

BE IN THE KNOW...

June 1, 2021

Dear Boys & Girls Clubs Supporters,

One year ago, as the nation was scrambling for ways to thwart an unknown, challenging virus, we carefully decided to temporarily close our Club doors. But to keep the youth connected to our services, we quickly developed a new program that offered our members the opportunity to substitute an in-club experience with a virtual one.



After we safely reopened in August, we learned that many kids were having problems attending school online. In response, not only did staff transform our Clubs into full-time distant learning centers, they also became crucial distribution links within our communities to help solve acute and pervasive food insecurity issues. Our new plan worked. Schools now report that **our Club kids are performing better than others.**

As you know, at Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley, it's all about the kids. Doing what it takes to meet their needs demands all kinds of support, including financial. Having said that; adhering to our funding requirements was a particularly worrisome challenge. All Valley non-profits were in the same boat fishing for ebbing dollars. But, **thanks to you, we were able to make budget this fiscal year.** Our final event that pushed us over the finish line was our virtual auction. Thanks to the support of our "Big 3" community sponsors (***Mathis Brothers – Title Sponsor, The H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation – Youth Sponsor, and Jacquie & Michael Casey – Club Sustainability Sponsor***) we are in the desired position to close our books this month with a balanced budget! So again, many thanks for your tireless support. We look forward to seeing you in person at **next year's auction on March 12, 2022. Save the date!**

From May 2020 through January 2021, in partnership with FIND Food Bank (Food In Need of Distribution), our Club's teen "Keystone" leadership groups distributed fresh fruit, vegetables and protein to 8,500 youth as well as older adults. Meals were also given to many of our own members' families whose parents lost jobs or who are essential workers.

And now, here's a great success story. The Club is a true youth development machine where kids labeled "at risk" can still embrace their youth and learn to become responsible adults that contribute to society. From my perspective, our 6,000 members are all "at possibility." With your continuous support we can bring hope to the hopeless. We can bring those who have often been overlooked to the forefront. And, we can be a voice for those who are voiceless. Together, we can help our Club kids learn how to help themselves! Just like Club Alum **Tony Reagins** who sums this youth development approach up all too well.

Major League Baseball, Boys & Girls Clubs of America renew partnership



Ahead of the season's first pitch, MLB and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America announced the five-year renewal of a partnership that dates back a quarter century. To mark the 25th anniversary of the relationship between the organizations, MLB has pledged \$5 million to BGCA in support of youth baseball and softball initiatives, career readiness and workforce development efforts, a national public service announcement and BGCA programs throughout the season.

The news carries special meaning for **Tony Reagins**, MLB's Chief Baseball Development Officer. In his role overseeing MLB's involvement with amateur baseball and softball -- across the U.S. and internationally -- **Reagins uses many of the skills he learned at the Indio Boys & Girls Club.**

"I grew up in the club," Reagins said in an interview with MLB.com. "The Boys & Girls Club was instrumental in developing leadership qualities during my childhood. That's where we learned how to play sports, how I attended my first professional sports game, how I went on my first camping trip, the reason I took my first flight on an airplane."

Reagins, 54, has had an association with BGCA since he was 8 years old. He credited his mother, Polly, with encouraging him to spend time at the Coachella Valley club after Tony's father passed away when he was 4 years old. At the club, Reagins encountered three mentors who changed his life: **Dave Ison, Grady Gordon and Jim Ducatte.** Reagins remains involved with BGCA as a member of the local board in Coachella Valley and the national board, as well. He also organizes an annual golf tournament in his native Southern California -- with which Ison and Ducatte remain, involved -- to raise funds for youth at the local clubs to apply toward postsecondary education.



Anthony Anderson, with 2018-19 Boys & Girls Club of America's National Youth of the Year at the World Series in Los Angeles.

The occasion for Reagins' first airplane trip, at age 14, illustrates the ability of Boys & Girls Clubs to change the lives of young people: Reagins and fellow members of his local Keystone Club, which focuses on teen-directed leadership activities, organized dances every month that raised funds for community initiatives. The success led to a national award and the group flew from California to Washington, D.C., to accept the honor. "Creativity was a huge part of what we did," Reagins recalled. "We had to accomplish something together. We had to generate ideas, communicate about how to implement them and then put the plans into action. We learned those skills at a very young age. Here I am 40 years later and those skills are still relevant to me today. They've gotten me to where I am."

"And it wasn't just me. It was all of us. The members of that Keystone Club had the same mentality. We communicated well with each other and had a great support system. Most of our friends were African-American and Dave, Grady and Jim are all white males. It didn't matter where everyone came from. My mom trusted them with my upbringing. We leaned heavily on those three guys and they were instrumental in guiding us."

The past year has been a challenge, but in hindsight, it was an eye-opening challenge that we all embraced. As always, Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley found its way by adapting to new realities and funding methods. I hope you know we appreciate your support not only during our crucial fundraising season, but all 12 months of the year.

Thank you for helping to create **GREAT FUTURES** - just like that of our own Tony Reagins!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Q Egson'.

Quinton Egson - 39 years of humble service!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF COACHELLA VALLEY