



Desert Arc CONNECTION

Palm Desert 760-346-1611

Transportation 760-404-1363

Morongo Basin 760-346-1611 x341

DESERT ARC RECEIVES \$23,000 IMPACT GRANT FOR ELECTRIC MACHINERY TRANSITION

For more than six decades, Desert Arc has championed the rights of individuals with disabilities, enhancing their quality of life and creating opportunities for independence and community engagement. Recently, Desert Arc received a \$23,000 Impact Grant through a partnership between the H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation and News Channel 3, which recognizes outstanding local nonprofits. The grant will help the organization transition from gasoline-powered landscaping equipment to electric alternatives.



Serving over 700 clients, Desert Arc offers diverse employment programs, including landscaping, janitorial, cafeteria, recycling, and shredding services. These initiatives help clients secure meaningful work and build independence. Adam, on Desert Arc's landscaping team at Palm Springs Airport, shared, "It feels great to know we're making an impact with people who have disabilities in a positive way."

Palm Springs Mayor Jeffrey Bernstein praised the organization: "I've been a big fan of Desert Arc since I moved to the desert. If we can help push their efforts and support them, it really is terrific for Palm Springs."

While the Impact Grant marks a significant step, Desert Arc still needs \$20,000 to fully transition its equipment. To support this mission, visit desertarc.org/donate/

MORONGO BASIN

Hi Desert Star
56-445 29Palms Hwy

2nd Monday / Month **January 12**



SHRED IT
AND FORGET IT

COACHELLA VALLEY

PD Campus
73255 Country Club Dr

3rd Friday / Month

January 17

JANUARY'S LUNCH LINEUP



Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri



1



New Years Day

2

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

3

Crispy chicken sandwich with lettuce, tomato, pepper jack cheese, mayo and mustard. Served with sun chips and fruit.

6

Ham and provolone cheese croissant with lettuce, tomato, mayo and mustard. Served with fruit.

7

Mixed salad with chicken, tomato, cucumber, parmesan cheese, Cesar dressing and croutons. Served with fruit.

8

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

9

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

10

Spring chicken salad with cucumber, feta cheese, walnuts and raspberry dressing. Served with a dinner roll and fruit.

13

BBQ chicken wrap with lettuce, tomato, cheese, onion and cucumber. Served with pretzels and fruit.

14

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

15

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

16

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

17

Crispy chicken sandwich with lettuce, tomato, pepper jack cheese, mayo and mustard. Served with sun chips and fruit.

20



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

21

Mixed salad with chicken, tomato, cucumber, parmesan cheese, Cesar dressing and croutons. Served with fruit.

22

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

23

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

24

Spring chicken salad with cucumber, feta cheese, walnuts and raspberry dressing. Served with a dinner roll and fruit.

27

BBQ chicken wrap with lettuce, tomato, cheese, onion and cucumber. Served with pretzels and fruit.

28

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

29

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

30

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

31

Crispy chicken sandwich with lettuce, tomato, pepper jack cheese, mayo and mustard. Served with sun chips and fruit.

Did You Know?

that spinach was made famous by Popeye for its iron content, but it's also packed with vitamin K, which supports healthy bones? Pair it with citrus for even better nutrient absorption!

8 OZ. 1% non-flavored milk is served to CACFP participants. Two (2) servings of whole grains are served with each meal. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The following article is an excerpt from the December issue of HOA Living Magazine, written by Desert Arc's very own Nick Prudhomme.

Build Community Spirit During the Holidays by Partnering with Desert Arc

By Nick Prudhomme

For 65 years, Desert Arc has championed the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, guided by its mission to enhance the quality of life and create opportunities for people with disabilities. The comprehensive programs and services provided by this nonprofit human social services agency are designed to give the most vulnerable members of our society a safe and supportive resource base, helping them achieve their highest potential to live, work, and engage in their communities. Desert Arc is committed to social innovation and has developed various enterprises that provide business services. Homeowners Associations (HOAs) can benefit from these services by partnering with Desert Arc's Business Services.

Desert Arc's Shredding & Recycling, Landscape Maintenance and Janitorial divisions, provide hands-on training and paid jobs for Desert Arc's clients (people with intellectual and developmental disabilities). The close partnerships Desert Arc has created with HOAs has helped make its Business Services a staple of the community by increasing the visibility of people with disabilities and all that they have to offer.

Angelique Ontiveros, Desert Arc's Vice President, Business Development, states, "We are very fortunate that we offer many services that align so perfectly with the needs of HOAs. Our partnerships with HOAs usually begin with the employment of one of our services, such as Shredding, then they quickly realize we also offer Landscaping and Janitorial services, and the fullness of the vision comes into view. When our partners see the clients at work and how much good that opportunity has brought to their lives the desire to create



more opportunities for clients naturally follows."

One close partnership Desert Arc has cultivated is with The Management Trust, who employs the services of Desert Arc's Shredding, Landscape Maintenance, and Janitorial services at many of the HOAs it manages including PGA West, Spanish Walk, Portola Country Club and many more. Damian

agency pricing structures."

Both Angelique and Damian emphasized the numerous benefits HOAs can look forward to by partnering with Desert Arc. Angelique stated, "They see the quality of work the clients provide and the pride they take in that work, and they know that the same pride, quality and joy will be brought to every worksite across all the Business Services."

"THERE IS NOTHING MORE GRATIFYING THAN PROVIDING JOBS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND SEEING THE SMILES ON THEIR FACES WHEN THEY RECEIVE THAT FIRST PAYCHECK."

