

Boys & Girls Club, Taco Bell Foundation celebrates local graduates

May 31, 2018

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside recently celebrated about a dozen young people who are graduating from Inland Empire high schools, and rising underclassmen.

The celebration was made possible through a \$4,000 grant from the Taco Bell Foundation.

“This is one of the joys of our jobs,” said Club CEO P.T. McEwen. “We spend years guiding, supporting and preparing these teens for their futures. And we celebrate with them when they reach these milestones in their lives, graduation being one of them. We appreciate the Taco Bell Foundation for supporting the Club’s teen programs throughout in the Inland Empire.”

The event included a cake, Taco Bell tacos and burritos, a step-and-repeat with fun graduation props, and personalized collages of each graduate that attendees signed.

Isabel Cruz, the Club’s Youth of the Year, spoke.

“I know the Boys & Girls Club leads all of us here to greatness and success,” said Cruz, who graduates June 7 from Citrus Valley High School in Redlands. “Go off and make this place a better place than how we left it.”

Eddie Hernandez, director of teen services, thanked parents for letting the club be part of their kids’ lives, and told the students that he was most proud of the friendships they’d built with each other across schools and cities.

The club’s graduates are graduating with a plan for the future, whether it be college or the military, Hernandez said.

The \$4,000 grant to the club is part of a partnership between the Taco Bell Foundation and Boys & Girls Clubs of America.