

Be in the Know

June 2025



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF COACHELLA VALLEY

Dear BGC of CV Supporters!

We love this time of year to talk about the many Club kids who benefit from our "Education First" motto.

FIVE STAR ALUM

Rigoberto Lopez was a Mecca Club kid.

When only a high school junior, he was dual-enrolled at College of the Desert. When he graduated from high school, he had already earned 33 college credits.



After only one year at COD, he graduates with not one, but **FIVE Associate of Arts degrees,***

all while working at the Mecca Club to help support his single-parent household.

*Administration of Justice, Child and Adolescent Development, Liberal Arts and Social Behavior, Sociology and Psychology



Rigoberto Lopez with kids he tutors at the Mecca Boys & Girls Club

The Connie and Bob Lurie Workforce Development & College Career Readiness Program

...is a new initiative to help high school students prepare for life after graduation. Radford Domingo, a retired school teacher and former Club Unit Director, was hired to encourage Club kids to explore life's workforce, military, and college/trade school options. Integral to the program is introducing youth to possible career goals through a professional speaker series. Our most recent keynote speaker, Yvette Vaca, was a Club kid who attended the military and is now a Sargent with the Banning Police Department.

We are excited about our new youth development initiative and will keep you informed about the impact the program is having as we work toward leveling the post-high school playing field.



The La Quinta Boys & Girls Club presented Yvette Vaca with a Certificate of Recognition as a Keynote Speaker for the Workforce Development & College Career Readiness Program

TWENTY-SIX SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED THIS YEAR!

Twelve students renewed, including one obtaining a masters degree, and 14 are new applicants!

Scholarship recipients Lizbet Arrendondo, Mariangela Bautista and Joel Almanza graduated in the top 25% of their Desert Mirage High School class. Lizbet will study business at UC Santa Barbara, Mariangela electrical engineering at Cal State Long Beach, and Joel mathematics at UC Berkeley.



YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Scholarship recipient Ayden Chavez graduated from Indio High School this year. He was in the top 1% of his class and will attend USC to study biology/pre-med. He credits the Club and his family as the foundation that inspires him to lead and serve. This July, he will attend the Boys & Girls Clubs's National Keystone Conference in Chicago—an event he helped plan as the only California representative to do so. He delivered an very inspirational speech at our Grand Auction in March and brought the house down with a two-minute standing ovation!



Scholarship recipient & BGCCV Youth of the Year, Ayden Chavez

"The Club is more than a place to go after school and during the summer. It has been my home, a community of growth and self-discovery. I entered the Club searching for a fit-in place and found a family that nurtured my ambitions and challenged me to be my best, and serve others."

As our youth of the year conveyed, many kids depend on Boys & Girls Clubs to be their home away from home. This July 40 kids will attend Pathfinders Ranch for a 4-day camp experience to learn new things and make new friends. Because of you, we can still be that special place in a young kid's life. Thank you!

Quinton Egson
President & CEO

Message from our Board Chair...

The City of Palm Desert is naming a new park to honor Dave Erwin, its former city attorney of 40 years. Dave was a Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley board member from 1987 until his passing in 2015. Wife, Travis, has been a fundraising volunteer for this organization since 1995. So I would like to reiterate the



heartfelt message conveyed in a recent Desert Sun article and thank both Dave and Travis for their "life of service."

I would also like to thank all of YOU, our generous supporters who make it possible for Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley to save and enhance young lives for over 59 years now!

Lee Osborne

60th Southwestern Growers Invitational



The 60th annual Southwestern Growers Invitational is set for September 19-21, 2025 at Bermuda Dunes Country Club. Although sold out, you can still participate in the car drawing! Only 400 tickets will be sold at \$400 each to win a 2026 Corvette or \$45,000 cash!

Winners need not be present at the 5:00 p.m. dinner event on Friday, September 19th.

**To purchase car drawing tickets, call
Jody Brazil at (760) 836-1160, Ext. 104**