

# FOUNTAIN HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT **23-24**





# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

**KEVIN SNIPES**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES  
DIRECTOR



The Community Services Department team is dedicated to making a positive impact and enriching our community through exceptional engagement and service opportunities for our residents. As the team grows, so does the quality and quantity of our programs, events, volunteer services, parks, and facilities.

The remodeled Community Center has achieved remarkable success, with increased revenue driven by larger events, a broader range of classes, and a surge in membership. New programs, such as the Grief Support Group, Social Bridge, Veterans' Discussion Group, and the Adventures Day Trips Program Sponsored by Encore For More, have been particularly well-received. Highlights from the Adventures Day Trips include excursions to the Barleens Dinner Show, the Museum of Illusions, and the Snuggle Miniature Horse Farm.

Our community and special events have seen record attendance this year, with every major event showing increased participation. In recreation, the introduction of new youth programs like Hot Shots Sports and Soccer Shots, along with activities such as DBACKS games, video game tournaments, and adventure trips, have been a hit. For adults, pickleball has emerged as the most sought-after activity, with 26 new programs introduced and unprecedented waiting lists. Additional adult activities include Cornhole Leagues, the inaugural Cornhole Tournament, Senior Softball, and Adult Return to Recess.

The parks have set new revenue records for tournaments, continuing a six-year upward trend since the fields were remodeled. Recent enhancements include new LED field lighting, which improves usability and the impact on neighbors with the reduction of light pollution, a state-of-the-art fitness area at Desert Vista Park, a large, shaded picnic area at Fountain Park Splash Pad, and renovations to Centennial Pavilion with a new shade structure to increase the useability of the area and recycled wind turbine benches with hand-painted artwork.

Volunteer services reached new heights, providing nearly 15,000 hours of service and surpassing last year's record. This success reflects a true partnership with our dedicated residents who support the town. Care Cards and Crafts thoughtfully created by volunteers, create heartwarming cards and monthly crafts given to our home-bound residents who receive Home Delivered Meals. Currently, there are over 500 meals delivered each month by volunteers.

These accomplishments highlight the team's commitment to expanding and enhancing the Community Services Department. Their drive and respected commitment to excellence have earned them national recognition as a Gold Medal winner from the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration and the National Recreation and Parks Association, the highest national award in parks and recreation. Discover the many ways to Connect, Play, and Explore with us in FY25!

# WHO WE ARE



Fountain Hills Community Services (FHCS) is a small but impressive team that operates with a culture of passion and commitment. We shine brightest when it comes to increasing community advocacy, earning the trust of our leadership, and magnifying our limited fiscal resources. Encompassing five divisions with 18 full-time staff, we represent a very broad, public-facing department. Due to limited funding, financial forecasting can be one of our biggest hurdles, however, FHCS continually finds a way to excel. Our values push us to refine and improve, asking how we can do more, go further, and dream bigger.

## MISSION

*To enrich and provide an active quality of life for all residents and visitors through proactive community engagement, resolute stewardship of amenities and open spaces, and the enhancement of the overall health and well-being of our town.*

## COMMITMENT

1. Provide recreation that inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles, and a sense of community.
2. Expand and strengthen outdoor experiences and opportunities to contribute to the region's attractiveness as a place to live, work, and play.
3. Optimize safe utilization of facilities, amenities, and open space.
4. Actively seek progressive, future-oriented options for funding, operations, and programs.
5. Embrace a collaborative spirit and support teamwork within the department and the community.

# BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

## COMMUNITY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The commission acts in an advisory capacity in support of the Town of Fountain Hills Community Services Department's quest to provide exceptional customer service to enhance the quality of life by providing and maintaining safe, available, and accessible parks and facilities, recreation programs, events, and services that will meet the intellectual, social, cultural, and leisure needs of town residents of all ages.

**NATALIE VARELA**  
CHAIR

**CAREY REDDICK II**  
VICE CHAIR

**STEPHEN BARNES**  
COMMISSIONER

**CRAIG RUDOLPHY**  
COMMISSIONER

**RON RUPPERT**  
COMMISSIONER

**RORY WILSON**  
COMMISSIONER

**KEVIN WILLIAMS**  
YOUTH COMMISSIONER

## HISTORY & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The purpose of the History and Culture Advisory Commission will be to advise the Town Council on matters relating to historic and cultural preservation, including making plans and policies for the identification, evaluation, and recognition of historically or culturally significant aspects within Fountain Hills.

