

THE DOWNEY KIWANIAN
Serving the Children of the World

2 0 2 6

JUNE NEWS

downeykiwanis.org

The President's Message
"On to Manila"



It is with great excitement and humility that Vice President-Elect Erica Vasquez and I will be representing the Kiwanis Club of Downey at the 2 0 2 6 Kiwanis International Convention in Manila, Philippines.

This convention presents a wonderful opportunity to once again witness the impact of our great organization on the international stage, connect with fellow Kiwanians from around the world, and participate in the important process of electing the next generation of Kiwanis leaders. These gatherings remind us that while our service begins locally, our mission and reach extend far beyond our own communities.

For me personally, this journey carries a deeper significance. I never would have imagined that I would one day return to the very place where I was born—the roots of my origin and an important part of my identity. To travel back to Manila is meaningful in itself, but to do so as an American and, most importantly, as a proud Downey Kiwanian makes this experience truly special.

As we represent our club abroad, we will carry with us the spirit of service, fellowship, and dedication that defines the Kiwanis Club of Downey. Erica and I look forward to sharing our experiences upon our return and bringing back new ideas, inspiration, and connections that will help strengthen our club and our service to the community.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president. We are honored to represent each of you on this international stage.

Yours in Service,

Phil Requejo
President, Kiwanis Club of Downey

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Celebrating Our Graduating Key Club Seniors and Looking Ahead



As another school year comes to a close, we proudly celebrate our graduating Key Club seniors as they embark on exciting new journeys in college, careers, military service, and other life pursuits. These outstanding students have dedicated countless hours to serving their schools, communities, and the ideals of Key Club. Through their leadership, volunteerism, and commitment to making a positive difference, they have left a lasting impact on those around them. We congratulate each of our graduates and thank them for their contributions to Key Club. While we will miss their energy and leadership, we are excited

to see all they will accomplish in the years ahead. Once a Key Club member, always a member of the Kiwanis family, and we hope they continue a lifelong commitment to service wherever life takes them.

As we say farewell to our seniors, we also look forward to welcoming our new student leaders who will guide Key Club into the upcoming Fall school year. The future is bright, and we are excited to see fresh ideas, new initiatives, and continued enthusiasm for serving our communities. We wish our incoming officers and leadership teams great success as they prepare for another outstanding year of service and fellowship.

Meanwhile, members of the Kiwanis family around the world are eagerly anticipating the upcoming Kiwanis International Convention this June in Manila, Philippines. This exciting event will bring together Kiwanis members from across the globe to celebrate service, exchange ideas, and strengthen friendships that span continents.

Convention attendees will participate in educational workshops, leadership development sessions, and discussions focused on growing clubs and expanding service projects that benefit children and communities worldwide. Members will also have opportunities to learn about innovative programs, hear from inspiring speakers, recognize outstanding achievements, and help shape the future direction of Kiwanis International. Beyond the educational opportunities, the convention provides a unique chance to experience the rich culture and hospitality of the Philippines while building lasting connections with fellow Kiwanians from around the world. We look forward to hearing about the experiences, insights, and inspiration our attendees bring back from Manila as they continue their efforts to serve children and strengthen our communities.

Congratulations again to our graduating Key Club seniors, best wishes to our incoming student leaders, and safe travels to all those representing our Kiwanis family at the Kiwanis International Convention. The spirit of service continues to thrive, and we are excited for all that lies ahead. Hail Kiwanis!

