

BE IN THE KNOW...

February 12, 2021

Dear Boys & Girls Clubs Supporters,

February is a month for showing gratitude and appreciation notably, of course, because of Valentine's Day. So let me begin with saying how much **we appreciate YOU!**

People love to be appreciated. It inspires us to do more. Think of someone you know who really appreciates something you do, give, or don't do.

Rock Bankole

Now, I've not read Rock Bankhole's self-help books but his quote here to the left ties together what this month's update is all about.

When I think of someone who is appreciative, I think of the story I am about to share with you. It illustrates exactly what **your generous giving to Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley has allowed us to accomplish for over 55 years -**

teaching others how to overcome challenges and difficulties and finding

opportunities to help turn their health, family and personal lives around. In a nutshell, saving and enhancing lives, **THANKS TO YOU!**



While recently going through cherished mementoes, I uncovered a 2004 letter from "Manuel" addressed to "Boys and Girls Club Staff, Administration, Office Staff and Club Members," thanking the Indio Club for being the vehicle that set him on the right path. The Club was the only child care option for Manuel, who was being raised by his single, working mother of three. Not having a father around, Manuel was looking for a positive role model. He found that guiding light in three adult male Club mentors.

Mentor #1 spent so much time with Manuel that he was lovingly chided by his Club mates with the typical "Who's your daddy" jokes. That mentor weight-lifted with Manuel every day, strengthening not only his physical body but boosting his mental health with improved self-esteem and confidence while developing a witty sense of humor.



Mentor #2 taught Manuel the joy of discovery through books. In Manuel's own words, "I proudly won reader of the month, and several times I may add." He attributes both his academic and career success as an Educator (with a Masters in Educational Counseling) to this early literary exposure.

Mentor #3 exemplified "intelligence and well-roundedness," sparking Manuel's interest in wanting to emulate him. They spent many hours together shooting the breeze and hoops, but also discussing their in-common studies of the human mind. They also discussed Manuel's college experiences and progress toward accomplishing his personal goals.

Because Manuel observed his mother's many sacrifices at home, he learned life-changing lessons and was able to overcome major obstacles. In reflection, he recognized and appreciated how his second home, the Club, helped him become the man and success story he is proud of to this day:

"I was able to achieve great things because I took responsibility for my life. I wanted to be somebody more than wanting to be nobody."

Manuel closed his correspondence by again thanking everyone in the letter's salutation, wanting them all to know they would live in his memory forever.

I just love this letter because it also tells the story about the dedicated men and women who pour their hearts and souls into this organization. It's the best reminder as to why they roll out of bed to get to the Clubs and why they stay long after quitting time: **to do what it takes to help others build better futures.** I thank Manuel often for taking the time to show his appreciation which inspires us all to keep on going and keep on giving.



Manuel's letter could just as easily be written to **YOU** as **YOU make it possible for all this good stuff to happen.** My friends, it just doesn't get any better than this!

As I wipe my eye... Spring is near, and for us, that also means **scholarship season!** This is a time for our graduating seniors to apply for financial assistance, up to \$5,000 annually from our long-time collaboration with OneFuture of Coachella Valley (formerly known as Coachella Valley Economic Partnership's *Pathways to Success.*) This partnership has doubled the amount of individual scholarships due to the matching funds OneFuture provides. I look forward to reporting on this very popular Club program in the coming months.



In the meantime, in appreciation for YOU, not only on the 14th of this month, but each and every day, I remain...

Forever grateful,

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



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF COACHELLA VALLEY