

VNSA Information

VNSA is an all-volunteer organization whose 130 members work year-round preparing for and producing the largest charity used book sale in the Southwest. The VNSA Used Book Sale is a two-day event held every February at the Arizona State Fairgrounds. Members of VNSA donate more than 25,000 service hours each year collecting, sorting, pricing, boxing and preparing books for the book sale. VNSA is proud to make used books available to the general public at very reasonable prices and to raise significant amounts of money for community-based nonprofit agencies in Maricopa County.

VNSA began in 1949 as the auxiliary and fundraising arm of the Visiting Nurse Service in Phoenix. When the Visiting Nurse Service became affiliated with a hospital in 1987, the members of VNSA chose to remain active supporting Valley nonprofit agencies. The members adopted a new name (Volunteer Nonprofit Service Association) and continued their signature book sale.

The VNSA Used Book Sale has been a Valley fixture every February for more than 60 years. The February sale is the only one the organization puts on all year. The 2016 VNSA Book Sale offered more than 500,000 books and book-related items, attracted more than 15,000 shoppers from all parts of the United States, and raised more than \$340,000. Since the first sale in 1957 the VNSA has returned more than \$8 million to our community.

One week prior to the sale, volunteers from two local Teamsters unions, inmates from Alhambra Fox Unit, and workers from the MANA House for homeless veterans unload hundreds of pallets of books from semi trucks that have transported more than 7,300 boxes of books to the Fairgrounds

Then members, their families and friends unpack each box and arrange more than half a million books into 27 well-organized categories. Nearly 500 members, friends and family volunteer their time to staff our book sale each year.

Individuals, groups and businesses in our community donate all books. The members of VNSA and our many supporters accomplish the work of collecting books and preparing for the annual sale. VNSA employs no paid staff and works diligently to maximize our return to the community. Our members love books, appreciate the value of enriching one's life through reading, and share a dedication to our community.