



Desert Arc CONNECTION

Palm Desert 760-346-1611

Transportation 760-404-1363

Morongo Basin 760-346-1611 x341

Desert Arc is excited to unveil the rebranded Desert Arc CONNECTIONS, a newsletter crafted to forge stronger ties within our community. Drawing inspiration from our commitment to community engagement, Desert Arc CONNECTIONS seeks to elevate awareness of essential events and issues. This revamped newsletter serves as a vital link, fostering deeper connections, and delivering insightful updates in each issue. We extend special thanks to Rene Griffith for her inspiration that brought this newsletter to life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR AWARDEES

Desert Arc has been at the forefront of supporting the rights of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1959, and as we celebrate our 65th-year milestone Anniversary later this year, our commitment remains unwavering.

Last month, Desert Arc celebrated the Sixth Annual Champions of Change Recognition Awards at Agua Caliente Rancho Mirage.

This event honored four people we serve, as well as recognized individuals and organizations that passionately champion our mission to enhance the quality of life and create opportunities for people with disabilities.

Champions OF Change

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Heartfelt thanks to the countless individuals and businesses that have generously sponsored our mission. While space limitations prevent us from acknowledging each sponsor here, your unwavering support, seen in our comprehensive printed program, has been instrumental in propelling our mission forward. Desert Arc is immensely grateful for your commitment to making a positive impact in our community.

Scan the QR code to view the complete list of sponsors and their contributions.



AND THE AWARD FOR BEST COMMUNITY LEADERS GOES TO:

Champion
of the Year



Business Partner
of the Year

Business Star of the Year



Volunteer of the Year
Sherry Kensington



Photo by Mark Cieslikowski

WE ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE OUR CLIENTS OF THE YEAR 2024 HONOREES

Ashleigh M.

Janitorial Division in Yucca Valley



Ashleigh, an integral member of our Yucca Valley janitorial team for over 8 years, has honed her skills in providing exceptional janitorial services.

Excelling in mastering multiple-step jobs with minimal guidance, she approaches her duties with a positive attitude and a commitment to being helpful to everyone she encounters.



Reyes R.

Shredding & Recycling Center in Indio

Reyes, a dedicated member of the Desert Arc team since 2007, holds the longest tenure at the recycling center, specializing in e-waste dismantling. As an expert, he trains others and advocates for safety protocols, all delivered with a warm smile, cheerful greeting, and a touch of humor, brightening everyone's day!

Lionel P.

Adult Day Program in Palm Desert



Four years ago, Lionel began participating in the Adult Day Program, where he has since volunteered at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, performed janitorial duties for Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine, and organized Martha's Kitchen food pantry—always cheerful, ready to lend a helping hand.



Naomie P.

Fulfillment Division in Palm Desert

Naomie, who joined Desert Arc in 2014, consistently maintains a positive outlook. She has experience at Desert Arc's Recycling Center and now works in the Fulfillment Division, handling orders, managing inventory, and providing training in the Pentel of America's Fulfillment department. Additionally, she volunteers at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission.

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At Palm Desert Campus

Love in Bloom: Desert Arc Valentine's Day Party Extravaganza

Love filled the air at our unforgettable Valentine's Day Party! The Desert Arc family came together for a heartwarming celebration that featured a lively dance party, fun music, and a delicious lunch.

Laughter and joy echoed through the venue as participants enjoyed the festive atmosphere, creating cherished memories. The dance floor lit up with the spirit of togetherness, making it a day of connection and shared happiness. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making our Valentine's Day Party a resounding success, spreading love and warmth throughout the Desert Arc family!



At Palm Desert Campus



At Palm Desert Campus



At Morongo Basin Campus



At Morongo Basin Campus

GET INVOLVED!

Discover the impactful work at Desert Arc, an agency committed to fostering inclusivity, independence, and a sense of belonging for individuals facing conditions like Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Epilepsy, and more.

Through a range of programs tailored to meet diverse needs, Desert Arc is transforming challenges into opportunities, opening doors to brighter futures.

Our community plays a pivotal role in supporting Desert Arc's endeavors. With the Governor's proposed budget delays threatening \$1 billion in funding for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, your collective assistance is crucial. Desert Arc invites you to join hands in ensuring uninterrupted services for those who rely on our programs.

To learn more about how you can make a difference, visit Desert Arc's website at: DesertArc.org/How-To-Help

Your involvement, whether through donations, or spreading awareness, contributes to building a community where everyone is valued and celebrated.

Thank you for being a part of Desert Arc's journey. Together, we can continue making strides towards a more inclusive and compassionate society.

JOIN US

Please join us at one of our most eagerly anticipated fundraisers, the 14th Annual Golf Tournament at Eagle Falls Golf Course

Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
Monday, April 1, 2024.

For Reservations or to Sponsor this Event:



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Cooking Up Compassion

Desert Arc celebrates a remarkable milestone in the life of one of our cherished clients (and employee), Lacey. After years of patiently waiting, Lacey recently secured her very first apartment, marking a significant step

towards independence and a place to call her own. Seen in this heartwarming picture is Lacey with a brand new set of pots and pans donated by our generous community members. Cheers to Lacey and a future filled with independence and joy!



MUSIC TO OUR EARS

As the calendar flips to March, the Licensed Day Program at DESERT ARC is embarking on an exciting venture to enrich our clients' daily experiences by revitalizing the Music Room on our Palm Desert campus. To make this vision a reality, we're reaching out to our incredible community for support. We are actively seeking small, hand-held musical instruments for donation to fill our Music Room with the beautiful rhythm of empowerment. Your contribution will play a vital role in creating a space where the transformative power of music can be experienced by all. Let's compose a symphony of opportunity together!

