

THE CEO'S REPORT

Hi everyone!

The desert community traditionally comes alive in the fall with many events scheduled for the cooler weather. There is so much that I sometimes take for granted living here year-round. This “destination” locale has so much to offer, and I hope to rediscover some of the events or places that make our desert communities so special.

Speaking of special places, a couple of my team members, Diane Morales and Betty Sanchez, joined me in attending the “Peace From Chaos Suicide Awareness” event in Blythe on September 9. This resource fair and candlelight vigil was well attended by many public and nonprofit organizations which provide essential resources to the community. The event, sponsored by RAP, was also attended by over 500 residents. This kind of attendance demonstrates increased awareness of the need for resources; it also honored those who have been lost to suicide.



Pictured above (left to right): Betty Sanchez, Angela Colangeli, George Colangeli, Lety De Lara and Diane Morales

RAP welcomed two people to our team, Betty Sanchez and Vanessa Arroniz-Espinoza, both of whom are eager to meet the challenges of NPO Centric.

Vanessa has joined the organization as the **Marketing Project Manager**. “I am looking forward to assisting nonprofits by providing them with professional development and networking opportunities,” said Vanessa. “Through my work, I hope to bring innovative ideas, improved community engagement strategies, as well as event planning, marketing, and program development.”

Betty has joined the organization as the **Community Engagement Project Manager**. “I look forward to working with as many nonprofit organizations as possible,” said Betty. “I want to help them continue to serve the needs of our community.”

For now and always, enjoy life and take care,

THE RAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECENTLY AWARDED THE FOLLOWING GRANTS:

SMALL GRANTS

- **Alzheimers Coachella Valley** - \$10,000
- **California CareForce** - \$10,000
- **CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation** - \$10,000
- **Palms to Pines Parasports** - \$10,000
- **Ronnies House For Hope** - \$10,000
- **Transgender Health and Wellness Center** - \$10,000

SPONSORSHIP

- **Palms to Pines Parasports** - \$2,500
- **MS Fitness Challenge Inc.** - \$4,748
- **Association of Fundraising Professionals, Desert Communities Chapter** - \$5,000
- **Family Service Association** - \$5,000

DESERT FAST PITCH

- **The Center Coachella** - \$22,000
- **Loma Linda University Children's Hospital** - \$17,000
- **Jewish Family Service of the Desert** - \$12,000
- **La Red Network of Family Child Care Providers** - \$7,000
- **Coachella Valley Foster Kids** - \$2,000
- **Palm Springs Indians Youth Football and Cheerleaders** - \$2,000
- **Old Town Artisans Studios** - \$2,000
- **Advancing Steps** - \$2,000
- **The Joslyn Center** - \$2,000
- **Coachella Valley Disaster Preparedness Network** - \$1,000
- **Green Room Theatre Company** - \$1,000
- **Refuge Pregnancy Center** - \$1,000
- **Steam Rocket** - \$1,000

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER, GEORGE COLANGELI

George lives in Blythe with his family, where he serves as General Manager of the Palo Verde Valley Transit Agency.

George and his wife Angela are founders of "Peace from Chaos," where he currently serves as president. He is vice-president of the Citizens on Patrol for the Blythe Police Department, a Community Oversight Committee Member for Palo Verde Unified School District and also vice-president of KERU 88.5 FM Educational Radio.



"My goal is to make an effective change for the Palo Verde Valley in improving access to mental health services," said George. "I want to contribute meaningful representation for Blythe."



Pictured above: All of the 2023 participants were recognized on stage at the event. Friday Night Lights students helped in the check presentation.

The 10th Annual Desert Fast Pitch event was held on September 21, 2023 and was probably our most successful yet.

Congratulations to our seven finalists who delivered dynamic and compelling pitches to a maximum capacity audience:

- Katie Thornton – Old Town Artisan Studios
- Melanie Lyons – The Joslyn Center
- Lex Ortega – The Center Coachella
- Walker Beverly – Advancing Steps
- Rosa Bobadilla – La Red Network of Family Child Care Providers
- Josh Zahid – Loma Linda Children’s Hospital
- Cheryl Scarlett – Jewish Family Service of the Desert

Father Greg Boyle, founder of Home Boy Industries, hit a home run with his inspirational message. We owe him a debt of gratitude for spending extra time to meet with attendees who walked away with his autographed book.



Pictured to the right: Father Boyle autographs books for attendees following his keynote.

