

BE IN THE KNOW...

March 22, 2021

Dear Boys & Girls Clubs Supporters,

Spring is just around the corner, and so is the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley's annual fundraiser!** After waiting as long as we could to decide on the "what, how and when," together with our talented **Auction Chair of 10 years, Sandy Taylor**, we've decided to build on last year's rewarding experience and once again host a lively multi-day virtual auction.

So, save the dates – May 7-11, spring into action and spread the word. If you can donate a new item, trip, jewelry, or wine etc., please email me: qegson@bgcofcv.org

"Life has been a little crazy this past year, however the kids still need our encouragement and support! Whatever you can do in the way of donations, suggestions and support, we'll take it!"

"Let's "Spring Into Action" and make 2021 another successful auction for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley!"

*Sandy Taylor
Auction Chair*

March is the month many of us associate with the notion of "good fortune." Over the past 55 years we have been very fortunate to attract dedicated, tenured **Board of Directors** and **YOU** as part of our blended family of generous donors. So, it is with great sadness to announce the loss of Board member, donor, friend and agricultural leader **Robert O. "Bobby" Bianco**. It is also with great joy to know how fortunate we are to have a fond memory or two of Bobby's great charm, wit and generosity.

Bobby's relationship with this organization started long before he joined the Board in 1974 by playing in the local agriculture-driven benefit golf tournament in memory of packer/shipper Richard A. "Dick" Glass. He continued his service on the Board until the time of his death and sat on the Southwestern Growers Golf Tournament Committee which, in 2018, awarded him and fellow colleague **George Kirkjan** the inaugural *Friend of the Southwestern* award.

Through **Anthony Vineyards**, Bobby's love for this organization was evident through his consistent sponsorship of the Grand Auction, Southwestern Growers Golf Tournament, Sports Heroes Luncheon, Tony Reagins Alumni Golf Tournament and his funding assistance for the new Mecca Boys & Girls Club, which opened in 2011. Together, Bobby and his late wife, Harlene's philanthropy earned them membership in the **Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Lifetime Giving Society.**

Rest in peace Bobby and Harlene...



Bobby Bianco
Boys Club of Coachella
Valley
Board of Directors
installation 1974

Congratulations Adriana Torres !!!
Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley
Youth of the Year & High School Valedictorian

Congratulations are in order to Mecca Club member extraordinaire **Adriana Torres** for being selected as our *Youth of the Year*. This program honors our most inspiring teens and their incredible journey of outstanding leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle. These amazing young people represent the voice and spirit of hope for their fellow Club members by **inspiring all kids to lead and succeed**.

Adriana is Desert Mirage High School's Class of 2021 valedictorian. It's easy to see why! As a dual high school senior and second year student at College of the Desert (*with a 4.0+ GPA I might add...*), Adriana is in discussion with two college admissions counselors to decide which campus best suits her passionate goals and political science major: Will it be **Stanford or Berkeley?**



Adriana Torres (R) serving Thanksgiving lunch to fellow Mecca Club members for Keystone Club.

Adriana has chalked up an impressive resume of community work: She has been a member in our Mecca Club's leadership *Keystone* program; Founder and President of "*Estudiantes Adelante*" (*Students Moving Forward*); a tutor with *Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Desert*; Co-Founder and Vice-President of her high school's first girls wrestling team earning the *Desert Valley League's* 3rd place girls wrestling 143's spot and second year girls varsity wrestling letter awards.

In other inspiring acts: Adriana planned a music and arts festival for her community with *Youth Organizing Council*; negotiated the first open-gym policy for after school activities; used her voice to speak for others as a youth reporter with *Coachella Unincorporated*; represented eastern Coachella Valley on *Riverside County's Youth Advisory Council*. In between, she has worked as a front desk receptionist/intern with *Riverside County's Mecca Family and Farmworkers Service Center* and as a phone banker/canvasser with *Alianza*. She learned to appreciate and understand her underserved community of Mecca by picking grapes one summer with *Sustainable Labor Solutions*.

YOU deserve a pat on the back for supporting this organization and making these wonderful stories – **THESE GREAT FUTURES** – possible! We are so fortunate to have you in our Boys & Girls Club family!

Best always,

Quinton Egson
President & CEO
39 years of humble service!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF COACHELLA VALLEY

