

Riverside Living

MAGAZINE



Edwin Gomez, Ed.D.

*“Education Is The Most Powerful
Profession In The World.”*

Cover photo by Racz Photography

February 2022

Ascend

CHECKING

“
**Did I Mention
It's Free?**
”

SARAH JOHNSON
Member Since 2017

» **No monthly
maintenance fee**

» **Free credit
monitoring***

» **Dividends earned
on higher balances****

Take control of your finances with Altura's FREE checking account, Ascend. It's an account with everything you need built-in, like free credit monitoring, free ID theft protection, and no monthly maintenance fees. Along with our amazing mobile app, you can view your account activity anytime. It all helps in making you feel a bit more—well, free!

AlturaCU.com/RivLiving | **866-958-5576**



Federally Insured by NCUA

Minimum balance requirements: The minimum balance required to open this account is \$25.00. Transaction limitations: No transaction limitations apply to this account unless otherwise specified in the account details (accessible at AlturaCU.com/Fees). Fees and Charges: No monthly maintenance fee.

* Active Membership (An existing loan in good standing or at least 5 monthly transactions using your debit or credit card) required for anytime credit score.

** The dividend for Tier I annual percentage yield will be paid on accounts maintaining an average daily balance of \$10,000.00 during the statement cycle and the dividend for Tier II annual percentage yield will be paid on accounts maintaining an average daily balance of \$50,000.00 during the statement cycle. Any account not qualifying for Tier I or Tier II will not earn dividends.

Riverside Living

MAGAZINE

Headquartered in Riverside, CA
Telephone (951) 536-2753
info@riversidelivingmag.com

PUBLICATION TEAM

CEO/Publisher: Norm Pelzer
Creative Director: Julhay Pazo
julhaypazo@gmail.com
Contributing Photographer: Christine Racz
christineracz@me.com

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Contact: Norm Pelzer
Email: norm@riversidelivingmag.com

SUBMITTING CONTENT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Address letters to "RLM Editor" and send via email to admin@riversidelivingmag.com

TO PROMOTE A LOCAL EVENT:

Are you or your local charity non-profit having a fundraiser open to the public? What about hosting an event? Send information and details to admin@riversidelivingmag.com or call the main phone number above

STORY IDEAS

Riverside Living Magazine is for, by and about you, our readers. Send us any ideas for stories or Riverside based people, places or things you would like to know more about.
admin@riversidelivingmag.com

DEAR READER

Welcome to the **February 2022** issue of Riverside Living Magazine.

This month's feature story is about Dr. Edwin Gomez Ed.D It is rare to know your life's mission at an early age. Dr. Gomez new he wanted to be a teacher. Today he supports the dreams of more than 300k students in Riverside County by creating meaningful opportunities for their development.

This month's charity spotlight shines on the BVG Veterans of Valor Foundation. Their commitment to helping veterans identify and overcome mental illness and addiction challenges improves not only their lives but their families and the community as a whole.

These stories, local updates and more are on the pages that follow. Thank you to our advertisers for making this magazine possible and as always, we encourage your thoughts, opinions, and feedback.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Riverside Living Magazine.

Warmest Regards,

Norm Pelzer
Publisher



FOLLOW US!

Please like or follow us on Facebook and Instagram. You will find additional and timely content on both social media sites.



@RiversideLivingMagazine



The Gomez Family at Home

ON THE COVER

FEATURE STORY

DR. EDWIN GOMEZ PH.D.

16

Dr. Gomez is the Superintendent of Riverside County Office of Education supporting more than 300K plus students throughout Riverside County. His life's journey is about creating opportunities for all children.

This amazing organization supports veterans struggling with mental illness and addiction by funding treatment programs.

06

CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

BVG Veterans of Valor Foundation



Bourns Inc Celebrates 75 years

This amazing company has been a cornerstone of business in the city of Riverside for 75 years. Its impact can be felt from the classroom to the moon and back again.

10

12



The Power of a Positive Mindset

Our ancient brains were not developed to be happy but rather to survive. A positive mindset needs to be cultivated.



24

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT RECOGNIZED
City Finance Department has been recognized for its efforts to keep residents informed about municipal finances



28

MONEY MATTER\$
One Day A Month Would Be Better



30

CITY'S ENVISION
RIVERSIDE 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN APPROVED

Brad Alewine Group



2357 Knob Hill Drive
Offered at \$1,580,000
4 Bed | 6 Bath | 3,970 Sq Ft



Brad Alewine uses his unparalleled marketing expertise to showcase your home across all media.

His comprehensive marketing plan utilizing professional photography, print advertising, and on-line presence, is specially designed to get your home noticed and sold. Let Brad Alewine show you why he consistently ranks as one of the top listing agents in Riverside.

BRAD ALEWINE

951.347.8832

Brad.Alewine@Brad-Alewine.com

BradAlewine.com

📷 BradAlewineGroup

📱 Brad Alewine Group

DRE 01104973

Compass is a licensed real estate broker (0199628) in the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale or withdraw without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit properties already listed.

RLM's Charity Spotlight

BVG Veterans of Valor Foundation



What is the mission of BVG Veterans of Valor Foundation?

