



PHOTO: COURTESY OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF TUCSON

Mark Irvin Wins Presidential Award

By Christy Krueger

President Barack Obama recognized one of Tucson's most dedicated volunteers for a lifetime of unselfish service to the community.

Mark Irvin, managing member of Mark Irvin Commercial Real Estate Services, was one of four people in the region to receive a 2011 Lifetime President's Volunteer Service Award.

A 21-year board member for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson, Irvin was presented with the prestigious honor at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Pacific Professional Leadership Conference in Las Vegas on Oct. 12.

Since 1990, Irvin has made a difference for thousands of at-risk youth in Tucson who lacked positive influences in their lives. Four years after joining the BGCT board, Irvin was elected president. He was co-founder of the Holiday Auction, The Event and The Party – all major fundraising projects for the organization.

Irvin created the Click Founders Circle and helped raise more than \$2.5 million in operating funds for the Jim and

Vicki Click Clubhouse.

"To me, it's always been about the kids and making a difference about something I feel strongly for," Irvin said. "I've made some of my best friends through the Boys & Girls Clubs, but the best part is I get to see the smiling faces of hundreds of kids every time I walk into a clubhouse."

Numerous other local organizations have benefited from Irvin's efforts, including Rotary Club of Tucson, Southern Arizona Leadership Council and Pima Community College Foundation.

As a child, Armando Rios was a beneficiary of the BGCT programs. Rios grew up at the clubs, joined the board at age 22 and was the first former club member and first Hispanic to become president of the board. Today, Rios is its executive director and CEO.

"Mark Irvin has pioneered or spearheaded almost all of our major events, fundraisers, collaborations, partnerships and

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– Mark Irvin, Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson

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strategic directions,” Rios said. “His energy and relationships with key donors has inspired me and so many others to think of something bigger than ourselves. He’s a hero to me, our board, our community and especially to our kids.”

Board members agree with Rios’ portrayal. Jana Westerbeke, owner of Gadabout SalonSpas, said, “He is a man driven with passion and love for the youth of our community. It is an honor, privilege and inspiration to work by Mark’s side on this wonderful board of directors.”

Bob Gugino, of Gugino & Mortimer, added, “Mark and I joined the board of the BGCT on the same day in 1990 and I have been privileged to work with him and, more importantly, have him become a very close friend. He continually energizes other board members and always leads by example. The President’s Volunteer Service Award is an honor which Mark well deserves.”

Patty Howard, BGCT board president, has a theory about why Irvin is physically such a tall, imposing person. “The closer friends we’ve become, the more obvious it is that he needs all that physical space to store the big ol’ heart that beats inside his body. Mark will simply stop at nothing to get help for a kid who’s neglected, underserved or forgotten. It’s an honor to witness the good he puts out in the world.”

Added Jim Click: “There is no one who has worked more tirelessly on behalf of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson than Mark Irvin. We are lucky to have Mark on our team. His passion and commitment are unsurpassed.”

In the two years since meeting Irvin, Bill Shaw, president and general manager of KVOA, said they’ve become close friends. “Mark has made incredible contributions to the community. I have worked on charities for a lot of years, but it is nothing when compared to Mark.”

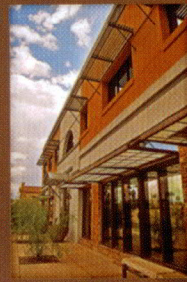
Nobody knows Irvin better than wife, Janine. “Mark gives much of his time to advise many nonprofit organizations in Tucson. More under the radar is the money that he and his monthly wine dinner group raise and donate to help local military families around the holidays. He is loving, kind-hearted, very smart and has a great sense of humor. These are only a few of the reasons that I married him.”

Said Lorraine Morgan, vice president of communications and fund development for BGCT, “Mark has rolled up his sleeves for the kids who have the least and need the most. When Mark Irvin looks you in the eye and says, ‘It’s all about the kids,’ there is absolutely no doubt that he means this from the bottom of his very big heart.”

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