

Desert Arc CONNECTION

Palm Desert 760-346-1611

Transportation 760-404-1363

Morongo Basin 760-346-1611 x341



Embracing Differences: Celebrating Autism Acceptance Month

In the diverse fabric of humanity, there are myriad colors, shapes, and patterns. Each individual brings their own unique essence to the canvas of life, enriching the world with their presence. However, in our journey to celebrate diversity, there are still corners that require more illumination, more understanding, and more acceptance. April, designated as Autism Acceptance Month, invites us to shine a spotlight on one such corner – the Autism Community.



Autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is a neurological condition that affects individuals differently, influencing how they perceive the world, communicate, and interact with others. While each person with autism is unique, they often share common characteristics such as difficulties in social communication, sensory sensitivities, and repetitive behaviors. However, these traits do not define them entirely; they are but facets of their multifaceted personalities.

The goal of Autism Acceptance Month is simple yet profound: to foster a society where individuals with autism are embraced for who they are, where their differences are celebrated, and where they are provided with the support and resources they need to thrive. It's not just about awareness; it's about understanding, acceptance, and inclusion.

Imagine a world where everyone feels valued, understood, and supported regardless of their neurological differences. It's a world where individuals with autism can navigate through life with confidence, pursuing their passions and realizing their dreams without barriers or prejudices holding them back. This vision is not a distant utopia; it's a tangible reality we can work towards every day, starting with small acts of kindness and empathy.

Autism Speaks



« To learn more,
please visit: »

Autism Society Inland Empire



Shining Star

In the vibrant community of Desert Arc, stories of perseverance shine bright. Matthew, a client of the Individual Placement and Employment Services, is this month's Shining Star.



Matthew's goal? A good, steady job, a place to call his own, and the foundation for a future family.

Coming to Desert Arc for job assistance, Matthew carried with him a quiet determination and a heart brimming with dreams. With support and guidance, Matthew blossomed. He identified his passions, honed his work skills, and charted his path toward employment.

As he worked through the Employment Preparation phase, Matthew engaged in activities such as resume building and refining his soft skills through mock interviews.

The Job Development phase assisted him with identifying his career interests and provided guidance as he applied online for jobs.

Reflecting on his journey with Desert Arc, Matthew expressed gratitude for the newfound confidence and attributed his growth to the compassionate guidance of the Individual Placement and Employment Services team.

MORONGO BASIN CAMPUS



Desert Arc's Morongo Basin campus, in Yucca Valley, hosted an Open House/Ribbon Cutting sponsored by the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce on March 21, 2024. With over 70 guests in attendance,

including clients, families, Yucca Valley's Town Manager, and the Mayor, it was a truly memorable evening.

While long in coming (this celebration had been postponed due to the Pandemic), the Open House provided a platform for Desert Arc to introduce programs and staff to the greater community.

Desert Arc is very proud of its 25 years of service to the High Desert!



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WE ARE HIRING!

Make a difference in the lives of others while enjoying a fulfilling and rewarding career.

Explore our current job openings and embark on a journey where your work truly matters.

Excellent Benefits with Work/Life Balance.

DesertArc.org

*Staff members referring individuals for employment may receive a **\$500 bonus** upon the successful onboarding of the recommended person.

We have over 20 current openings!

Here's just a small sample:

Direct Support Professionals:

- Direct Care Staff
- Case Manager
- Behavioral Modification Instructor
- Fulfillment Instructor
- Individual Placement Job Coach
- Bus Driver

Business Services Opportunities:

- Landscaper
- Irrigator

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COMMUNITY CORNER

Connect with us by sharing your input, feedback, and ideas for stories. Let us know what topics you'd like us to delve into or anything else you'd like to share.

Info@DesertArc.org

DID YOU KNOW?

The Disability Employment Incentive Act, recently passed into law, offers substantial tax incentives to businesses that employ individuals with disabilities. Under this act, eligible businesses can receive tax credits while individuals benefit from increased employment opportunities.

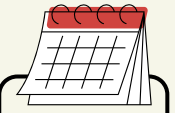
Beyond financial incentives, the act fosters diversity and productivity in the workplace, empowering individuals with disabilities to reach their full potential. By removing barriers to employment and promoting inclusivity, the Disability Employment Incentive Act represents a significant step towards leveling the playing field for people with disabilities in the job market.

Stay informed to leverage these incentives and support a more inclusive and equitable employment landscape. Visit the US Chamber of Commerce online for more information on tax credits and eligibility criteria.

Scan Me!



PUBLIC FORUM



**Tuesday,
April 16th
4 - 6 PM**

Please plan to attend

an information session about the proposed Arc Village project, a development of 40 units of affordable housing for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to be constructed adjacent to the Palm Desert Campus.

- Meet the Developers
- See building and landscape renderings
- Get your questions answered

RSVP to 760-404-1360

The session will take place on the Palm Desert Campus, located at 73255 Country Club Drive, Palm Desert.

SAVE THE DATE

**Morongo Basin
Campus**

2nd Monday
Every Month

**April
8th**



**Palm Desert
Campus**

3rd Friday
Every Month

**April
19th**

9AM to 12 Noon

CORRECTION

In last month's edition, **Reneé Griffin's** name was misspelled. The intent was to honor her for her encouragement and assistance with developing this Newsletter. Our apologies!

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH IN APRIL?

*Menu repeats every 2 weeks. * Additionally, the month's menu will be emailed to families

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Chicken Salad with Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Cheddar Cheese and Ranch Dressing. Served with a Dinner Roll and Fruit.	Ground Beef Taco Salad with Shredded Lettuce, Sauce, Cheddar Cheese, and Black Beans. Served with Tortilla Chips and Fruit.	Ham and Cheese Sandwich with Lettuce, Tomato, Mayo and Mustard. Served with Sun Chips and Fruit.	Chicken Cesar Pasta Salad with Lettuce, Cherry Tomato, Croutons, Parmesan Cheese and Cesar Dressing. Served with Fruit.	Meatball Sub Sandwich with Marinara Sauce, and Provolone Cheese. Served with a Side Salad and Fruit.
8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Pepperoni Pizza served with a Side Salad and Fruit.	Chicken Salad with Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Cheddar Cheese and Italian Dressing. Served with Pretzels and Fruit.	Crunch Wrap with Ground Beef, Tortilla Strips, Sour Cream, Lettuce, Tomato and Cheese.	Macaroni Salad with Corn, Ham, Mayo, Sour Cream, Lettuce, and Carrots. Served with a Dinner Roll and Fruit.	BBQ Pork Sliders. Served with Coleslaw, Pretzels and Fruit.