To raise money and awareness for Veterans causes particularly as they relate to the diseases of mental illness and addiction. PTSD is a significant cause at the root of most Vet's problems. Our main thrust is to train new doctors to screen for and recognize mental illness and addiction earlier, and with their help break the chain of stigma surrounding these diseases. We've partnered with the UC Riverside School of Medicine; we've donated to their foundation under the guidance of their Dean, Dr. Deborah Deas. As an Addiction Psychiatrist she has been naturally supportive from the beginning. We also support the Hazelden Betty Ford Center with grants. They have special treatment programs for Veterans and train medical professionals at all levels. They have a nationally renowned program to train medical students named the SIMS program, run by Joseph Skrajewski.



mental illness. We'd like our brother & sister Vets to be afforded the same opportunity for recovery we've found.

What are the greatest current challenges facing BVG Veterans of Valor Foundation?

The petrified ingrained stigma permeating every aspect of everything having to do with mental illness and addiction; particularly those individuals suffering these diseases even though they should be considered no less worth of empathy than those with diabetes or cancer

What does the future hold for BVG Veterans of Valor Foundation?

We're cautiously optimistic things will get better for those suffering mental illness and addiction; more and more contemporary media is acknowledging and even embracing recovery in an attempt to smash the stigma many including Vets suffer, which the foundation hopes to facilitate

Tell my readers something interesting or something they do not know about issues facing those you support.

The opioid epidemic continues to kill too many of our loved ones; but our brave Veterans suffer at much higher rate from not only addiction, but also homelessness, HIV, traumatic brain injury, and suicide. They risked their lives for our freedom. Let's help them in every way we can

Who does BVG Veterans of Valor Foundation support?

Veterans of the 5 US Military branches; Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard

How does BVG Veterans of Valor Foundation support them?

Our foundation supports these causes by donating block grants via 2 arms; 1. Funding treatment programs wherever Vets are who don't have access to the VA system and 2. Funding the

training of medical professionals in evidence based treatment unique to the problems Vets suffer

How is BVG Veterans of Valor Foundation different from other like organization?

The BVG Veterans of Valor Foundation was founded by Veterans in recovery who suffered from addiction for the benefit of Veterans who likewise suffer from addiction and/or



I wanted to give a little more information as to the specifics of the beneficiaries of our Foundation's support.

First, our main thrust is to train new doctors to screen for and recognize mental illness and addiction earlier, and with their help break the chain of stigma surrounding these diseases.

We've partnered with the UC Riverside School of Medicine; we've donated to their foundation under the guidance of their excellent Dean Dr. Deborah Deas. She and I have become great friends. She's been VERY supportive of our cause. As an Addiction Psychiatrist she was naturally supportive from the beginning.

Second, we've supported the Hazelden Betty Ford Center with grants, where they have special treatment programs for Veterans AND they train medical professionals at all levels. They have a nationally renowned program to train medical students named the SIMS program, run by Joseph Skrajewski.

We frequently sponsor events, with a major upcoming fund-raising event for the benefit of Hazelden Betty Ford; the Grant Fuhr Golf Tournament.





How can readers of Riverside Living Magazine get involved and help?

First learn more about mental illness and addiction. Learn about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Sit in at an open Alcoholics Anonymous or AA meeting. The more you know, the less you'll fear those who suffer these diseases and the more likely you'll be to treat them with empathy for the human beings they are worthy of our help.

And of course go out and get yourself a pair of the high quality high fashion BVG Sunglasses! If your retail store doesn't carry them, ask them why not?

What is the best way for our caring readers to reach BVG Veterans of Valor Foundation for more information?

Go to our website at: BVGsunglasses.com

Or email us at: info@BVGsunglasses.com

OLIVE CREST

STRONG FAMILIES, SAFE KIDS.

**1 in 7 CHILDREN
(14%)**

Experience abuse or neglect every year



**5 CHILDREN
DIE EVERY DAY**

because of abuse...That's 150 per month!!!



4 Million

Reports of abuse are made every year. That's a report every 10 seconds

RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE

400,000

IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

TRAFFICKING

60% of all child trafficking victims have histories in the child welfare system.



INCARCERATION

60% of children from the child welfare system will be incarcerated.



HOMELESSNESS

60% of children that "age out" of the child welfare system are homeless within the first year.



Stopping the cycle of abuse and neglect through the healing power of family

01

SAFE HOMES

Safety, Belonging, Stability

02

EQUIPPING FOR LIFE

Counseling, Education, Life Skills

03

STRONG FAMILY

Community, Confidence, Permanency

Join Us in Helping End Child Abuse

To help, contact 951-686-8500 x4301 or email walter-mueller@olivecrest.org

555 Technology Court, Suite 300,
Riverside, CA 92507

951-696-8500
www.olivecrest.org

Out Now!

Inland Empire's very own premiere local business magazine.

Your resource to **learn** from local business experts, **expand** your business reach and **collaborate** with local partners.

Advertising opportunities are available now. Reserve your place to do more and better business.

advertising@rlmcompany.com

Learn. Expand. Collaborate.



Helping to keep aging adults safe at *home*.

At Home Instead, we are committed to providing high quality, in-home caregiving for aging adults in our community. We were recently nominated as the "Best in Senior Services" by readers of the Inland Empire Magazine, and we invite you to explore why today.

Companionship Care
Personal Care
Meals & Nutrition

Transportation
Hospice Care Support
Household Duties and more!

Learn more about our award-winning, in-home services today!

