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KIWANIAN**

**SERVING THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD**

kiwanis.org

P.O. Box 793, Downey, CA 90241

downeykiwanis.org

MAY 5, 2025

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# Downey Kiwanis Finest Hour



## The 2025 Scholarship Banquet

THE DOWNEY KIWANIAN

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## The Objects of Kiwanis International

The six permanent Objects of Kiwanis International were approved by Kiwanis Club delegates at the 1924 Convention in Denver, Colorado. Through the succeeding decades they have remained unchanged.

To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.

To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.

To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.

To develop by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship.

To provide through Kiwanis Clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build better communities.

To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and good will.

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## Notes from President Designate Phil Requejo

I'll start with a small confession: I wasn't a Key Club or KIWIN member in high school nor Circle K in college. I knew who they were — those standout students organizing events, raising funds, volunteering with a smile — but back then, I guess I was focused on other things (probably less noble, definitely less organized, and probably far less productive!). At the time, I appreciated what they represented, but I didn't fully realize the impact those early seeds of service could grow into later in life.

Fast forward a few decades, and here I am — a relatively new member of the Kiwanis Club of Downey, wondering why it took me so long to find my way here. I had been asked to join Kiwanis several times in the past, but like many busy professionals, I always managed to find a reason to defer: "Maybe later, when work slows down," or "Maybe after this project is completed." (Guess what: the work never really slows down.)

What finally convinced me? It wasn't a grand epiphany — it was the people. During my time working in Downey, I was lucky to meet and work alongside so many wonderful individuals, many of whom were Kiwanians. Over time, I saw how deeply Kiwanis supported the Downey community, and in particular, Rancho Los Amigos and the patients we serve. Kiwanis was *there*



— quietly, faithfully, making a difference without needing fanfare or applause.

As the CEO of Rancho Research Institute at Rancho, whose mission is to improve the lives of people with disabilities, I realized that Kiwanis wasn't a separate path from my professional journey — it was a natural extension of it. The ideals of service, community, and compassion that drive Kiwanis are the same ideals that led me to Rancho more than 25 years ago. Joining Downey Kiwanis didn't feel like starting something new — it felt like continuing something important. It just made sense.

When I reflect on why I joined and what I hoped to gain, I'll be honest — I did not have a checklist of personal benefits or professional goals. I didn't join to network or to build a résumé. I joined because it felt like the right thing to do. I joined because every time I attended a Kiwanis event or spoke with a member, I left feeling more hopeful about the world than when I arrived.

That kind of positive energy is rare — and it's contagious.

What I appreciate most about Kiwanis is that it's a place where you don't have to "hustle." You don't have to put on airs or constantly sell yourself. You show up, you serve, and you connect — authentically. It reminds me why community truly matters. That's something you can't put a price on.

To all the longtime Kiwanis members — I salute you! Your commitment and experience are inspiring, and I look forward to learning from each of you as I continue to find my footing. And to those who are newer or still thinking about joining but might feel hesitant because you don't have a long history with Kiwanis — trust me, it's okay. Whether you're a seasoned Kiwanis scholar with a chest full of pins or someone still trying to memorize the "Hail Kiwanis" club song, there's room for all of us. Jump in, learn as you go, and enjoy the journey. You never know — you might even get voted in to be the next president of the Downey Kiwanis Club!

At the end of the day, being part of Downey Kiwanis reminds me that community service isn't about having a perfect résumé or a long list of accolades. It's about showing up, lending a hand, sharing a laugh, and building something bigger than yourself. I'm grateful to be part of it — and excited for the journey ahead.



Downey Kiwanis members from left to right, Erica Vasquez, Stephanie Reynoso, and Leslie Jones received guests to the Scholarship Banquet.

## Downey Kiwanis 2025 Scholarship Banquet



The Downey Kiwanis Foundation awarded college scholarships to 48 Downey and Lakewood high school graduates, with total value of \$134,000. The Foundation also awarded \$2,000 to the “Teacher of the Year” of Downey, Warren, and Columbus High Schools.



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF DOWNEY



## Downy Kiwanis Inducts Two New Members



Maria Hernandez, left and Neelam “Rain” Negan were inducted as Downey Kiwanis members during the April 6 evening meeting.

Congratulations to the new Kiwanians!!

## Downey Kiwanis Distinguished Servants



Downey Kiwanis Club Vice President Adam Dygard (left) and Tony Aguilar (not pictured) received the 2025 Cal-Nev-Ha Foundation Distinguished Service for their outstanding service to Downey Kiwanis Club. Presenting the award to Adam were from left to right Downey Kiwanis President-Designate Phil Requejo, Cal-Nev-Ha District Governor Doug Frost and Division 13 Lt. Governor Stephen Chu.



