

# THE DESERT ENTERPRISE

**Second Half  
issue  
Jan–Jun  
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

## DIRECTORS HONORED FOR COMMITMENT



Executive Director Jenni Moran presents Lou Bozigian with the 50-year Board Service Award.

Long-term board directors Lou Bozigian, Dick Anderson, and Judy Gray were honored for a combined total of 110 years of commitment and service on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities during Desert Haven's recent installation and awards banquet. A former Lancaster mayor and city councilman and a former AV Union HS District trustee, Bozigian has been involved with the agency for 50 years, after his 9 month old daughter Caren suffered a traumatic brain injury in an automobile accident. He has served as board president ten times for a total of 20 years and chaired the Desert Haven Benefit Auction 16 times, raising some \$5 million for services provided through the agency. Bozigian received a 50-year board service award, in addition to having received the Henstra Award, DHE's premiere award. "It's self-rewarding; you get a lot of satisfaction when you're helping others," Bozigian commented. "I made a lifetime commitment when I started 50 years ago and I hope to stay with it a number of years more."

Judy Gray spent her entire career in the field of education, teaching special education students until her retirement from teaching kindergarten at Joshua Elementary School in Lancaster. She has served on the board for 30 years and has held the office of board president, in addition to working as an auction volunteer, and serving in various

positions on a number of board-related committees.

Dick Anderson came to the agency while working as a Manufacturing Program Coordinator with Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in Palmdale. He too has served on the board for 30 years, has held the office of board president twice, has worked as an auction volunteer, and has worked on a number of board-related committees.

Jenni Moran noted that Desert Haven's success can in very large part be attributed to the commitment, dedication, and hard work of the three directors. "When I first came into this position, I was 29 years old and very green. These three individuals placed their faith in me, invested their time, shared their experience and offered advice to ensure my success and more, importantly, the success of this organization, during a particularly challenging time in its history. They are truly incredible people and I shudder to think what may have come of this agency were it not for the stability and consistency these three afforded at that time and continue to bring to the table year in and year out."



Lancaster City Councilman, Ken Mann (left) presents commendations to Judy Gray and Dick Anderson for 30-years' board service.



Jenni Moran receives award from Assemblywoman Sharon Runner (left) and Assembly Speaker-Elect Karen Bass (right)

## DH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED "WOMAN OF THE YEAR"

Desert Haven's own Jenni Moran was honored in Sacramento by Assemblywoman Sharon Runner as the 36th District's Woman of the Year, during a special ceremony in the Assembly. "It is an honor to recognize Jenni Moran for her valuable service to our community and commitment to making the Antelope Valley a better place to live," Runner said. "I sincerely appreciate Jenni's dedication to helping others and she truly embodies the spirit of community service and volunteerism"

In addition to serving as DHE's Executive Director, Moran is also a member and past-president of the Lancaster-West Rotary Club, past assistant governor of Rotary District 5260, past president of the Antelope Valley Sheriff's Boosters, and past chair of the United Way's Council of Executives. She is also a member of the California Disability Services Association, Antelope Valley Board of Trade, and the Antelope Valley and Palmdale Chambers of Commerce.

*Desert Haven Enterprises  
Serving persons with developmental disabilities since 1954*

**CHECK OUT WHAT'S INSIDE...**

## 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 second half of the 2007-08 fiscal year:

### Organizational Employment Services: Work Services (Workshop)

- ✓ Forty-eight percent of consumers in the shop were trained on jobs new to them.
- ✓ Eight 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 85 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

- ✓ Fifty-three 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 thirteen off-site hab crews were developed or expanded in the second 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 11.8 individual placements were achieved for consumers seeking community employment, unfortunately short of the 18.0 goal.
- ✓ Hourly earnings exceeded minimum wage with an average of \$8.75 per hour for consumers in individual placement and exceeded established goals for consumers placed on the EAFB and HDH work crews.
- ✓ Three 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

- ✓ Five percent of consumers in the DTAC program achieved individual ISP/IPP goals.
- ✓ Nine percent of consumers in the DTAC program demonstrated an increase in their productivity rating.
- ✓ Consumers in program participated in a total of 36 meaningful and diversified community outings.
- ✓ One hundred percent of consumers placed in program expressed satisfaction with DHE's services.

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



1929—2008

### In Loving Memory of Nellie A. Bozigian

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of long-time DHE supporter and friend, Nellie Bozigian who passed from this life on July 12, 2008. Nellie was wife of more than 60 years to DHE Board Member Lou Bozigian and mom to past auction volunteers, Cathy Clark and husband Jay and Carol O'Connor and husband Terry. Nellie was also mom to the late Caren Bozigian, who suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car accident as an infant. It was love for their daughter Caren and their desire to support her in leading as normal and productive a life as possible that served as the catalyst for Lou and Nellie's involvement in Desert Haven Enterprises for the past 50 years.

