



Desert Arc CONNECTION

Palm Desert 760-346-1611

Transportation 760-404-1363

Morongo Basin 760-346-1611 x341

A LEGACY OF CHANGE: DESERT ARC HONORS OUTSTANDING CLIENTS & LEADERS

Desert Arc's Champions of Change Awards Luncheon was a resounding success, bringing together supporters, partners, and clients for an inspiring afternoon of recognition and celebration.

The event, held on February 6th, honored individuals and businesses making a significant impact in the community. Special recognition was given to Desert Arc's Clients of the Year—Adam, Carolina, Inda, and Josh—for their outstanding achievements. SA Recycling was named Business Partner of the Year for their continued commitment to supporting Desert Arc's mission.

A highlight of the luncheon was the heartfelt tribute to President/CEO Richard Balocco, who will retire after 17 years of dedicated leadership. His contributions have transformed Desert Arc, and his legacy of advocacy and innovation will continue to benefit the organization for years to come.



Richard Balocco, President/CEO

Adding to the momentous occasion, Sherrie Auen presented a generous \$50,000 donation to establish the Richard Balocco Legacy Fund, ensuring his impact will continue to support Desert Arc's programs and clients well into the future. The donation was a touching testament to Balocco's dedication and a lasting investment in the lives of those the organization serves.

Relive the memorable moments by watching the full event video here:

 [Watch the Champions of Change Awards Luncheon](#)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event so special—and to all who support Desert Arc's mission every day!

MORONGO BASIN

Hi Desert Star
56-445 29 Palms Hwy

2nd Monday / Month **February 10**



COACHELLA VALLEY

PD Campus
73255 Country Club Dr

3rd Friday / Month **February 21**

DESERT ARC SECURES GRANT FOR CAFETERIA PROGRAM

Desert Arc has been awarded funding through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) to support its Cafeteria Program. This year, the organization applied for the maximum amount of \$50,000 and secured \$12,889, marking a \$10,000 increase from the previous year's award.

This significant boost in funding ranks Desert Arc among the top three awardees in the district, highlighting the strength of its application and the impact of its programs. The first half of the funding is expected to be delivered in the coming weeks, helping to sustain essential meal services for those in need.

This achievement reflects Desert Arc's ongoing commitment to enhancing resources and support for its clients.



Eagle Falls Golf Course at Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

Monday, April 7, 2025

11 am - BBQ Lunch/Player Check-In

12:30 pm - Shotgun Scramble Format

5 pm - Buffet Dinner

Reservations

760.404.1368 or DesertArc.org



THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES

Desert Arc expresses sincere gratitude to Ron Stewart, Executive Vice President since 2022, for his dedicated leadership and unwavering commitment to the mission. His contributions have left a lasting impact, and his guidance and support are deeply appreciated.

As Ron begins his well-deserved retirement, best wishes are extended for this next chapter. May it be filled with relaxation, adventure, and all the joys life has to offer. Thank you, Ron—he will be greatly missed by the Desert Arc family!



MARCH'S MEAL MAGIC



Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

**Monday,
March 17th
is St.
Patrick's
Day**

St. Patrick's Day, celebrated on March 17th, honors St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, who is credited with bringing Christianity to the country. Originally a religious feast day, it has evolved into a global celebration of Irish culture. Parades, music, and wearing green symbolize pride in Irish heritage.

Beyond Ireland, cities worldwide join in the festivities, embracing the spirit of unity and joy. The day has become a symbol of good luck, with traditions like clovers, toasts, and sharing stories, bringing people together to celebrate not only Irish roots but also a love for community and togetherness.

3

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

4

Ham and cheese sandwich with **lettuce**, **tomato**, mayo and mustard. Served with **Sun Chips** and **fruit**.

5

Pepperoni Pizza served with a side **salad** and **fruit**.

6

Southwest chicken **mixed salad** with black beans, **tomatoes**, **corn**, cilantro dressing, and **cheddar cheese**. Served with tortilla strips and **fruit**.

7

*Crispy chicken sandwich with **lettuce**, **tomato**, **pepper jack cheese**, mayo, and mustard. Served with **Sun Chips** and **fruit**.

10

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

11

Turkey and **provolone cheese croissant** served with a side **salad** and **fruit**.

12

Ground beef pasta with marinara sauce. Served with **garlic bread**, a side **salad** and **fruit**.

13

Chicken Strips served with mashed potatoes, **steamed vegetables**, dinner roll and **fruit**.

14

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

17

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

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Ham and cheese sandwich with **lettuce**, **tomato**, mayo and mustard. Served with **Sun Chips** and **fruit**.

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Pepperoni Pizza served with a side **salad** and **fruit**.

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

31

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

¼ cup of fruit
½ cups of vegetables
***1 oz. Grain**
2 oz. cheese

Did You Know?

Blueberries are tiny but mighty! They're full of antioxidants that support brain health and fight inflammation. Eating them regularly may even help improve memory!

SHINING STAR

For Joseph "Simon," Desert Arc is more than just a place—it's a community filled with friendship, support, and moments that make life special. Since joining Desert Arc in 2010, Simon has embraced the connections he has made, especially the social events and friendships that bring him joy each day.

One person who has made a lasting impact on Simon's life is Lynn, whose warm greetings and hugs in the morning set a positive tone for his day. Simon's caring nature shines through in his love for helping others, a value that has shaped his experience at Desert Arc.

A love for music runs deep in Simon's heart, and his mother, Carmen, plays a big role in inspiring him. She starts each day with Queen, a band Simon dreams of seeing live in concert. His free time is filled with music, movies, and sports—especially basketball, a game he enjoys playing. And when it comes to his favorite sports team, the Lakers hold the top spot.



Simon has a simple yet profound philosophy on life: "The language of friendship is not words but meanings, and showing it by expressing how you feel toward others." He believes in happiness, laughter, and embracing life's moments with a silly spirit.

Like everyone, Simon faces challenges, but he has learned the importance of asking for help. When anxiety strikes, he relies on the support of his staff, who help him take a break, step outside for fresh air, and reset his mindset. One of his fondest memories is celebrating Desert Arc's Christmas parties, moments that always bring a smile to his face. Looking ahead, he dreams of attending a rodeo to watch bull riding, an adventure he hopes to experience one day.

Through it all, Simon's story is one of joy, resilience, and the power of friendship—a true reflection of the spirit of Desert Arc.

VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION AT DESERT ARC

Love and laughter filled the air at Desert Arc's Valentine's Day celebration, thanks to the incredible efforts of the Kitchen staff, led by Matilde. The kitchen was transformed into a festive wonderland, adorned with heart-shaped balloons, vibrant tablecloths, and lively music that set the perfect mood for the occasion.

Matilde and her team went above and beyond to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where clients and staff could enjoy a special day together. The celebration featured delicious meals, cheerful decorations, and plenty of smiles. The joyful energy was contagious as everyone joined in the fun, sharing laughter and appreciation for the hardworking Kitchen staff.

This heartwarming event was a reminder that kindness and community make every holiday special. A big thank you to Matilde and her team for making Valentine's Day at Desert Arc one to remember!



HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY

