

BE IN THE KNOW...

“What we all have in common is an appreciation of kindness and compassion.”

January 19, 2021

Dear Boys & Girls Clubs Supporters,

Hindsight is 2020, but before we put the last 12 months behind us, Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley has a lot of good happenings to bring to the forefront AND with which to kick start 2021 on the right, positive foot. Let's start with this earnest act of kindness from an excerpt from this *The Desert Sun* story by local writer, author and supporter, DeAnn Lubell.

East Valley High School Brothers Give Back to Their Community During 2020 Holiday

Brothers **Julian and Daniel Vega** are students at Indio High School and alumni of the Indio Boys and Girls Club. What they took away from the various mentoring Club programs and education classes like STEM (*science, technology, engineering and mathematics*) greatly contributed towards their evolution as caring human beings. Case in point: A family friend who comes from a low-income situation recently began taking courses at an adult school and needed a computer. Wanting to help, the two boys reached out to their former BGC mentor and current program outcome specialist, **David Bernal**, who said “This was a perfect mission for the brothers, whose father had encouraged them to practice simple acts of kindness during the holiday knowing that this can make a world of difference to someone in need. One doesn't have to be wealthy to participate in acts of kindness, these young men live a modest lifestyle.” Bernal offered extra computer parts and the use of his garage workstation for their refurbishing project. Adding, “This is a perfect example of the typical Boys and Girls Club's ‘pass it on’ ripple effect that greatly impacted these two boys, as well as their family, friends and schoolmates in a positive manner.” The Vega brothers are proud to give back to the community and look forward to passing it on in other ways. Says Bernal, “As youth developers, we get to meet impressive kids throughout the years. We meet kids who thrive, despite tragic situations and challenging environments. Kids who exemplify the kind of citizens the Coachella Valley needs.”



Amen to that!

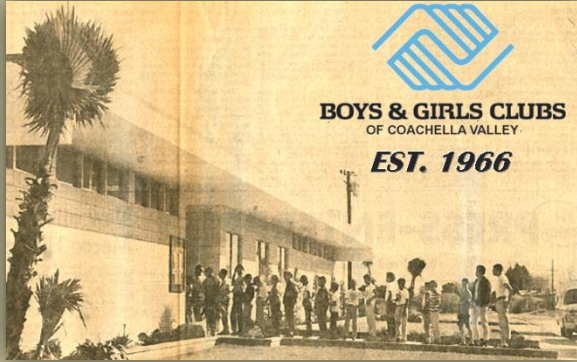
Judy Vossler Awarded National Honor from Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Long time Coachella Valley resident, **Judy Vossler**, was given the National Bronze Medallion from Boys & Girls Clubs of America for her 30 years of devoted volunteerism for serving on the organization's Board of Directors. The award's inscription reads "For



BGC Chair and alum Clara Levrault, Judy Vossler and alum/President & CEO Quinton Egson

unusually devoted service to boys and girls.” To be eligible, an individual must have been an unusually interested and active Board member. Evidence of such service may be: faithful attendance at meetings, service on committees, leadership and unusual effort in the development of programs and projects, unusual efforts in raising funds and unusual effort in interpreting and promoting the work of their Club. **Check. Check. And check. Judy fits all these categories and MORE!**



This year we reach another milestone. **We turn 55!** This 1966 photo of boys waiting for the doors to fly open is testament to the Club’s popularity then. The fact that **we serve**

6,000 members (including girls who were added in 1990) and run four full-service and three satellite facilities is testament that the Clubs’ popularity and importance has not waned one bit!

Throughout our history, we have worked hard to make new friends and keep the old. Some new donors that joined our mission to save and enhance lives are: **Bighorn Cares** who recently gifted \$13,000, and in



Quinton Egson receives grant funds from Kelly Levy, charities director at Bighorn.

December, two ladies golf groups (**PGA West LGA and Desert Horizons**) donated tournament proceeds to help our kids. Next time your group needs a fundraising cause to support, Boys & Girls Clubs will gladly oblige! We’ll even make the lifesize presentation check!

All four Clubs remain open. We are performing well in our new role as **virtual education centers** with extended hours for members while their parents work.

“Three squares” plus a snack are served each day. (COVID has caused an enormous jump in food insecurity for many of our members and seniors.)

We cannot do what we do for as long as we have without your kindness and compassion. Thank you for providing the means for us to be able to bring these good news stories to you each month!

**Quinton Egson
President & CEO
39 years of humble service!**

