



June 2025 Newsletter

[Join us for happy hour and keep philanthropy coverage flowing](#)



WINE DOWN WEDNESDAY

Wednesdays from 5-7 all summer long!
Enjoy wine tasting and apps, only \$15!
Proceeds benefit a different local charity each week.

Please join us June 25th at
Kitchen 86 on El Paseo
to mix and mingle for The Desert Community News Fund

**KOOL
95.9fm**

Kitchen 86
21st Floor

iecf
Inland Empire
Community
Foundation

Coachella
Valley
Journalism
Foundation

**Q102.3
CLASSIC
ROCK**

**SHOTTEKIRK
DESERT LEXUS**

**DESERT
COMMUNITY NEWS
FUND**

Golden Palms
Senior Living Center

Every summer, Marker Broadcasting, the owner of five radio stations in the Valley, does something special for Coachella Valley non-profits. It hosts Wine Down Wednesday, a weekly fundraising opportunity for charitable causes.

It's our turn on Wednesday, June 25!

The Inland Empire Community Foundation and the Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation are partnering to provide financial support for The Desert Sun's coverage of philanthropy and nonprofit news, and we were selected by Marker Broadcasting to receive the proceeds from the June 25 event.

So, join us at Kitchen 86 in Palm Desert (73-130 El Paseo) for a 5-7 pm happy hour.

An admission charge of just \$15 gets you unlimited wine and appetizers, and the proceeds will help ensure coverage of the non-profit community in The Desert Sun.

A quick word on grants awarded by CVJF so far in 2025

We're nearly halfway through the year so we wanted to provide you with a quick glance at the initiatives we've funded with your generous contributions:

- Underwrote the salary of The Desert Sun's opinion editor through the first quarter of 2025 when Nicky Loomis decided to leave the news organization. CVJF's focus has now shifted to supporting the newspaper's coverage of philanthropy and nonprofits.

- Granted five news organizations money to hire interns or fellows this summer. The organizations are: The Coachella Valley Independent, The Desert Sun, El Informador Del Valle, KESQ, and The Palm Springs Post.
- Launched a dollar-for-dollar fundraising campaign to help the new Indio Post with start-up costs. CVJF will match all contributions up to \$12,000.
- Provided The Desert Sun with a small grant to purchase two pairs of safety boots for its journalists, specifically photographers, who cover wildfires across Southern California.

These initiatives could not have been possible without your help. Of course, we'd like to do more. [Click here](#) to support our efforts. Thank you for all you do!

"Desert Images" photographs are available online



Our "Desert Images: Newsmakers" exhibition of some of the best photojournalism in the Coachella Valley has wrapped up, but that doesn't mean you have missed out on taking one of these prized images home. The framed photographs of famous athletes, politicians, and entertainers in the Coachella Valley are still available via our website. [Click here](#) to view the images and purchase your favorite photograph. Proceeds will fund an

internship for a photojournalism student in Valley newsrooms. The exhibition will be on display again in July at the Stephen Baumbach Gallery. Stay tuned for more details.

Two Valley newsrooms score wins as some of the best in California



Congratulations to The Desert Sun and The Coachella Valley Independent. Both newsrooms took home top prizes at the recent California News Publishers Association's journalism awards. Among medium-sized newspapers, The Desert Sun was honored in 32 categories, including first place for breaking news,

environment reporting, feature photography, and in-depth reporting. The Coachella Valley Independent was recognized in 24 categories among small daily newspapers and weeklies. It won top honors for best newsletter, homelessness reporting, and fine arts writing.

Call for volunteers. Help us make our community events successful

We have a devoted cadre of volunteers who help us manage our community events, from set up to guest relations, but we can always use more. If you're interested in helping us from time to time, send an email to info@cvjf.org. We're particularly interested in finding a volunteer

coordinator who would serve as a liaison between volunteers and board members. Volunteering with us is a great way to meet the journalists who work in our Valley and others who understand the importance of local news.

You can help us achieve our fundraising goals via the Fourth Estate Membership Program

Lastly, we want to thank you again for the support you've shown CVJF this fiscal year. We've enrolled an incredible 115 people in our Fourth Estate Membership Program. In fact, we're just \$5,000 away from raising \$200,000 for the year. We'd love to end the year surpassing the \$200,000 mark. If you haven't already, please consider joining the membership program. Each level comes with specific benefits you receive in exchange for your financial commitment. For example, joining at the "Defender" level comes with two tickets to our popular Hall of Fame luncheon, while joining at the "Supporter" level or above comes with a complimentary one-year membership to one of five local historical societies. See [details here](#).

As always, thank you for supporting and celebrating local journalists.

Randy Lovely, Board President
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To donate go to our website and click the donate button using a credit or debit card or send a check to the Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation to PO Box 207, Palm Springs, CA 92263.