



Desert Arc CONNECTION

Palm Desert 760-346-1611

Transportation 760-404-1363

Morongo Basin 760-346-1611 x341



Mental Health Awareness Month is here, a crucial time to shed light on the importance of mental well-being. This year, let's renew the commitment to removing the stigma surrounding mental health struggles and promoting resources for support. Whether it's reaching out to a friend, practicing self-care, or seeking professional help, let's prioritize our mental health journeys. The theme for 2024, "Healing Together," emphasizes the power of community and connection in fostering resilience and recovery. Join Desert Arc this May in spreading awareness, advocating for mental health education, and supporting one another in the journey towards mental wellness. Together, a more understanding and supportive world for everyone can be created. For more information and resources, visit Mental Health America at MHAnational.org.

Shining Star

This month's Shining Star proudly spotlights the journey of Alfredo, a member of Desert Arc's Supported Living Services in the Morongo Basin. Over the past five years, Alfredo has embraced the opportunities provided by Desert Arc and pursued his academic aspirations at the College of the Desert.

Alfredo is set to graduate with an Associate's Degree in Automotive Technology this month, a testament to his dedication and hard work. Reflecting on his journey, Alfredo fondly recalls the influence of his grandpa, whose passion for vehicles ignited his own interest in the field. He attributes much of his motivation to his mother, whose unwavering support has always inspired him to strive for excellence.

As we honor Alfredo's accomplishments, let's remember that within each of us lies untapped potential, awaiting the spark of encouragement and support—just like the unwavering dedication of his mother, especially poignant as we approach Mother's Day.



Annual Golf Classic is a Hole in One

Desert Arc's 14th annual Golf Classic at Fantasy Springs Resort Casino saw a full flight of golfers and over 200 dinner guests on April 1. The event, declared the most successful in its 14-year history by Desert Arc's President/CEO Richard Balocco, raised a record \$80,000. Nancy Singer, the event chair, expressed gratitude to attendees and donors, highlighting the \$18,450 raised from raffle prizes. The camaraderie among guests was evident throughout the day, with many returning golfers making it a yearly tradition.

A special thanks goes out to board member Brooke Beare for serving as emcee!

[READ MORE -->](#)



Red Hot and Eco-Friendly: Introducing Our Zero Emissions Forklift!

At Desert Arc's Shredding & Recycling Center, sustainability takes center stage with the introduction of Desert Arc's latest addition: a zero emissions forklift, made possible thanks to the generous funding of a \$25,000 grant from The Auen Foundation. Painted a vibrant red, this environmentally friendly machine helps Desert Arc comply with new regulations that require propane-fueled forklifts to be retired.

Desert Arc's President/CEO Richard Balocco notes, "Sherrie S. Auen, the sole Trustee of The Auen Foundation, a private grant-making organization formed in 1992, is a longtime supporter of our mission and service to people with disabilities. This electric forklift will have an immediate impact on our day-to-day operations and the continuum of on-site vocational training for our clients who are employed and work at Desert Arc's Shredding & Recycling Center in Indio."



WANTED: SUPERHEROES WITHOUT CAPES

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

Excellent Benefits with Work/Life Balance.

DesertArc.org

*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!**

Currently over 20 positions available to hire!

Here's just a small sample:

- Direct Care Staff
- Case Manager
- Behavioral Modification Instructor
- Fulfillment Instructor
- Shredding & Recycling Supervisor
- Recycle Center Enclave Instructor
- Bus Driver

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COMMUNITY CORNER

Connect by sharing your input, feedback, preferred topics, story ideas or anything else you'd like to share with Desert Arc.

Info@DesertArc.org



This **May 12th**, we pay tribute to the incredible women who have shaped our lives.

SAVE THE DATE

**Morongo
Basin
Campus**

2nd Monday
Every
Month

**May
13th**



**SHRED IT
AND FORGET IT**

9AM to 12 Noon

**Palm
Desert
Campus**

3rd Friday
Every
Month

**May
17th**

SNEAK PEEK: VILLAGE ARC



BREAKING GROUND MARCH 2025

As has been shared in previous Connections, the City of Palm Desert is moving forward with plans to construct 40 units of affordable housing adjacent to Desert Arc's Palm Desert campus, with at least 10 units reserved for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities. On April 16th, the developer of Arc Village, Chelsea Investment Corporation, hosted an informational open house to introduce the project to neighbors and the broader community. The event drew over 20 attendees, with many expressing interest for residency in this new \$24 million-dollar housing development.

EMPLOYEE HAPPINESS, CLIENT SUCCESS

Discover the driving force behind Desert Arc's vibrant culture! The revitalized Staff Engagement Committee, crafts memorable employee social activities, fostering a happier workplace. Because when our team thrives, so do the relationships we build with our valued clients.

MAY'S LUNCH LINEUP

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

Wed May 1st	Thursday May 2nd	Friday May 3rd	Monday May 6th	Tuesday May 7th
Turkey & cheese sandwich with lettuce, tomato, mayo, mustard. Served with sun chips and fruit.	Chicken wrap with spinach tortilla, lettuce, tomato, cheddar cheese and ranch dressing. Served with sun chips and fruit.	Chicken salad with mixed greens, tomato, cucumber, cheddar cheese & home style dressing. Served with saltine crackers and fruit.	Crispy chicken sandwich with lettuce, tomato, pepper, jack cheese, mayo, mustard. Served with sun chips and fruit.	Cheeseburger sliders, ground beef, American cheese, coleslaw. Served with pretzels and fruit.
Wed May 8th	Thursday May 9th	Friday May 10th	Monday May 13th	Tuesday May 14th
BBQ chicken salad with mixed greens, black beans, cherry tomatoes, corn, red onion, BBQ ranch dressing, cheddar cheese, tortilla strips. Served with fruit.	Ground beef pasta with marinara sauce, parmesan cheese, tomato, cucumber salad. Served with garlic bread and fruit.	Chicken strips with mashed potatoes, steamed vegetables. Served with a dinner roll and fruit.	Chicken flautas with shredded lettuce, parmesan cheese, sour cream, salsa. Served with fruit.	Ham and provolone cheese croissant. Served with a side salad and fruit.