



Membership Spotlight

By Nicole West, Newbridge Technology Solutions - Glendale Chamber Marketing Committee

Thank You to Our Local Nonprofit Organizations

Nonprofit organizations are important to the heart of our community. These organizations have a primary purpose of something other than making a profit. Their work typically revolves around raising awareness and advocating for a belief or social cause. We have several significant nonprofit organizations surrounding the City of Glendale. There are over 60 nonprofit organizations who invest in the Glendale Chamber of Commerce to assist in their cause. Today we want to share with you five nonprofit organizations that are making a difference in our community.

One Community – Member Since May 2015

Since their inception in 2008, One Community has evolved into a member-based coalition of socially responsible businesses, organizations and individuals who support and promote diversity, inclusion and equality for all Arizonans. In February 2013, they launched the UNITY pledge, a concerted effort by Arizona businesses and individuals to advance workplace equality and equal treatment in housing and public accommodations for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) individuals and their allies. They've also partnered with ONE Community business member, FASTSIGNS on Central to create the **OPEN for Business to Everyone** signs, which they used during the peak of SB 1062 and distributed more than 3500 signs in less than 72 hours and was shared more than 100,000 times on the internet. Individuals and businesses throughout the state, posted the sign in their storefronts, offices and homes. One Community is committed to reshaping Arizona's image through educating, empowering and connecting our diverse LGBT and allied communities on the benefits of inclusion and its direct impact on attracting and retaining top talent and businesses—and thereby, ensuring our state's economic sustainability. To learn more, donate or volunteer: <https://www.onecommunity.co/>

Air Force Association – Frank Luke Chapter – Member Since January 2016

Chartered in December 1980, The Frank Luke Chapter (#151) has been a proud member of the Air Force Association for more than 30 years. More than 150,000 people worldwide on active duty, retirees and civilians belong to AFA, a national non-profit professional military organization with the mission:

- To educate the public about the critical role of aerospace power in defense of our nation
- To advocate aerospace power and a strong national defense; and
- To support the U.S. Air Force and the Air Force family

The Frank Luke Chapter is one of four in Arizona and eight in the Southwest Region of the Air Force Association, which covers Nevada and New Mexico as well as Arizona. Their membership network, which includes chapter Community Partners, supports Air Force needs and Air Force people by:

- Providing financial support for and sponsorship of the annual Luke AFB Awards Banquet, quarterly base award ceremonies, Education Center graduation ceremonies and other military events such as twice-monthly completion ceremonies at the First-Term Airman Center (FTAC), the Airman Leadership School (ALS) and the Noncommissioned Officers Professional Enhancement Course (NCO PEC).
- Soliciting participation by area students in high- and middle-schools in annual CyberPatriot competitions, AFA's premiere cyber defense effort designed to inspire high-school students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future. Beginning in 2014, this effort will include middle-school students.
- Supporting people programs such as dinners for families of deployed service members.
- Supporting AFJROTC units in 18 area high schools and AFROTC students at Arizona State University.
- Supporting other military units in the area, including the Air National Guard in Phoenix and Sky Harbor Airport.

Their primary means of raising funds to conduct these activities since 2000 has been an annual benefit golf tournament including military and community golfers, as well as two long-time Community Partner members who subsidize the costs of publication and mailing of the chapter's monthly newsletter. To learn more, donate or volunteer: <http://www.afaluke.org/>

Kiwanis Club of Glendale – Member Since October 1991

Kiwanis, founded in 1915, is a global organization of member-volunteers who are dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis members dedicate more than 18 million volunteer hours and invest more than \$107 million annually in projects that strengthen communities and serve children. They help shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, mentor the disadvantaged and care for the sick. They develop youth as leaders, build playgrounds, raise funds for pediatric research and much more. Kiwanis believe that helping a child helps the world.

Each year, clubs across the globe:

- Organize nearly 150,000 service projects
- Dedicate more than 18 million volunteer hours
- Raise more than \$107 million

Membership:

- More than 8,500 clubs in 80 nations
- Nearly 600,000 adult and youth members

Working together, Kiwanis members achieve what one person cannot accomplish alone. When you give a child a chance to learn, experience, dream, and succeed, great things happen! To learn more, donate, or volunteer: <http://www.kiwanisclubofglendale.com/>

Glendale Civic Pride Ambassadors – Member Since July 2007

The Glendale Civic Pride Ambassadors have been in existence since 1994, when former Mayor Elaine Scruggs initiated a volunteer citizens group to assist the city in increasing people's awareness of the good things Glendale has to offer. The GCPA is an organization of citizens with a deep sense of pride in their community dedicated to enhancing the economic, social, and cultural vitality of Glendale. Money raised through their many fundraising efforts is used to support this mission. GCPA is a member of the Glendale Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) and the Glendale Chamber of Commerce. Both organizations provide ongoing opportunities to stay connected with many of the business owners in Glendale and the West Valley through networking events. Additionally, we partner with many local nonprofit groups in fundraising and other community events that benefit Glendale and West Valley residents. Entering their 23rd year, The Ambassadors are busy from late November through February working the downtown Glendale Special Events, Glendale Glitters, the holiday weekends in the park during December, the Glitter and Glow Block Party in January and the Chocolate Affaire in February. This is their primary fundraising opportunity each year. GCPA members love the hustle and bustle of these events and the interaction with the visitors to downtown Glendale. Look for them in their red shirts in the Glendale Civic Pride beverage booth and around the event area! To learn more, donate, or consider joining: <http://www.glendalecivicpride.org/>

OCJ Kids – Member Since November 2015

OCJ Kids (Opportunity Community and Justice for Kids), founded in 1992, formed an alliance with the business and faith communities to provide services, resources and caring adults to address the needs of the most vulnerable in our society. Founders Gary and Tammie Webb's passion was to reach out to the growing population of unsupervised youth aged 12-18 who were gathering after school with nothing productive to occupy their time and who were being tempted by negative influences, including gangs, drugs, and violent behavior. Gary and Tammie knew these youths were making choices that would impact the rest of their lives and were determined to establish a program to offer positive activities and adult mentors who would not only encourage them to take the "right path," but could show them how through direct assistance and role modeling. In 1994, OCJ hosted its first on campus after school program, and in 1996 opened its first of nine off-campus "Target Zone" community youth centers, one serving as a certified Teen Court with the Arizona juvenile justice department. In 2006, OCJ started the Fostering Connections Program. The goal of the program is to connect the business and faith communities with children and youth placed into the foster care system, with special emphasis on the children and youth currently living in group congregant care in Arizona and throughout the United States. In 2012, OCJ Kids launched the Transition Success Center project, supplying hygiene Welcome Kits, Transitional Suitcases, Kinship Kits, Emergency Overnight Sleep Kits, clothing items, and visitation rooms for children and youth in the foster care system. OCJ Kids currently partners with the faith community and Child Welfare officials in Arizona, Oregon, South Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Gary and Tammie currently serve on the Assemblies of God Compassion Missionary Council, serving the community across America. To learn more about OCJ Kids, donate or volunteer: <http://ocjkids.org/>

We are honored to have these organizations as members of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce as we know their work helps make our community a better place to live, work and play! You can visit the Glendale Chamber online directory at glendaleazchamber.org to view the many other nonprofit organizations who are deeply committed to the greater good.