

BE IN THE KNOW...

April 12, 2022

Dear Boys & Girls Clubs Supporters,

Our March 12th annual auction can indeed best be described as “Grandest.” You can read all about it in the accompanying *Desert Sun* story: **Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley host ‘grandest auction,’ raise \$1M.**

Phones and online inquiries already signal we are about to have a very busy summer at the Clubs. With that in mind, we are extremely thankful for our talented auction team who worked weeks in advance to help raise 1/3 of our operating budget. High-fives to our Auction Chair of 11 years and board member, **Sandy Taylor**; our special events duo **Bridget Kerr** and **Susan Ogrodnick**, plus office mates **Jody Brazil**, **Maria Jimenez**, **Sharon O’Donnell**; **program specialist Ray Mancilla plus a host of other team members who worked the day/night of the event**; the **Auction Committee**; and our hard-working **Board of Directors!** **They are the best ever! And so are you for supporting not only this gala but so many other fundraising campaigns and activities.**

Next year’s gala will be our 41st! While you are supporting an organization that not only goes way back in time to 1966, staff is also busy making new memories and creating better futures for our Club kids with the **Three E’s: Education, Exposure and Experience.**

Our Club partners



We are very fortunate to partner with other community non-profits like **Old Town Artisan Studios**. We share their “shaping hearts and minds through art” philosophy and for years our Club members have been exposed to painting and sculpting. For the first time, their annual spring *Eggstravaganza* featured egg masterpieces by the Boys and Girls

Club in Mecca! Our young artists visited the studios on a field trip to view their art on display as well as participate in fun activities on the La Quinta campus! Egg bid donations will go directly to serving children (like Boys &

Girls Clubs), special needs, caregivers and more.



In March, the **Mecca Keystone** leadership Club was invited by **County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez** and the Riverside County Transportation Department to participate in a community ribbon cutting and celebration of the new Avenue 66 bridge; one Club member delivered a speech and led the Pledge of Allegiance while others sang.

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Our **President Gerald R. Ford Boys & Girls Club in La Quinta** is in the middle of a 3-phase beautification program: In March, a team-building group from all over the country employed by **Commonwealth Financial Network** completed Phase 1 by donating time, labor and “fix it” supplies and paint; a **BIGHORN Cares** grant repaired roof leaks in Phase 2; and now Phase 3 calls for new automatic doors, flooring, counter tops, cabinets and parking lot resurfacing. **We are looking for “help” to complete this final phase if you know anyone...**



The **Coachella Keystone** leadership Club was asked to participate in a scholarship fundraiser at the Eldorado Polo Club. They watched a tournament and then presented medals to nine young polo winners who now qualify to compete in a national event. For their community service, **Unit Director Juanita Godwin**, who accompanied the members, used the 20% proceeds (\$2,765) to buy six new laptops for her Club! Not bad for a day’s “work experience.”

For the past five years, I have been asked to speak at the **Youth Town Hall** (part of the annual Desert Town Hall speaker series) to selected students from local high schools, including some of our Club members. “Stay out of trouble, go to college if you can, work, study hard and dream big. If you do all that, you can achieve many goals in life...” is generally my message. I just learned that a Coachella Club member informed his Unit Director that he was going to the University of Florida in Gainesville specifically to study forensic pathology. When asked how the member arrived at this profound decision and career goal, the middle schooler replied, “You gave us that college book and told us to read it. So, I did.” This is just one of the many big dreams that come out of the mouths of babes at our Clubs every day. We do our best to make these dreams a reality.



Quinton Egson, Youth Town Hall Speaker. Photo by Pat Krause/Desert Star Weekly

We have YOU to thank to help make all this Exposure, Experience and Education happen at the Clubs!

Thank you and best always,

Quinton Egson
President & CEO
40 Years of Service



A word from our Board Chair

The staying power of Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley has always impressed me. My firm’s roots date back to 1966 when the Indio Boys Club opened (*Girls were added to the name in 1990*). Last year BGC of CV celebrated 55 years. This longevity attribute is something we can ALL be very proud of. We have six outstanding team leaders that make the magic happen at our four Clubs. Between them, 156 years of praiseworthy experience are bestowed upon thousands of Club kids all year long. I’d like to thank **Ray, Tracy, Quinton, Juanita, Siah and Tony** for their many years implementing our mission to save and enhance young lives. (*See photos in the accompanying Desert Sun article referred to in paragraph one.*)



**Lee M. Osborne, Board chair
12 Years of Service**

Desert Sun.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley host 'grandest auction,' raise \$1M

DeAnn Lubell
Special to The Desert Sun
April 1, 2022



Former Club kid and American Idol winner Ruben Studdard performs at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley's annual fundraiser on March 12, 2022. *Lani Garfield, Special to The Desert Sun.*

When the event committee of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley, headed by its dedicated chair of eleven years, **Sandy Taylor**, presented the annual gala fundraiser as the "grandest auction," it wasn't kidding.

