



Desert Arc CONNECTION

Palm Desert 760-346-1611

Transportation 760-404-1363

Morongo Basin 760-346-1611 x341

DESERT ARC'S 15TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC TEES UP COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Desert Arc's 15th Annual Charity Golf Classic was more than just a day on the green — it was a celebration of purpose, community, and possibility. Held at the picturesque Eagle Falls Golf Course at Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, the event brought together golfers, sponsors, and supporters for a day of sport and service in support of a vital mission.

With a full flight of players and over 180 dinner guests in attendance, the fundraiser saw strong community participation and heartfelt generosity. The event kicked off with an early morning check-in and a delicious barbecue luncheon that set a festive tone before teams headed out for the shotgun scramble tournament. Laughter, competition, and camaraderie echoed across the fairways, all in support of Desert Arc's life-changing programs.



Founded in 1959, Desert Arc has long been a champion for the rights and dignity of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Serving over 700 adults across the Coachella Valley and surrounding areas, Desert Arc's programs are person-centered and designed to empower each individual to reach their highest potential in life, work, and social connection.

"As Arnold Palmer once said, 'Always make a total effort, even when the odds are against you,'" shared Doug Watson, Desert Arc Board Chair. "That's exactly what Desert Arc has been doing for the past 66 years — turning disability into ability. Today is a reflection of that mission, fueled by every participant, donor, and sponsor who showed up to make a difference."



Paul Maloney (L) joining Edgarr Falomir (R)

The event was made possible through the contributions of many local businesses and sponsors, whose generous support ensures the continued success of Desert Arc's vital programs — from vocational training and job placement to independent living support and recreational opportunities.

As the sun set on a day filled with great shots and even greater purpose, one thing was clear: when a community comes together with a shared mission, everyone wins.

MORONGO BASIN

Hi Desert Star
56-445 29 Palms Hwy

2nd Monday / Month

May 12



COACHELLA VALLEY

PD Campus
73255 Country Club Dr

3rd Friday / Month

May 16

HOPPIN' GOOD TIMES AT DESERT ARC'S EASTER EVENTS

This spring, both the Yucca Valley and Palm Desert campuses of Desert Arc hosted their own festive Easter celebrations—each one filled with food, fun, and meaningful connection.

At both locations, clients and staff were treated to a delicious grilled lunch featuring cheeseburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda, and water. The highlight of the day was the Easter Egg Hunt, where clients excitedly searched for hidden eggs, enjoying the thrill of the hunt and the spirit of the season.

All departments joined in the festivities, including Supported Employment Programs, Individual Placement, Landscape, and Janitorial. The celebrations were a great example of how Desert Arc fosters a sense of community across all programs.

At the Yucca Valley event, clients and staff were especially excited to be joined by Vice President of Client Services, Chet Hecht, and President/CEO, Michelle Peters, whose presence added a special touch to the day.

These springtime gatherings provided a joyful opportunity for everyone to relax, reconnect, and celebrate the season together—one of those moments that truly captures the heart of Desert Arc.



Marshall Zuniga enjoys the afternoon festivities

SWEET SUCCESS FOR PERFECT ATTENDANCE!



Andrew Gomez proudly displays his Perfect Attendance certificate

We recently celebrated the end of the first quarter with a cool treat and lots of cheer at our Ice Cream Sundae Bar, held on Friday, April 25th, 2025 at the Palm Desert Campus. The event recognized 54 clients who achieved perfect attendance from January through March — an outstanding milestone!

Set on the outdoor patio between Buildings 2 & 3, the celebration featured a full sundae bar complete with vanilla ice cream (including lactose-free and sugar-free options), sprinkles, syrups, marshmallows, fruit, and more. It was a fun-filled afternoon of recognition, sunshine, and sweet rewards!

📷 Be sure to check out the photos on display in the cafeteria, spotlighting the smiling faces of our achievers. A big thank you to everyone who stopped by to support and celebrate this dedicated group!

CELEBRATING MARIO'S 83RD BIRTHDAY

Desert Arc celebrated beloved friend and longtime supporter Mario of Mario's Italian Café with a festive birthday bash!

Mario, who has employed Desert Arc clients and supported the mission for years, brought joy to the celebration with delicious food, a DJ, Harpo the Clown, and even a videographer to capture the fun.

Thank you, Mario, for decades of generosity and heart — and cheers to 83!





MAY'S MAIN COURSE



Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

**May 26th is
Memorial
Day!**

Memorial Day is a time to remember and honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in military service. Their sacrifice stands as a powerful reminder that freedom comes at a great cost. May their courage and dedication never be forgotten.

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup of fruit
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of vegetables
*1 oz. Grain
2 oz. cheese

Did You Know?