In addition to being wife and mother to her family, as well as fundraiser and volunteer for Desert Haven and countless other organizations, Nellie was also an accomplished cook, seamstress, and savvy businesswoman, working as a real estate agent and co-owner of Mid Valley Real Estate, today Coldwell Banker/Bozigian Realty, for over ten years. She was truly an extraordinary woman in every aspect of her life and had a knack for making each and every person she met along the way feel as if he or she were the absolute most important person in the world..

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to Desert Haven Enterprises, Nellie Bozigian Memorial Fund.

### New Contracts in the Shop

- ✓ Nelson Aerospace, Inc. 43 jobs conducting ball bearing check of fittings and end capping fittings
- ✓ Swift First Aid 28 jobs assembling and/or loading various first aid products
- ✓ J. Paul Mitchell Systems 12 jobs loading assorted hair care products
- ✓ QH Water District Bulk mail
- ✓ Proven Products Repacking cleaning cards

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

### STATE OF THE STATE

California State Budget Update

Despite actions taken by the Legislature earlier in the year, at the May Revise, Governor Schwarzenegger pegged the deficit at some \$17.2 billion. Allegedly, the Governor's proposal would cover the deficit with an additional \$11.7 billion in revenue and \$12.6 billion in cuts. The impact to the disability services industry is significant:

- ◆ Cut supported employment rates by 10%, which translates into a hit to Desert Haven Enterprises of some \$65,000 to \$80,000 annually;
- ◆ Drop language from the budget that ensures rate freezes are automatically reviewed again next year.

### 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

## ANNUAL INSTALLATION AND AWARDS BANQUET

### DHE Recognizes Efforts of Business Leaders, Consumers and Staff Members



Above, the Top Contractors for 2008 from left, Renee Johnson of Rite Aid, Connie Mathias of Lockheed Martin, and Shane Weitzel of Swift First Aid. Rite Aid and Swift were also recognized as Contractors of the Year.



At left, the Employer of the Year Award was accepted on behalf of Sodexo, Inc. by Scott Dow. Below, Donna Tremeeer and Lisa Moulton accept the Friends of DH Award on behalf of Senator and Assemblywoman Runner.



Below, Alan Kreps (right) of Outback Steakhouse and Phil Harper (left) of The HON Co., accept the Distinguished Service Award.



Above, Master of Ceremonies Extraordinaire, Lew Stults receives the President's Award.



On May 29, 2008, Desert Haven held its annual Installation and Awards Banquet, installing the 2008-09 Board of Directors and recognizing individuals, groups and businesses having made significant contributions toward the fulfillment of the agency's mission. Superior Court Judge the Honorable Hayden Zacky served as installing officer and Lew Stults, Field Representative for U.S. Congressman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, served once again as master of ceremonies. This year, twelve awards were presented to the following recipients:

**Henstra Award**  
**Friends of Desert Haven Award**

*Louis V. Bozigian*  
*Senator George Runner and Assembly-woman Sharon Runner*

**Employer of the Year Award**  
**Contractor of the Year Award**

*Sodexo Inc. at Lancaster Community Hospital*  
*Swift First Aid, Sheltered Workshop*  
*Rite Aid Southwest Customer Support Center, Off-Site Hab Crews*

**Consumer of the Year Award**

*Raymond Miller, Sheltered Employment; Darren Doyle, Hab Crews; Terry Harper, Individual Placement; Robert Lira, Work Crews; and William Mailes, DTAC*

**Employee of the Year Award**

*MaryLou Montoya, Production Supervisor; Angela Roberson, Hab Crew Trainer; Jojo Salamero, Job Coach; Ronnie Hofius, EAFB Irrigation Specialist; and Lorraine McKesson, DTAC Coordinator*

**Distinguished Service Award**

*Calandri/SonRise Farms, DP Commercial Brokerage, The HON Company, Outback Steakhouse, and Mato Plastics*

**2008 Top Contractors Award**

*Antelope Valley College, Department of Water Resources, H.W. Hunter, Inc., J. Paul Mitchell Systems, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, Nelson Aerospace, Rite Aid Southwest Customer Support Center, and Swift First Aid*

**President's Award**  
**Ten-Year Service Award**

*Lew Stults, Master of Ceremonies*  
*Lisa Enos, Director, Contract Services and Scott King, Hab Crew Services Assistant*

**Twenty-Year Service Award**  
**Louis V. Bozigian Award**

*Becky Dillon, Production Supervisor*  
*Roberta Terry, Director of Accounting and John Terry, Director of Fleet and Facilities*