Jenkins, Desert Arc Board Chair and Division President at The Management Trust, shared his experience, "When I first joined the Desert Arc Board six years ago, I wasn't quite sure how HOAs would be able to partner with Desert Arc. But after learning more about Business Services the lightbulb just went on! Now The Management Trust utilizes all their Business Services. We even use their Janitorial services in our personal offices." When asked what it has been like having Desert Arc's clients working in their HOAs, Damian said, "The clients have a compartmentalized approach and the quality of work is even better than a typical person or company, and Desert Arc adds so much value with their flat-rates which makes them inexpensive when compared to temp-labor

Damian says, "Partnering with Desert Arc can help HOAs save money, but you also have a feel-good factor knowing that you are giving back." Damian Jenkins also noted, "There is nothing more gratifying than providing jobs for people with disabilities and seeing the smiles on their faces when they receive that first paycheck." 



Nick Prudhomme is the Development/Content Marketing Manager for Desert Arc. Nick can be reached at nprudhomme@desertarc.org. If you would like to partner with Desert Arc, contact Angelique Ontiveros, Desert Arc's Vice President of Business Development at aontiveros@desertarc.org.

DESERT ARC'S 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: A FESTIVE CELEBRATION IN STYLE!

This holiday season, Desert Arc brought joy and creativity to the workplace with our "12 Days of Christmas" celebration! Each day featured a different festive theme, and the clients and staff went all out, dressing up and embracing the holiday spirit.

From "Ugly Sweater Day" to "Crazy Hair Day," every theme showcased incredible outfits and big smiles. Our hallways were filled with holiday cheer, making memories that truly captured the magic of the season.

See the photos below that showcase the creative side of the Desert Arc family!

UGLY SWEATER DAY



Morongo Basin Campus



Palm Desert Campus: B-Mod

CANDY CANE (RED & WHITE) DAY



Palm Desert Campus: B-Mod



Morongo Basin Campus

DISNEY DAY



Palm Desert Campus: Fulfillment



Morongo Basin Campus

ELF DAY:



Palm Desert Campus: B-Mod

CRAZY HAIR DAY



Palm Desert Campus: Fulfillment

RED & GREEN DAY



Morongo Basin Campus



Palm Desert Campus: Fulfillment



Palm Desert Campus: Adult Day Program



Palm Desert Campus: Fulfillment

SPORTS DAY



Morongo Basin Campus



Palm Desert Campus: Fulfillment

PJ'S DAY



Palm Desert Campus: Adult Day Program



Palm Desert Campus: B-Mod

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE!

Mark your calendars for Desert Arc's 7th Annual Champions of Change Recognition Awards Luncheon on Thursday, February 6, 2025, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at Agua Caliente in Rancho Mirage.

This special event will honor Richard Balocco, celebrating his remarkable 17-year legacy as our President/CEO. We'll also recognize four outstanding clients for their incredible achievements and applaud SA Recycling as our Business Partner of the Year.

Don't miss this inspiring celebration! RSVP now using the QR code on the attached flyer.

Champions^{OF}Change

SEVENTH ANNUAL RECOGNITION AWARDS LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025

AGUA CALIENTE RESORT CASINO SPA, RANCHO MIRAGE

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM



Richard Balocco, President/CEO (center) with (l-r) Joshua K., Adam T., Carolina R. (seated) and Inda R.

HONORING

DESERT ARC CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

Richard Balocco, Desert Arc's President/CEO
(2007 through January 2025 retirement)

CLIENTS OF THE YEAR

PEOPLE SERVED BY DESERT ARC'S MISSION

Adam T., Carolina R., Inda R., Joshua K.

BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

SA Recycling

RESERVATION REQUIRED

Please RSVP by January 31 to DesertArc.org or 760.340.2361



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107.3
WJLB
PALM SPRINGS

K-NEWS
94.3 | 104.7
WE HAVE YOU COVERED

GRANT FUELS HEALTH PROGRAM EXPANSION AT DESERT ARC

Desert Arc is proud to announce a generous \$139,495 grant awarded by the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation on December 17, 2024. This funding will enhance its Health Care Program, supporting critical services and equipment to improve the well-being of the clients.

The grant covers the salary of one Licensed Vocational Nurse, medical beds, transport wheelchairs for program sites, and a Board-Certified Behavioral Analyst for the Behavioral Modification (BMOD) program. It also funds a Consulting Physician to oversee care, ensuring clients receive top-quality health services.

This significant contribution strengthens Desert Arc's mission to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. We are grateful for the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation's partnership in helping us provide exceptional care to those we serve.

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT: EMPOWERED BY PURPOSE

Born in Loma Linda and raised in Indio, Reginald was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at age three. Despite early challenges, he overcame his shyness and became an advocate for individuals with disabilities. After graduating from Indio High School in 2009 and attending College of the Desert, Reginald moved to Hemet to gain independence and landed his first job as an activities coordinator. He later returned to Indio and connected with Desert Arc, to become part of an organization that improves the lives of people with disabilities in the Coachella Valley.



"Being a part of Desert Arc means having a purpose by contributing my time and work ethic to making it a safe and accepting place for myself and my peers," Reginald shares. His time at Desert Arc has given him financial stability, confidence, and the opportunity for personal and professional growth. Over the past five years, he has learned valuable skills, gained self-assurance, and become an advocate for himself and others.

One of Reginald's favorite memories is meeting his favorite singer, Chloe, at her concert. "Not only did I get to see her live in concert twice, but I also had the pleasure to meet her and speak to her twice. I was so shocked that she remembered me the second time...I recall her hugging me so tight and being so sweet and humble while speaking with her. I will cherish those moments for the rest of my life," he says.

Reginald's story highlights the importance of resilience, inclusivity, and community support. As we look to 2025, let his journey be an inspiration to continue advocating for a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.

