



THE DOWNEY KIWANIAN

Serving the Children of the World

2026

SEPTEMBER NEWS

downeykiwanis.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With Gratitude
Dear Fellow Kiwanians,

As my term as President of the Kiwanis Club of Downey comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on what an incredible honor and privilege it has been to serve this great club.

Over the past year, I have learned so much—not only about Kiwanis, but about the remarkable history, traditions, and people who make our club what it is. The more I became involved, the more convinced I became of the strength of the Kiwanis Club of Downey and the tremendous impact we continue to have throughout the Downey community and beyond.

What makes our club special is not any single event, program, or project. It is our members. It is the willingness to show up, lend a hand, support our youth, serve our neighbors, welcome new members, and, of course, have a little fun along the way. Whether we were raising funds, awarding scholarships, supporting our Service Leadership Programs, serving at community events, or simply gathering around the table in fellowship,

I was continually reminded of what it truly means to be a Kiwanian.

Thank you to our officers, board members, committee chairs, past presidents, and every member who supported me throughout this year. Anything we accomplished was possible because of your dedication, friendship, and willingness to serve.

I am excited to pass the presidency to **Adam Dygard**. Adam has my full support, and I know he will bring his own energy, ideas, and leadership to the year ahead. I have assured him that I am at his disposal whenever needed. While I may be handing over the gavel, I am certainly not going anywhere. I look forward to returning to the ground level—rolling up my sleeves, showing up, and continuing to serve alongside all of you.

I leave the presidency with an even greater appreciation for this club than when I began. I am proud of what we accomplished together, but even more excited about what lies ahead for the Kiwanis Club of Downey.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President. It has truly been an honor.

Yours in Kiwanis,

Phil Requejo
President, Kiwanis Club of Downey
2025–2026

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The Board Member's Message – Jesse Padilla



The Power of Coming Together

Serving as President and now as Immediate Past President of the Downey Kiwanis Club has been one of the greatest joys and privileges of my life. When I look back on my time in this organization, one of the biggest lessons I have learned is the power that lies within a collective body. So much more can be accomplished when people come together with a common goal than when we try to do everything on our own. Each person brings their own talents, experiences, and ideas, but it is when those individuals work together that something truly meaningful can happen. We can see this same idea in sports. A great team is not

successful simply because it has one talented player. Even the best individual athlete cannot win a team championship alone. It takes every player doing their part, trusting one another, communicating, and working toward the same goal. Sometimes the most important contribution may not be the one that gets the most attention, but without every person working together, the team cannot reach its full potential. The same is true in our communities.

History has also shown us what people can accomplish when they unite. Communities and nations have come together to overcome immense challenges that once seemed impossible or improbable. When people put aside their differences and focus on what they can accomplish together, they can create change that no single person could have created alone. True and enduring strength does not always come from being the strongest individual—it often comes from having people beside you who are willing to work together. This is why I believe recruiting and bringing people together through the Downey Kiwanis Club is so important. Every new member brings something unique to our organization. The goal is not simply to have more members, but to bring together good people who genuinely want to give back to and serve the children of their community. When we combine our different skills, ideas, and experiences, we have the ability to make a much greater impact. I hope we can continue recruiting the best people from our community and give them an opportunity to be part of something bigger than themselves.

Being able to serve as Board Member, President and Immediate Past President of the Downey Kiwanis Club has been a true honor. Kiwanis is an international organization with a long history of serving communities and helping others, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have been given the opportunity to serve through Kiwanis at the local level. Leadership is not just about having a title; it is about having the opportunity to help others, encourage people to get involved, and work alongside others toward a shared purpose and dream of a better future for children of our community and world. My time as a Downey Kiwanian has given me experiences, memories and friendships that I will always appreciate.

One of the greatest things about giving back is that you often receive much more in return than you ever expected. Helping others can bring a sense of purpose, connection, and fulfillment that cannot always be measured. Whether it is helping a young person, supporting a family in need during the holidays, or simply making a difference in someone's day, those moments stay with you. There is something incredibly rewarding about knowing that your time and effort have helped someone else.

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." I believe that idea captures what community service and Kiwanis are all about. When we give our time, our talents, and our energy to others, we are not only helping our community—we are also building a better life for ourselves and the people around us. I am proud of the work we have accomplished together, and I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish when even more people come together through the Downey Kiwanis Club.