Hundreds of silent auction items, lining table after table filled one large ballroom in the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa the evening of March 12th. A few hours later, located in another beautifully decorated ballroom, 450 guests enjoyed dinner while participating in a live auction that included 28 prized offerings.

All the above, along with matching bid donations, allowed Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley to raise more than a million dollars to help off-set its \$3.5 million annual budget. The

nonprofit operates four busy east valley clubhouses and offers after-school programs, services and nutritious hot meals to more than 6,000 children every year. The results are astounding: 96% of club seniors complete high school and 80% go on to attend college. Many of the alumni return to give back and serve their home communities.

“We depend on contributions from fundraisers like this one, individuals, grants, corporations and foundations,” said President and CEO **Quinton Egson**. “I have attended all 40 of our annual auctions, and this is probably the best of them all. It was great to see so many smiling faces. It was fitting and proper to recognize **Joan and John Foster** and their families as our Champions of Youth recipients. They are the cornerstone of our organization. Thank you to all who made the evening magical and beneficial for our kids.”



John and Joan Foster, Champions of Youth recipients, pose with Quinton Egson, CEO and Lee Osborne, board chair, at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley annual fundraiser.

Master of Ceremonies and board member **Brian Harnik** kept the nonstop evening of energetic bidding running smoothly. After dessert, singer Ruben Studdard, second season "American Idol" winner and a Boys & Girls Club alumni from Central Alabama, took to the stage. Studdard had the opportunity to tour the La Quinta Clubhouse the day before.



Connie Lurie draws the winning *Best of Live* ticket with MC, Brian Harnik.

Jeff, Sandy and daughter Casey Taylor pose for a family photo upon arrival.



"I'm a club kid, so for me, it is always cool to get the opportunity to take a trip down memory lane," Studdard said. "There are very few places where parents can be sure that their kids are safe, have fun and learn in a structured environment. I really enjoyed my visit. There was a kid at the La Quinta club who beat me in foosball, and that never happens. The main thing for me is to encourage people to donate to Boys & Girls Clubs as it clearly changes the lives these kids for the better."

Sponsors for the event included the **H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation, Mathis Brothers Furniture, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Honda of the Desert, Toyota of the Desert, Denise Maddux, Prime Time International, Kaiser Permanente, Anthony Vineyards, Peter Hammond and Margo Ritter, Shields Date Garden, Vintage Nursery, W.D. Young & Sons, Tammy and George Kirkjan, Moller's Garden Center and KESQ-TV Channel 3.**

Those in attendance included **Mel and Julie Williams, Jeff Foster, Mary Foster-Durnin, Joe and Laura Foster, Jim Davis and Patty Foster-Davis, Tom Foster, Ed and Lynn Foster, Casey Taylor, Sandy and Jeff Taylor, JoAnn and Mark Nickerson, Mike and Ellen Way, Travis Erwin, Joan Lizza, Pat and Tricia Lizza, Jim and Janet Gianulias, Julie and Tim Stupka, Judy and Jerry Alhadeff, Birgit Moller, Bev and Jim Ducatte, Bonnie and Mike Holloway, Kathy and John O'Keefe, Pat Davenport, Susan and Leroy Holt, Terrie and Dave Mileski, Glenna and Greg Helm, Catharine Reed, Lisa and John Ford, Dina and Mike Dargis, Connie and Bob Lurie, Fay McClung, Jack Mettler and Lonna Wais, Suzie Burt, Nancy and Tom Cunningham, Diane and Doug Corbishley, Nancy and Lee Osborne, Dick Shalhoub and Tracy Smith, Lindy and Gary Sitzmann, Carol and Roy Whitfield, Maureen Liebman, the Powell Family/Peter Rabbit Farms, Tammy and Eddie Windsor/Champion Life Church, Edeltraud McCarthy** and many more.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley is very grateful to everyone who participated.



Guests at the H.N. & Frances C. Berger Foundation table included Will Cooper, Susie Smith-Cooper, Donna Jiaras, Lisa Ford, Michela Sands, Lisa Castro, Christy Bollman-Johnson, Catharine Reed, Shana Johnson, Joel Johnson



Auction Chair Sandy Taylor congratulates Tim and Julie Stupka (seated) on winning the *Best of Live drawing.*



Mark and JoAnn Nickerson, Karen and Joe Gibbs, and William Longfellow



Valet Sponsors Margo Ritter and Peter Hammond



Fay McClung wins the *Name That Room!*



Stacy and Jim Jacobs won the \$10,000 Mathis Brothers Furniture drawing.



Tom Foster with daughter Shereen Jeffrey and son-in-law George Jeffrey



These Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley leaders have a total 156 years of service to the Clubs! Unit directors Ray Amador (Mecca, 19 years), Tracy Reed (Indio, 24 years), President & CEO Quinton Egson, (39 years), Juanita Godwin (Coachella 28 years), Siah Nix (La Quinta, 25 years) and Director of Operations Tony Williams (21 years).



Ellen and Mike Way



American Idol winner Ruben Studdard performs with Boys & Girls Clubs *Heatwave Jazz Performance* band.