Members of the Downey Kiwanis Casino Night Committee met at Horacio Ortiz's El Pescador in Monte Bello to debrief the Downey Kiwanis Pot O' Gold Casino Night, and to share ideas for the 2026 event. Pictured from left to right: Erica Vasquez, Doug Hall, Horacio Ortiz, Leslie Jones, Olga Rojas, Diana Padilla, Jesse Padilla, Stephanie Reynoso, Ed Schneeberger, and Rose Schneeberger.

Thank you Horacio for the delicious dinner and libations!!



Two Dodgers Hello Kitty pillows from Ed and Rose Schneeberger bring a big smile to Downey Kiwanian Efferem Sanchez's face during the April 17th round table at The Olive Restobar in Downey. Hail Kiwanis!!

## Downey Kiwanis Serves Its Community



Thirteen members of the Downey Kiwanis Club participated in the Rancho Los Amigos Hospital/Downey Kiwanis Club April Food Project. From left to right, Phil Requejo, Ed Schneeberger, Ash Patel, Doug Hall, Evelyn Aguilar, Maria Hernandez, Leslie Jones, Daisy Vargas, Rose Schneeberger, Jason Cierpiszewski, Guadalupe Sarofeem, Sam Saerofeem, Jr. and Sarah Sarofeem. Also in the picture are Rancho Los Amigos staff members, Brenda Morales and Zack Deere in the back row, and Jamie Krantz in the front.

## April Round Table



The Downey Kiwanis Round Table on April 17 at The Olive Restobar was another great gathering. We encourage all our members to join us and to bring a prospective member as we strive to fulfill the club's centennial membership goal of 100 for 100. We meet on the third Thursday of the month at the Olive Restobar for a delicious lunch and the opportunity to visit and network.

The May round table will take place on May 15 at Noon.

## SLP HIGHLIGHTS



Pictured above Cal-Nev-Ha District Governor Doug Frost and Governor-Designate Steve Geraci thank the outgoing KIWIN'S Officers and install the 2025-26 officers at the KIWIN'S District Convention in Woodland Hills.

Pictured below, Downey High School KIWIN'S flanked by KIWIN'S Diamond Division Advisors Ed and Rose Schneeberger to the left and Stephanie Reynoso Downey KIWIN'S Club Advisor, at the 2025 KIWIN'S Convention in Woodlands Hills.

## SLP HIGHLIGHTS



Pictured above, Downey Kiwanis Advisor for Lakewood Key Club, Douglas Hall delivered Kiwanis stoles to graduating members of the Lakewood Key Club.

Pictured below, KIWIN'S Diamond Division Lt. Gov. Ruben Zamarripa was recognized as a Distinguished Lt. Governor by KIWIN'S District Administrator Anna Wu during the 2025 KIWIN'S Convention.

## SLP HIGHLIGHTS



Downey Kiwanians Phil Requejo, Ed Schneeberger, Maria Hernandez, and Michelle Anaya, Downey Kiwanis Advisor for the St. Raymond Builders Club, joined the St. Raymond students on the mural painting project on Saturday, May 3.

# May 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 <a href="#">12:00 pm Rio Hondo Gangs Out of Downey</a> <a href="#">5:00 pm Board Meeting- Zoom</a>	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 <a href="#">12:00 pm Olive Restobar Roundtable</a>	16	17
18	19	20 <a href="#">Horacio Ortiz Birthday</a>	21 <a href="#">Amy Scott Birthday</a>	22 <a href="#">12:00 pm Stonewood Center Vito Bello</a>	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 <a href="#">12:00 pm Rio Hondo AED Training Downey Fire Dpt.</a>	30 <a href="#">Rose Schneeberger Birthday</a>	31



## Keeping Up With



**CAL-NEV-HA**  
Children's Fund



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**ORDINARY PEOPLE  
EXTRAORDINARY THINGS**


**JOIN US**


**KIDS  
NEED  
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*Since 1924*

**DOWNEY**





### May Birthdays

Horacio Ortiz	May 20
Amy Scott	May 21
Rose Schneeberger	May 30



THE DOWNEY KIWANIAN

### Kiwanis Anniversaries

Fernando Vasquez	17 yrs
Deanne Sharp	5 yrs



## ***Kiwanis Club of Downey 2024 - 2025 Leadership Team***



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Pres-Elect Phil Requejo



Vice-President Adam Dygard



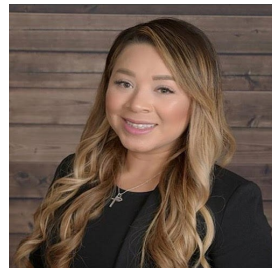
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Assist. Treasurer Gary Nesbit



Secretary Rose Schneeberger



Assist. Secretary Erica Vasquez

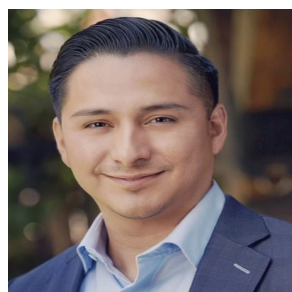


Immed. Past Pres. Jason Cierpiszewski

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JC Andrade



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Amy Scott



Deanne Sharp

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