



# Desert Arc CONNECTION

Palm Desert 760-346-1611

Transportation 760-404-1363

Morongo Basin 760-346-1611 x341



## Celebrating 65 Years

Est. August 27, 1959

### GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

At the Basin Wide Foundation's Annual Dinner & Awards Celebration, held at the Helen Gray Education Center in Joshua Tree on Thursday, August 22, Desert Arc's very own Tonya C. received a prestigious honor. She was recognized with the **Above and Beyond Award**, a testament to her exceptional dedication and hard work.

The Basin Wide Foundation in Yucca Valley, gives the Above and Beyond Award to a paid employee within an organization who goes above and beyond their job duties in service to the residents of the Morongo Basin. Tonya's contributions have made a significant impact in the Basin and the lives of the people who live there. Her commitment to going the extra mile has not gone unnoticed and this award is a well-deserved recognition of her efforts.

Tonya shared her gratitude, stating "I thank Desert Arc for the opportunity and support to help me be part of their mission to enhance our consumers' lives."



Pictured above from left to right: Tonya C, award recipient; Iris Gutierrez, Field Representative for Assembly Member Tom Lackey; Glen Harris, Field Representative for San Bernardino County Supervisor Dawn Rowe; Jennifer Cusack, President of Basin Wide Foundation.

Congratulations, Tonya, on this remarkable achievement and thank you for your 12 years of service to our clients - you truly embody the spirit of going above and beyond.



### SHINING STAR

This month, Desert Arc is thrilled to spotlight **Iliana**, who has been participating at this organization for 10 years. Over the past decade, Iliana has made helping others her favorite part of each day, and Desert Arc holds a special place in her heart.



Iliana credits Matilde, the Cafeteria Services Coordinator, whose support has helped her navigate challenges, and Ana, her instructor, who inspires her with continuous guidance. For Iliana, Desert Arc represents a community of learning and growth.

Outside of Desert Arc, Iliana enjoys relaxing, watching movies, and cherishes the company of her two German Shepherds, Sofie and Frida. Hawaii is her dream travel destination, inspired by its beautiful scenery.

### CELEBRATE DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL (DSP) RECOGNITION WEEK 2024

Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week 2024 will take place from September 8–14, 2024.

This week-long nationwide celebration honors the invaluable work of DSPs who play a crucial role in supporting individuals with disabilities to access and engage with their communities.

Join in thanking, recognizing and appreciating Desert Arc's DSPs for their dedicated service to clients across campuses in Palm Desert and Morongo Basin, as well as throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

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## ENHANCING CLIENT SAFETY: ASSISTIVE EQUIPMENT AND NEW BUSES



Desert Arc has been evaluating the condition of wheelchairs and walkers used by those in our Programs. In doing so, some of this assistive equipment was found to need repair and posed safety risks.

Families and caregivers partnered with Desert Arc to ensure all assistive equipment is in good working order. As a reminder, equipment with issues such as missing footrests, bad brakes, or aftermarket modifications will need to be repaired and inspected by Desert Arc before being allowed on our busses or in Program. Please reach out to your case manager for assistance, if you have concerns or questions.

Desert Arc is pleased to announce the award of four new, custom-built Starcraft busses, which will replace four aging, high-mileage busses. These vehicles are made possible by a grant from Caltrans. Each bus accommodates seated riders along with wheel chair users and is valued at \$145,000. Contracts have been signed and these new busses should be entering service in about nine months.

### Morongo Basin

**Hi Desert Star**  
56-445 29 Palms Hwy



**SHRED IT**  
AND FORGET IT

2nd Monday/Mo

**September 9**

**9AM to 12 Noon**

### Coachella Valley

**PD Campus**  
73255 Country Club Dr

3rd Friday/Mo

**September 20**

## EXPLORE DESERT ARC'S FRESH NEW LOOK

Head over to [DesertArc.org](https://DesertArc.org) to check out the newly updated website.

Follow on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube for the latest updates and community highlights. Like and share posts to help connect with more people and advance the mission!

## SEPTEMBER LUNCH LINEUP

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

### Monday Sept 2nd

Turkey and provolone sandwich with lettuce, tomato, and cucumber. Served with pretzels and fruit.

**CLOSED - LABOR DAY**

### Tuesday Sept 3rd

BBQ chicken mixed salad, with tomatoes, corn, red onion, BBQ ranch dressing, cheddar cheese, and tortilla strips. Served with fruit.

### Wednesday Sept 4th

Chicken strips with mashed potatoes, and steamed vegetables. Served with a dinner roll and fruit.

### Thursday Sept 5th

Cheeseburger sliders with ground beef and American cheese. Served with coleslaw, pretzels and fruit.

### Friday Sept 6th

Fish tacos with pico de gallo, shredded cabbage, and chipotle sauce. Served with pretzels and fruit.

### Monday Sept 9th

Chicken mixed salad with tomato, cucumber, and ranch dressing. Served with saltine crackers and fruit.

### Tuesday Sept 10th

Ham and cheese sandwich. Served with sun chips and fruit.

### Wednesday Sept 11th

Ground beef taco salad with shredded lettuce, sauce, cheddar cheese, and black beans. Served with tortilla chips and fruit.

### Thursday Sept 12th

Pizza pasta with marinara sauce, mozzarella cheese, and pepperoni. Served with a side salad, garlic bread and fruit.

### Friday Sept 13th

Chef salad with ham, turkey, cheese, tomatoes, cucumber, and ranch dressing. Served with saltine crackers and fruit.

Be the Missing Piece

&

Join Our Puzzle

Visit: [DesertArc.Org](https://DesertArc.Org)



Ask About the  
New Hire and  
EMPLOYEE REFERRAL  
**BONUS**

Your thoughts,  
Our Inbox -  
Let's Connect!

[Info@DesertArc.org](mailto:Info@DesertArc.org)

