

BE IN THE KNOW...

November 23, 2021

Dear Boys & Girls Clubs Supporters,

The fourth quarter is here. Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley has only a few more weeks to relish its **55th anniversary** of being an iconic mainstay for the youth (and families) in our communities. **Thanks to you, we have such a rich Club history and much to be thankful for! Let's get started.**



We recently noted that **Bob Hope** dedicated our first Indio Club in the '60's and was our honorary Chair. But, did you know that in 2007 the late retired **General Colin L. Powell** was the keynote speaker when we dedicated our renamed facility as the "**President Gerald R. Ford Boys & Girls Club of La Quinta**"? Both men had the well-being of kids embedded in their hearts. Powell served on the Board of Governors for Boys & Girls Clubs of America and, along with his wife Alma in 1997, founded America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth, a national crusade to ensure all children in America have access to the fundamental resources needed to build and strengthen them to become responsible, productive adults. In honor of this past Veterans Day and the upcoming Thanksgiving holidays, we are so proud and so thankful to be linked with those who truly gave back to this great country.

Actually, there's even more to this story, and it includes big thumbs up to ALL of our devoted **Board of Directors**, past and present, who have worked their connections to support this organization in myriad, indelible ways. For



instance: the late **Lee F. Simmons** served on our board for 26 years, including terms as VP and President. Lee's final military assignment was Master Sergeant aboard **Air Force One**. He travelled the world with several Presidents and First Ladies (Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford) and other notable politicians. Lee became Staff Assistant to **President Gerald R. Ford**. It was Lee's love of the Clubs and his influence over his boss that we obtained President Ford's Honorary Board membership, Club naming rights, and Ford's attendance at his namesake Club's groundbreaking ceremony on a very warm day in 1992.

FYI: J. Brett Gill, the young sculptor of the bronze bust of President Ford that graces the front entry of our La Quinta Club was later commissioned to create Ford's full-length statue that resides in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington.



Lee F. Simmons, J. Brett Gill and Siah Nix, Unit Director La Quinta Boys & Girls Club, admire the just-unveiled bronze bust of former President Gerald R. Ford in February 2008.



What is up with our Club kids?

Our La Quinta Club kids sure felt like there was a celebrity in the house last month when **Boys & Girls Clubs of America's CEO Jim Clark** paid them a visit! Jim, who was in the desert attending an event with one of our largest corporate sponsors, **Panda Express**, had nothing but great things to say about us! Our very own **Heatwave Jazz Band** performed for this national fundraiser which benefits our over 4,700 Clubs across the nation. We are so very thankful for our dedicated staff! It was an honor to have them thanked in person by our leader! For Thanksgiving, each Club member will feast on a full dinner with all the fixings. Kids are engaged in homework tutoring, sports activities and having a lot of fun while not even knowing they are being molded into future leaders and role models for others. **You would be proud of the magic that happens behind our Club doors!**



By now, you should have received a *Save the Date* card for the **March 12th "The Grandest Auction"** to be held at the **Hyatt Regency Indian Wells**. Former Central Alabama Boys & Girls Club kid-turned-American-Idol winner, **Ruben Studdard** is booked to entertain you! **Auction Chair Sandy Taylor** says "You won't want to miss this LIVE show – our first in an effort to keep the auction exciting and of course, lucrative! **We have kids to support, right?"**

More thanks than I can even fit on this page go out to **YOU** for your interest and support of our great, great Clubs, Staff and Board members.

YOU ARE THE BEST!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Quinton Egson
President & CEO
39 years of humble service!

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF COACHELLA VALLEY
PRESENTS
THE
GRANDEST AUCTION
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6:30 PM Dinner, Entertainment & Live Auction
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