

Before ...



Around the White Elephant ...

They served their purpose well, but the plexiglass enclosures at store register stations recently were removed – much to the joy of volunteers and customers!

After ...



WHITE ELEPHANT TRUMPET

Revenue 1Q26 Totals
Revenue in January - \$ 197,176
Revenue in February- \$ 190,850
Revenue in March - \$198,000
Total Revenue in 1Q26 - \$586,026

Bottlecaps Volunteer Guessing Game Winners!



Diane Anderson
320



The exact number was 363.
We had 105 entries.
They each won a \$30 gift
certificate to the White Elephant!



Victoria Solis
325



**Dates To
Remember...
Mark
Your Calendar!**

Memorial Day – White Elephant Closed - Monday - May 25
Fourth of July – White Elephant Closed - Saturday - July 4
Annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch- Sunday - December 6

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