**SUSAN OBST-DWORKIS**  
CHAIR

**TIM YODER**  
VICE CHAIR

**BOB BURNS**  
COMMISSIONER

**JOHN GIBSON**  
COMMISSIONER

**WILLIAM MEADE**  
COMMISSIONER

**DAVE PETERSON**  
COMMISSIONER

**DAVID CORLETT**  
COMMISSIONER

## MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN PRESERVATION COMMISSION SUNSET ON FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Fountain Hills' McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission, tasked with preserving the town's namesake preserve, has completed its mission. After decades of guiding development, including the successful Adero Canyon Trailhead project, the commission was officially dissolved by the Town Council.

**SCOTT GRZYBOWSKI**  
CHAIR

**STEVEN NURNEY**  
VICE CHAIR

**BILL CRAIG**  
COMMISSIONER

**JANICE HOLDEN**  
COMMISSIONER

**DJ WILLARD**  
COMMISSIONER

**SHERRY IRWIN**  
COMMISSIONER

**BRIAN JENNINGS**  
COMMISSIONER

# MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL



The Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) is made up of proactive teens here in Town that care about making a difference. Through MYC, these teens learn how our Town operates, leadership skills, and how they can make a difference for good.

**BROOKE LYONS**  
CLASS OF '24

**OLIVIA MELLOY**  
CLASS OF '25

**YASMINE MOLLER**  
CLASS OF '24

**SRUTTI PEDDI**  
CLASS OF '24

**AUTUMN RYNEARSON**  
CLASS OF '24

**CHRIS TOWNE**  
CLASS OF '24

**BENJAMIN WEST**  
CLASS OF '24

**KEVIN WILLIAMS**  
CLASS OF '24

**DAVID GUO**  
CLASS OF '25

**SHREYAAN NATH**  
CLASS OF '25

**MILO ANDREE**  
CLASS OF '26

**NATALIE OWERS**  
CLASS OF '26

**HANSON REMM**  
CLASS OF '26

**JAYSONN THOMPSON**  
CLASS OF '26

**DANIEL WILLIAMS**  
CLASS OF '26

## COMMUNITY SERVICES HOURS

MYC participates in community service year-round. By volunteering at Town events, Make a Difference Day, and Adopt a Street, MYC accumulated **335** service hours!

## LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS

Mayor's Youth Council members attended the LACT conference in August 2023. The council represented the Town by participating in the Parade of Flags and attended workshops discussing networking, public speaking, and interview techniques.

## GAME SHOW BATTLE ROOM

Team building through games! The group got to get to know each other better and build chemistry while playing games like Family Feud & Price is Right!

## TEEN TAKEOVER SILENT DANCE PARTY

The MYC Teen Takeover was a rockin' time! Featuring TWO live DJs, Silent Dance Party, Video Games, Crafts, Prizes... it had something for everyone! Over 80 teens attending this awesome event. The MYC Members and Recreation Staff planned and oversaw the event to ensure everyone had a fantastic time.

# AWARDS

## 2023 APRA OUTSTANDING SPECIAL EVENT AWARD SPOOKY BLAST



Fountain Hills Recreation was honored to receive the APRA Outstanding Event for Populations Under 25k for Spooky Blast. This award recognizes the organizations, institutions, or agencies developing, implementing, or coordinating Arizona's most outstanding special event program.

## 2023 APRA OUTSTANDING FACILITY AWARD FOUNTAIN PARK



Fountain Hills Recreation was honored to receive the APRA Outstanding Facility for Populations Under 25k for Fountain Park. This award recognizes the NEW construction or renovation of outstanding parks and recreation facilities by an agency or organization affiliated with the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association.



