

THE LEISURE WORLD FOUNDATION OF ARIZONA, INC.



“HOW THE FOUNDATION CAME TO BE”

By: John Latus & Beverly Locke

The Leisure World Foundation was begun in 1995 by five Leisure World residents: Max Hiatt, Harold Luntey, Grady McKinley, Doug Shannon and John Wilkinson. Its stated purpose was, and still is “to provide charitable relief as a 501(c) (3) public charity to help meet the needs of elderly, handicapped and distressed persons in Mesa, and nearby East Valley areas including Leisure World.”

The first five years was the probationary period established by the IRS for organizations to qualify as a 501(c) (3) public charity. During that period, the Foundation operated very conservatively and it had to prove that it was providing help outside our walls and not just within the Leisure World community.

During this period, a major concern was recruiting people to serve as Directors of the Leisure World Foundation. The actual survival of the Foundation was in question until Peter and Norma Kjeldgaard stepped up and agreed to join the board and help guide it through this probationary period and beyond. Until the construction of the Fitness Center, the Foundation relied on a few generous, community minded residents for annual contributions to support their work. The results of everyone’s hard work over the past 25 years is a vibrant organization that makes our Leisure World Community unique.

Raising money to carry out its mission is a constant focus. For projects within Leisure World, the Foundation through Designated Funds for Approved Projects has participated in raising funds for the Construction of the Rec 2 complex (pro shop, café, pool and enhanced Performing Arts area), construct the craft building, create the tennis and pickleball complexes, purchase large print books for the Library, install automatic doors in common areas and security cameras at both pools. The fact that these projects fulfill the Foundation’s mission has allowed Leisure World residents to contribute over \$4,000,000, to enhance the health and well-being of our residents.

To support the Foundation’s work outside the walls, Challenge Days was created in 2007. Challenge Days, a series of fun events held each winter, have included many different activities. The Tennis Club has been an annual supporter since the beginning. Each year a Golf Tournament has been supported by many contractors that perform services in Leisure World, the golf department and the golf organization. The Pickleball Club joined in as soon as they organized. Over the years we have had a bean-bag toss competition, game day, bridge day, billiards, Valley Goldmine, and a walk-a-thon along with other special events like Mardi Gras and Dancing with the Leisure World Stars. By participating in these events, you are helping to raise Challenge Day money to support local charities such as Save The Family in support of housing for Women Veterans and their families, Hospice of the Valley, IHELP, House of Refuge, and many others.

Other opportunities to support your Leisure World Foundation include The Friend's Endowment Fund, established in 2013, to give Leisure World residents the opportunity to provide long-term stability to the Foundation and make a lasting impact on our community. Gifts to the Friends Endowment are permanently restricted with an earnings ratio that will also support charitable endeavors. Every year the Friend's Committee conducts an annual campaign, which usually begins in November.

Undesignated gifts from Leisure World residents throughout the year help support the annual operating budget so the Foundation can carry out its mission. These gifts are welcome any time of the year.

You can contribute to your Leisure World Foundation at any time, simply by using the donation envelopes available at the counter outside the Leisure World News Office in the Library. Make the checks payable to the Leisure World Foundation, with your designation on the memo line. Your contribution may be mailed or dropped off at the front desk mail slot. All contributions are tax deductible for U.S. citizens who itemize.

Regardless of the source, donations are the life blood that allows the Leisure World Foundation to help so many people and organizations. Since its inception, the Foundation has donated more than \$650,000 to groups outside our walls. At some point in our lives, all of us have contributed to charitable organizations - - organizations that provide help throughout the country and even in faraway countries around the world. But when you donate to the Leisure World Foundation, you can actually see, and perhaps even visit, the facilities and experience first-hand the good that is being done in our local area.

So please, find a way to participate in this goodness. Whether it's through attendance at a Challenge Day event, attending a lecture, giving a gift, joining the Foundation Board of Directors, or becoming a Foundation Friend, be part of the movement to make Leisure World and our local community a better place.

