

THE DOWNEY KIWANIAN

Serving the Children of the World

2026

AUGUST NEWS

downeykiwanis.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Kiwanians,

I hope you're all enjoying a wonderful summer and finding time to relax, recharge, and spend time with family and friends. While summer often brings a change of pace, our club has continued to make a meaningful impact throughout our community.

This past month has been filled with inspiring programs, hands-on service projects, and opportunities to celebrate the incredible people who make our club so special. From strengthening partnerships to supporting our youth and serving our neighbors, each event reminds us why Kiwanis continues to make a difference.

In this month's Downey Kiwanian, you'll find highlights of everything we've accomplished together over the past few weeks. Thank you for your continued dedication, generosity, and enthusiasm. I'm proud of all we've achieved and excited for what lies ahead as we continue serving the children and families of our community.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and service projects!

Yours in Service,

Phil Requejo
 President, Kiwanis Club of Downey

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The Board Member's Message



Hello, fellow Kiwanians!

My name is Tony Coronel, and I'm proudly navigating what I like to call my "terrible 23s." I was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, and if you meet me, you'll probably be able to tell right away that I'm a true Southern California guy.

Professionally, I work in real estate, helping clients achieve their goals and navigate important life decisions. When I'm not working, you can usually find me at the gym. Fitness is a big part of my daily routine, and I try to make time for it every day. Outside of work and workouts, I enjoy spending time with family, inviting friends over for barbecues, and connecting with neighbors and members of the community.

My family's roots trace back to Jalisco, Mexico—a region famous for its rich culture, including tequila, mariachi music, and traditional horse racing. Growing up with that heritage has given me a deep appreciation for community, hospitality, and bringing people together.

My office is located in Downey, which is where I was first introduced to Kiwanis. To be honest, before joining, I had never heard of Kiwanis—and I couldn't even pronounce it! But once I learned about the organization and met its members, I quickly realized it was a perfect fit.

Helping others has always been part of who I am. Whenever I see someone in need and know I can make a difference, I try to help without expecting anything in return. The truth is, there's a special feeling that comes from helping others overcome challenges, and that feeling is incredibly rewarding. Whether it's a neighbor, a friend, or someone halfway around the world, lending a helping hand is something I genuinely enjoy.

That's one of the reasons I'm proud to be a member of the Downey Kiwanis Club. The values of service, generosity, and community that Kiwanis promotes align closely with my own beliefs and the way I strive to live my life.

And for those who know me well, you probably know I'm also a fan of tequila! One of my long-term dreams is to create my own handcrafted tequila brand—something I can enjoy, share with others, and perhaps introduce to the world someday.

I'm grateful to be part of this amazing organization and look forward to continuing to serve alongside all of you.

Tony Coronel

Downey Kiwanis Co- Sponsors a New Kiwanis Club



Congratulations to the [@picoriverakiwanis](https://www.instagram.com/picoriverakiwanis) on their charter meeting this month!! We look forward to working together to make our communities better one child at a time! Happy to see other Kiwanis Clubs in attendance to support our newest Kiwanis Club.

A Historic Milestone for Division 13!



Congratulations to the Kiwanis Club of Pico Rivera on being officially chartered as the newest Kiwanis club in Division 13 of the Cal-Nev-Ha District, Kiwanis International!

This achievement is the result of months of dedication, teamwork, and a shared commitment to serving children and the Pico Rivera community.

A special congratulations and heartfelt thank you to our own Downey Kiwanis members, Evelyn and Tony, whose hard work, leadership, and unwavering commitment helped make this vision a reality. Your efforts have expanded the Kiwanis family and created new opportunities to make a lasting impact.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to Armando Vasquez and the Kiwanis Club of South Gate for taking on the heavy lift and providing the leadership, energy, and determination needed to bring this new club to fruition. Your commitment to growing Kiwanis is truly inspiring.

Welcome to the Kiwanis family, Pico Rivera Kiwanis! We look forward to partnering with you as we continue Serving the Children of the World—together.

One community. One mission. One growing Kiwanis family.

Volunteer for the Rancho Community



Once again, what a great day to be a Kiwanian! 💙💛

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Downey had the privilege of serving fresh fruits and vegetables to the Rancho community. It's always rewarding to lend a helping hand and help provide healthy food to our neighbors while sharing smiles and fellowship along the way.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and made today's distribution a success. Together, we're making a positive impact—one act of service at a time.

An incredible day at the 1st Annual Day at the Lake Fishing Event at Downey Wilderness Park! As part of our nation's 250th Anniversary celebration, we came together to recognize and thank the men and women who have served our country with a day filled with fishing, fellowship, food, and fun.



Fishing Event at Downey Wilderness Park!

The smiles, laughter, and stories shared along the lake reminded us that the greatest catch of the day was the opportunity to honor our veterans and build lasting connections within our community. Congratulations to all of our participants, including our Biggest Fish Award winner - Charles Whitehead!

A special thank you goes to the amazing volunteers from Downey Key Club and KIWIN'S, who showed up in full force to bait hooks, assist our veterans, serve lunch, hand out gear, and ensure everyone had a memorable experience. Your dedication to service truly reflects the Kiwanis spirit of Serving the Children of the World while honoring those who have served our nation.