# PARK ENHANCEMENTS

BY THE NUMBERS

29

TOURNAMENTS HOSTED

\$71,414

TOTAL TOURNAMENT AND FIELD RENTAL  
REVENUE AT GEP

16%

INCREASE IN FIELD RENTAL REVENUE AND  
TOURNAMENTS HOSTED AT GEP FROM FY23



# FOUNTAIN PARK

## EXPANDED PICNIC AREA

The Fountain Park Splash Pad sees heavy usage from both residents and visitors, especially during the hot summer months, and was recently featured in a national broadcast about summer heat waves. Previously the only shaded area was the Kiwanis ramada with three picnic tables that would be full every single day well before the splash pad would open. A new Picnic Area was completed \$164,792.88 under budget; adding 3 shade structures, 20 picnic tables and 8 Trash cans. To improve accessibility and seating new sidewalks and a seat wall accompany the new amenities with upgraded landscaping, new trees, shrubs and granite providing the finishing touches. This project also executed on turfgrass reduction goals to conserve water.



# GOLDEN EAGLE PARK

## NEW LIGHTS EXPAND FIELD USAGE

The ballfields at Golden Eagle continue to impress users and booking for the fields continue to rise. The new Sports Field lighting was updated to directional LED, and completed within budget. These new lights enabled tournaments to continue into the cooler evening hours and gave staff ample light to put the fields to bed for the next day. These improvements helped boost the department's field rental revenues.



## IMPROVING THE FUTURE BY LEARNING FROM THE PAST

The 2018 flood of Golden Eagle Park revealed a multitude of drainage issues at the park. While the efforts to restore the park to operational functionality was done quickly, the solutions to prevent further flooding was much more complex. After several years of design with subject matter experts, the drainage renovations were completed and put out for contractor bidding. The changes may be subtle to most of us, but will have a big impact on how water flows through the park.



# DESERT VISTA PARK

## STATE-OF-THE-ART FITNESS PARK

In the second year of the two-year improvement plan, a new fitness park was added at the end of the soccer fields. This fitness park includes state-of-the-art public fitness equipment that has the ability to connect via Bluetooth to smart devices to track progress and performance. A double shade canopy, donated by the American Legion, complements the fitness equipment to extend the seasonal usage. New landscaping including trees, shrubs, and granite provides the finishing touches to the improvements.

## COOL NEW BENCHES

Both the dog park and the walking path got new seating benches, replacing sun baked and rusted benches that had become a safety concern. Generous donations from ADOG helped to replace 12 benches in the dog park, while a good BOGO deal helped to install 5 new benches along the walking path and near the new fitness park. The 5 benches are a great example of up-cycling, as they are made from decommissioned wind turbines! We are BIG FANS (pun intended) of this renewable energy source that is now providing beautiful weather-resistant park benches.

# CENTENNIAL PAVILION

## THE PLAZA BECOMES A PAVILION

Recognizing the underutilized space of the Centennial Plaza set in motion a multi-faceted renovation project completed within budget. Art statues and monuments were relocated or removed to facilitate easier accessibility and improved visibility of the art pieces. Storm damaged and hazardous trees were removed and the amazing volunteers during the 2023 Make A Difference Day planted new trees that are more pedestrian friendly species. A custom, multi-tiered shade structure was installed over the Pavilion, which uses cables to suspend the shade fabric without needing an obtrusive center pole. Finally, new benches made from the decommissioned wind turbines, line the circumference. Five of these new benches are shaded, with murals representing the 5C's of Arizona: Cotton, Cattle, Copper, Citrus, and Climate.



# MCDOWELL MT. PRESERVE

## WHERE THE CONSERVANCY VOLUNTEERS SHINE

This season was a busy and productive one for the Conservancy. We now have 153 volunteers, with over 40 new volunteers this season. Volunteers sign up as trailblazers, stewards, trailhead hosts, members of the Fountain Hills Desert Botanical Garden, and to help with administrative tasks. These volunteers contributed a total of more than 3,641 hours of their time across these volunteering categories, which does not include the countless hours of administrative time. The Trailblazers not only maintain all the trails in the McDowell Mountain Preserve, but this season they also built 1.5 miles of new trails! A half-mile extension of the Overlook Trail and almost a mile of the new Mesquite Hollow Trail. During our next season of work beginning in November 2024, they hope to complete the Mesquite Hollow Trail.

## AND INVASIVE WEEDS DO NOT

In early April, the Conservancy identified Stinknet as a potential threat to the Preserve, Lake Overlook Trail and the Desert Botanical Garden open spaces. A protocol was quickly developed for manual removal and disposal. From April through mid-May, 28 volunteers contributed 133 hours of their time identifying and manually removing stinknet.



# EVENTS

## BY THE NUMBERS

23

COMMUNITY AND SPECIAL EVENTS

41,000

ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE AT TOWN-WIDE  
COMMUNITY AND SPECIAL EVENTS

20%

INCREASE IN ATTENDANCE FROM FY23





## FOURTH AT THE FOUNTAIN

JULY 4

FOUNTAIN PARK

The annual event commenced with an electrifying performance by Rock Lobster, an 80's cover band, captivating the crowd with an hour and a half of sensational music. Attendees joyously danced to the rhythm until the stunning fireworks display began at 9:00 pm. Delightful culinary choices were abundant, courtesy of ten food vendors. The estimated attendance for this Independence Day Celebration exceeded 18,000.



## FAMILY FUN NIGHT

JULY 21

COMMUNITY CENTER

Our young local heroes unleashed their superpowers and beat the heat at the Fountain Hills Community Center for this incredible event. This thrilling Superhero themed party had it all: epic games, marvelous crafts, scrumptious food, a costume contest, inflatables, a superhero training course, and real life superheroes.



## BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

AUGUST 18

FOUR PEAKS PARK

The Back to School Bash collaborates with nearby community groups like the Fountain Hills PTO and Fountain Hills Little League to provide various games and activities. A lively DJ ensures a festive atmosphere, while thrilling water slides and a dunk tank allow children to dunk their teachers. Furthermore, the MCSO showcased their vehicles and helicopter, and presented an impressive K9 demonstration. The event drew an estimated crowd of over 1,000 people.



## SPOOKY BLAST

OCTOBER 28

FOUR PEAKS PARK

The third edition of Spooky Blast began with an impressive turnout of more than 3,000 people. The town collaborated with twenty-two businesses and organizations to set up engaging booths featuring games, activities, and candy. A DJ maintained the lively atmosphere and hosted a costume contest. Additionally, the event featured five inflatables and a Halloween-themed park, creating an eerie and enjoyable experience. Local food vendors provided diverse dining choices. This year, thanks to our Sponsor, Arizona Propane we also had Magic Matt, a magician perform three shows throughout the event.



## TURKEY TROT FUN RUN & WALK

NOVEMBER 23

DOWNTOWN FOUNTAIN HILLS

Our 33rd Annual Turkey Trot was a big hit with the community and region. This event saw 2,700+ participants, with 1066 from Fountain Hills. The Turkey Trot has many runners from local cities and those out of state visiting during the holidays. The new route provided a smooth path around the Fountain. Each year we include a branded Turkey Trot T-shirt as part of the registration. The Turkey Trot T-shirts are typically seen throughout the year by our residents. Presenting Sponsor: Fountain Hills Family Dentistry



## ROLL IN THE GLOW

DECEMBER 02

AVENUE OF THE FOUNTAIN

Roll in the Glow entered its third year as a highly anticipated event. The highlight of the occasion was the exhilarating lighted bike parade, where participants vied for the top three positions in each age category, earning well-deserved prizes. In a remarkable partnership, McDowell Mountain Cycles joined forces with the Town, offering support, managing packet pick-ups, and contributing to the pool of exciting prizes. Due to the number enrolled the route was expanded onto Paul Nordin and through the Morningstar Assisted Living Facility.



## LIGHT UP THE TOWN HOLIDAY TOUR

DECEMBER 15 - 31

TOWN

We have recently established a cherished tradition known as the seasonal Holiday Tour around Town, dedicated to admiring the mesmerizing light displays. Enthusiasts embark on a scenic route, marveling at the illuminated houses and casting their votes for the most impressive displays. A total of 31 homes participated in the Drive, attracting the attention of 172 voters. Additionally, the Drive's digital map garnered an impressive viewership, with 18,000 individuals exploring its festive offerings.



