



# Desert Arc

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

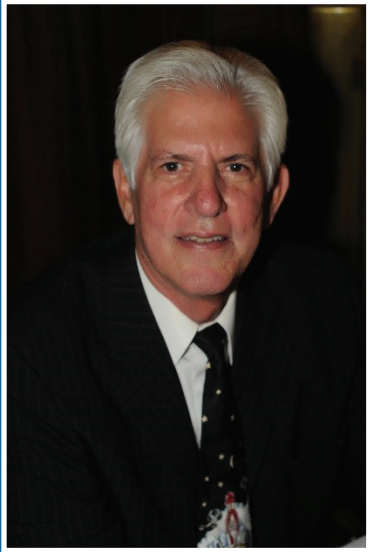
SPRING 2019



## Desert Arc's Mission in Motion

ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND CREATE  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES





# Message From Our President



73255 Country Club Drive  
Palm Desert CA 92260



<https://www.facebook.com/DesertArc/>



760.346.1611 (Main)  
760.404.1370 (Business Services)



[https://www.instagram.com/desert\\_arc](https://www.instagram.com/desert_arc)



[www.desertarc.org](http://www.desertarc.org)



<https://twitter.com/DesertArc>

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your involvement and support of Desert Arc!

It's our 60th Anniversary Year! Since 1959, Desert Arc has championed the rights of people who were born with developmental and intellectual disabilities – they never had a choice in life.

There are currently 700 people, ages 18 and older, who are enrolled in Desert Arc's life-changing programs designed to help people secure employment, have a safe place to come to every day and interact with others. And, most importantly, to reach their highest potential to live, work and socialize in the community.

Desert Arc is dedicated to social innovation and we have also created a variety of enterprises providing Business Services for companies and individuals alike. These include our Shredding, Recycling, Landscape Maintenance, Janitorial and Fulfillment divisions. Pathways to Employment is the umbrella for our vocational, on-the-job training and supportive, job placement service programs, working directly for Desert Arc or within our fellow employer network.

Some of you are new to Desert Arc and we are grateful for your involvement and look forward to our continued friendship. Many of you are longtime friends and have played an important role in our 60-year history of making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. All in all, your belief and generous support of our mission mean the world to us!

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Board of Directors and staff for their compassion and dedication to Desert Arc!

Thank you very much for joining us in celebration of Desert Arc's 60th Anniversary!

Sincerely,

Richard Balocco  
President/CEO

P.S. Per back page, please SAVE THE DATES for our 2020 events!



# Piecing Together Desert Arc's History

Sixty years ago, in August of 1959 to be exact, a small group of determined parents in Palm Springs sought to enrich the lives of their children with developmental and intellectual disabilities as there were very few social, educational or recreational services in existence at that time. Desert Arc as it is known today was born through love and determination by these individuals to provide hope, purpose and fulfillment for their children.

Ten years later, they established our first formal vocational training workshop in Palm Desert in a facility built on property gifted by Clifford W. Henderson on Portola Avenue, now the home of the Center for Spiritual Living. Our vital social service agency received federal recognition by the IRS and was officially incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) charitable nonprofit organization in 1971.

In 1983, after outgrowing its original structure, operations expanded to a single new building on acreage generously donated by the Western Golf Association, on the site of our present-day Palm Desert campus on Country Club Drive just east of Monterrey. By 1999, the late President Gerald Ford was on hand to dedicate the opening of an additional new 26,000 square foot building for client program space. Building 2 opened its doors in 2016.

In 2008, the name was changed to Desert Arc, reflecting a growing national respect for individuals with disabilities. Today, Desert Arc has sites in Indio (Recycling Center and Bus Yard), Palm Desert and Yucca Valley, and serves over 700 clients from the Coachella Valley, to the Morongo Basin and independent programs and services from Temecula to Blythe.



