



Pattii DeBlasi, Michelle, representing Del Webb's Pediatric Emergency Department, Dave and Carole Bakken, Joe DeBlasi and Mary Skalkoyannis. [Submitted photo]

Kiwanis donates books to hospital

The Sun City West Kiwanis Club is a Young Children Priority One sponsor.

Young Children Priority One is a community-based service program of Kiwanis International that addresses the needs of children up to age 5. Its focus is on maternal and child health, childcare and development, parent education and support plus safety and pediatric trauma.

The Sun City West Kiwanis Club partnered with Del Webb Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Department in December 2017 to supply them with a mix of story and activity books. All activity books are accompanied by a small box of crayons. All donated books and crayon boxes are available to the pediatric patient as

well as to the patient's siblings. Both the patient and sibling(s) are able to keep the books.

Since that first delivery of books in 2017, the club has donated 3,073 books until the hospital instituted their pandemic restrictions that stopped all visitations (including book donations) in March 2020 due to COVID-19.

The Pediatric Emergency Department officials notified club members July 19 this year they were able to once again accept book donations. The next day, the club delivered to the department 150 activity books. All activity books donated were written by local author Vee Boeholt and published by Muse Land Press.

Hospital officials consid-

er pediatric patients to be newborn to age 17. Since most teenagers occupy themselves with activities related to their cell phone or other electronic devices, the club's target age group is toddler to 12. In 2017, Del Webb's Pediatric Emergency Department was seeing an average of 450 patients per month. Now that the hospital is open again, the club will continue its Young Children Priority One book donation program on an as needed basis.

The Sun City West Kiwanis Club meets 8 a.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Quail Room of the Sun City West Foundation building, 14465 W.R.H. Johnson Blvd. Members of the public are welcome to attend.