



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF COACHELLA VALLEY

## *Be in the Know*



April 1, 2024

Dear Boys & Girls Clubs Supporters,

As 2024 has rolled quickly into spring, Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley (BGC) rolls into its 58<sup>th</sup> year of saving and enhancing the lives of the young people of our community. And with that, we think you will be impressed with the photos sprinkled throughout this newsletter about **BGC alum who are now graciously giving back to their communities!**

**Take Raylene Amador, a Mecca Club alum.** Since March 2022, BGC has been working tirelessly to create the Youth Mental Health Collaborative. This program addresses the juvenile mental health crisis which, here in the Coachella Valley, surpasses



**BGC Board Chair Lee Osborne listens as Club alum Raylene Amador updates the Board of Directors on the status of our Youth Mental Health Collaborative.**

state and national figures. Parents and educators are concerned about the extreme anxiety and depression experienced by young people due to the pandemic's impact on learning and the 18-month absence from peer-to-peer and teacher-student interactions. Last year at this time, staff was trained to discern and address signs of mental health issues. With the help of **The Berger Foundation** and **The Houston Family Foundation**, we hired case worker **Hanna Thomas** and licensed therapist **Raylene Amador** to evaluate and provide referral services to members and their families. Raylene is the daughter of **Ray Amador**, our Mecca Club Unit Director, and was a BGC scholarship recipient. She earned a master's degree and now owns her own therapy practice. Raylene and Hanna will be refining the program along with *Innecare* to provide on-site therapists at our Clubs. We can't be prouder of this Club success story.



**Club Alum Gil Ruttenberg, General Manager at Honda of the Desert, speaking at the December President's Circle reception with the BGC Keystone Club leadership members.**

## **Every Step of the Way - It's Always About the Kids!**

Board member **Sandy Taylor** has been our Grand Auction chair for 14 of its 42-year history. In her welcome to over 500 supporters attending the March event themed *Every Step of the Way*, Sandy was inspired by every step BGC staff take to mentor and guide each and every child at our Clubs. The theme also reminded Sandy of



**BGC staff and Keystone Club volunteers were applauded at the Grand Auction!**

each and every step **YOU** take to give your support which indeed makes a quality difference in our programs, the meals we serve, the scholarships we give



Save the Date for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Tony Reagins Alumni Golf Tournament**  
Friday, May 3, 2024  
The Golf Club at Terra Lago

*All proceeds provide college scholarship funding for our Club members!*

and the safety of our Clubhouses. **Thanks to you**, we empower kids with the knowledge to reach their potential as students, as members of society, as family members, as friends, and future community leaders. Sandy's husband **Jeff Taylor**, an Indio Club alum who spoke at our President's Circle reception, is a prime example. Jeff is now a very successful agricultural businessman and co-owner of **Prime Time International** – a long time BGC sponsor of the Tony Reagins Alumni Golf Tournament and the



Southwestern Growers Invitational Golf Tournament. Without a doubt, this newsletter certainly reflects that your investment in BGC is well worth it. **And it's important to know that every penny raised by BGC stays in this valley and remains with BGC!** Congratulations to our 2024 Champion of Youth recipient, **Judy Vossler**, pictured here with her nephew **Braden**, a La Quinta Club member. Judy has served on the BGC board for over 32 years. This award goes to those who go above and beyond service and commitment to Club youth. Way to go Judy! **Many thanks to YOU for all you do. And that's a lot!**

**Quinton Egson, President & CEO**

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



**Raise the Roof** host **Karen Alton** showing off her framed hostess gift of BGC photos.

Young people deserve safe and joyful childhoods. Physical safety is also a large part of why we must continue to raise funds, especially when an unexpected \$350,000 roof repairs cost (discovered during last September's tropical storm Hilary) hits the bottom line. As Chair of the Safety Committee, many thanks to our **Raise the Roof** supporters who attended an intimate dinner hosted by **Karen Alton** at her Indian Wells home and BGC board member, **Esther Gelineau**, who gathered the 20+ guests who donated \$1,000 per couple. Indio Club alum and locally well-known musician, **John Stanley King**, provided the entertainment gratis. Together with corporate and civic grants and a transfer from our building maintenance reserves, our Club members' safety and well-being can be accommodated. Lastly, congratulations to BGC President and CEO, **Quinton Egson**, who has been with BGC for 41 years, on receiving La Quinta's **Old Town Artisans Studio's** Community Impact award.



**Indio Club alums, Jeff Taylor & John Stanley King** visit at the Raise the Roof dinner.

**Quinton Egson** received the **Old Town Artisans Studio's 2024 Community Impact Award**