951.369.7047

Home Instead
To us, it's personal

Beyond Our Wildest Dreams’:

Bourns Marks 75 Years and Counting of Innovation

People are often surprised to learn that Riverside-based Bourns, Inc., with nearly 10,000 employees and 20 locations worldwide, started in a tiny Pasadena garage in 1947. Gordon Bourns, CEO of the leading global electronic components and sensors manufacturer, spoke proudly of the company’s founders, his parents Marlan and Rosemary.

“They hired the next-door neighbor as their first employee and ran hot and cold temperature testing on parts for airplanes in their kitchen,” Gordon said.

The City of Riverside and Greater Chamber of Commerce caught wind of this small, but mighty aerospace sensor business and proposed a move. On Labor Day weekend 1950, Bourns closed its doors in Pasadena Friday and opened Tuesday in Riverside, because they didn’t want to be late on any orders.



With March Air Force Base transitioning from wartime to peacetime after World War II, Gordon said his parents moved to Riverside because *“they knew it would be a great place to raise a family and excellent technicians would be looking for work.”*

What eventually put Bourns on the map was the invention of a product to accurately determine an aircraft’s pitch attitude – solving a crucial problem that helped make aeronautics safer. Then, in 1969, Gordon and his parents watched TV in amazement as astronauts first landed on the moon using Bourns’ landing controls and walked on the moon using Bourns’ suit pressure oxygen regulators.

“When I speak to students, I tell them you can go from a garage to the moon in 22 years,” Gordon explained.

Bourns hosts various STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education programs for local school children. Recently, the Bourns Foundation donated \$1 million to set in motion Riverside’s robotics, coding, film production, and web design youth center. Accessibility is key to the Bourns Family Youth Innovation Center, which officially opened in October.

“We’re grateful to Bourns for lighting those fires to get youth excited about futures in STEM and introducing them to career pathways,” said Mayor Lock Dawson.

Gordon estimates the Bourns Foundation has contributed \$500,000 in scholarships among local universities including UC Riverside, Cal Baptist University, La Sierra University, and Riverside City College. Gordon also chairs the Science and Technology Education Partnership (STEP), an organization that encourages students throughout the Inland Empire to pursue education and careers in STEM with activities such as the popular STEP Conference.

Bourns makes more than 10,000 different products with its fastest-growing segments in support of electric vehicles, charging stations, and energy storage. The electronics company, now in its third generation, is expanding into solar energy, autonomous vehicles, telemedicine, and telecommunications as it gets ready to celebrate a milestone birthday. Bourns will turn 75 on July 7, 2022 Marlan and Rosemary's 75th wedding anniversary.

"When my parents began working in their garage, they could never have envisioned someday finding their products in a vehicle on Mars or x-ray sensors for cancer treatments," Gordon said. "They would say Bourns is beyond their wildest dreams."



Give your Home the *Superior* Garage Door it deserves.

Sales, Service, Parts & Installation (951) 351-1086 superiorgaragedoor.com



A Good Day is Measured in More than Money and Finance

By: Karla Adams

Part 1 of 3: The Power of a Positive Mindset

Can billionaires be miserable?

Surprisingly, the answer is “yes.”

This fact is well-known by successful business titan Tony Robbins, internationally renowned life coach, entrepreneur and philanthropist.

At a recent Date with Destiny personal growth event, Robbins asserted, “We have a two-million-year-old brain. And that two-million-year-old brain is not designed to make you happy. It’s designed to make you survive. So, no matter how much money you get, how much success, there’s this part of your brain that’s still seeing – that’s always looking for what’s wrong.” What’s wrong, according to Robbins, is easy to find.

This indisputable truth is the reason why I teach my clients the importance of cultivating a positive mindset. Along with clean eating and regular exercise, a mind trained to focus on positivity has a huge impact on quality of life. A positive mind has the power to change your day from one of drudgery, self-doubt, fear and anger into one of joy, confidence, excitement and achievement.

According to Robbins, *"Whatever we focus on, we feel."* This holds true whether the object of our focus is real or not. Since the mind has the power to shape our experience without the need for any change in real circumstances, we must train our brains to focus on positivity and look for what is right.

American entrepreneur, author and motivational speaker, Jim Rohn is credited with giving the sage warning, *"Stand guard at the door of your mind."* In an ever-increasing virtual world filled with social media, negative news stories, sensationalized click-bait, spam mail, and devices that deliver messages instantly to our smart watches, smart phones and various other smart mobile devices, it is easy to be bombarded by thoughts that are not our own. Information is always readily available, but it is important to filter that information for the sake of your own well-being. Pay attention to the information in your head. Pay attention to your thoughts. Are they true? Or are they just effective marketing strategy, programming you to be a better consumer?

As a vigilant guard at the door of your own mind, you can be selective about what you allow through the gates. I encourage my clients to regularly and positively feed their minds. Make a commitment to read for at least 30 minutes per day, or 10 minutes on days when you are really pressed for time. Listen to an empowering and enlightening podcast or audiobook on your morning commute, which takes no extra time out of your no-doubt busy day. Positive programming

has the power to focus your brain's reticular activating system on looking for solutions and ways to succeed. In the words of Tony Robbins, *"Where focus goes, energy flows."*