Art Montoya, JD, MBA

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The Board Member's Message

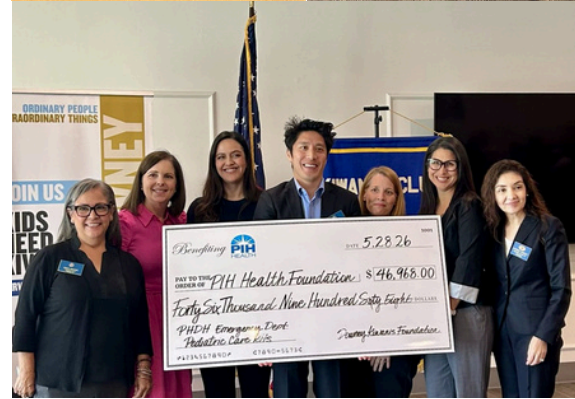
Downey Kiwanis Club Member Guest Lunch

What an incredible afternoon at our Downey Kiwanis Club Member Guest Lunch! 🌟 We were thrilled to welcome a full house of members, guests, community leaders, and future Kiwanians who came together to learn more about how service can transform lives. A special thank you to our featured speaker, Dr. Roger Brossmer, Superintendent of Downey Unified School District, whose inspiring message touched everyone in the room. Drawing from both his professional journey and personal experiences, he shared the joy of watching students grow into leaders including some who have become proud members of the Downey Kiwanis Club. His stories were a powerful reminder that investing in young people creates a lasting ripple effect throughout our community. We were also honored to showcase the impact of the Downey Kiwanis Foundation, including support for children's programs and community initiatives that are changing lives every day. Seeing the difference our members and donors make reinforces why we proudly say:

♥ Kids Need Kiwanis.

Thank you to everyone who attended, our guests who explored membership opportunities, and our dedicated members who continue to make service a priority.

Together, we're building a stronger community—one child, one family, and one act of service at a time.



Every month, members of the Downey Kiwanis Club show up to support the Rancho Food Project because the need in our community continues to grow. Behind every food distribution are families facing rising costs, seniors living on fixed incomes, and hardworking individuals doing their best to make ends meet. Food insecurity is not an abstract issue — it's impacting our neighbors every single day.

What makes this partnership so meaningful is the consistency. These volunteers continue to give their time, energy, and compassion month after month, helping ensure that people are treated with dignity while receiving the support they need.

Community impact happens when organizations and individuals commit to showing up — not once, but continually.

Grateful for the leadership and servant-hearted example of the Downey Kiwanis Club and everyone involved in making the Rancho Food Project possible.

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Rancho Food Project

Downey Coordinating Council's 70th Community Service Awards Event



What an incredible evening celebrating service, leadership, and community at the Downey Coordinating Council's 70th Community Service Awards Event.

This special event honored the many outstanding service organizations that make the City of Downey such a strong and compassionate community. From volunteers to nonprofits to civic leaders, the evening was a reminder that real change happens when people come together to serve others.

We were especially proud to see the Downey Kiwanis Club recognize the Sarofeem Family with the Distinguished Service Award. They exemplify servant leadership through their dedication, generosity, and commitment to helping others while managing multiple businesses and college responsibilities. They serve and lead by example - as a family.

Again, congratulations to the Sarofeem family and to all of this year's honorees for your commitment to making Downey a better place for everyone. Your service inspires us all. 🌟



Congratulations to the El Rancho High Key Club Seniors on receiving their graduation stoles and medallions! 🎓

These students have demonstrated outstanding commitment to leadership, service, and community involvement throughout their high school journey. Their dedication reflects the core values of Key Club and the positive impact young leaders can make in their schools and communities.

A special thank you to the Downey Kiwanis for generously providing the graduation stoles and medallions. Your continued support and mentorship help inspire the next generation of servant leaders.

We are incredibly proud of our seniors and look forward to all they will accomplish in the future.



El Rancho High Key Club Seniors

The Downey Kiwanis Roundtable

Community. Service. Fellowship. ✨

The Downey Kiwanis Roundtable at The Olive Restobar was filled with good cheers, shared ideas, and a passion for serving our community. ❤️

If you have the heart for service and making a positive impact, we invite you to come and join us! Together, we can continue building a stronger and more connected community. 🍷

We also celebrate the birthday of our amazing club secretary, Rose Scheneberger! 🎉🥳 Thank you for your dedication, leadership, and commitment to Kiwanis. Wishing you joy, blessings, and continued success!



Celebrating an unforgettable year of service, leadership, and dedication at the Lakewood High School Key Club DCON! ❤️❤️

🏆 Swipe to see our amazing members receiving their well-earned service awards at DCON.

