



Palm Desert 760-346-1611



Transportation 760-404-1363

Morongo Basin 760-346-1611 x341

RICHARD BALOCCO TO RETIRE AS DESERT ARC PRESIDENT/CEO

Desert Arc's President and CEO, Richard Balocco, will retire on January 31, 2025, after 17 years of remarkable leadership. He has been instrumental in advancing the nonprofit's mission to enhance the quality of life for countless adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties.



When Richard joined Desert Arc in 2007, the nonprofit faced significant financial challenges. Originally recruited only for a short-term assignment to develop a financial restructuring plan, Richard quickly became a permanent leader. Under his guidance, Desert Arc transformed from a struggling organization into a thriving community-based nonprofit.

One of Richard's proudest accomplishments was leading the rebranding of Desert Arc, shifting from a membership-based model into a community-centered nonprofit. This pivotal change strengthened the organization's foundation and expanded its reach within the community.

Reflecting on his time with Desert Arc, Richard noted that working with individuals with disabilities helped reshape the organization's mission to empower clients to reach their full potential and affirm their capabilities. This updated mission emphasizes fostering independence and community integration. Desert Arc promotes not only vocational training but also social and independent living skills, maximizing each person's potential in work, socialization, and daily living.

As Desert Arc prepares for a new chapter, the Board of Directors has begun the search for a new President/CEO. Richard's advice to his successor is simple: "Keep your eyes open, be humble, and work hard to achieve a common goal of advancing the organization."

His legacy includes the creation of Business Services divisions—Shredding & Recycling, Janitorial, Landscape Maintenance, and Fulfillment — that provide valuable job training and employment opportunities for clients, bolstering Desert Arc's financial stability and community presence.

Richard leaves behind a powerful legacy, and Desert Arc is grateful for the profound difference he has made.



Since joining Desert Arc in 2021, Adam has fully embraced opportunities to showcase his talents and grow personally. A notable aspect of his experience is the community and support for people with disabilities. Adam shared that Maritza, a Desert Arc staff member, has made a significant impact on his life by teaching him new job skills with kindness and patience.



For Adam, being part of Desert Arc means "making a difference." He finds joy in contributing to others' happiness and values the independence he's gained, particularly through activities like cooking his own dinner. Outside of Desert Arc, Adam enjoys playing tennis—a skill he's been perfecting for over a decade.

His mom serves as a constant source of inspiration, showing him the true meaning of courage. Adam emphasizes teamwork, noting that tasks get done faster when people work together. With a positive attitude, he faces challenges head-on, always striving for personal growth. Looking ahead, Adam's goal is simple yet powerful: to continue growing each day. With the support of Desert Arc, he's well on his way to achieving that.

CLIENT COUNCIL RELAUNCH

Desert Arc is excited to announce the relaunch of the Client Council! This past month marked the first meeting in years and the energy and enthusiasm were noticeable.

The Client Council was established to empower participants in Desert Arc’s programs by encouraging self-advocacy and peer support. The Council provides a platform for clients to voice their concerns and ideas, ensuring that their needs and experiences are at the forefront of decision-making. Representatives from each department are nominated and elected by their peers to serve for a one-year term, fostering leadership and community engagement.

With the guidance of support staff, Council members are equipped to champion for themselves and their fellow participants, making sure that everyone’s voice is heard. This Council is not only a training ground for personal growth but also a beacon of unity within Desert Arc, showing how the organization continues to evolve and adapt.

The return of the Client Council symbolizes a fresh start for collaboration and advocacy. Desert Arc is eager to see the positive changes and initiatives that will emerge from this dedicated group of individuals. Making a difference - Together!

Morongo Basin

Hi Desert Star
56-445 29Palms Hwy

2nd Monday/Mo

October 14



SHRED IT
AND FORGET IT

9AM to 12 Noon

Coachella Valley

PD Campus
73255 Country Club Dr

3rd Friday/Mo

October 18

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Desert Arc spotlights Angelique Ontiveros, Vice President of Business Development and 25-year team member, for being named Volunteer of the Year at the 2024 La Quinta State of the City, Business Awards, and Expo. Her dedication to the community earned recognition from the Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce. Desert Arc is honored to have her on the team!

OCTOBER LUNCH LINEUP					
*Menu repeats every 2 weeks. * Additionally, the month’s menu will be emailed to families					
Tuesday October 1st Chicken Mixed Salad, Tomato, Cucumber, Parmesan Cheese, Cesar Dressing and Croutons. Served with Fruit.	Wednesday October 2nd Tortilla Soup served with Saltine Crackers, Tortilla Strips, Mozzarella String Cheese and Fruit.	Thursday October 3rd Pepperoni Pizza served with a side Salad, Ranch Dressing and Fruit.	Friday October 4th Chicken Strips with Mashed Potatoes and Steamed Vegetables. Served with a Dinner Roll and Fruit.	Monday October 7th Crispy Chicken Sandwich with lettuce, Tomato, Pepper Jack Cheese, Mayo, and Mustard. Served with Sun Chips and Fruit.	
Tuesday October 8th Southwest Chicken Mixed Salad with Black Beans, Tomatoes, Corn, Cilantro Dressing, and Cheddar Cheese. Served with Tortilla Strips and Fruit.	Wednesday October 9th Beef Chili served with Corn Bread, Carrot Sticks and Fruit.	Thursday October 10th Ground Beef Pasta with Marinara Sauce. Served with Garlic bread and Fruit.	Friday October 11th Chicken Noodle Soup served with Saltine Crackers, String Cheese and Fruit.	Monday October 14th Italian Salad with Pepperoni, Salami, Mozzarella Cheese, Italian Dressing and Cucumber. Garlic Bread and Fruit.	CLOSED - COLUMBUS DAY

FLY INTO YOUR FUTURE:

CAREERS THAT ARE WICKEDLY GOOD

VISIT: DESERTARC.ORG

Costume Jamboree

Oct 31st

Dress to Scare!



Mario's
Landmark for
Pizza Lovers
Italian Cafe

CREEP INTO OUR INBOX

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