

BE IN THE KNOW...

October 7, 2020

Dear Boys & Girls Clubs Supporters,

In case you missed it, attached is a Valley Voice column that recently appeared in *The Desert Sun*. It focuses on what is so vital to sustaining our future: developing and growing meaningful and long-lasting relationships.

Some of the best friends we have come from within the agriculture community, such as the **Southwestern Growers** who just held their 55th annual golf tournament benefitting Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley. This “Produce Industry Golf Tournament” has raised hundreds of thousands in youth development support dollars helping us grow from one to now four Clubs.

Where there is a (good) will, there is a **Way**. For us, that saying describes **Mike Way**, who has been a BGC Board member (and past President) for 20 years, a SWG Golf Tournament Committee member (and past Chair) for 23 years, and a major tournament sponsor for several years as a principal partner with **Prime Time International**. Quoting a leading supporter, “At the end of it all, if there is only one nonprofit still standing, it should be Boys and Girls Clubs because the work they do is so important.” Although Mike flies under the radar, his BGC Board and golf Committee leadership (*he sells tons of car drawing tickets and secures a lot of sponsorships*), constant influence and consistent financial support all mirror his strong belief in the aforesaid statement. There is no doubt that without Mike this organization and the tournament wouldn’t be the successes they are today.



So I’d like to take this time to say to Mike – “On behalf of the organization and the youth and families we serve, thank you so much for your many years of tireless service and financial support. We appreciate what you’ve done, what you are doing and what you will do to help level the playing field. You epitomize everything that is good about Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley.”

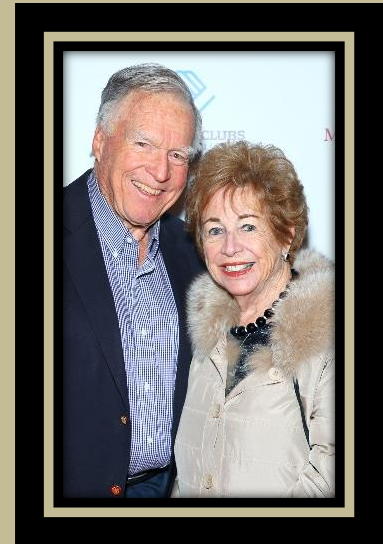
Help Us Reopen Our Clubs



\$102,500 raised of \$120,000 goal

THANK YOU
\$40,000 • Margo & Pete

All four **Clubs** are open and YES, all is going well. Everyone – members, staff and parents – are A-OK with the new program formats and following the new safety rules. To cover the additional costs of purchasing safety equipment and PPE, cleaning agents and the like, \$120,000 needed to be raised. Donors **Pete Hammond and Margo Ritter** kicked off our “*Help Us Reopen Our Clubs Safely*” campaign with a lead gift of \$40,000! Thank you Pete and Margo.



Scholarships are one of my favorite BGC topics. According to the US Census, high school attainment rates drop as low as 29% in the community of Mecca, and college entrance rates in the cities of Mecca and Coachella are less than 1%, one of the lowest rates in the nation. But not for BGC members! Nearly 90% of our members graduate from high school with increasingly more attending colleges, universities or vocational programs. Again, I have to hand it to the local farming industry that helped grow our scholarship funding program. Many thanks to **Thomas DiMare** for starting the Marco A. DiMare Scholarship Fund; **Joe Kitagawa** and **Tommy O'Brien** who funded scholarships to honor their farming parents; and to all of you who have supported our college scholarship program. You ARE leveling the playing field for so many.

And now, a word from one of our former Mecca Club members who is an engineering student at the University of California, Irvine:

I want to thank you with all my heart because of the great amount of financial support the Club has given me! I was glad I could make my impact at the Mecca club but all the clubs within the valley as well. I hope you are able to understand how much I appreciate your efforts with this scholarship and for your actions within my hometown. With this scholarship I am looking to continue my education and hopefully be able to quit my current job that I had to pick up this year for financial reasons. Now that I can use some of this money to buy school supplies and textbooks, I can save up my own money to buy everyday essentials like food. This past year one of my biggest problems was trying to find ways to spend less on things like food to make sure I had extra money when I really needed it. Once again, I am extremely grateful for this scholarship and the opportunity to continue my education!

*Best wishes,
Martin Armenta*

You all do so much for our organization. We appreciate each and every one of you tremendously.

Quinton Egson

President & CEO
38 years of humble service!