**Board Service Award**

*Lou Bozigian—50 years*  
*Dick Anderson—30 years*  
*Judy Gray—30 years*

### New Crews in the Community

<i>Off-Site Habilitation Crews</i>	
✓ Rite Aid Distribution Ctr	Sandwich Crew Weekend Mod Cleanup Crew Golf Bag Crew Restroom Detail Crew
✓ MVP Group	Re-label Votes Crew Re-label Master Cartons Crew
✓ Lockheed Martin	Multi-purpose Crew #7 Multi-purpose Crew #8
✓ Michael's Stores	Price Tag Removal Crew Label Flower Stands Crew

### New Jobs in the Community

<i>Individual Placement</i>	
✓ Rider's Choice (Lancaster)	Stockman
✓ Veolia Transportation (Lancaster)	Mystery Rider/Quality Control
✓ Wal-Mart Supercenter (Palmdale)	Day Maintenance

### ANNUAL BOARD RETREAT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

In June, the Board of Directors and administrative staff spent a weekend together planning and strategizing for the upcoming fiscal year. The resulting strategic plan is designed to best meet the needs of our consumers and to continue to position the agency for further growth and greater self-sufficiency.

Following are a few of the objectives to be achieved in the 2008-09 fiscal year:

- ⇒ Monitor budget-related activities in Sacramento and continue to work against recommended 10% funding cut and adjust accordingly depending upon outcome;
- ⇒ Secure CARF accreditation of Project Independence DTAC Program;
- ⇒ Explore additional community-based vocational training and placement options in an effort to transition greater numbers of consumers out of sheltered employment;
- ⇒ Complete process for securing FDA licensure for the repackaging of drugs and medical devices;
- ⇒ Secure a minimum of 12 new community-based placements;
- ⇒ Partner with new webmaster to overhaul and update DHE website; and
- ⇒ Establish a donor wall as one phase of a more comprehensive fundraising program.

*For more information regarding the strategic plan, please contact the office of the Executive Director*



**Desert Haven Enterprises**  
**43437 Copeland Circle**  
**Lancaster, CA 93535**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY  
 STAFF MEMBERS:**

Martha Knight	19 years
Ronnie Hofius	17 years
Nancy Matherly	14 years
Anastasia Diamond	9 years
Kim Moore	8 years
Roberta Porter	7 years
Charmaine Hengel	7 years
Roberta Terry	6 years
Martin Camarillo	5 years
Juan Flores	5 years
Jason Montez	4 years
Gale Goergen	4 years
Salvador Sanchez	3 years
David Gonzalez	3 years
Frederick Gonzalez	3 years
Maria Leija	3 years
Lucia Portillo	3 years
Evelyn Brooks	3 years
Corina Enriquez	3 years
Regina Watson	3 years
Raquel Sanchez	3 years
JoJo Salamero	3 years
Lisa Zavala	3 years
Marvin Perez	2 years
Raymond Rodriguez	2 years
Noemi Galvan	2 years
Hector David Zavala	2 years
Juanita Helm	2 years
Daniel Rodriguez	2 years
Marina Leija	2 years
Veronica Ramirez	1 year
Justin Martens	1 year
Kenneth Cooper	1 year
Carolyn Caldwell	1 year
Joanne Campbell	1 year
Lena Lopez	1 year
Cheri Gilbert	1 year
Shareace Browne	1 year

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Annual Snowflake Ball**

December 20, 2008

J.P. Eliopoulos Hellenic Center

**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 Henstra's, established the Desert Haven Preschool and the rest, as they say, is history.

**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.

**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:

**Weingart Foundation**  
 (\$22,000)

**Lockheed Martin—LM Aero Club**  
 (\$9,283)

**United Way of Greater Los Angeles**  
 (\$4,860)

**Mayflower Gardens**  
 (5 wheelchairs)

**Southern California Edison**  
 (\$1,500)

**WELCOME ABOARD!**

*DHE welcomes the following new team members joining us in the second half of 07-08:*

✓ Rachel Smith	Hab Crew Trainer
✓ Wendy Aroca	Contract Worker
✓ Grace Seny	DTAC Instructor
✓ David Enos	Contract Worker
✓ Matt Enos	Contract Worker
✓ Yolanda Deschene	DTAC Instructor
✓ Elizabeth Mata	DTAC Instructor
✓ Diana Saldivar	Clerical Aide/Receptionist
✓ Christopher Nelson	EAFB Landscape Wrkr/Trnr
✓ Marcus Dorris	Hab Crew Trainer
✓ Margo Ann Gunner	Hab Crew Trainer
✓ Loretta Lucero	Job Coach
✓ Maria Campos	Contract Worker
✓ Mary Faux	Manager, Contract Svcs Ops
✓ Christina Bonner	DTAC Instructor
✓ Gloria Chavez	DTAC Instructor
✓ Harold Sanchez	Contract Worker
✓ Patricia Hernandez	Contract Worker
✓ Antoinette Spring-Abdul-Rahim	EAFB Landscape Wrkr/Trnr

**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.