The Journey of the Downey Kiwanis Spinning Wheel!



If this wheel could talk, it would have plenty of Kiwanis stories to tell!

The story goes back many years to when longtime member Gary Munger built the original Downey Kiwanis spinning wheel. The inspiration apparently came after our members saw another Kiwanis club using a wheel—either during an interclub visit or at a Kiwanis convention—and thought, we need one of those!

Our club had always used fines as a fun way to recognize members while raising a little extra money for the club, but adding a spinning wheel made the tradition even more exciting. Over the years, countless members have taken their chances with a spin, creating plenty of laughs, friendly competition, recognition, and great Kiwanis memories. 🎯😄

After many years—and probably thousands of spins—our treasured wheel was definitely showing its age. So it was time for a little renovation!

The wheel took a field trip to Rancho, where some of our talented young engineers put their creativity and engineering skills to work. 🛠️⚙️ From the workshop, onto the Rancho Research Institute bus, and finally back home to the Downey Kiwanis Club, this piece of club history was repaired, refreshed, and restored to its prime form!

There was something pretty special about seeing Gary's creation spinning again at our meeting. It's a wonderful example of Kiwanis tradition meeting the next generation of innovation.

A huge THANK YOU to our Rancho team for helping preserve a little piece of Downey Kiwanis history.

The wheel is back—and ready for many more years of recognition, fundraising, laughs...and, of course, a few fines! 🎉👏

Let the spinning begin!

Service in Action at Rancho!



Another great day of service at the Rancho Los Amigos Food Project! Our Kiwanis volunteers were out in force helping distribute fresh food and produce to members of the Rancho community.

We were especially excited to have two Downey KIWIN'S members join us today! It's always wonderful to see our young leaders roll up their sleeves and serve alongside our Kiwanis members. This is what the Kiwanis family is all about—different generations coming together with one purpose: serving our community.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped make today another successful Food Project! 🥕🍎🥦

Kids Need Kiwanis—and Kiwanis needs great young leaders!

KIWIN'S Diamond Division DCM!



What a great Saturday at Furman Park in Downey as the KIWIN'S Diamond Division came together for their Division Council Meeting! 🌳☀️

It's always inspiring to see these young leaders connecting, sharing ideas, planning for the year ahead, and—of course—finding time for some food and fun together. The energy, friendship, and commitment to service these students bring is what makes the Kiwanis family so special.

Proud to support the next generation of servant leaders and excited to see all that the Diamond Division accomplishes this year! 💙💛💜

Welcome Armando Ramirez back to the Kiwanis Club



We were honored to welcome Armando Ramirez back to the Kiwanis Club and hear firsthand how his journey has continued since receiving one of our scholarships. 🎓

Armando is a Downey High School graduate and Reagan Scholarship recipient, now entering his senior year at Loyola Marymount University, where he is majoring in Finance. He is also participating in ROTC at UCLA, demonstrating an inspiring commitment to leadership, education, and service.



Looking ahead, Armando plans to attend law school and hopes to combine his background in finance and law with his military leadership experience to pursue a career in government service.

There is something especially meaningful about seeing a scholarship recipient return years later to share his progress, ambitions, and gratitude. Supporting young people like Armando is at the heart of what Kiwanis is all about — investing in their potential and watching them go on to serve and lead.

Armando, we're proud of all you've accomplished and excited to see where your journey takes you next!

A huge and heartfelt congratulations to Stephen Chu!