Photo Credit:  
Mind & Mill



## Spotlight on Major Quarterly Foundation Donors

- Desert Healthcare District - \$164,638 to support our two full-time Nurses and Physician Consultant
- Southern California Edison - \$15,000 in support of the Pathways to Employment program
- BIGHORN Cares - \$10,000 for communications technology to enable people with verbal impairments
- The Community Foundation - \$10,000 for equipment to support people using wheel chairs
- Union Bank - \$5,000 in support of the Sports & Recreation program



*Please visit Desert Arc's website under the Updates Tab to view the "Celebrating 60 Years" video created by Mercury Film & Television.*



# Desert Arc's 60th Anniversary Celebration and Open House

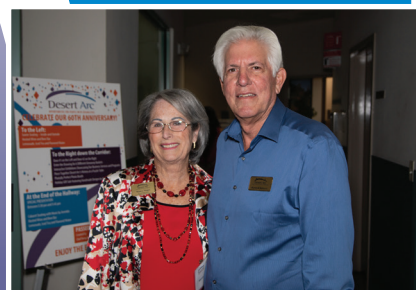
2019 marks a very special year for Desert Arc – it's our 60th Anniversary! To launch the celebration of 60 years of positive impact and passionate dedication, Desert Arc hosted an Open House in Building 3 on its Palm Desert campus. Chaired by Board Member Nancy Singer, this special event was attended by over 300 people and was generously sponsored by Pacific Western Bank.



PACIFIC WESTERN BANK®



As noted in the story in *The Desert Sun*, "This party pulled out all the stops, featuring interactive exhibits showcasing the organization's many Business Services and Programs, including the Landscape Maintenance, Shredding, and Janitorial Divisions to name a few." Guests enjoyed passed hors d'oeuvres prepared for the festivities by Chef Heng Ngooi of Fusion Flair and music by Avenida. Public dignitaries including Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, Glenn Miller for Senator Jeff Stone, Peter Carlstrom for Congressman Raul Ruiz and CouncilMember Kimberly Muzik from the City of Indian Wells presented Desert Arc's President/CEO Richard Balocco with certificates of appreciation.



Desert Arc...60 years of Championing the Rights of People with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities in our Community.



**This year is very special for us and everyone we serve, so here's to another 60 years of making a difference!**

Photo Credits: Lani Garfield



Desert Arc has established its Shredding Division as a competitive and highly reputable, local shredding service for the benefit of all of our desert communities. What sets Desert Arc apart from the for-profit competitors is its Mobile Shredding Truck. Unlike any other in the area, it is uniquely designed with a built-in, highest level security, Hard Drive Destruction unit.

## Shredding Services To Meet All Your Needs

Everyone has sensitive material that needs to be disposed of securely whether it be personal and/or professional:

- **Financial Information**
- **Legal Documents**
- **Medical Records**
- **Old Files**

### Cost Effective Shredding Options

- **One-Time Service**
- **Monthly Service Contracts**

### HIPPA and FACTA Compliant

- **Guaranteed Chain of Custody**



## SHRED IT AND FORGET IT

**Paper Shredding**

**Computer Hard Drive  
Destruction**



**DESERT ARC'S DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:**  
**8 am to 4 pm Monday - Friday**

**PALM DESERT**  
**73255 Country Club Drive - Building 3**

**INDIO RECYCLING CENTER**  
**45875 Commerce Street**

**PHONE 760-404.1370**  
**EMAIL [Shredding@DesertArc.org](mailto:Shredding@DesertArc.org)**

**[DesertArc.org](http://DesertArc.org)**

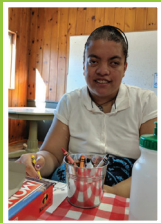
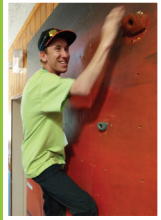
**Our Shredding Truck  
Comes to Your Location!**

**760.404.1370**  
**[DesertArc.org](http://DesertArc.org)**



Proud Member  
National Association of Information Destruction

# Sports and Recreation



## Annual Camp

Desert Arc's annual Camp now takes place at the Pathfinder Ranch, a relatively short ride up



Highway 74 to Mountain Center and is nestled in a wildlife preserve approximately 8 miles past Lake Hemet. A picture perfect escape from the heat of the desert, Desert Arc's Camp participants enjoy a fun weekend in the outdoors with activities including Archery, Canoeing, Farming, Horsemanship, Swimming, Arts & Crafts, Basketball, Face Painting, Games, Kickball, Volleyball and Movies. The entire ranch is ADA compliant and every cabin has wheelchair accessible showers and restrooms. There were 99 total campers in attendance last year under the guidance and support of Desert Arc's staff team encompassing 37 counselors and a nurse.