Strawberries are in season and packed with perks! Just eight of them have more vitamin C than an orange.

They're loaded with antioxidants and fiber, yet low in sugar and calories—making them a sweet and healthy spring treat. Try some in your water, yogurt, or salad!

1

Italian pasta mixed salad with pepperoni, salami, olives and mozzarella cheese. Served with garlic bread and fruit.

2

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

**CINCO
de
MAYO**

Chinese chicken salad with corn, teriyaki sauce, wonton strips, and mandarin oranges. Served with egg rolls and fruit.

6

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

7

Ham and cheese sandwich with lettuce, tomato and cheese. Served with sun chips and fruit.

8

Pepperoni pizza served with a side salad and fruit.

9

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

12

Cheeseburger with ground beef, American cheese, lettuce, tomato, mayo, ketchup and mustard. Served with chips and fruit.

13

BBQ pork sliders with coleslaw. Served with pretzels and fruit.

14

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

15

Italian pasta mixed salad with pepperoni, salami, olives and mozzarella cheese. Served with garlic bread and fruit.

16

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

19

Chinese chicken salad with corn, teriyaki sauce, wonton strips, and mandarin oranges. Served with egg rolls and fruit.

20

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

21

Ham and cheese sandwich with lettuce, tomato and cheese. Served with sun chips and fruit.

22

Pepperoni pizza served with a side salad and fruit.

23

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

26
**Closed for
Memorial Day**



27

BBQ pork sliders with coleslaw. Served with pretzels and fruit.

28

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

29

Italian pasta mixed salad with pepperoni, salami, olives and mozzarella cheese. Served with garlic bread and fruit.

30

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

SHINING STAR

For the past seven years, Desert Arc has been more than just a place to work for this client—it's been a second home filled with people who lift him up. When asked what he enjoys most, he doesn't hesitate: "The people I work with." Among them, one mentor stands out—Arturo Coronado. "He's good at teaching me skills," he shares with appreciation.

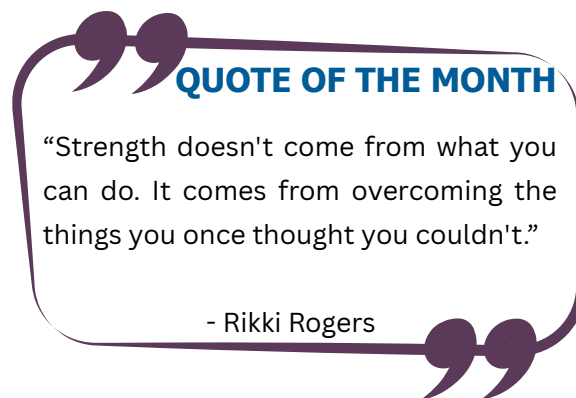
Those skills have made a meaningful impact. Working has brought a sense of pride and purpose: "Desert Arc gave me the opportunity to work, and that means a lot to me," he says. Recently, he's learned to operate part of the shredding truck—a task he takes seriously and with pride.

Outside of work, he enjoys life's simple pleasures. You'll often find him watching TV or drawing and coloring—two of his favorite hobbies. Creativity runs in the family, it seems, as he names his dad as his greatest inspiration: "He shows me many things in life."

If he could go anywhere, it would be Las Vegas to visit his aunt. But one of his favorite memories is a little closer to home—spending time at the beach with his family. His dog Rainy is also part of his world, and so are the San Francisco 49ers and the X-Men, his go-to movie.

When life presents a challenge, his philosophy is refreshingly straightforward: "I just have to go through it, and that's it." He reminds others to "appreciate every day of life," and dreams of learning to save money—a goal he's setting his sights on for the future.

With a humble heart and a determined spirit, he's showing all of us what it means to move forward with grace, no matter what.



CLIENT VOICES IN ACTION: DESERT ARC CLIENT COUNCIL RETURNS

The Desert Arc Client Council is back in action, serving as a dynamic team of clients and staff that meets every other month to enhance the client experience. The council plays a vital role in creating a platform where clients can voice their needs, concerns, and ideas, and encourages them to take an active role in shaping the programs they participate in. It also fosters collaboration between clients and staff, while providing a welcoming space for clients to connect, share experiences, and build supportive relationships.

In addition to strengthening connection and empowerment, the Client Council offers valuable information and resources about services and opportunities for personal growth and development. And of course—there's always time to have fun!

The DA Client Council is an essential tool for improving services and ensuring that the voices of clients are heard and respected. As part of his duties as client services clerical assistant, Reggie Davis will be coordinating the Client Council. Reggie brings enthusiasm, dedication, and a strong sense of community to this important role. A big thank-you goes out to Reggie and all those supporting the Client Council and its mission to empower, connect, and uplift Desert Arc clients.