## MYC TEEN TAKEOVER

JANUARY 27

COMMUNITY CENTER

In collaboration with local organizations and businesses, the Mayor's Youth Council orchestrated an exceptional experience for the teenagers. The event was remarkable, offering a wide array of activities, all completely free of charge. Teens were treated to an exciting lineup, including a silent disco with dueling DJs, delicious food, and beverages, enticing raffle prizes, a lively dance party, and much more!



## SKATE CLASSIC

FEBRUARY 17  
DESERT VISTA PARK

The Skateboard Classic presented by Musco Lighting was back for 2024 at the newly renovated Desert Vista Skate Park! We saw a record 40 participants over three age groups, plus a featured "sponsored" division. Skaters brought their best 90-second run to their favorite song. With 8 vendors, a DJ, and on-site Physical Therapy for first aid, we had our biggest skate event yet.



## IRISH FOUNTAIN FEST

MARCH 16  
FOUNTAIN PARK

The event achieved record-breaking attendance and sales, with an estimated crowd of 9,800 people. The lineup featured exciting bands; Frank Mackey, Kilted Spirit Band, Mesa Caledonian Pipe Band, and Traveler - Celtic Rock Band. Attendees were treated to a wide range of activities, including a kid's zone, live performances, delicious food from food trucks, and the popular Crescent Crown Beer Garden. The Sonoran Lifestyle Team at ReMax Properties, the presenting sponsor, generously provided additional funding and set up a tent with games and prizes for the community to enjoy.



## EGGSTRAVAGANZA

MARCH 23  
FOUR PEAKS PARK

The event boasted an impressive egg hunt, with 16,000 eggs scattered across two ballfields. An estimated 600+ attendees joined in on the fun. Local churches were present, offering exciting games, crafts, and beverages for all participants. The beloved inflatables and the opportunity to take pictures with Hoppy the Bunny remained a hit among visitors. Presenting Sponsor: Carol Goyena of MCO Realty.



## MUSIC FEST

APRIL 6  
FOUNTAIN PARK

The Music Fest mesmerized a gathering of over 5,000 attendees with a captivating trio of bands. The chart topping country-rock band, Sam Riggs, headlined the event, accompanied by much-adored local talents Scott and Sabrina and Western Fusion. To ensure everyone stayed refreshed and in high spirits, Bone Haus Brewing and Grapeables provided a beer and wine garden while an array of food trucks catered to the appetites of concertgoers. Adding to the festival's excitement, event organizers introduced a range of engaging cornhole and yard games.



## CONCERTS ON THE AVENUE

THURSDAYS IN APRIL  
AVENUE OF THE FOUNTAINS

The Avenue comes alive during the spring concert series. Estimated attendance of 800. This series includes two artists, each located at a fountain. The solo artist is west of Verde River Dr, and the band is east of Verde River Dr. This concert series is funded by The Sonoran Lifestyle Team at Remax Properties. Remax remains open during the concerts and provides attendees with appetizers, popcorn, and beverages. The Avenue has cornhole and yard games near each performer, and town staff were onsite selling Fountain Hills State 48 T-shirts.



## RECYCLED ART CONTEST

APRIL 22  
COMMUNITY CENTER

The third edition of the Earth Day Celebration was pared down to an exciting recycled art contest. With 20 submissions over three age groups, there was amazing art for everyone to enjoy. Hosted by the Community Center, residents could come in and view and vote for their favorites. Winners were announced at a reception on Earth Day and over \$1000 in prizes was awarded.



## MOVIE IN THE PARK

MAY 11  
FOUR PEAKS PARK

Our Spring Movie in the Park was a blast! Families gathered at Four Peaks Park to watch the showing of "Wonka". Swette Ice Cream Truck was on site to serve treats and snacks for those in attendance. This event was our largest Movie in the Parks attendance,



## PARTY IN THE PARK

JUNE 08  
FOUR PEAKS PARK

Our annual Party in the Park and Stargazing event added to the summer fun. The Recreation Department partners with the Dark Sky Association to offer stargazing from 8:00-9:00 PM. The party included water inflatables, yard games, food trucks, and a DJ from 6:00-8:00 PM.