🎓 Our seniors proudly wearing their graduation stoles & medals as they prepare for their next chapter.

🌸 Incoming President Jessika Nguok presenting thank you flowers to our incredible past president and senior, Isabella Acebo, for her outstanding leadership and commitment to our club.

We are so proud of everything our members have accomplished this year and grateful for the memories, friendships, and service we've shared together. Congratulations seniors — your legacy will continue to inspire us! ✨



Lakewood High School Key Club DCON!

El Rancho High 5K



Service is more than passing out water — it's about showing up for our community with heart, purpose, and pride. 💙💛

Today, the El Rancho Key Club proudly supported the El Rancho High 5K, helping make this community event a success while continuing to live out the spirit of service above self.

A special thank you to Evelyn and Tony Aguilar for your leadership, dedication, and commitment to expanding the Kiwanis Family in Pico Rivera. Your service comes straight from the heart, and it inspires the next generation to lead through action. 🙌



Noon Downey Kiwanis Program

Inspiring leadership, service, and empowerment at our Noon Downey Kiwanis Program! ✨

We were honored to welcome Marlena Martin, Founder & Executive Director of Woman of Achievement (@internationalwoapageant), as our featured speaker. 🙌💙

Marlena shared the incredible mission behind the Woman of Achievement program — empowering women through leadership, education, community service, public speaking, scholarship opportunities, and personal growth. Her work continues to uplift women of all ages while encouraging confidence, purpose, and meaningful community impact. ✨

From supporting heart health awareness and youth development to recognizing excellence in service and education, Marlena's passion for helping others shines through everything she does. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn more about the positive difference Woman of Achievement is making in our communities and beyond. 🙌

Thank you, Marlena, for inspiring us to continue serving with purpose and building stronger communities together. 🙌

Downey High School Prom

A little community love goes a long way 💙🌟

So proud of our Downey Kiwanis members, Evelyn and Tony Aguilar, for preparing and delivering corsages and boutonnieres to students from Columbus High attending their High School Prom tonight.

Partnering with Julie Garcia and the What's Up Crew to support the children of Downey is exactly what community service is all about, showing up with heart, kindness, and love.

Moments like these remind us why we do what we do 🌟
Join Downey Kiwanis and be part of making a difference in the lives of our youth and our community



Club Officers and Directors 2025-2026



Phil Requejo

President



Adam Dygard

President - Elect



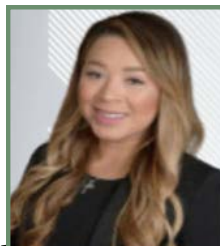
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Rose Schneeberger

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Erica Vasquez

Asst. Secretary



Leslie Jones

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Gary Nesbit

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Jesse Padilla

Immediate Past President



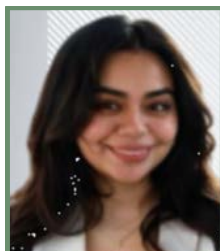
Stephen Chu

Board Member



Jason Cierpiszewski

Board Member



Stephanie Reynoso

Board Member



Amy Scott

Board Member



Brian Tello

Board Member

JUNE Events

Kiwanis
Happy Anniversary

Rich Lehn (29 years)

Leslie Jone (13 years)

Don Ondrusek (16 years)

Carmen Palo (16 years)

Jose Cervantes (7 years)

Jesse Padilla (7 years)

Horacio Ortiz (4 years)

Adam Dygard (4 years)

Amy Scott (4 years)

JC Andrade (4 years)

Erica Vasquez (4 years)

Stephanie Reynoso (2 years)

Happy Birthday!

Rich Velasquez (June 2)

Rick Lopez (June 3)

Carmen Palo (June 7)

Mustafa Naqui (June 11)

Donna Vasquez (June 17)

Evelyn Aguilar (June 19)

Roman Saenz (June 22)

Sarah Sarofeem (June 22)

Sam Sarofeem, Jr (Jun 23)

Efferem Sanchez (June 30)

Proud Sponsors of the Downey Kiwanis Club Website



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