

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Springs, CA – March 2, 2026

Avalon High School Interact Club and City of Avalon Deliver Nearly 10,000 Pounds of Clothing to The Well in the Desert

The Well in the Desert, which served **98,000 meals in 2025** to individuals experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in the Coachella Valley, is the grateful recipient of nearly 10,000 pounds of clothing following a citywide drive organized on February 28, 2026, in Avalon, California.

The initiative was coordinated by the Avalon High School Interact Club and led by adult Interact Club leaders Lola De Miele and Nicole Hohenstein in partnership with the City of Avalon. This marks the second time the City of Avalon has organized a clothing drive benefiting The Well in the Desert.

During the event, Avalon City Manager Dave Maestros emphasized the urgency of sustainability efforts, noting the city's landfill has an estimated two years of remaining capacity. By diverting nearly 10,000 pounds of clothing from potential landfill disposal, the drive not only supported individuals in need of essential clothing in the Coachella Valley but also significantly contributed to local waste reduction efforts.

For four hours, golf carts lined Avalon's streets as residents—many arriving with their dogs in tow—dropped off donations in a uniquely Catalina-style show of community spirit. Volunteers sorted and packed the clothing using recycled boxes, reinforcing the environmental focus of the event.

The donations are being sent to the barge and will be delivered March 9 to Palm Springs, where they will be distributed to individuals experiencing homelessness and hardship throughout the Coachella Valley.

“This partnership is huge,” said Matthew Naylor, President of The Well in the Desert. “Clothing that may have otherwise ended up in a landfill is instead going directly to people who need it most. Serving 98,000 meals last year shows the growing demand in our desert community, and access to clean clothing is just as essential to restoring dignity. We could not be more grateful for the leadership and generosity of Avalon.”

This collaboration demonstrates how community leadership, environmental responsibility, and compassion can intersect to create meaningful impact—supporting vulnerable populations while protecting the planet.



Pictured left to right: Michael Ponce, Avalon City Council; Ann Marshall, Mayor of Avalon; Matthew Naylor, President of The Well in the Desert; and Dave Maestros, City Manager of Avalon, CA.





















About The Well in the Desert

The Well in the Desert is a Palm Springs–based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing meals, clothing, and essential support services to individuals experiencing homelessness and food insecurity. In 2025 alone, The Well served 98,000 meals.

Media Inquiries: 760-409-9700