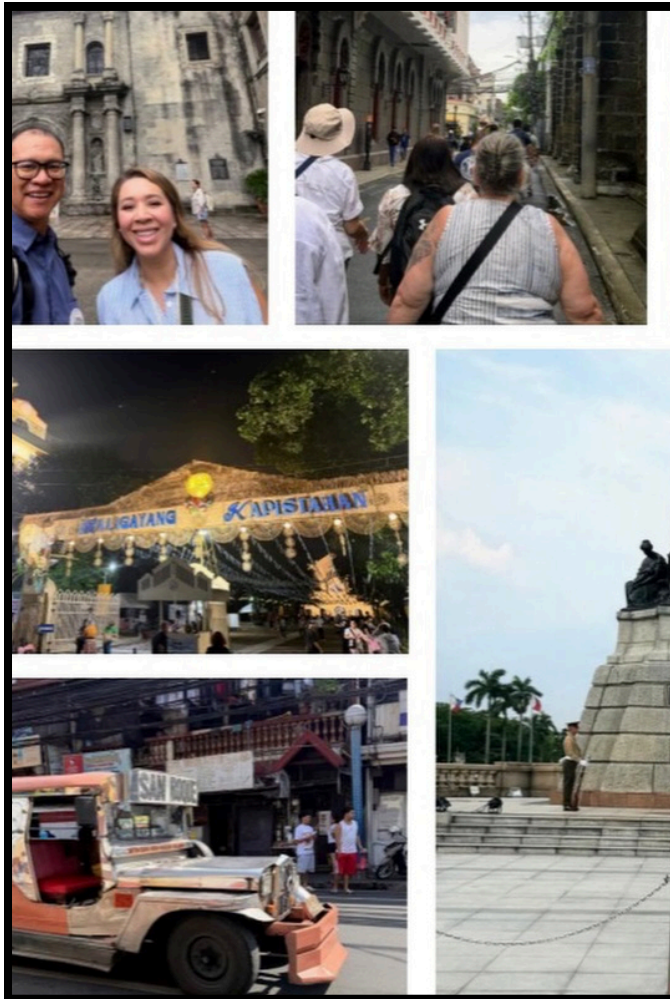
We are incredibly proud to celebrate Stephen's induction into the Cal-Nev-Ha District of Kiwanis Lt. Governor Hall of Fame, presented at the 2026 District Education Convention in Reno, Nevada! 🏆

This distinguished honor recognizes Lt. Governors who exemplify the very best of Kiwanis through benevolence, unselfishness, integrity, leadership, dedication, enthusiasm, responsibility, and spirit.

Stephen, this recognition is so well deserved. Your outstanding leadership, commitment to membership, and most importantly your dedication to serving others have made a lasting impact on Kiwanis and the communities we serve.

The plaque may have your name on it, but the real legacy is found in the lives you've touched, the members you've inspired, and the example of service and leadership you continue to set for all of us.

Such a fun evening with the Downey Kiwanis Club!



President Phil and VP-Elect Erica had the chance to give the club report and share some of the highlights, stories, and adventures from the 2026 Kiwanis International Convention in Manila, Philippines. 🇵🇭 🌐 The convention brought Kiwanis members together from around the world under the spirit of "Get together, Stay together."

From representing Downey and our Cal-Nev-Ha District, to fellowship, learning, elections, exploring Manila, and making new Kiwanis friends from across the globe there was a lot to bring home and share!

And of course, a Kiwanis meeting wouldn't be complete without some laughs, good friends, and a little fun along the way. 😊

Grateful for the opportunity to represent our club and even more grateful to be part of an organization that brings people together in service to children and our communities.

Inspiring Noon Program at the Downey Kiwanis Club!



Today's program gave our club an opportunity to learn more about the incredible work of the Rancho Violence Prevention and Recovery Program at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

Our guests shared powerful perspectives on recovery, resilience, and the life-changing impact that compassionate care and violence-prevention efforts can have on individuals, families, and our community. Their message was a great reminder that sometimes the simplest act—sharing a little kindness—can make a meaningful difference. ❤️

A special thank you to our very own Club President Phil Requejo for bringing this important and inspiring program to the Downey Kiwanis Club!

Kiwanis is about serving our community, building connections, and helping create a better future—one person and one act of kindness at a time.

The Downey Kiwanis Night Meeting



What an inspiring evening with our incredible KIWIN'S! 💙💛

The Downey Kiwanis Night Meeting had the pleasure of welcoming our KIWIN'S members as they shared highlights from their amazing experience at the KIWIN'S International Convention in Dallas, Texas. From leadership development to lifelong friendships and service opportunities, it was clear they returned energized and ready to make a difference.

To kick off the new school year, they also auctioned off a fantastic gift basket to jump-start their fundraising efforts. What a fun way to build excitement for another year of serving our community!

There is nothing more rewarding than seeing so many dedicated, motivated, and service-minded young leaders. The future is bright, and we're proud to support these outstanding students every step of the way.

KIWIN'S BEACH PALOOZA!