In the book 'Grateful Brain,' author Alex Korb (2012) explains that the human brain cannot focus on positive and negative information at the same time. In light of this information, I encourage my clients to develop a daily gratitude practice whereby they may train their brains to focus selectively on positive thoughts and emotions. Simply take a moment to stop and recognize three things for which you are grateful. Fully recall and re-experience these moments with your entire being—mind, body and spirit. Notice the clarity that the experience brings to your mind and whole self. According to positivepsychology.com, gratitude discharges toxic emotions, reduces pain, improves sleep quality, aids in stress regulation, and reduces both anxiety and depression. A habit of consciously practicing gratitude will allow you to refocus your attention throughout the day when the inevitable negative thought arises. In the words of author William Arthur Ward, *"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings."*

When the inevitable negative thought does arise, you have the opportunity to



transmute that unfavorable thinking by recognizing that it is just that—it's a thought that does not serve you or your higher purpose. I invite my clients to program their brains for positivity by choosing to live in what Tony Robbins calls "a beautiful state." At the Inc. 5000 Conference in October 2016, Robbins explained, *"This beautiful state's not limited—it could be happy, it could be bold, it can be creative. But those [states] make you feel alive and you do the right thing for other people, and for yourself, and your family, and your clients when you're in a beautiful state."*

When you make the conscious decision to remain in a beautiful state, you free up your energy and mental capacity to focus on what you do want in life. You are more efficiently and effectively able to find the answers and reach the targets for which you are striving. When you do need to take several moments to process any negativity that may come in the form of anger, self-doubt, fear, uncertainty, or the like, I invite you to stick to a prescribed amount of time.

You can begin with 5 minutes, but you can take more time when you are in the initial stages of creating this new habit. Tony Robbins shares that he is now down to 90 seconds. Give yourself a set amount of time to

let yourself think the negative thoughts and feel the emotions that come with them. Then, when the time is up, recognize the thoughts as only thoughts, shift your focus to something else, and let go. Admittedly, this particular habit is difficult to build, but well-worth the effort. Just think of how much time and energy you can reserve for focusing on what truly matters.

I teach my clients that success is measured in more than just money and finance. A positive mindset has the ability to help you experience joy and appreciation in a multitude of circumstances, and it has the power to help you find answers that were once clouded by negative thoughts. Train your brain to focus on positivity and you will create success that cannot be measured in dollars. In the words of 'Think and Grow Rich' self-help author Napoleon Hill (1937), *"You have absolute control over but one thing, and that is your thoughts . . . If you fail to control your own mind, you may be sure you will control nothing else."*

If you have already begun to create a good day by controlling your own mindset, join me for parts 2 and 3 of this series, where I discuss the powers of clean eating and regular exercise.



Karla Adams is an educator, motivator, professional athlete and specialist in lifestyle change. With over 23 years of experience in exercise science and sports nutrition, she has helped thousands of clients achieve their goals in nutrition, fitness and lifestyle transformation.



Your health care, your way.

IMAGINE HEALTH CARE THAT REVOLVES AROUND YOUR NEEDS

Riverside Medical Clinic is locally owned by our own physicians. In fact, we are the largest privately held medical clinic in Southern California.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

It means that our providers are empowered to put your care ahead of anything else. Being self-contained, we get to make decisions that are good for our patients. As a multi-specialty medical clinic, our primary care providers can just pick up the phone of one of our specialists to arrange for a referral. Top specialists, advanced technology, caring staff, lab, imaging services and urgent care – all in one place.

It's the way it's been for generations. It's the way it always will be.

951.683-6370

85

85 Years of
Serving the
Community



RIVERSIDE
MEDICAL
CLINIC

Legendary Care™

RiversideMedicalClinic.com

Edwin Gomez, Ed.D.

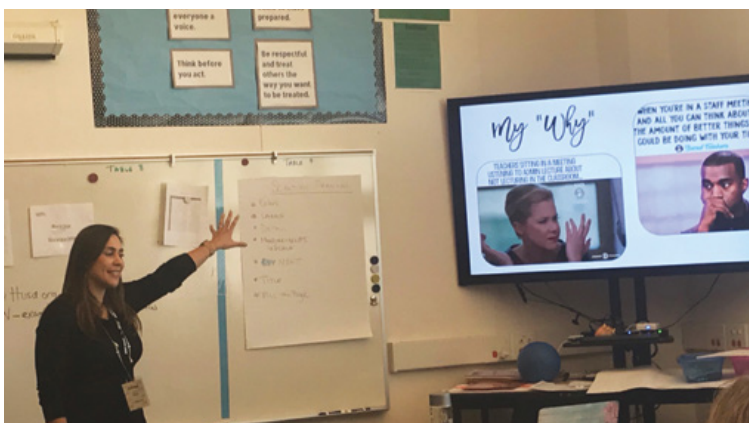
*“Education Is The Most
Powerful Profession In
The World.”*

By Stephanie Felix

Riverside County’s Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Edwin Gomez, has been a beloved educator in our community for many years. At the youthful age of twenty-three, he began his career as a Kindergarten teacher for the Ontario-Montclair School District.

With familial roots originating in Peru, Dr. Gomez immigrated to the United States where his fondest memories are his formative school years in Southern California. Growing up in poverty, his passion and goals were to emulate the teachers he so admired and respected in his youth.





“

Teachers were my heroes. Teachers were the ones that taught us to read. They taught us to embrace the American Dream.

”

This Is His Story

Dr. Gomez's hard-working, resolute and industrious parents, Cesar and Eudomilia Gomez, wanted nothing more than to provide a better life for their three sons, even though they only had an elementary education themselves.

