

Recommended speakers as of 6 May 202.

Contact Kasia Yuska, kasiarotary@gmail.com with additions and comments,

[The Arizona Heroes Memorial](#) is designed to be a hallowed place honoring those outstanding individuals, past and present, who dedicated their lives to ensure our American values. The Memorial will be honoring U.S. veterans, first responders and healthcare workers. It will be open to the public in the Fall 2024 at Naranja Park in Oro Valley, AZ. The memorial will be a dedicated space in which to remember and learn about our heroes.

Contact: Lisa Hopper at lmhopper@aol.com or go to <https://azheroesmemorial.org/speakers-bureau>

[Treasures for Teachers Tucson](#) - Treasures 4 Educators (T4TT) is a 501c3 organization that focuses on supporting educators with the materials they need in the classroom for free to low cost through repurposed items that are donated by the public. As a donation based operation, they accept items from retiring teachers, businesses, industries and individuals that would otherwise end up in a landfill. T4TT aims to alleviate financial burden on educators who often spend over \$1000 annually of their own money on classroom supplies. By repurposing and reusing items, we provide teachers with items to expand their learning at a minimal cost and the public with a sustainable way to dispose of their unwanted items.

Contact: Adrienne Ledford at adrienne@t4teachers.org

The [El Rio Health Foundation](#) is looking to expand its Mission of Hope youth mental health services in Tucson to 1,000 youths. El Rio currently provides medical services for 16,000 kids, ages 10-18 and 36,000+ children overall. They began depression screening for kids 12 and older during pediatric visits and the results are alarming - 23% of youth screened, ages 12- 21, responded positive for depression. The Mission of Hope currently serves 600 youth in Tucson and needs help to expand to 1,000 in 2025.

Contact: John Fung at john.fung@elrio.org

Suggestions from Kay Phillips of Sierra Vista Sunrise Rotary:

PDG Michael Drake- Polio Plus

Kristi Halvorson- Rotary Foundation

Steve Wittenhoef- TRVFA

We also had the **presidents of the other clubs** in our town speak with our club, in the spirit of collaboration and fellowship. I was surprised at how many Rotary clubs in the same city don't communicate with each other.

We also had our **Executive AG** speak with our club. Our club had a few new members and even some of our more seasoned members weren't aware of what the AGs actually do. Both kinds of programs were informative.

[Make-A-Wish Arizona](#): Rob LaMaster is a member of the Rotary Club of Tucson and the Southern AZ Regional Director of Make-A-Wish.

In 1980, a worldwide movement began in Phoenix, Arizona with a 7-year-old's wish. Chris Greicius was battling leukemia and his mom, Linda, wanted to bring a spark of joy back into his life. She led a group of inspired individuals on a mission to grant his wish of "catching bad

guys.” Chris became Arizona’s first honorary police officer, rode in a helicopter, and earned his motorcycle officer’s wings. For a moment in time, Chris put aside his illness and experienced, once again, the excitement and wonders of simply being a kid. Sadly, Chris passed away four days later and was buried in his beloved policeman uniform. But not before making a profound impact on an entire community who witnessed how a single wish could transform the life of a child and their family. It was at this moment that Make-A-Wish was born.

After 44 years since Chris’s story, Make-A-Wish has grown to 58 chapters across the United States and its territories, and has 40 affiliates in nearly 50 countries on six continents. Since then, Make-A-Wish has collectively granted more than 585,000 wishes worldwide, making it the largest wish-granting organization.

Established in 1980, Make-A-Wish Arizona is the founding chapter of this inspiring movement and has granted nearly 8,000 wishes. Linda, who continues to devote her time to the mission, shares, “...I am still amazed and inspired how one little boy’s dream to be a policeman has touched the lives of so many.” As we seek to bring this spark of joy to other children battling critical illnesses, it is our vision to grant the wish of every eligible child. **Contact: Rob LaMaster, Regional Director, Southern Arizona at rlamaster@arizona.wish.org**