SAVE THE DATES for Camp 2019: September 27, 28 and 29.  
For Camp Registration Information, PHONE 760.346.1611.

THANK YOU to Ernie Rubin, one of Desert Arc's biggest supporters for raising funds to support scholarships for people who cannot afford to attend!

## Karate Program

A new addition to the Sports & Recreation program is the Karate Program instructed by Sensei Tamara Canedo. Every Monday afternoon, Sensei Canedo teaches around 20 students the importance of physical fitness and develops them spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically to help them achieve full self-development. The program, which is free of charge, has been wildly successful and was designed for anybody to be able to participate!

"Tory didn't think she'd enjoy the Karate Program at first but after a bit has become one of the top participants in the class."



"Sensei Tamara Canedo is extraordinary in her approach and ability to bring the best out in what may seem the most hopeless of cases. Watching her work with our special population is heartwarming and magical. It is a beautiful thing to witness the love and admiration between Sensei Tamara and her 'Ninjas' as she calls them. By the way, my Ninja Queen now looks forward to Karate class and is ever so disappointed if it is canceled."

– Renee Griffin, Desert Arc Parent



Desert Arc's Art Program offers a creative afternoon every Thursday in Building 3 for our clients. Throughout the year, there are many opportunities for the people we serve to display and sell their artwork. Now, every January, Desert Arc clients kickoff the New Year with an Art Show hosted by the Historical Society of Palm Desert at their site on El Paseo. The artwork of the many talented Desert Arc clients is showcased – paintings, drawings and mixed media motivated by their unique personal visions.

## Art Exhibition

## Parties

Mario Del Guidice, owner of Mario's Italian Cafe, throws two events at Desert Arc every year and has gained the adoration of every client within Desert Arc. For his birthday in April, as well as Christmas, Mario prepares an Italian luncheon feast for all 700 of our clients consisting of delicious pasta, pizza, salad and garlic bread in Desert Arc's kitchen in Building 1. Everyone comes in for the celebration including our clients in Indio and Yucca Valley. His generous support for Desert Arc's mission and big heart for the people we serve are greatly appreciated – WE LOVE MARIO!



Ernie Rubin's Annual Christmas Party takes place in the festive setting of the Classic Club, and 50 of our clients, specifically those who are most in need, traveled by Desert Arc buses to this wondrous event replete with live music. The people we serve are gifted with a holiday lunch, special presents, take-home meals, and of course, a personal visit with jolly ol' Santa. Everything is underwritten by caring donations received from friends of Ernie Rubin.



One of the biggest parties of the year for our clients is the Desert Arc Annual Holiday Party at Fantasy Springs Resort's magnificent Events Center. Chef Freddy's sumptuous buffet lunch offering everyone's favorite holiday delights, including an assortment of holiday cakes and cookies that rival the North Pole's magical tower of treats. Clients who have participated in Desert Arc's programs for literally decades are recognized and then the dancing begins!

Photo Credit: Robert Babcock



**Recycling/Shredding Division**

45875 Commerce Street  
Indio, CA 92201  
760.404.1370

**Yucca Valley Campus**

6540 La Contenta Road, Suite 500  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284  
760.346.1611

**Main Campus**

73255 Country Club Drive  
Palm Desert, CA 92260-2309  
760.346.1611  
info@desertarc.org  
www.desertarc.org  
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
Tax ID# 95-6006700

**Coming Soon - New Location**

56315 29 Palms Highway  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284



carf INTERNATIONAL



DEPARTMENT of  
REHABILITATION  
Employment, Independence & Equality



State of California  
*Department of Developmental Services*



Save the  
Dates

**Third Annual Champions of Change**

Recognition Awards Luncheon

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

**11th Annual Golf Classic**

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Eagle Falls Golf Course at Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

**ADVANCE RESERVATIONS**

Desertarc.org  
760.404.1368