



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF COACHELLA VALLEY



## *Be in the Know*

April 17, 2023

Dear Boys & Girls Clubs Supporters,

We have definitely sprung forward into the spring season and we have lots of good news to report.

Before we talk about our favorite subject – our Club *youth* - there's a group of individuals we must thank for making our March 11th "Celebrating our Desert Gems" grand auction so spectacular. First, there's **Sandy Taylor**, Auction Chair for 12 years! Secondly, our in-house Special Events duo **Bridget Kerr** and **Susan Ogrodnick** (and the rest of the team that pulled together to make the Gala the best one thus far). **Lastly and most importantly, thank all of you** who attended and or supported the event via sponsorship, donating items or making a financial contribution – your participation made the gala a tremendous success!



**Auction attendees raised their paddles for our Club kids and celebrated our 2023 Champions of Youth – the Bianco Family!**

### **It's all about the kids!**

We are so glad to see that Covid season is officially declared to be over but, in the aftermath, we too are witnessing mental health behavioral changes at the Clubs. As we pivot to address this challenge and in keeping with our mission to save and enhance young lives, we are working with county and local mental health professionals to provide supplemental help for our Club members. The ACEs program (Adverse Childhood Experiences) trained our Club Unit Directors, and the TIC program (Trauma Informed Care) trained all staff to discern and address signs of mental health issues. Additionally, each of our four Clubs will provide weekly 2-hour onsite visits by a licensed Youth Therapist to conduct observation, evaluation, and provide referral services to members and their families.



**Community outreach.**

Like all Clubs, continuous membership recruitment outreach is a must. Indio Unit Director **Tracy Reed** and her **Keystone** leadership club members recently attended Indio Middle School's "Parent Night" to introduce our programs and services that focus on **character and leadership development; education and career development; health and life skills; the arts; and sports, fitness, and recreation!** With that in mind...

March is the season our graduating seniors apply for college scholarships with the aid of our educational program called **Diplomas to Degrees (d2D)**. Together with our partner **OneFuture Coachella Valley**, scholarship awards are matched up to 100%.



Teens enjoying hockey!

Seven teens from the La Quinta Club enjoyed their first Firebirds hockey game in March at the Acrisure Arena. Thank you, **John and Linda MacDonald**, for donating “on the glass” seats, giving the kids an educational experience exposing them to professional sports and having a fun-filled day with friends!

Kids from the Indio Club recently visited **Old Town Artisans Studio** in La Quinta. The young artists viewed their decorated egg masterpieces in the Eggstravaganza Art Studio gallery, toured the studios and enjoyed some pizza!



Regional Youth of the Year Finalists

The Indio Club hosted the annual **Youth of the Year (YOY)** celebration for 21 Clubs that make up our local San Andreas region. We are all so proud of Mecca Club, member **Heriana Chavez** (*second from right in photo*) who was one of the five regional finalists. YOY individuals exemplify the Boys & Girls Club mission and are proof of the impact Clubs make in transforming and saving kids’ lives.



Also, many thanks to **Toyota of the Desert/Honda of the Desert** for sponsoring a pre-spring-break carnival. Kids from all the Clubs attended, and 40 Toyota/Honda employees volunteered to run jumpers, cook food, distribute goody bags, supervise games and give out prizes. Here is Indio Club alum **Gil Ruttenberg** doing some “giving back to the Clubs” grilling and Boys & Girls Clubs board member and General Manager, Toyota/Honda of the Desert, **Anthony Caridi**.



Until next time, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your extraordinary generosity and kindness.

Quinton Egson, President & CEO

### A word from our Board Chair, Lee Osborne...

Boys & Girls Clubs is blessed having steady, long-term donors. This newsletter speaks volumes as to why our donors stay with us and why we have been a fixture in the valley for 57 years. Another reason is our Board of Directors and Administrative staff (and many of you) who continually reach out to new donors. It’s why our grand auction was another big hit with over 500 seasoned and first-time supporters in attendance. New this year was the offering of Club Sponsorships. I am happy to say that all four Clubhouse locations had takers:

Many thanks to the **Bianco Family/Anthony Vineyards** (Coachella), **Colleen Carroll/John P. Carroll & Joan Carroll Schonig** (Indio), **Meredith & Simpson Construction** (La Quinta), and new friend, **Karen Alton/John and Elizabeth Endicott Foundation** (Mecca). This year’s grand auction helped raise one-third of our annual budget.

*But the real bottom line is saving and enhancing young lives.*