The bar was set high. From a very early age, Dr. Gomez's parents taught them to respect and honor their teachers. The expectation was that all three sons would attend college and obtain a fulfilling career.

Growing Up...

"One of the advantages that I had growing up is that my parents were older. My father was already in his fifties and my mother was forty-two when they had me. My parents grew up in the late 1930's and 1940's. I was very humbled and honored to have parents that believed in the strong work ethic of the post-depression era. They understood the value of integrity, the instinct value of being trustworthy, and they were very traditional. I learned a lot through their shared experiences."

"Despite the challenges and language barriers, my parents were delightful story tellers. They were very encouraging. They taught me to be empathetic, compassionate, and to be grateful to live in the greatest country in the world. They taught us the meaning of gratitude. To be thankful that we had opportunities that other children in the world did not have. Despite my perceived difficulties growing up, I was reminded that we had clothing, food, shelter, and an educational system that many youngsters in other nations did not have. My epiphany early in life was simple: despite my struggles with poverty, I could transform myself into doing something good for others."

"My parents, whether intentionally or instinctively, bestowed the gift of prudence on us. Even though my parents could not afford to take us to the movies or an amusement park, they found ways to keep us busy at little or no cost. We usually spent hours at the library, especially during the summer. I would lose myself in reading biographies of great Americans like Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Robinson, Mark Twain, Smokey Robinson, and Abraham Lincoln. I would try to learn as much as possible from their life stories. I realized that if those great individuals could accomplish what they did, others could do the same. These great American stories were immensely powerful and uplifting. It motivated and inspired me to realize that I needed to stay the course in pursuing my dream of becoming an educator."

Mentors...

Edwin's oldest brothers, Hector and Cesar, were his mentors. As a child, Edwin looked up to his brothers who provided him with the blueprint of how to thrive in education. Edwin's brothers taught him to study, to have high expectations for himself, and to always give 110% in everything that he did.

Hector attended Claremont McKenna College and USC. Hector is an extraordinarily successful entrepreneur. A graduate of Pitzer College and UC Berkeley, Cesar is a clinical social worker making a tremendous impact



on the students that he serves. In Edwin's eyes, Hector and Cesar were the embodiment of success.

Instead of allowing doubt or pressure that *"I'll never be exactly like my brothers,"* Edwin had an innate sense to pursue his dream of becoming an educator. He was grateful for the roadmap that his brothers provided.

A Dream Come True

After graduating from Pitzer College, Dr. Gomez received his teaching credential and began his educational career teaching Kindergarten.

Dr. Gomez grew up clear-eyed as to his purpose in life. *"Teaching is more than a profession. It's a calling. It's truly about empowering the lives*

of students. It is mentorship and guidance to youngsters. I think for me, it was the manifestation of a dream. My first assignment was in a kindergarten class. I can still remember the names of all my students. I remember the immense joy and excitement and passion that I had, because my dream was being fulfilled."

"Education Is Very, Very Powerful. It's The Most Powerful Profession In The World."

"As a teacher, I had to learn my craft and develop my skill set. I had the understanding and awareness that I had an amazing responsibility. For me, all of my teaching assignments were an absolute pleasure. However, teaching Kindergarten as a 23-year-old was especially rewarding."

At 23 years old, Dr. Gomez did not have a clear understanding of the many demands of being a classroom teacher. Being an educator required a great deal of energy to engage with 5 year olds; to keep their attention and to have them stay focused on the lessons. Regardless of the challenges that come with being a first-year kindergarten teacher, there was one thing Dr. Gomez never doubted- his ability to impact students' lives beyond just academics.

"Teaching goes beyond the mechanics of instruction. Teaching is not just about the technical aspects of delivering a lesson on mathematics, language arts, or social studies. Teaching is about connecting with the humanity of your students. It is about knowing





that, when you connect with a child, by giving them an empowering word or delivering a message of comfort, it can be life changing and transformative for students."

Thousands Of Children

After serving as a classroom teacher, intervention teacher, and instructional coach, Dr. Gomez's perspective began to shift from a micro classroom level to a larger macro level. Dr. Gomez's window of opportunity to make a larger impact to his students and those to come, was going to occur serving in a leadership capacity.

A seasoned principal once told Dr. Gomez, "When you're in a classroom, you impact thirty kids. When you become a Vice Principal or Principal, you can potentially impact hundreds of students. At the high

school level, the impact can be in the thousands."

Having planted that seed, he took to heart the even grander idea that 'when you're providing leadership at the district level, then obviously the impact could be greater.

Realizing that he had the desire, tenacity and the capacity to impact thousands of students' lives, he recognized that in order to accomplish that dream, he would need to continue on the growth trajectory of higher education.

He heeded his mentor's recommendations and went on to complete his Masters in Educational Administration and his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from California State University, San Bernardino.

As a result, Dr. Gomez has served in various educational leadership roles including Vice Principal, Principal, Director of Curriculum and Instruction in the San Bernardino City Unified School District, Chief Academic Officer of the Adelanto School District, and served as the District Superintendent of both the Adelanto and Coachella Unified School Districts. In July, 2019, Dr. Gomez became the Deputy Superintendent of the Riverside County Office of Education. Subsequently, Dr. Gomez was appointed as Riverside County Superintendent of Schools in October, 2021.

Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

In his role as Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gomez works in partnership with school districts across Riverside County to support more than 430,000 students.