What an awesome day at Santa Monica Beach with KIWIN'S! 🌴🌊

Sun, sand, friends, laughter, and plenty of KIWIN'S spirit made for an unforgettable Beach Palooza! 🙌🕶️

It's always great seeing young leaders come together—not only to serve their communities, but to build friendships, make memories, and HAVE FUN along the way! 💙

Nothing beats a beautiful Southern California day at the beach with an incredible group of future leaders!

RECORD- BREAKING NIGHT at Downey Kiwanis!



What an incredible evening! We officially welcomed 4 NEW MEMBERS into the Downey Kiwanis Club! 🗝️💙

And apparently, we weren't prepared for just how many people would show up... because WE RAN OUT OF FOOD! 😂

Thankfully, one of our members jumped into action and saved the night with an emergency PIZZA DELIVERY! 🍕📞 Now THAT is teamwork!

It's exciting to see our club growing with people who are ready to serve, connect, have some fun, and make a positive difference in our community.

13th Annual City of Downey's National Night Out!



The Downey Kiwanis Club was proud to be part of this amazing community event, connecting with so many wonderful residents, families, and local organizations. Events like these remind us why we love serving Downey, it's all about building relationships, supporting one another, and making our community even stronger.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to say hello. We look forward to seeing you again soon as we continue serving the children and families of Downey!

First Key Club DCM of the Semester



The first Key Club DCM of the semester is officially in the books! 💙🔑

It was great connecting with fellow advisors from Downey, Don Bosco, and Mayfair High Schools as we prepared for an exciting semester ahead. A huge thank you to our Division 13 North Lt. Governor, Mario, for providing a thorough overview of what to expect this semester and sharing valuable fundraising ideas to help our Key Clubs thrive.

Days like today are a reminder that leadership is built through learning, collaboration, and service. Looking forward to seeing our students grow as they make a positive impact in their schools and communities.

Here's to another semester of serving, leading, and making a difference one project at a time! 💙✨

Downey Kiwanis Noon Program Spotlight



On Thursday, the Kiwanis Club of Downey had the privilege of welcoming Josefina Camacho, CEO and Founder of Mujeres en Construcción, as our featured speaker.

Josefina shared the inspiring mission of her nonprofit organization, which empowers women through personal development, healing, education, and support. From classes focused on self-esteem and restoration to domestic violence awareness and personal growth, Mujeres en Construcción is making a meaningful impact throughout our community.

Thank you, Josefina, for reminding us that when we invest in women, we strengthen families and create stronger, more resilient communities. We were also honored to present a children's book in support of your organization's work and look forward to future opportunities to collaborate in service.

Together, we can continue building a brighter future one person, one family, and one community at a time.

Club Officers and Directors 2025-2026



Phil Requejo



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Adam Dygard



President - Elect



Art Montoya



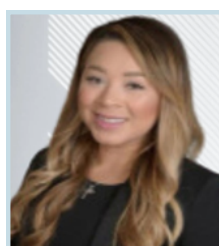
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**Rose
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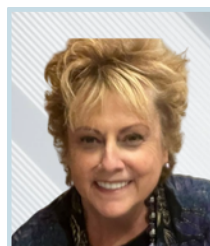
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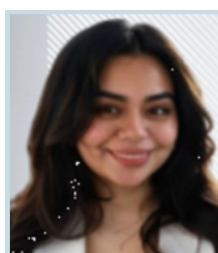
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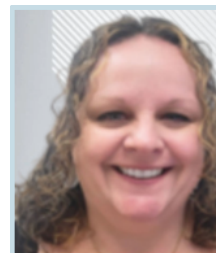
Board Member



**Stephanie
Reynoso**



Board Member



Amy Scott



Board Member



Brian Tello



Board Member

SEPTEMBER

Events

Kiwanis Happy Anniversary

Rick Lopez - 41 yrs

Rose Schneeberger- 38 yrs

Grace Kramer - 29 yrs

Happy Birthday!

Lee Powell - Sep 5

Sheetal Desai - Sep 10

Donald Ondrusek - Sep 10

Donald Ondrusek - Sep 10

Douglas Hall- Sep 20

Grace Kramer- Sep 20

Marisol Alarid- Sept 28

Vito Bello - Sep 30

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