



THE DESERT ENTERPRISE

**First Half
issue
Jul- Dec
2007-2008**

**Desert Haven
Wants...**



Desert Haven wants to hear from individuals and businesses who wish to provide employment opportunities to persons with developmental disabilities and/or are interested in volunteering within the organization.

**Call us today
at
661-948-8402**

Accredited Agency



Commission on
Accreditation of
Rehabilitation Facilities

QH KNIGHTS FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT



Above, Vic Pesce and Ron Heir of the QH Knights of Columbus present a check to DHE Executive Director Jenni Moran.

On October 2, 1881, a small group of men met in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven Connecticut, called together by their parish priest, Father Michael J. McGivney. These men formed a fraternal society that would become the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization, the Knights of Columbus. The Order has assisted families to obtain economic security and stability through its life insurance, annuity and long-term care programs, and has contributed time and energy throughout the world in service in communities to aid the sick, the needy, and persons with disabilities.

The Quartz Hill Knights of Columbus, Council #10667, again came through for the consumers of Desert Haven with a check for \$2,475.51, proceeds from their annual fundraising activities designed to benefit persons with mental retardation. Past Grand Knight Ron Heir and Deputy Grand Knight Vic Pesce expressed their appreciation for the services offered throughout the Antelope Valley by Desert Haven and reaffirmed the Knights ongoing commitment to supporting the mission of this organization.

FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS...THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

DOUG OLIVER AND GRAPHIC EXPERIENCE TEAM TO BENEFIT DHE

Celebrating 30 years of very successful business, The Graphic Experience teamed with renowned artist Doug Oliver to fete the business and to benefit Desert Haven in the process. Known around the world for his beautiful, panoramic landscapes and colorful, billowing clouds, Doug Oliver is also known by DHE as a long-time supporter and major contributor to the cause. "Over the years, Doug has donated a number of his incredible works of art to the Desert Haven Auction, which has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the organization," commented DHE Executive Director Jenni Moran. "He truly is an exceptional man with great talent and a very, very big heart."



Above, co-owners of The Graphic Experience, Christina Calaba and Rena Patel, present the raffle proceeds to Jenni Moran.



In the days leading up to the anniversary celebration and during the event itself, shop owners Christina Calaba and Rena Patel busily sold raffle tickets to shop patrons and to DHE supporters. All told, ticket sales brought in a grand total of \$1,070 for the agency. Local businessman, planning commissioner, and former DHE board member Ken Mann came up with the winning ticket.

Desert Haven wishes to express its deepest gratitude to Doug Oliver, The Graphic Experience, and to all those who purchased raffle tickets. Your unexpected gift to us is absolutely priceless!!

How are we doing?...Keeping a finger on the pulse of our consumers

Following is a summary of performance in DHE's key program areas, based upon a review of data for the first half of the 2007-08 fiscal year:

Organizational Employment Services: Work Services (Workshop)

- ✓ Thirty-eight percent of consumers in the shop were trained on jobs new to them.
- ✓ Six percent of consumers in the shop transitioned into upper levels of programming, including employment skills training and job placement.
- ✓ The availability of paid work averaged 97% , with consumers working some 90 new sub-contracts.
- ✓ One hundred percent of consumers placed in program and customers subcontracting to the agency all expressed satisfaction with DHE's services.

Employment Skills Training: Food Service, Housekeeping, Clerical Skills and Off-Site Hab Crews

- ✓ Seventy-two percent of consumers placed in the EST program were trained on jobs new to them.
- ✓ The availability of paid work averaged 97% for all consumers in the EST program.
- ✓ A total of two off-site hab crews were developed or expanded in the first half of the fiscal year.
- ✓ One hundred percent of consumers placed in the EST program expressed satisfaction with DHE's services, as did 100% of the customers utilizing the off-site hab crew service.

Community Employment Services: Supported Employment - Individual and Group Placement

- ✓ A total of 16.3 individual placements were achieved for consumers seeking community employment, well on the way toward achievement of the 18.0 goal.
- ✓ Hourly earnings exceeded minimum wage with an average of \$8.06 per hour for consumers in individual placement and met or exceeded established goals for consumers placed on the EAFB and HDH work crews.
- ✓ Two more consumers achieved competitive employment status, working independently without job coach support.
- ✓ One hundred percent of responding consumers placed in program expressed satisfaction with DHE's services as did ninety-six percent of employers responding to the survey.

