



Health, Mental Health, Juvenile Intervention

For Immediate Release

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**Christopher's Clubhouse and El Sol Neighborhood Education
Take Home the Big Awards at RAP's Fast Pitch Event**

Christopher's Clubhouse took home the top prize of \$20,000 during the Regional Access Project's "Desert Fast Pitch" event Wednesday afternoon, but it was El Sol Neighborhood Education Centers that walked off with the largest amount of grant funding.

El Sol managed that feat by winning both the H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation's "Coaches Most Improved" award of \$15,000 and the "Audience Choice" award of \$10,000.

A total of six local "finalist" organizations took part in the competition, which was the culmination of months of coaching and work on their "storytelling"—the ability to quickly give a compelling account of their organization's ability to deliver vital services and its need for grant funding in order to do so.

The other organizations which qualified for the competition were About Families, Angel View, HealthCorps and Raices Cultura.

"Every organization which competes in Desert Fast Pitch is a winner because of the training they receive during the competition," says RAP's CEO Leticia De Lara. "I want to thank everyone who participated, including these six finalists, the other organizations which did not quite make it to the finals, the volunteer trainers and those who attended yesterday's event."

The Desert Fast Pitch event followed RAP's Nonprofit Communications Conference, "Changing Lives, Making Impact" at the Annenberg Center for Health Sciences in Rancho Mirage. One of the highlights of that event was guest speaker Scott Budnick, a movie producer and founder of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) sharing his story of working with incarcerated youth.

The Regional Access Project Foundation provides funding, oversight, technical assistance and guidance to tax exempt/nonprofit agencies, community based organizations, or collaborative groups which serve the populations of eastern Riverside County in the areas of health, mental health, and juvenile intervention.