



## Sisterhood Connection Foundation Summer 2022 Newsletter

Hello Sisters, Mr. Sisters and Friends!

The Sisterhood Connection Foundation has been in full swing!

### **UPDATES:**

In January Trish Hansen hosted a “Vision Board” workshop. We had a great time with glitter, stamps, glue, and paint to create our personal visions going into 2022. It was a creative outlet and get together! Thank you Trish.

In February we partnered with Main Stage, Law Tigers and Arizona Burn Foundation to help raise funds for **Camp Courage**. The day was filled with love and an amazing silent auction which we raised over \$10,000.00 for the children to attend the camp. If you missed the event, we have committed to an annual fund raiser so in 2023 we will be at it again!

In February/March and April Tom Coultas chaired Operation Pillow Drop and organized a fundraiser for Book Binding Machines for the local schools. Tom and his amazing team of volunteers, sewed, stuffed little pillows for little tushes, and raised \$6000.00 for the book binding machines!!!!

Spring Festival came around in April and we raised \$1500.00 with the efforts of Julie and Mike Carey and volunteers. We had 14 vendors, and lots of art with a silent auction at the Sisterhood Headquarters. The weather was beautiful and Julie and Mike did an amazing job organizing and bringing lots of fun to the day! Thank you Julie and Mike.

Along with spring time in April at the Verde Valley Fairgrounds, Mr. Sister Tom Coultas hosted the County Fair-Kids Field Trip Day with activities for the kids from making hats, to friendship bracelets during the County Fair. Sisters came to help volunteer but honestly I think they were just as much at play as the kids.

## **Sisterhood Connection Foundation 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of the Year 2021/2022**

Congratulations to the following women who were honored on June 12 for their contributions and service to our community.

**Gail Basham, Margie Beach, Stephanie Foley, Roxanne Genaro, Coleen Gilboy, Lois Henderson, Peg Kern, Alice Klies, Martha Mertz, Laurie Moore, Claudia Regge-Schwisow, Kristin Robertson and Lovey Warner.**

Our awards ceremony and luncheon was a successful sell out once again.

**Special Thanks to the Riffel Family and Crew at Main Stage, Chef Christopher Dobrowolski (who by the way donated and prepared the lunches), Sponsors- Brenda Man Fletcher and Bob Wentsch, Master of Ceremony-Tom Coultas, Verde Valley Growers, Trish Hansen and Carla Armstrong and all those who volunteered.**

2023 Women of the Year nominees are being accepted so please contact Cindi at [cindib52@sisterhoodconnectionfoundation.org](mailto:cindib52@sisterhoodconnectionfoundation.org) if you know of a special woman to recognize for their contributions for the betterment of our community.

We were awarded a \$5000.00 grant from the City of Cottonwood for our project **“Sheila’s Sunflowers”** in memory of Sister **Sheila Howard**, supporting Foster Children and Homeless Students.

We collected weekender suitcases and backpacks filled with essentials.

The community has been amazing dropping off hand knitted stocking caps, toothbrushes and toothpaste, blankets, socks, soaps etc....We have given over \$7000.00 in gift cards and funds to those in need since January 2022. Distribution of some of the weekender suit cases has gone to the Cottonwood Police Department-Victims Advocate division. We are going to be distributing the majority of the back packs in August prior to school sessions returning.

### **CURRENTLY!!!!**

We have partnered with the Arizona Community Foundation with matching funds for **Sofiia Halemska**, an exchange student from Ukraine attending Mingus Union High School. During Sofiia’s stay as you all know, war was declared on Ukraine. Sofiia’s mother and brother are safe in Germany while her father is serving in their country. Sofiia has a 4.0 grade average and a 3.5 GPA and with the help of

her counselor she was able to receive a full ride scholarship to Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Sofiia needs funding for her visa, plane ticket, school supplies, clothing etc. We have a pay pal account set up for Sofiia on our website [www.sisterhoodconnectionfoundation.org](http://www.sisterhoodconnectionfoundation.org) under **community fund**. 100% of the funds raised will go directly to Sofiia.

**Teri Simmons** has taken on the task as a Sisterhood Liaison for SAHA (Sedona Area Homeless Alliance) collecting and distributing clean shopping bags that are made into bedrolls for the homeless. Project coordinator Gail Basham and Laurie Moore created this amazing community project called **Operation Bedroll**. If you have shopping plastic bags please drop them off at our headquarters 1631 Mingus Avenue. We have a bin on the back porch for collection. Teri Simmons information if you have further question is 1 805 440-7525

In the makings we are creating a project called **“Hello Sunshine”**. This exciting new project will be writing notes/letters to seniors in assistant living facilities once a month. Inspired through a Word Weavers class hosted by Alice Klies, a writer wrote a short story about her as a senior, never received letters in her mailbox and it touched me on something I never realized. This will be a community ongoing project where we will approach schools, clubs and other community organizations to get involved with us and write a letter or a note to a senior. Peggy Sing, Carla Armstrong and Cindi B are the contacts to **“Hello Sunshine”** if you have any questions and or resources.

Last but not least: Tom Coultas (our Sisterhood Connection Foundation Mr. Sister and Education Liaison) currently is collecting DVD's, Jigsaw Puzzles and books for the Harvest Festival at the Verde Valley Fairgrounds in October. If you wish to donate DVD's or puzzles please drop them off at the Sisterhood Connection Foundations Headquarters on Mingus or at the Verde Valley Fairground at the office. We have a box at the fairgrounds for the donations.

So this take me to **“WHATS COMING UP”**:

**August 13<sup>th</sup> OLD BAGS COCKTAIL HOUR-Hosted by Main Stage.** Come join us for cocktails and purse exchange/silent auction and mini fashion show. Bring a purse to exchange. 4-6pm. This is a fun event while sharing special times with Sisters and Friends.

**September 10<sup>th</sup> “EmpowHER”**. A day of community networking and health event to be held at the Sisterhood Connection Foundation Headquarters. We will be offering free mammograms, along with information and services available to women. Oh did I mention a little bit of shopping too? If you wish to be a participant or a **volunteer**, please contact Cindi B at [cindib52@gmail.com](mailto:cindib52@gmail.com) , Carla Armstrong at [quiltercarla@gmail.com](mailto:quiltercarla@gmail.com) , or Trish Hansen at [moonsongdesign@gmail.com](mailto:moonsongdesign@gmail.com) .

Ok saving the best for last....

**SISTERHOOD CONNECTION FOUNDATION AND NORTHERN ARIZONA HOSPICE  
PRESENTS**

**LADY LUCK GALA AND CASINO ROYALE**

**BENEFITING NORTHERN ARIZONA HOSPICE PROMISE FOUNDATION**

**NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 2022, 4:00pm-11:00pm**

**Hosted by: MAIN STAGE COTTONWOOD**

**Co-Chairs: Carolyn Porrata, Jack Van Rixel and Kim Ott**

**Committee: Kate Baker, Eileen Riffel, Sharon Block, Terrie Sansom Spacone,  
Cindi Kerber-Battisti**

**You do not want to miss this “Old Las Vegas Style Showcase”**

**Come and be a volunteer on our team!**

**Contacts:**

**Carolyn Porrata at [Carolyn.Porrata@lhcgroupp.com](mailto:Carolyn.Porrata@lhcgroupp.com)**

**Kim Ott at [otterbarn@gmail.com](mailto:otterbarn@gmail.com)**

**For more information: visit our website  
[www.sisterhoodconnectionfoundation.org](http://www.sisterhoodconnectionfoundation.org)**

**Instagram-sisterhoodconnfoundation**