Thank you to every volunteer, sponsor, donor, and community partner who made this inaugural event such a tremendous success. Here's to making Day at the Lake a tradition for years to come!

🇺🇸 Happy 250th Birthday, America and thank you to our veterans for your courage, sacrifice, and service.

Welcoming Interim Division 13 Lt. Governor Hailes Soto



This month, the Kiwanis Club of Downey had the privilege of welcoming Interim Division 13 Lt. Governor Hailes Soto as our featured speaker. It was an inspiring program that gave members the opportunity to learn more about Hailes' remarkable Kiwanis journey—from his early involvement as a Key Club member, to his leadership in Circle K International while attending UC San Diego, and ultimately to his continued commitment to serving Kiwanis at the district level.

Hailes shared how each stage of his service has shaped his passion for leadership, mentorship, and strengthening clubs throughout Division 13. He also offered a preview of his vision for the coming year, when he officially assumes the role of Lieutenant Governor. His enthusiasm for supporting clubs, developing future leaders, and expanding Kiwanis' impact throughout our communities was both motivating and encouraging.

We are especially grateful to Hailes for stepping in as Interim Lieutenant Governor while our own Doug Hall. His dedication and willingness to serve during this time exemplify the spirit of Kiwanis leadership.

Thank you, Hailes, for sharing your story and your vision with our club. We look forward to working alongside you and wish you every success as you prepare to lead Division 13 in the coming year.

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

Members of the Downey Kiwanis Club had the privilege of spending the afternoon at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, one of Downey's most iconic institutions.

From seeing the historic iron lungs that tell the story of Rancho's remarkable legacy, to visiting the world-renowned Pathokinesiology Laboratory and the Don Knabe Wellness Center, the



experience was both inspiring and meaningful. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the life-changing work being done every day to advance rehabilitation, research, and hope for people with disabilities. We are grateful to Rancho for opening its doors and sharing its incredible history and vision for the future.

Downey Kiwanis Roundtable!



Great conversations, great company, and another great Downey Kiwanis Roundtable!

This month's roundtable was a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow members, welcome our guests, and share ideas on how we can continue making a positive impact in our community.

We also took time to celebrate the birthdays of three of our amazing members! Wishing Ed, Phil, and Bob a year filled with good health, happiness, and continued service.

Thank you to everyone who joined us—we're always grateful for the friendships, fellowship, and commitment that make our club so special. If you're interested in making a difference in Downey, we'd love to have you join us at a future meeting!

Downey Kiwanis Celebrates Independence Day



We kicked off our Independence Day celebration at Thursday's Downey Kiwanis Nighthawk meeting by celebrating something truly inspiring, the promise of our future.

We were honored to welcome Xiomara Elizarraras, a proud Downey Kiwanis Scholarship recipient and current Stanford University student studying international law.

Xiomara shared her journey of growing up in Downey, graduating from Downey High School, and pursuing her dreams at one of the world's leading universities. Her story is a powerful reminder of why we invest in our youth because today's students become tomorrow's leaders. We are incredibly proud of Xiomara and can't wait to see the impact she'll make in the years ahead. Thank you for inspiring us and for representing Downey so well!

Happy Independence Day! 🇺🇸 Together, we continue building a brighter future one student, one scholarship, and one act of service at a time.

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



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



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President - Elect



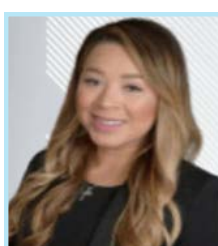
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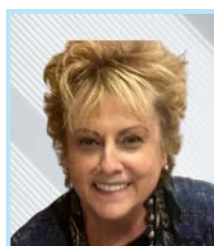
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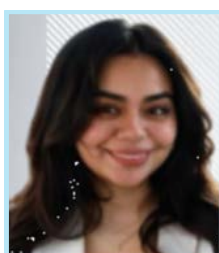
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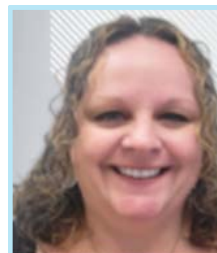
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AUGUST *Events*

Kiwanis Happy Anniversary

Gary Nesbit - 43 yrs

Blanca Galicia- 16 yrs

Guadalupe Sarofeem - 7 yrs

Lenet Pacheco- 1 yr

Happy Birthday!

Leslie Jones - August 3

Daniela Sanchez - August 3

Cheryl Chu - August 8

Mario Trujillo - August 13

Alex Torres - August 17

Howard Friedman- August 19

Fernando Vasquez- August 26

Argentina Davila-Luevano-
August 29

Blanca Galicia - August 29

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CENTURY 21
Allstars
9155 Telegraph Rd, Pico Rivera,
CA 90660



DRE #02113392

TLD LAW

Roy J. Jimenez Partner
P. 562.923.0971 | D. 562.283.2335 | F. 866.831.7302
3900 Kilroy Airport Way Suite 240, Long Beach, CA. 90806
www.tldlaw.com f t in
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