

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARDS AND DISBURSEMENT OF GRANTS

The following organizations are recommended for grant awards for the purposes described below.

Grant funds are provided to local, non-profit organizations dedicated to preserving, protecting, educating, and enhancing the community through various programs.

1. Cave Creek Unified Education Foundation **\$5,000**

Funding will support the annual “Grant the District” campaign for 2026. Every summer, teachers and administrators apply for a grant from the Foundation. In 2024, the Foundation fulfilled 42 grants totaling nearly \$75,000. The grants support technology, music and the arts, international learning, and health and wellness. Teachers and staff identify needs in their classrooms such as music supplies or support materials for world language instruction. Grants provided in 2024 impacted 1,260 students. Every dollar contributed to the Foundation goes back into the classroom.

2. Foothills Caring Corps (FCC) **\$5,000**

FCC’s mission is to promote independence and enhance the quality of life of our neighbors, with particular emphasis on allowing them to remain living in their own homes. FCC accomplishes its goals by using a force of dedicated volunteers and staff who provide free-of-charge transportation services, in-home services, and other support to provide access to activities promoting physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being. Funding will be used to pay for its Town of Cave Creek Van Transportation Program which provides essential mobility services to seniors and adults with disabling conditions.

3. Foothills Food Bank **\$5,000**

The Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center provides boxed grocery rescue foods, wholesale purchased staples, as well rescued and purchased fresh foods in a market setting. It is the only gold star certified nutritional pantry in the state of Arizona and offers referrals, resources, financial assistance and training courses in self-care, financial literacy, and wellness. The fastest growing demographic is the senior population. Funding will be used for the Senior Programs to offset rising costs of purchasing additional nutritious food items to meet the increase in demand.

4. Cave Creek Museum **\$4,000**

In 1968, a small group of volunteers found the Cave Creek Historical Society which opened the doors of the Cave Creek Museum in April 1970. The museum is administered by a team of four paid staff and more than 120 dedicated volunteers. Funding will be used for the towards the Collections Room Campaign towards expansion of the collection storage area and in keeping with the current core standards, ethics, and best practices of museum management.

5. Sonoran Arts League **\$4,000**

The Sonoran Arts League’s Mission is “to give to our community by promoting art, artists, and art education through leadership and service in the belief that an artistic awareness is essential to the well-being of life and our community.” The League began in 1974 as an informal gathering of local artists who put on small art shows in the Cave Creek town core. It has now grown to more than 500 members with a League gallery, a League studio, and

hosts an annual Hidden in the Hills event showcasing individual artists in their personal studios. Funding will be used to print and post a tri-fold brochure and map highlighting the locations of Hidden in the Hills studios during the two-weekend event in November of every year.

- 6. Desert Foothills Land Trust** **\$3,500**

The Desert Foothills Land Trust connects people to nature by working with communities and partners to conserve and steward sensitive lands and species for the survival of the Sonoran Desert. Funding will support the Desert Discovery Day at its Jewel of the Creek Preserve in Cave Creek. On this day, families and friends from throughout the Valley and local communities are welcomed for a free day of outdoor experiences and hands-on learning. Participants have an opportunity to actively explore the geology and history of the area as well meet many of the Sonoran Desert's residents including reptiles, mammals, and raptors. For the 2025 event, we would like to grow our reach and share the information with 122 schools in total. Funds will also be used to purchase food, water, supplies, participant giveaways, and educational materials.

- 7. Desert Foothills Library Association** **\$3,500**

The Desert Foothills Library turns 70 this year. Its beginnings were part of a movement by a single person to provide access to information to as many people interested in literature and literacy. Desert Foothills is Arizona's only non-profit independent library, promoting literacy and advancing knowledge through library resources and programs that inspire and support lifelong learning. Funding will be used to support the first Book Buds Book Club. Students and senior mentors will read the same book and then gather to discuss their reading assignments and learn from multi-sensory shared experiences supported by guided mentor training.

- 8. Foothills Community Foundation at the Holland Center** **\$2,500**

The Holland Center supports a variety of community enrichment services and programs, including the Desert Foothills Theatre, Desert Awareness Committee, Desert Foothills Leadership, Lifelong Learning, Creative Kids, the Holland Gallery of Fine Art and more. Supporting continuing education for youth and adults alike, the Holland Center is committed to enhancing the quality of life in our community. Funding will be used towards the 4th Annual Navajo Rug and Jewelry Show in partnership with the Adopt-A Native-Elder (ANE) Program. This event offers a unique opportunity for the community to engage with and learn about Navajo culture while directly supporting the livelihood of Native artisans.

- 9. Valley of the Sun YMCA** **\$2,500**

Valley of the Sun YMCA, established in 1892, is one of Arizona's oldest and largest providers of human services, serving over 100,000 individuals annually. Our organization employs 1,015 full and part-time staff and is supported by more than 1,200 dedicated volunteers. The Desert Foothills Family YMCA opened in 2009 to serve the Cave Creek community and surrounding areas. Our mission is to build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all, and we are committed to equal access, ensuring no one is turned away due to inability to pay. With this funding The Valley of the Sun YMCA, in partnership with Cave Creek Unified School District, will deliver the Safety Around Water (SAW) program.

10. Jubilate Conservatory of Music

\$1,000

The Jubilate Conservatory of Music was established in 2019 to provide musical instruction to young children and adults with a focus on communication. Students learn to read music, listen to, and encourage each other. Each Saturday during the school year tuition-free music classes are hosted at the Desert Foothills Library. Funding would be used to assist in covering the 2025 Saturday classes.

11. KI Healing Arts

\$1,000

KI Healing Arts (KIHA) began in 2018 to provide services for healthy aging to seniors and those approaching retirement age, at an inexpensive rate. KIHA addresses critical gaps in healthcare by offering alternatives. Funds would be used to purchase needed equipment for expansion of classes and programs.

12. Purse Impressions

\$1,000

Purse Impressions was started in 2019 and since then have distributed 6,000 purses and backpacks to individuals in rehab. Additionally, over 800 back to school backpacks, diaper bags and toys have been donated to 400 children living in sober recovery houses with their moms. Funds from the grant will be used to buy Backpacks for Men and Children, bought from Bags in Bulk. Purses for women are donated but occasionally have to buy some if we are short. Hygiene Kits for women, men and children bought from Convenience Kits.com. Other items purchased for the holiday donation: Feminine Hygiene, Make-Up, Journals, Socks, Coloring Books & Crayons, Toys for the children and diapers.

13. R.O.S.E Resources/Outreach to Safeguard the Elderly

\$1,000

R.O.S.E. Resources/Outreach to Safeguard the Elderly is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to protecting older adults from scams, fraud, and financial exploitation. funding to support its Fraud Protection & Scam Awareness Workshops for Seniors, an interactive education program designed to protect older adults from scams, identity theft, and financial exploitation. The workshops teach participants how to recognize, avoid, and report fraudulent activity, covering topics such as the anatomy of a scam, social engineering tactics, and online safety.

14. Unbridled Pathways

\$1,000

Unbridled Pathways began in 2022 as a small, volunteer-led initiative to connect rescued horses with struggling youth has grown into a trusted nonprofit organization serving hundreds of girls each year. Guided by local experts trained in equine assisted learning experiences and armed with an unwavering belief in the resilience of the human spirit, Unbridled Pathways creates a safe, nurturing space where girls learn to trust again, to lead, and to see themselves as capable and worthy. Funds will go towards the Unbridled Confidence Program providing equine-assisted learning.