We thank our sponsors for their financial support which made this event possible.



DESERT HEALTHCARE
DISTRICT & FOUNDATION



INTRODUCING THE NPO CENTRIC TEAM



Betty Sanchez

Betty was born in Los Angeles. At two months, her family moved to Thousand Palms, then Thermal and later to Coachella where she still lives.

Betty graduated from Coachella Valley High School and went on to graduate from UC Riverside earning a Bachelors in Sociology and Education. Her career has been dedicated to working in the community. Notably, working for the County of Riverside as a Community Improvement Specialist.

Betty is fluent in Spanish and enjoys traveling and visiting family in Jalisco, Mexico.



Vanessa Arroniz-Espinoza

A native of Long Beach and raised in Indio, Vanessa currently lives in Palm Desert. She holds a B.A. in Business Administration and Management from Cal State San Bernardino and is bilingual in Spanish.

For more than five years, she worked in the non-profit sector, including local organizations: Olive Crest, Variety the Children’s Charity of the Desert, the Desert Cancer Foundation, and the Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce (GCVCC). Her position with GCVCC as the Program and Member Experience Manager has prepared her for this position with RAP.

Vanessa enjoys playing soccer twice a week and spending time with her family.

ANNUAL NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY 2023

RAP joins the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) in recognizing the following persons for their contributions to the nonprofit community and for improving the quality of life for all:

- *Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy:* Abigail Cheley
- *Outstanding Philanthropist:* Mary Ann & Frank Xavier
- *Outstanding Volunteer Fundraising:* Lizette Vela
- *Outstanding Philanthropic Corporate:* Dr. Timothy Jochen & Lee Erwin, Contour Dermatology
- *Outstanding Nonprofit Founder:* Yadira Regla-Cuevas
- *Outstanding Fundraising Professional:* Stephanie Minor



RAP is proud of the recognition of Stephanie Minor as an honoree. Stephanie served as our NPO Centric Director for three years and continues to collaborate with us as a consultant offering her expertise in Marketing, Planning, and Results Based Accountability.

The National Philanthropy Day Awards will be presented on Friday, November 3rd.

FALL 2023 GRANTS CORNER



This fall, we're thrilled to announce an early relaunch of our Juvenile Intervention Grant. Starting on November 1, we will be accepting Letters of Intent (LOIs) from eligible nonprofit organizations. But this isn't just any ordinary grant opportunity; it's a chance to have a meaningful and long-lasting impact on the lives of young individuals aged 0-24 in our community. This year, RAP has allocated \$300,000 in cash grants and \$20,000 in technical assistance, proudly provided by NPO Centric.

The RAP Foundation is actively working to support children and young adults with access to secure, nurturing spaces where they can grow, learn, and thrive.

The Juvenile Intervention Grant aims to support programs that align with one or more of the following strategies:

- Improve awareness of and increase the number of safe, positive, and inclusive spaces for juveniles to support their social and emotional development.

- Increase and improve parent/guardian education to help juveniles thrive and gain positive, nurturing relationships.
- Promote access and support cultural competency of juvenile clients with education of language/stigma/cultural barriers to service access for youth.
- Increase and promote healthy lifestyles for juveniles, which include nutrition, fitness, and behavioral health.

COMING SOON

Here's what you should keep an eye out for in the weeks to come:

1. LOIs will be available for submission starting on **Wednesday, November 1, 2023**, and will continue to be open until **Monday, December 4, 2023, at 11:59 PM**
2. Organizations interested in applying must participate in the mandatory Bidders Meeting via Zoom, scheduled for **Monday, November 6, 2023, from 10 AM to 11 AM**. Click on the button below to confirm your attendance.

[RSVP FOR BIDDERS MEETING](#)

[CLICK TO PREVIEW THE GRANT GUIDELINES](#)

If you have any questions or need guidance, please don't hesitate to [email our Grants Manager](#).

Join us in shaping a brighter future for our youth. Together, we can make a difference that lasts a lifetime.

RAP OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR LEASE

As you may know, RAP makes space available for nonprofits at below-market rates. Currently, 25 organizations are taking advantage of not only these reduced rental opportunities but also the ability to be in the same building with other nonprofits. It makes collaboration so much easier and more effective!

Good news: RAP currently has both **office and cubicle space available**. If you and your organization find this an attractive possibility—and why not?—[contact Mireya Reyes](#).

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