

Chamber CEO hired by Boys and Girls Clubs

By Michael Ellis Langley | Posted: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 1:45 pm

The woman who has helped lead the Tracy Chamber of Commerce for years is moving to another local institution whose members are a lot younger.

Sofia Valenzuela announced she is leaving her post as CEO of the chamber to take the director of development position at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Tracy.

“I’m going to be focusing on all their fundraising and sponsoring of events,” she said Tuesday, referring to the club’s recent loss of half a million dollars in federal grant money. “I see a need in the Boys and Girls Club in terms of the fundraising that they need to do. They have some challenges.”

Boys and Girls Clubs executive director Kelly Wilson said Valenzuela will focus on developing business and personal relationships to raise money for the kids who rely upon the clubs.

“The timing of this is perfect,” Wilson said Wednesday. “We’re going through this funding loss and I feel she’s going to be able to hit the ground running because she has great relationships within the community; she knows the community.”

Valenzuela has worked in multiple positions with the chamber for 15 years and said she was most proud of being a part of a team of employees, board members and a business community all trying to change Tracy for the better.

“Along with my team and the board, we came up with a lot of new programs that exist today and are very successful,” she said, referring specifically to Leadership Tracy and the Real Estate & Development Tours, now in their third year. “I am most pleased about the fact that we were able to survive even after the Bean Festival because that was a major event that the chamber produced for many, many years that, at one point, provided a lot of revenue for the chamber and we depended heavily on it.”

Chamber board president Chad Wood thanked Valenzuela for her service in a statement released last week.

“It has been a privilege to witness her growth over the past 15 years with her development into a leader, member and influencer in our community. I wish her the best,” Wood wrote in a letter to chamber members. “Her commitment and professionalism is demonstrated by her offer to help the transition in the Chamber.”



Valenzuela leaving chamber

Sofia Valenzuela, CEO of the Tracy Chamber of Commerce, is leaving the chamber after 15 years to work for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tracy.

Valenzuela will stay with the chamber until Aug. 1, after which she will take up her new post.

“I feel fortunate to be coming into an organization that — they run a great operation,” she said.