At the inception of his Superintendency, Dr. Gomez launched four initiatives to support student success including a focus on mental health, financial literacy, literacy by fifth grade, and equity and inclusive practices. On the very important issue of mental health, Dr. Gomez stated, *"We developed Care Spaces at each of our regional offices within the county. Basically, it is a place where we offer mental health services to students, their families and community members. Services range from basic counseling to more intensive tier-three counseling for students that have experienced emotional challenges because of this pandemic."*

In regards to financial Literacy, Dr. Gomez stated, - *"We want all of our students to be financially literate in Riverside County. We want them to be debt free, to possess an entrepreneurial spirit, and become the next generation of financially free Americans. We are excited*





to partner with Dave Ramsey to offer a financial literacy curriculum for our students."

Literacy by 5th Grade- Dr. Gomez believes that proficiency in reading and writing are essential life skills. It is his goal that children are competent, strong readers by the time they get to middle school.

"One of the things that we're excited about is that we are in partnership with organizations providing schools with Footsteps 2 Brilliance, eBooks for Free, and Blending Sight Words in Phonics."

As Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gomez wants the entire community to embrace the value of literacy and to reignite a passion for books; like his mother instilled in him – the love of books.

Lastly, through the Equity and Inclusive practices initiative, the goal is for all students to be included into regular school programming and activities. An example of this effort took place in January, 2022 as the Riverside County Office of Education coordinated the Special Olympics event at Chaparral High School in Temecula. Over 250 special education students participated side-by-side with general education students in competitive sports. The spirit underlying this effort is authentic and sustained inclusion in sports, academics, clubs, and events. This event speaks to the heart of their equity and inclusion efforts.

A Family Passion for Education...

Dr. Gomez resides in the Woods Streets District with his wife, Jessica, and their two teens. Jessica comes from

a similar background. She grew up in Los Angeles, attended UCLA and Claremont Graduate University. With 21 years in education, Jessica began her educational career as a teacher and is serving her 12th year as an elementary school principal. She is a national speaker, consultant, and administrator mentor. She is also one of the originators of the "Sister Circle," a group of women leaders throughout the state of California that came together to create a professional learning community and support network.

Both share a similar vision, that a quality education is the great equalizer in society. They have both devoted their lives to serving in the educational community to positively impact the lives of students.

"As a family we enjoy our involvement in helping others. Our best family bonding times come when we are able to give back to the communities that we serve. As parents, it is important for us to have our children involved in the things we do for the community. We want to instill in them the values of hard work and the importance of service to others. Remaining humble, grateful, and never forgetting how fortunate and blessed we are, is what we hope to model and inspire in our own children."

What Do You Like About Riverside?

"We enjoy the community and the truly diverse culture; the complexity and richness of it. We love the vibrant art and performing arts opportunities available in this wonderful city. I think it's beautiful. You have both suburban and urban areas. And Virginia Blumenthal said it best, "It's the biggest smallest city that you'll ever find."

Summary

Dr. Gomez's life-long dream was to be a teacher; a dream he has realized well beyond the imagination of a young boy. *"Teachers were my heroes. Teachers were the ones that taught us to read. They taught us to embrace the American Dream."*

For Dr. Gomez, education is not just about acquiring knowledge, it is about connecting with the humanity of students. *"Education is a gift in this great Country."*

Dr. Gomez is strengthening America, thousands of children at a time. We appreciate all that you have done and do for our children and families.



The advertisement has a background image of a modern building. The main headline reads "Northwestern Mutual Has a New Home in the Inland Empire". To the right is a QR code with a "SCAN TO LEARN MORE" button below it. Below the headline, the text says: "Our location is new, but our commitment to you remains the same. We offer the expert guidance and innovative solutions you need to help reach your financial goals." At the bottom, it says: "Want to earn a living helping others live better? Scan the QR code to learn more."



Amber Romo, CLTC®, ChFC®
Managing Director
Northwestern Mutual
Ontario
CA# 0K59546
(718) 243-7792
amber.romo@nm.com



Northwestern Mutual
Ontario | Opening June 2021

© 2021 The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company. All rights reserved. 720 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4797 • (414) 271-3664.
Northwestern Mutual is the marketing name for The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company (NMLIC) life and disability insurance, annuities, and life insurance with long-term care benefits and its subsidiaries including Northwestern Long-Term Care Insurance Company (NLTIC) long-term care insurance, Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC (NMIS) investment brokerage services, a registered investment adviser, broker-dealer, and member of FINRA (fina.org) and SIPC (sipc.org), and Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company (NMWMC) investment advisory and trust services, a federal savings bank. NM and its subsidiaries are in Milwaukee, WI.

City of Riverside Recognized for Popular Annual Financial Report



The City of Riverside's Finance Department has been recognized for its efforts to keep residents informed about municipal finances through its Popular Annual Financial Report.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has presented the City of Riverside with its Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR award), which the GFOA describes as "a significant achievement."

The award is for the PAFR reflecting the fiscal year that ended in June, 2020. The City has also posted to its website the PAFR for the fiscal year that ended in June, 2021. Both versions and others from prior years can be found at: <https://riversideca.gov/finance/annual-financial-report.asp>.

"The PAFR is a team effort from the Finance Department to help Riverside residents understand how their money is being spent," Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer Edward Enriquez said. *"It is gratifying to see our efforts recognized by an organization as respected as GFOA."*

The PAFR attempts to make complex municipal finance issues readily accessible to lay people who do not have a background in finance and accounting. For example, it contrasts city assets (what we own) with city liabilities (what we owe) and explains how the city's

spending compares to prior years on topics such as public safety, culture and recreation, highways and streets, and general government.