Day Training Activity Services: Project Independence

- ✓ Twenty percent of consumers in the DTAC program achieved individual ISP/IPP goals.
- ✓ Twenty percent of consumers in the DTAC program demonstrated an increase in their productivity rating.
- ✓ Consumers in program participated in a total of 29 meaningful and diversified community outings.
- ✓ Consumers in program expressed their enjoyment of the new program, i.e. relieves stress, good surroundings, and new friends.

To review the summary report in its entirety, please contact the office of the Executive Director



Consumers bound for Rite Aid prepare to board their new transit vehicle, a 25-passenger bus.



RITE AID HAB CREWS TRAVEL IN STYLE

In light of the growing number of consumers being transported to and from the Rite Aid Distribution Center each day, it became necessary for DHE to purchase a bus in order to enhance overall efficiency. As a result, DHE was able to take three smaller vans off the road and improve comfort for consumers transiting to the site. It is hoped that DHE will be in a position to do the same for crews transiting to Edwards Air Force Base in the very near future.

Thank you Rite Aid for expanding our crews to this degree!

STATE OF THE STATE

California State Budget Update

Faced with a \$14 billion deficit, Governor Schwarzenegger has declared a fiscal state of emergency within the State of California. Having called the Legislature into special session, the Governor is proposing across-the-board budget cuts as high as 10% within all state departments. Preliminary review of his proposed budget reveals the following impact on our industry; though, one must bear in mind, that everything is subject to change:

- ◆ No general rate reductions for most programs; though, cost containment rate freezes will continue and will extend indefinitely;
- ◆ Programs operating under negotiated rates will have those rates frozen; and
- ◆ Rates for supported employment will be cut by 10%, which could translate into a loss of some \$65,000 to \$80,000 for Desert Haven Enterprises.

For this reason, DHE has had to make some very tough decisions with regard to a reduction in force. Further, as positions are vacated through attrition, only those that are absolutely essential to the operation of the organization will be filled. Finally, expenses in the way of major purchases have been suspended indefinitely.

MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD

Senator George Runner
848 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 729-6232

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capital Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-2841

Assemblywoman Sharon Runner
747 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 723-3368

New Contracts in the Shop

- ✓ **Nelson Aerospace, Inc.** 57 jobs conducting ball bearing check of fittings and end capping fittings
- ✓ **Swift First Aid** 20 jobs assembling and/or loading various first aid products
- ✓ **J. Paul Mitchell Systems** 10 jobs loading assorted hair care products
- ✓ **Gerson Company** Labeling glass vases
- ✓ **Triangle Coatings, Inc.** Overlabeling master cartons
Delabeling, relabeling, and shrink wrapping cat food cans
- ✓ **Industrial Distributing Group** Loading gloves in bag

◆—————◆
DHE says "Thank You" to all of our new and repeat customers!!!

ABOUT THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

(Formerly the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program)

The Committee for Purchase from People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled, an independent federal agency, administers the AbilityOne Program, which is an extension of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, originally passed by Congress in 1938. The purpose of the Act was to establish a federal market for products made by people who are blind. In 1971, the act was amended to include products and services provided by persons with a range of severe disabilities. Through the AbilityOne Program, individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities receive rehabilitation, employment training, and job coaching through qualified community-based nonprofit organizations like Desert Haven Enterprises, Inc. The end result is a win-win for everyone involved. Persons with disabilities acquire marketable job skills, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life, while the federal government is afforded quality, on-time goods and services at a competitive price.

Desert Haven has been affiliated with the program through NISH (formerly the National Industries for the Severely Handicapped) since the mid-1970's when DHE acquired the landscape maintenance service contract with Edwards Air Force Base. Today, a total of 26 consumers and 14 staff, under the leadership of Director of Landscape Services Alberto Saldivar, maintain hundreds of acres throughout the main base. The primary responsibilities of the crew include: full grounds maintenance, including lawns, shrubbery and rock areas for 213 serviceable acres, as well as pre-emergent, weed abatement, and soil sterilization services for some 624 acres.



Desert Haven is deeply appreciative of its longstanding partnership with Edwards Air Force Base and the incredible opportunity this contract affords persons with disabilities to lead more fulfilling, productive, and independent lives.



YOU ASKED FOR IT

Actions Taken on Behalf of Consumer Advisory Committee

Every month, consumer representatives throughout the organization meet to share their thoughts as to areas of improvement for DHE. Following are some of the action steps taken as a result of that input:

- ⇒ Purchased a new lawnmower for maintenance of grounds around Desert Haven Center;
- ⇒ Secure a vendor for purchase of DHE-logo water bottles;
- ⇒ Additional food and snack items have been added to the café menu, including fruit roll-ups, breath mints, pepperoni pizzas, corn nuts, and Squirt soda; and
- ⇒ Men's and women's restrooms in the workshop will be expanded in the third quarter to include accessible stalls in compliance with ADA.