## SUMMER SERIES

### JUNE AND JULY

FOUNTAIN PARK & FOUR PEAKS PARK

During the Summer Series, we provided opportunities for our community to unwind, bond, indulge in play, and venture into new experiences. Every Tuesday evening, the Splash Pad served as a delightful venue, completed with a food truck and ice cream truck to add to the enjoyment. Additionally, on Wednesday morning we welcomed kids to participate in the excitement of Wacky Wet Wednesday, featuring slip and slides, water games, and even a fire truck!



# COMMUNITY CENTER

## BY THE NUMBERS

258

RESERVATION PERMITS  
SINGLE DAY AND RECURRING RENTALS

298

OPERATIONAL DAYS

\$102,656

IN REVENUE FOR FY24  
25% INCREASE FROM FY23



## COMMUNITY CENTER UPGRADES

The Fountain Hills Community Center saw significant improvements in 2023-2024. New digital room signs were installed, displaying real-time room schedules and availability through a red-green light system. Additionally, to address storage space limitations, the underutilized patio area outside the O'Flynn Room was repurposed into a dedicated storage facility.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS

Breakfast with Santa was a huge success in its second year of partnership with Noon Kiwanis, selling out all 200 tickets. Once breakfast was over a "Sensitive Santa" event, catering to nearly 30 children and families with special needs was held creating a safe space for children who prefer a more subdued Santa.

The Community Center partnered with Masters of Coin/VITA to offer free tax preparation services for seniors and low to moderate-income families. The Fountain Hills location processed 160 returns from the first Monday of February to April.

Munch and Music organized by FHCCA offers four free concerts from January to April. These concerts attracted an attendance ranging from 200 to 400 people per show.

Dark Skies/FHCCA organized a Dark Sky Festival with an impressive attendance of over 2,500 people.

Encore/FHCCA host bingo at the Community Center for 49 weeks of play, offering a recreational activity for hundreds of community members weekly.

## HOSTED MULTI-DAY EVENTS

The Fountain Hills Community Center served as the host location for several multi-day events, including:

1. 3 Gun Shows
2. 2 Bridge Tournaments
3. Phoenix Bible Students
4. Municipal Clerk's Conference
5. Watch and Clock Convention
6. Voting
7. Quarterly Blood Drive
8. Fire Department Trainings
9. AWA - Arizona Watercolor Association Art Hanging (happens once every 10 years)
10. Winter and Spring Community Chorus Concerts



# COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAMS

BY THE NUMBERS

1,518

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER  
18% INCREASE FROM FY23

286

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOANED OUT  
TO RESIDENTS

34,220

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION IN MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS  
21% INCREASE FROM FY23



The Members Division of the Community Center organizes a wide range of activities, presentations, events, social services, and support groups for our members and the broader community. Our members participate in diverse special interest classes, special events, presentations, and fitness and wellness programs.

To join the Community Center, individuals must be 18 years or older. The annual membership fee for residents is \$30, and for non-residents \$45.

## NEW PROGRAMS

We have expanded our offerings with a variety of new activities, including a Grief Support group, Spanish language classes, meditation classes, Essentrics exercise classes, social bridge, board games like Rummikub, multiple line dancing classes, a veterans' discussion group, community creations craft hour, gentle yoga, and women's poker.

## COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS

We are thrilled with the positive response to these, free to members, events bringing our community together, which included: the annual Ice Cream Social, Indoor Summer Picnic, Country Harmony with a favorite country singer, annual Pizza Party, and Desert Valley Winds concert. Our Sip & Social Happy Hours have been a tremendous success, providing great opportunities for casual networking and building friendships.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH ENCORE FOR MORE

Encore for More took part in sponsoring the AZ Speaks Series, featuring esteemed speakers who showcased Arizona's rich history and vibrant culture. Additionally, they supported the New Adventures Day Trips, which included exciting events like the Barleens Dinner Show, Museum of Illusions, and the Snuggle Miniature Horse Farm.

## MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Our community offers a free lending service for durable medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, and canes, to residents in need. This program proved to be an indispensable resource, with 286 medical equipment items loaned out during fiscal year 2023-2024.



