



# TUCSON VERDE

A Group of Thoughtful, Committed Citizens

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### HOW WOULD YOU SPEND \$369 BILLION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?

When Michelle Felix led our August 16th meeting, The Inflation Reduction Act had just been passed. She opened with this challenging question and got some interesting answers. Of all kinds.

What do you think? Where would you allocate the first \$100 billion? What do you think are priorities? Let us know so we can follow up and use great ideas to make RCTV's plans. Remember: Dream big! Have fun and get things done!

## A TREASURE IN OUR OWN BACKYARDS FOR SUSTAINABILITY, FOOD SECURITY, HUMANITY

We recently enjoyed a visit, presentation, and food tasting from an amazing, but little known, group that has been making a huge difference in Tucson's human and ecological life since 2003. Iskashitaa Refugee Network (IRN) creates opportunities to integrate United Nations refugees who have been resettled in Tucson from over 35 ethnic groups across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

IRN provides many services to assist refugees into the Southern Arizona community while educating the public, strengthening the local food system, reducing local food waste, and increasing food security. It has grown into an organization that harvests over 50 tons of fruit, nuts, and vegetables from backyards, local farms and orchards annually. What's more extra produce is preserved, dried, canned, or made into a wide variety of delicious (we tasted!) products such as salad dressings, jams, and marinades for sale at [Iskashitaa's Shop](#)



Iskashitaa's ED, Dr. Barbara Eiswerth, (below) shared some stunning facts that highlight the crucial role of reducing food waste.



### Facts that Should Rock Our World

\$218 billion worth of food is thrown away every year (Feeding America);

63 million tons of food discarded each year (ReFed), which means 30-40% of the US food supply is wasted;

21% of US landfill volume is food (Feeding America), representing the largest occupant of space in landfills (EPA).

We learned a great deal at that evening's presentation and plan to put it into practice in future projects.

## OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY

August 18, 2022 message from Club President **Ellie Patterson**:

*"Greetings Fellow Rotarians and a big Happy Charter Day to all of you.*

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! WE'RE ONE**

**YEAR OLD TODAY!** *I want to say that we have much to celebrate! Thank you all for being a part of this special environmental-focused Rotary club, The Rotary Club of Tucson Verde."*

Join the Party on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>



Founding President **Michael Drake** included the image of our August 18, 2021 charter in his note of congratulations on this first anniversary!

*We members of RCTV add our sincere thanks to Ellie and*

*Michael, and to Kirk Reed, for everything you did—and still do—to make our Club thrive and grow.*

## COMING UP

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Angela Listo
- 11 Patricia Carnovale
- 13 Eugene Friesen
- 26 David Olsen

### SPECIAL EVENTS

☼ Sept. 6, RCTV meeting  
DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISIT

☼ Sept. 22 [Mission Garden](#)  
Welcome the Fall Equinox

☼ Sept. 23-25, [Casino del Sol](#)  
DISTRICT 5500 CONFERENCE  
[Conference Registration](#)

☼ Oct. 16, [Patagonia Library](#)  
Meeting Mountain Empire Rotary group

☼ Nov. 19 RIDE TO END POLIO  
More info at: [Tour de Tucson](#)

## ADOPT-A-PARK THANK YOU TUCSON VERDE ROTARY CLUB



A word from **Emily Rockey**, Chair of the Service Projects Committee: "One of the first commitments we made as a club was to steward a public park via Tucson Clean & Beautiful's Adopt-a-Park program. Our park is located at Miles Exploratory Learning Center on Highland just south of Broadway. We even have a beautiful sign now!

"Our commitment is to go to the park each month to make sure it is tidy, pick up any trash, and report any potential hazards or issues/weeds that make the park less user friendly.

"You can sign up for a coming month with a committee member. We need to report our service in Tucson Clean & Beautiful's system: [Here is a link to miles exploratory learning center park report form](#). It's quick and easy to use.

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