The City also was commended for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), receiving the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellent in Financial Reporting Program. The PAFR typically is a snapshot of City finances, compared to the more comprehensive ACFR.

Both reports are designed to explain to residents the condition of their local government's finances, as well as factors that come into play. Judges evaluate the report based on such topics as reader appeal, understandability, distribution methods, creativity.

The GFOA includes more than 21,000 members and is a source of best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research.



**Friends
Members shop
early!**

**JOIN OR RENEW
BY 3/25/22**



UCR BOTANIC GARDENS

2022 ONLINE SPRING PLANT SALE

APRIL 2-3, 2022

For more information: gardens.ucr.edu or 951-827-7090

ONLINE SALE

4/2/22, 6:00 AM-MIDNIGHT-
MEMBERS' SALE
4/3/22, 6:00 AM-MIDNIGHT-
PUBLIC SALE

PICK UP

4/12/22, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
4/14/22, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

How to buy online?

1. Go to gardens.ucr.edu, click Plant Sale.
2. Click the order form where each plant will have a description, size, price, and photo.
3. Add to cart and purchase!

How to pick up purchased plants?

1. Select the pick up day and time from the options provided at checkout.
2. Pick up your plants at the UCRBG entrance, where staff will assist to load into your vehicle.



1 Botanic Gardens Dr.
Riverside, CA 92507

The Cheech Center Opening Delayed

New Opening Date is June 18, 2022



The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture of the Riverside Art Museum originally scheduled to open May 8 is now **scheduled to open on Saturday, June 18, 2022.**



Supply chain issues, contractor-related staffing shortages due to COVID-19, and unforeseen construction setbacks that come with renovating a historical building combined to necessitate this change. While unfortunate, a path forward has been established on how outstanding items will be resolved in a timely and safe manner.

"The opening has been delayed, but don't despair!" says actor, comedian, and preeminent Chicano art collector and art advocate Cheech Marin. "We want everything to be just right so we can welcome the world in celebrating Chicano art and culture at The Cheech. Join us in June!"

The opening day of The Cheech, presented by US Bank, has been moved to June 18, 2022. A civic dedication will take place at The Cheech on Thursday, June 16, and a Gala, presented by UNIDOS, which was previously scheduled for Friday, May 6, is now set for Friday, June 17, at the Riverside Convention Center.



LISTED AND SOLD

OVER 10,000 SQFT
RESTAURANT BUILDING



STANCE

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

STANCE CRE GOT THE JOB DONE

SERVING RIVERSIDE BUILDING OWNERS

&

JOE STANCE, CCIM
HEIDI STANCE, Ed.D.



MAIN LINE: 909.772.1212
Joe@StanceRealEstate.com
DRE:# 01788741



FIND OUT MORE AT:
www.StanceRealEstate.com

IT Management | Help Desk | Network Architecture | Cybersecurity Experts | Web Design | Phone/VOIP Solutions

When it comes to technology
...we're unique.



Amazing Customer Service.

Expert Technical Solutions.

connect@systemgoit.com | 951.266.6381 | www.SystemGoIT.com



Riverside Chamber of Commerce
2020 Eagle Award
Small Business of the Year

Money Matter\$

Here we go... The shortest month with some of the BIGGEST messages.

National Cancer Prevention, Black History, American Heart, National Hot Breakfast and Grapefruit Month...? These are just some of the calendar causes. We are ALL looking for a good reason to CELEBRATE LIFE these days. And, with so many reasons and passions, it's easy to find at least ONE!

Like Valentine's Day. We work hard to highlight a 'special day of spoiling' those we love, with flowers, candy, and cards. But isn't this a great goal for everyday?

Every Day is Special

Why Wait ...

"I wish I would have known they would be gone too soon; I could have done more..."

One of the best ways to say I love you is with TIME. It's the one thing we *"spend that will never be replaced."* Time to spend with someone you care for, time to

remember the loving ways they care for YOU. The speed of life seems to be moving faster each year. Instead of just 1 day per year, how about 1 day PER MONTH.

Here's a suggested list of things to share TIME –

Visit a winery and enjoy lunch, early dinner, wine tasting, or just hanging out with each other... remember how much fun that used to be?

Go to a movie – For a few hours escape with your loved one or family. Not wanting to leave home. Make a special day of watching all your old favorites on TV, and include your special foods, snacks, goodies, and beverages. Put the pillows on the ground and relax.

Go to the park – When was the last time you made a real picnic, and shared time at a park. Not the typical grab fast food and gobble, but homemade food and drinks, with a basket, silverware, napkins, and a blanket, outside in the fresh air and sun.

Take Out the Pictures in the "BOX"
– Taking out pictures of our lives and organizing them as we share the memories, is a terrific way to spend time, and remember many of the good times we forgot.

Volunteer for the Day – Call and see how you can donate a few hours and give back to the community. Deliver a lunch, help clean up at your church, bake some goodies for a family, drive someone to the store, mow your neighbor's yard, wash and wax their car.

PROTECT THOSE YOU LOVE

It's ideal to make sure you have a real plan to protect the ones you love. Review your complete game plan, savings goals, investment risk, insurance policies, Wills & Trusts, liability coverage, and beneficiary designations.