#MusicForEmpowerment
#DesertArcInHarmony

Shining Stars

Meet Samantha L., one of our Shining Stars! She has been an integral part of Desert Arc since 2018. Despite initial challenges in college, Samantha's determination propelled her to overcome obstacles, leading to her recent graduation from College of the Desert this past December. This May 2024, Samantha will be celebrating her achievements at COD's graduation ceremony.

Her journey will continue at Southern New Hampshire University, where she'll pursue her passion for English and Creative Writing. Currently drafting a captivating



story titled "Super Dave" about a boy from another planet, Samantha's journey exemplifies resilience and creativity, and we couldn't be more proud of her!

In her free time, she enjoys music, video games, movies (especially the Fast and the Furious series), and spending quality time with her 4 loveable dogs.

DON'T MISS OUT

**Morongo
Basin
Campus**

2nd
Monday
Every
Month

March 11th



9am to 12 Noon

**Palm
Desert
Campus**

3rd
Friday
Every
Month

March 15th

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH IN MARCH?

*Menu Choices Repeats Every 2 Weeks.

Monday

Weeks 1 & 3

Italian Salad with Pepperoni, Salami, Mozzarella Cheese, Italian Dressing, and Cucumber. Served with Garlic Bread and Fruit.

Weeks 2 & 4:

Ham and Provolone Cheese Croissant with Lettuce, Tomato, Mayo, and Mustard. Served with Fruit.

Tuesday

Weeks 1 & 3:

Tuna Sandwich with Mayo, Lettuce, Tomato. Served with Sun Chips and Fruit

Weeks 2 & 4:

Crispy Chicken Sandwich with Lettuce, Tomato, Pepper Jack Cheese, Mayo, and Mustard. Served with Sun Chips and Fruit

Wednesday

Weeks 1 & 3:

Chicken Wrap with Spinach Tortilla, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheddar Cheese, Cesar Dressing. Served with Pretzels and Fruit

Weeks 2 & 4:

Turkey and Cheese Sandwich with Lettuce, Tomato, Mayo, and Mustard. Served with Fruit and Sun Chips

Thursday

Weeks 1 & 3:

Chef Salad with Ham, Turkey, Provolone Cheese, Tomato, Cucumber, and Ranch Dressing. Served with Saltine Crackers and Fruit

Weeks 2 & 4:

Chicken Salad with Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Cheddar Cheese, and Ranch Dressing. Served with a Dinner Roll and Fruit

Friday

Weeks 1 & 3:

Tomato Soup and Half Grilled Cheese Sandwich. Served with a Fruit

Weeks 2 & 4:

Chicken Noodle Soup. Served with Saltine Crackers, String Cheese and Fruit



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DID YOU KNOW?

Desert Arc's Individual Placement Program is a dedicated initiative aimed at assisting individuals in securing and sustaining meaningful employment within the community. Our personalized approach considers each client's unique preferences, goals, and skill set, focusing on job development and placement that aligns with individual aspirations.

Recognizing the importance of financial independence, we ensure that clients are compensated at or above minimum wage for their valuable contributions. Our program offers comprehensive support services, including resume building, interview preparation, and job exploration, empowering clients to establish a strong foundation for long-term success in the workforce.

In conjunction with our Individual Placement Program, Desert Arc provides Employment Services, offering individuals opportunities to work in jobs of their choice, emphasizing their strengths and desires within integrated community settings. This program collaborates directly with the Department of Rehabilitation.

At Desert Arc, our commitment to unlocking opportunities and facilitating brighter futures extends across these diverse programs, reinforcing our belief in the potential of every individual.

CALL NOW FOR DETAILS 760-346-1611 x409

CONNECTIONS CORNER

Palm Desert 760-346-1611

Name	Title	Ext.
Angelique Ontiveros	Vice President of Business Development	232
Donnya Villarreal	Director of Business & Facilities Operations	403
Elliott Darden	Shredding & Recycling Manager	122
Eugene Clomera	LVN Nursing Supervisor	128
JoAnn Avery	For Your Independence & Respite Program Manager	223
Juan Gamez Jr.	Program Manager of Employment Services	409
Kathrene Wales	Director of Development	234
Kurt Parish	Chief Financial Officer	216
Lailani De La O	Program Manager of Independent Living Services	225
Lynn De Anda	Director of Licensed Programs	411
Ray Gosnell	Director of Morongo Basin Programs	341
Rigo Mariscal	Director of Transportation	221
Richard Balocco	President / Chief Executive Officer	207
Ronald Stewart	Executive Vice President	227
Soledad Cabrera-Barrios	Director of Human Resources	235
Syreeta Brown	Senior Director of Client Services	408
Tom Goodno	Compliance & Special Projects Coordinator	433

JOIN OUR TEAM

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 candidates for employment may receive a **\$500 bonus** upon the successful onboarding of the recommended individual.

We Have Over 25 Current Openings! Here's Just a Small Sample:

Direct Support Professionals:

Direct Care Staff
Activity Lead Direct Care Staff
Behavioral Modification Instructor
Fulfillment Instructor
Life Skills Instructor

Field Work Opportunities:

Landscape
Facilities Technician II
Irrigator

DesertArc.org

COMMUNITY CORNER

Connect with us by sharing your feedback and ideas, as we strive to create an inclusive environment for all.

Info@DesertArc.org