

REDEFINING POSSIBILITIES: A JOURNEY TO LEADERSHIP

Amid California's landscapes, where dreams often take root, lies a stark reality for many individuals with disabilities: a scarcity of housing. A home, whether rented or owned, symbolizes more than just shelter; it embodies independence and dignity. However, the Golden State grapples with a shortage of affordable housing, creating another barrier for the intellectually and developmentally disabled community.

In the midst of this crisis, one person stands out as a beacon of hope: Ted. With unwavering determination, Ted champions his community, making their voices heard in the halls of Sacramento. His advocacy work is a testament to his dedication and resilience.



Ted's journey began 10 years ago when he secured a pivotal seat on the Inland Regional Center (IRC) Board of Trustees. This marked a significant turning point, transforming him from a client of Desert Arc (For Your Independence) to an advocate for those with disabilities.

Rooted in his parents' guidance, Ted embraces the values of advocacy and compassion. Their example not only shaped his own path, but also fueled his commitment to championing the rights of those who may

lack a voice of their own. He encourages clients to overcome the fear of speaking up, believing they can achieve more with just a few words.

Traveling to Sacramento, engaging with legislators, and voicing IRC clients' concerns pose significant challenges for Ted. He's had help along the way, crediting Desert Arc, stating he is "forever grateful and thankful for all the support and guidance that I have had to accomplish all my goals. The (FYI) program has gone above and beyond for me and ensured that I was present to all my meetings, without hesitation." Despite moments of nervousness at these legislative meetings, he finds solace in divine grace, channeling his passion into advocacy.

His story exemplifies the resilience of the human spirit. Ted champions a timeless principle: "Put God first in everything you do. Do not get discouraged when something you want does not happen right (away)....Test and trials will come in life and with the strength of God, you can accomplish anything." In a world yearning for inclusiveness, Ted's message stands as a powerful testament to faith and determination.

His inspiring words touch those around him, igniting a desire to be a better person. The world needs more Teds.



Shining Star

This month's Shining Star spotlights the artistic endeavors of Brian, a member of Desert Arc's Independent Living Services in Morongo Basin.

Brian's creative prowess recently shone bright at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum's Metamorphosis: A Recycled Art Exhibition, featuring original works of art made with recycled or repurposed materials, designed to make people rethink the throw-away culture.

His recycled masterpiece clinched the Visitors' Choice - Adult Ribbon, impressing everyone with its creativity and eco-conscious message.

Besides his artistic endeavors, Brian brings dedication to our landscaping crew and off-duty, he finds solace in drawing and dreams of exploring the rich history of Ireland someday.

Join in celebrating Brian's remarkable achievement alongside the Desert Arc community!

Pins and Grins

The Morongo Basin Campus is inspiring fun on every lane. Seen in the photo on the right, Mark Mott is ready to roll a strike from his wheelchair with staff Rodney Avery by his side at Yucca Bowl.

Spreading joy together, one frame at a time.



WANTED



YOU AT DESERT ARC CASH BONUS

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Excellent Benefits with Work/Life Balance.

*Employees who recommend a candidate may receive a **\$500 bonus** upon their hiring.

Plus, new hires for Direct Care Staff positions are eligible for a **\$1,000 retainment bonus!**

DesertArc.org



June 16th: a day to honor the incredible men whose guidance and love have influenced our lives.

Misconnections:

During the beginning of March, National Procrastination Week took place. Regrettably, this newsletter didn't quite get around to shining a spotlight on this important event.

ENHANCED FLEET SAFETY: AED'S ON BOARD

Desert Arc held a press conference at their Palm Desert Campus on May 20th, highlighting the acquisition of 63 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for their entire transportation fleet. This vital initiative was made possible through a grant from the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation.

"Desert Arc has demonstrated a proactive commitment to the health and well-being of their clients" said Evett PerezGil, Desert Healthcare District & Foundation Board President. "They have insured that this life-saving equipment is readily available whenever and wherever it may be needed. It's an initiative that closely aligns with the Desert Healthcare District's mission and we proudly support it."



Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) deliver an electric shock to the heart through the chest, potentially stopping irregular heartbeats. According to Richard Balocco, Desert Arc's President/CEO, "Adults with disabilities are three times as likely to have heart disease, so this initiative was very important for our clients. These AEDs will also be accessible to the public for emergencies on Desert Arc's routes."

Desert Arc's fleet transports clients to homes, work sites, appointments, shopping, restaurants, parks and more. This event underscored Desert Arc's commitment to community safety and emergency preparedness.

JUNE'S LUNCH LINEUP

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

Mon June 3rd	Tuesday June 4th	Wed June 5th	Thurs June 6th	Friday June 7th
Pepperoni Pizza. Served with side salad, ranch dressing and fruit.	Southwest Chicken salad with mixed greens, black beans, cherry tomatoes, corn cilantro dressing cheddar cheese and tortilla strips. Served with fruit.	Fish Tacos with Pico de Gallo, shredded cabbage, and chipotle sauce. Served with fruit.	Italian Pasta Salad with pepperoni, salami, mixed salad, olives, and mozzarella cheese. Served with garlic bread and fruit.	Chicken salad with mixed greens, tomatoes, cucumber, parmesan cheese, Cesar dressing and croutons. Served with fruit.
Monday June 10th	Tuesday June 11th	Wed June 12th	Thurs June 13th	Friday June 14th
Ham and cheese sliders with a side salad. Served with Sun Chips and fruit.	BBQ Chicken Wrap with lettuce, tomato, cheese, onion, and cucumber. Served with pretzels and fruit.	Ham and provolone cheese croissant with a side salad. Served with fruit.	Chicken Caesar pasta salad with mixed greens, cherry tomato, croutons, parmesan cheese, and Caesar dressing. Served with fruit.	Chef salad with ham, turkey, cheese, tomato, cucumber and ranch dressing. Served with saltine crackers and fruit.

Morongo Basin Campus

2nd Monday of each Month

June 10th

SAVE THE DATE



9AM to 12 Noon

Palm Desert Campus

3rd Friday of each Month

June 21st

COMMUNITY CORNER



Info@DesertArc.org