Keep the promises you make to YOU, and those YOU LOVE! Call on a professional money coach to help convert your good intentions into an ACTION PLAN.



**SOLUTIONS AND SERVICE
SINCE 1975**

*Plan well... Your Financial
Freedom is your Decision, Not
Your Destiny!*

Thomas E. Steele

CA DOI #0493165* AZ DOI 905345

Tom@steelefinancialgroup.biz

www.steelefinancialgroup.biz

WEALTH PROTECTION STRATEGIES AND
RETIREMENT INCOME DISTRIBUTION ADVISOR



Habitat for Humanity®
ReStore®
Donate. Shop. Volunteer!



2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507
www.riversiderestore.org

Tuesday to Saturday. 9 am - 5 pm



Featured Item
 11ft. LED Lighted Cantilever
 Patio Umbrellas
 Retail Price: \$448.00
ONLY \$199.00/each!

**Shop the ReStore,
 and Help Us Build Homes!**



*Holiday
 Special*

Holiday Package Includes:

*Session fee
 Fully retouched 11x14 mounted print
 25 Custom designed holiday cards
 All edited images on a flash drive*

\$599

Racz Photography
 951-789-9500

www.raczphotography.com

**BOOKING NOW
 THROUGH NOV 30**

Envision Riverside 2025

The City's 2025 Strategic Plan, known as Envision Riverside, identifies a clear vision for the future of Riverside's Economy, Community and Environment. During 2020, several one-on-one interviews were held with the Mayor, Council Members, and key City staff and public meetings occurred to discuss the priorities and goals for the City organization for the next five-year period. Based on the information received from these discussions and the public, the Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan was created and approved.



The Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan is comprised of two components:

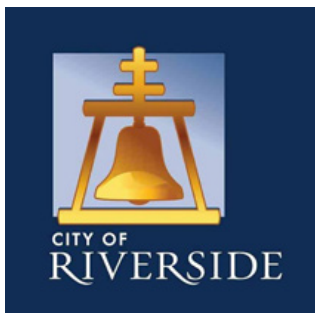
- 1. City Council Strategic Policy** - This section sets forth the Strategic Priorities and Goals of the City Council to advance Riverside's potential and to frame the work efforts of staff over the next five years.
- 2. Operational Workplan** - This section sets forth envisioned actions to be carried out by City staff to implement the City Council Strategic Policy, as well as related metrics to track the trendlines of progress toward achieving City Council priorities. This section includes the Actions and Performance Metrics and is evaluated and updated based on the changing needs of the organization and in conjunction with the City's budget cycle.

The City of Riverside is committed to providing highquality municipal services to ensure a safe, inclusive, and livable community and with that, is continuously working toward data-driven measurable outcomes that align with the Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan.

The Riverside City Council adopted six strategic priorities and associated indicators and goals for each priority. Strategic priorities are broad areas in which the City Council wants the City Team to invest time, energy and resources to accomplish the vision. The priorities include: 1) Arts, Culture and Recreation, 2) Community Well-Being, 3) Economic Opportunity, 4) Environmental Stewardship, 5) High Performing Government, and 6) Infrastructure, Mobility & Connectivity.

Furthermore, cross-cutting threads are described as major themes incorporated throughout all areas of the strategic plan and are reflected in all of the outcomes. Implementation of all strategic priorities should advance – or at least be neutral towards – all cross-cutting threads. They include: Community Trust, Equity, Fiscal Responsibility, Innovation, and Sustainability and Resiliency.

In addition, Envision Riverside is crucial to the ongoing priority-based budgeting process the City has adopted, a process which seeks to allocate financial resources in accordance with the City Council's strategic priorities.





Breast cancer survivors supporting male and female breast cancer patients

Critical Financial Support
Caring Emotional Support
Survivor Wellness Program

We never stop caring

(951) 742-7405
www.thecareprojectinc.org
support@thecareprojectinc.org

Your Business Belongs Here

The most ideal clients &
customers in Riverside

info@riversidelivingmag.com



SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS
that help make your magazine possible

Superior Garage Door of Riverside

(951) 351-1086
www.superiorgaragedoor.com

Olive Crest

(951) 686-8500
www.olivecrest.org

Altura Credit Union

(866) 958-5576
www.alturacu.com/rivliving

Brad Alewine – Compass Realty

(951) 347-8832
www.bradalewine.com

Alderette Designs

(951) 505-9190
rico@madeshopriverside.com

Home Instead

(951) 369-7047
homeinstead.com/282

Riverside Medical Clinic

(951) 683-6370
riversidemedicalclinic.com

System Go It

(951) 266-6381
systemgoit.com

Habitat for Humanity Restore

(951) 787-6754 x 111
riversiderestore.org

Stance Commercial Real Estate

(909) 772-1212
stancerealestate.com

Northwestern Mutual

(213) 243-7192
amberromo.nm.com

Be sure to tell them you saw their ad in
Riverside Living Magazine

AD ALDERETTE DESIGNS

Turning your Ideas into One of a Kind Art

Proud to Have Our Work Featured
at Businesses Recognized by
Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful's
Beautification Award

Furnishings and Art
Commercial and Residential

alderettedesigns.com
(951) 823-0044
rico@alderettedesigns.com



Octoclean

2nd Place - Exterior Reconstruction with Landscaping



Hampton Inn

1st Place - New Construction with Landscaping