LWF Support History

Inside Leisure World

Over \$4,000,000 facilitated or granted with most listed below:

2002	Computer Lab Windows Software (Microsoft Grant)	\$ 21,907 (est value)
2002-17	Fitness Center Equipment	\$ 290,068
2004	Computer Lab Software	\$ 4,837
2005-16	Handicapped Electric Door Openers	\$ 16,453
2006-10	Rec 2 Modernization (Pool, Hopi/Pima Room, Fine Arts Bldg)	\$2,800,000
2009-10	Golf Course Irrigation Project	\$ 51,582
2011	Lap Swimmers Bulletin Board & Floating Lines	\$ 2,000
2011	LW Art Association – New Display Panels	\$ 500
2012-13	Tennis & Pickleball Court Project (TPCP) (\$4,100 grant)	\$ 500,000
2013	Fused Glass Kiln Project	\$ 1,814
2013	Video Equipment in Rec 2 Hopi/Pima Room	\$ 5,000
2013-14	Golf Range Ball Machine (Donor Designated)	\$ 9,345
2015-16	Pool Security Cameras	\$ 2,000
2016	LW Promenade Portable Speaker System	\$ 1,689
2016	Golf Course Shade Trees (Donor Designated)	\$ 970
2016-17	Pottery Club Raku Kiln Storage Shed (\$1,325 grant)	\$ 2,722
2017-18	Billiard Room Remodel (\$10,000 grant)	\$ 66,303
2017-18	Pottery Club Chairs and Light Weight Kiln Shelf (Donor Designated)	\$ 485
2018	Kathleen Steckelberg Memorial Bench (Donor Designated)	\$ 523
2018	Rec 2 Ivory Sanick Grand Piano donated by Ron & Christina Maclean	
2020	Fountain on Coyote Run near hole #13 (Donor Designated)	\$ 13,500
Friends of the Big Band	2001-12	\$ 6,500
LW Boosters Club	2000 – Programs for the housebound elderly	\$ 35
LW Computer Club	2005-14	\$ 2,244
LW Library	2006-Present – Mostly Large Print Books	\$ 59,726
LW Lo Vision Support Group	2000, 2003	\$ 200
LW Music Therapy Class	2018-Present	\$ 7,700
Open Door	1999, 2001-10, 2013, 2015	\$ 15,974
Resident Emergency Support / Outreach / Health Services / Wellness Center		\$ 7,167
LW Welcomes You	2002-03	\$ 850

Premier Lecture Series – over 10 years 4-5 Lectures per year
 Each Lecture averages ~ 400 people with some over 600

Outside Leisure World

\$656,836 to the following:

AAUW Education Fund (2006) (Donor Designated)	\$ 100
Assistance League of the East Valley (2016)	\$ 8,000
Banner Hospital Health Foundation Training Lab (2007-2008)	\$ 26,000
Child Crisis Arizona (2019-2020)	\$ 20,556
East Valley Adult Resources / Mesa Senior Services (1998-2015)	\$280,229
Holy Cross St Vincent de Paul (2018)	\$ 5,000
Hospice of the Valley (2009-2010, 2015)	\$ 13,097
House of Refuge (2011-12, 2017-2020)	\$ 65,995
Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging (I-HELP) (2012-2013)	\$ 22,600
Jewish Family and Children's Service - Geriatric In-home Counseling (2000-2009)	\$ 28,500
Lion's Camp Jiatiyee (2018) (Donor Designated)	\$ 1,455
Lutheran Social Services (2017-2018)	\$ 18,500
Mesa United Way (2004-2017) (Donor Designated)	\$ 14,882
Mesa Women's Heart (2005)	\$ 750
Nyanbok Project (2006) (Donor Designated)	\$ 650
Oakwood Creative Care (2014-2015, 2017)	\$ 26,000
Operation Home Front (2008) (Donor Designated)	\$ 2,940
Red Mountain / Mathew 25 Prison Ministry - Education (2017-2018, 2020)	\$ 16,000
Salvation Army – Hurricane Relief (2005, 2008)	\$ 12,585
Save the Family (2020)	\$ 11,000
Sirrine Adult Day Care (2010-2011)	\$ 18,000
Starbright Foundation (2016, 2018)	\$ 23,000
Sunshine Acres Children's Home (2008-2009, 2015-2017, 2019-2020)	\$ 40,747
Superstition Mountain Museum (2013)	\$ 250