# VOLUNTEER SERVICES

BY THE NUMBERS

**678**

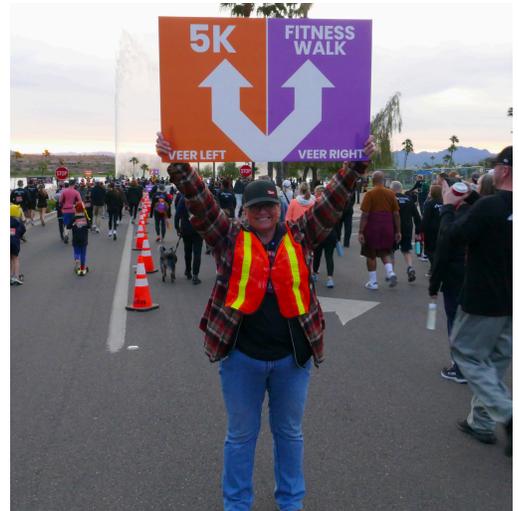
REGISTERED VOLUNTEERS

**14,866**

SERVICE HOURS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024  
10% INCREASE FROM FY23

**\$476,752**

TOTAL VALUE IN VOLUNTEER SERVICES  
18% INCREASE FROM FY23



Our Fountain Hills Volunteers believe that one of the defining characteristics of our community is our resident's commitment to service. This commitment is demonstrated through the energy, skills, vision, enthusiasm, and support that they bring to our Town.

Our Volunteers deliver meals to homebound residents with the Home Delivered Meals program and provide transportation for medical appointments for disabled and/or over 65-year-old residents with the Give a Lift program. They also take part in assisting with our Special Events such as Make a Difference Day, Turkey Trot, The Irish Fountain Festival, and The Fountain Hills Arts & Craft Fairs... just to name a few.

In addition, they lead instruction in our various Community Center Membership programs, provide trail maintenance through the Trailblazer program, and provide help and support during times of emergency with the Crisis Support Team. Many of them also utilize their professional skills to assist with projects for the Administration Departments.



## GIVE A LIFT

Give a Lift provides transportation for essential medical appointments to Fountain Hills residents that are physically disabled and/or age 65 and older. In addition, Give a Lift gave residents the opportunity for better healthcare and independent living, as well as a much-needed social connection to the community.

**Give a Lift: 376  
752 Volunteers Hours Contributed**

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Make a Difference Day is a great opportunity for the entire community to come together and give 4 hours of Volunteer service to the vulnerable, elderly, and homebound residents of Fountain Hills with a variety of work projects. MaDD is held annually on the 3rd Saturday of October.

### MaDD Completed Projects:

- 40 Residential Projects
- 150 Volunteers at Fountain Hills High School Campus
- 40 Volunteers planted small trees and bushes in Centennial Circle

**MaDD Volunteers: 465  
Service Hours Contributed: 2,865 Hours**



## HOME DELIVERED MEALS

Nourishing the home-bound residents of Fountain Hills with wholesome meals. Our mission is to ensure access to nutritious noon-time meals for individuals of all ages residing in Fountain Hills who may need meal support. This program assists those recovering from illness or surgery and enables home-bound individuals to continue living comfortably in their own homes. Each meal is expertly prepared by Fountain View Village and thoughtfully delivered by our compassionate team of volunteers.

**Meals Delivered: 5,899**

**Volunteer Hours Contributed: 1,464**

## CARE CARD

Care Card was developed to help homebound seniors stay connected while reminding them they are cared for and not forgotten. Volunteers create and deliver greeting cards to homebound seniors in assisted & independent living Communities and seniors participating in our Home Delivered Meals and Give Lift programs.

The Program was started in 2021 to give Volunteers the resources and space to create crafts and cards for the Care Card program. 432 cards and crafts were made and delivered in 2023-2024. Care Card Crafts & Coffee is held the 1st Wednesday of the month, 9-10:30am at the Community Center.

## ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICES HOURS

### Crisis Response Team

- 1425 Active Volunteer Hours Contributed
- 8640 On-call Volunteer Hours Contributed

### Community Center Holiday Celebration

- 24 Community Partner Holiday Tree Displayed
- 23 Community Partner Wreaths Displayed
- 17 Holiday Quilts Displayed
- 930 Volunteer Hours Contributed

### Season's Celebration

- Over 600 Guest attended
- 500 Cups of Hot Coco were served
- 275 Cookies were Decorated
- 86 Volunteer Hours Contributed

### Volunteer & Activity Expo

- 79 Community Partners participated in the 2024 EXPO
- 420 Volunteer Hours were Contributed



# RECREATION

BY THE NUMBERS

204

YOUTH AND TEEN PARTICIPANTS IN REC PROGRAMS

222

PEOPLE ON THE PICKLEBALL  
WAITING LIST FOR FY24

2,043

TOTAL NUMBER OF RECREATION PARTICIPANTS.  
INCREASED 20% + IN EACH OF THE LAST TWO YEARS



# YOUTH AND TEENS

## YOUTH SPORTS

NEW sports programs were introduced this year through Hot Shots Sports and Soccer Shots. Hot Shots brings multi-sport fun and unique activities like Ninja Warrior through their variety of program offerings! We are excited to continue expanding our youth sports offerings with pickleball through Monster Athlete Juniors starting in Fall 2024. In addition, the popular Return to Recess program was back with two sessions that featured collaborations with the Fountain Hills School District and local sports organizations. The partnership with our local sports organizations through the Youth Sports Alliance thrived this year seeing solid enrollment numbers across the various clubs including Little League, Soccer Club and Boys and Girls Flag Football. Youth Baseball tournaments at Golden Eagle Park saw an increase of 5 new tournaments and even more planned for 2024-25.

## TEEN ACTIVITIES

Teen Adventure Trips were back this year with more exciting activities for teens to embark on. Teens age 11-16 made memories through various activities including DBACKS baseball games, Go Kart Racing, Bowling, Arcades, Inflatables obstacle courses and so much more! Also introduced this past year was the creation of a Video Game Tournament. Teens battled it out in Mario Kart & Smash Bros for awesome prizes. We look forward to offering more unique activities to our teen offerings this upcoming year.

## ADDITIONAL STAFF

The addition of a part-time Recreation Assistant to the team was a game changer to our programs and events! Staff led program offerings increased by 200% with the addition of 18 programs including Cornhole, Pickleball, and Adult Return to Recess from the previous year. The Recreation Assistant also played a vital part in event operations and provided much needed assistance to the lean recreation team. With an additional Recreation Assistant coming on board for next year, we anticipate even more growth and variety in program offerings.



# ADULT SPORT LEAGUES

## PICKLEBALL

Fountain Hills loves Pickleball! The department introduced 26 new pickleball programs that were all completely full with long wait lists. Leagues, clinics, and classes encompassed program offerings with a total of 225 unique participants registered. Due to the demand, staff created a newsletter specifically for pickleball to keep the community in the know of all things pickleball! Even more offerings are planned for this upcoming year offering more days, times and skill level options.

## SENIOR SOFTBALL

Senior Softball Leagues thrived this year with Fall, Winter, & Spring seasons featuring four teams that competed to be the season champion! In addition, the Town partnered with SSUSA to offer Senior Softball Tournaments which saw 24 teams across two tournaments. The Town also has a dedicated group that meets on Tuesday & Thursday mornings at Golden Eagle Park for Drop-in Softball! This group helps foster community and is a great way for new players to find a team for the leagues.

## CORNHOLE LEAGUE & TOURNAMENT

The cornhole league is thriving with a total of 62 participants across two seasons. This is a 19% increase from last year! NEW for this year was the Cornhole Tournament that saw 16 teams compete in a double elimination tournament. This event received very positive feedback and we have plans for more in the future.

## TAKE A HIKE!

## CONSERVANCY PARTNERSHIP

In partnership with the Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills, the Hiking Challenge was back again for 2023! This years challenge saw a 32% increase in participation and featured a new kick-off event and hike. Steward led group hikes increased from 29 hikes offered in 2022-23 to 48 hikes offered in 2023-24. We look forward to continuing this partnership and begin offering youth hikes in the upcoming year.