DHE SAYS "THANK YOU" TO DONORS

On behalf of the board of directors, staff and consumers, we wish to thank the following businesses and organizations that have donated funds in support of the mission of Desert Haven Enterprises:

Southern California Edison
(\$1,000)

QH Knights of Columbus
(\$2,476)

Northrop Grumman
(\$3,000)

Dennis and Cyndee Davenport
(\$2,000)

Weingart Foundation
(\$22,000)

New Crews in the Community

Off-Site Habilitation Crews

- ✓ Rite Aid Distribution Ctr Pressure Wash Crew
- ✓ Lockheed Martin Pressure Wash Crew

New Jobs in the Community

Individual Placement

- ✓ Wal-Mart Super Center Maintenance Associate
(East Lancaster)
- ✓ Toys 'R Us Maintenance Associate
- ✓ Riders Choice Stock Clerk

DID SOMEONE SAY SNOWFLAKE BALL?





Desert Haven Enterprises
43437 Copeland Circle
Lancaster, CA 93535

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
 STAFF MEMBERS:**

✓ Patti Sprinkle	21 years	✓
✓ Becky Dillon	19 years	✓
✓ Jenni Moran	19 years	✓
✓ Peggy Goad	16 years	✓
✓ Michael Thomas	13 years	✓
✓ Lisa Enos	10 years	✓
✓ Scott King	10 years	✓
✓ Kathy Burcina	9 years	✓
✓ Alberto Saldivar	6 years	✓
✓ Adrian Jacquez	5 years	✓
✓ Kathleen Miller	5 years	✓
✓ Mary Lou Montoya	5 years	✓
✓ Shelley Runner	5 years	✓
✓ William Schaeffer	5 years	✓
✓ Yesenia Cornejo	4 years	✓
✓ Anne Heine	3 years	✓
✓ Lorraine McKesson	3 years	✓
✓ Laura Brown	3 years	✓
✓ Gwendolyn Thornton	3 years	✓
✓ William J.P. Anderson	3 years	✓
✓ Guillermina Madera	3 years	✓
✓ Jeffrey Whiteford	2 years	✓
✓ Angela Roberson	2 years	✓
✓ Lisa Cooper	2 years	✓
✓ John Terry	2 years	✓
✓ Maria Carvajal	2 years	✓
✓ Aleisha Turner	2 years	✓
✓ Joe Martinez	1 year	✓
✓ Armando Villalobos	1 year	✓
✓ Alma Garcia de Nunez	1 year	✓
✓ John C. Anderson	1 year	✓
✓ Crystal Hernandez	1 year	✓
✓ Patricia MacGregor	1 year	✓
✓ Tiffany Russell	1 year	✓
✓ Salvador Mejia	1 year	✓

Mission Statement

Desert Haven Enterprises, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to developing, enhancing, and promoting the capabilities of persons with developmental disabilities.

The primary objective of the agency is to enable persons served to maximize their potential to become independent, self-sufficient, and participating members of their community through pre-vocational and vocational training, independent living and community skills training, job placement, community-based employment, and supportive services.

WELCOME ABOARD!

DHE welcomes the following new team members joining us in the first half of 2007-08:

✓	Leticia Cambaliza	Hab Crew Trainer
✓	David Gonzalez, Sr.	Driver
✓	Gisela Ayala	Job Coach
✓	Lori Ayon	Receptionist
✓	Gerald Hartley	Maintenance Technician
✓	Shauna Taylor	Job Coach
✓	Krystyl Wright-Smith	DTAC Instructor
✓	Rebekah Young	DTAC Instructor
✓	Constance Draper	DTAC Instructor
✓	William Bierman	DTAC Instructor

CARF ACCREDITATION

DHE participated in the CARF accreditation survey in March 2006, receiving just one recommendation. Interested persons may review the most recent CARF survey by contacting the CARF Coordinator, Executive Director Jenni Moran @ 948-8402.

Upcoming Events

Installation and Awards Banquet
May 29, 2008
J.P. Eliopoulos Hellenic Center
Lancaster

Board Retreat
June 27—29, 2008
Mandalay Beach Resort
Oxnard

DHE HISTORY

DHE was begun in 1954 when parents Jack and Luella Henstra placed an advertisement in the local newspaper seeking a playmate for their son who had mental retardation as a result of meningitis. A small group of parents, led by the Henstras, established the Desert Haven Preschool and the rest, as they say, is history.