



THE DESERT ENTERPRISE

**Second Half
issue
Jan–Jun
2016-2017**

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**Desert Haven
Wants...**



Interested in supporting the mission of DHE by employing those whom we serve, donating your time or financial resources, or joining our team as an employee...

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DISABILITIES FIELD LOSES ADVOCATE AND FRIEND



Above, DHE Executive Director Jenni Moran enjoys a visit with Dwight Hansen in Sacramento before receiving the Nonprofit of the Year Award on behalf of Desert Haven Enterprises, Inc., the next day, from Assemblyman Tom Lackey.

Dwight Hansen was a gentle giant...a kind and humble man, who had a passion for people and politics. In the early years, after studying Political Science at the University of California, Davis, Dwight served as a legislative staffer and later an advocate for the Building Industry Association. As his career progressed, he ultimately came to represent the providers serving the more than 300,000 persons with developmental disabilities and their families throughout the State of California, first as a staff member with California Disabilities Association and more recently as a contract lobbyist for The Alliance, of which Desert Haven is a member.

Dwight was a kind man, but he was also a very passionate man when it came to the rights of persons with disabilities and the preservation of the system of services and supports upon which they rely. He was perhaps the State's leading historian on the Lanterman Act, legislation signed more than

40 years ago that promised persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities that they would have the services and supports they need in order to live just like any other citizen of California. Dwight was, indeed, a staunch and ardent advocate on their behalf and was not afraid to speak his mind on the matter.

Dwight was an idealist, who spent his life shaping the last 15 years of California history for the betterment of those with disabilities. He created the Family Caucus of the California State Legislature, bringing together members of the Senate and Assembly who have loved ones with disabilities and he represented persons with disabilities and those who serve them as a vocal member of the Lanterman Coalition. Without question, his efforts can be directly traced to the recent \$400 million increase to the developmental disabilities system and the heightened level of awareness and discussion of the key issues impacting the system among members of the legislature.

Dwight passed from this life on June 25, 2017 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Despite his physical battle and challenges associated with his illness, it never deterred him from the most important battle at hand...the fight to preserve the Lanterman Act and the guarantees it provides for the betterment of the lives of all persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities.



Above, Jenni Moran and Assemblyman Tom Lackey are joined by The Alliance lobbyist Dwight Hansen, who was on hand at the award ceremony to celebrate DHE's achievement of Non-Profit of the Year for the 36th Assembly District.

CINEMARK MOVIES 22 SUPPORTS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



Cinemark Movies 22 General Manager Scott Walker and Assistant Manager Ashley Kilmer recently surprised DHE with a wonderful gift. A participant in the WE.org fundraising campaign, Cinemark empowered moviegoers across the U.S. to make a difference in the lives of people internationally through the purchase of Rafiki bracelets handmade by female artisans, also called "mamas", in Kenya. Proceeds from the \$3 bracelets supported WE initiatives, helping children and families break the cycle of poverty by giving access to clean water, healthy meals, education, and critical financial tools.

Cinemark Movies 22 and particularly Ms. Kilmer performed so well, selling hundreds and hundreds of bracelets, that Corporate authorized that a local charity receive a sizable donation as well. Cinemark has been a long-time supporter of DHE and the employment of persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities and we were privileged to receive this generous gift from them.

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 2016-17 fiscal year:

Work Readiness Services: Food Service, Housekeeping, and Off-Site Hab Crews

- ✓ Fifty-nine percent of consumers placed in the Work Readiness program were trained on jobs new to them.
- ✓ The availability of paid work averaged 70% for all consumers in the Work Readiness program.
- ✓ A total of 26 off-site hab crews were developed or expanded in the second half of the fiscal year.
- ✓ One consumer obtained individual, community-based employment from the Work Readiness Program during this review period
- ✓ One hundred percent of consumers placed in the Work Readiness 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 Placement

- ✓ A total of 1 individual placement was achieved for the second half of the year for consumers seeking community employment.
- ✓ Hourly earnings exceeded minimum wage with an average of \$10.65 per hour for consumers in individual placement.
- ✓ One consumer working within the community transitioned into follow-along status, while another 3 transitioned into competitive employment, working completely independently.
- ✓ Consumers within active job search averaged 7.2 months of job seeking for the job of their choosing.
- ✓ One hundred percent of responding consumers placed in program expressed satisfaction with DHE's services, as did 100% of employers responding to the survey.

Day Training Activity Services: Project Independence

- ✓ Twenty-one percent of consumers in the DTAC program achieved individual ISP/IPP goals.
- ✓ One consumer graduated from the DTAC program into the Work Readiness Program this review period.
- ✓ Consumers in program had opportunity to participate in a total of 73 diversified, meaningful community outings.
- ✓ Twenty-four percent of consumers in the program demonstrated skill acquisition and retention in a key area.
- ✓ One hundred percent of consumers placed in program expressed satisfaction with the services offered.

NEW JOBS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The following employers have recently hired consumers into regular jobs within their business:

- ✓ **Carl's Jr. (Valley Central Way) Customer Svc Attendant**

Please show your appreciation to this business for supporting persons with developmental disabilities in achieving their career aspirations.

QH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS KEEP ON GIVING



Once again, the Quartz Hill Knights of Columbus of Council #10667, have outdone themselves. In essentially one weekend, they raised in excess of \$5,000 for DHE through their annual tootsie roll drive to benefit persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Grand Knight Terry Vernor, along with fundraising co-chairs Richard

Iosue and Vince Fisher, as well as DHE's very own Christopher St. Marie, presented the check to Jenni Moran.

Thank you QH Knights of Columbus for your hard work and continued support for persons with disabilities!

NEW CREWS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The following companies and corporations have recently contracted with DHE for the listed outsource services within their business:

Off-Site Habilitation Crews

- ✓ **AV College (Pdale Airport)** Janitorial Crew
- ✓ **City of Lancaster** Graffiti Removal Crew
Vacant Lot Cleanup Crew
Cleanout and Board-up Crew
Fence Installation Crew
Code Enforcement Support Crew
- ✓ **Prostat First Aid** Assembly/Packaging Crew
- ✓ **Valley Oasis/CalWorks** Janitorial Crew
- ✓ **Rite Aid Distribution Ctr** Mod Detail Crew
Ice Pack Crew
- ✓ **Michaels Stores** Frame Overlabel Crew
Bouquet Arranger Tag Crew
Bin Storage Tower Repack Crew
- ✓ **Private Residences** (5) Grounds Maintenance Svcs

STATE OF THE STATE

California State Budget Update

As minimum wage increases in the City of Los Angeles and in the unincorporated areas of LA County to \$15 by 2021, the State minimum wage law follows behind the schedule of those areas, reaching \$15 per hour by 2022 for larger employers and by 2023 for smaller employers. While Regional Center and the Department of Developmental Services have the authority to provide some relief for service providers in the form of increased rates to account for those direct care staff whose wages must increase accordingly with the state law, they do not have the authority to increase rates for those accountable to the city or county ordinance. As a result, by 2018, there will be a \$2.25 per hour/per staff reimbursement gap for service providers in those areas and many will be forced to discontinue vital programs and services, or perhaps even shut down altogether.

Assembly Bill 279 (Holden) would give Regional Center and DDS the authority to match reimbursement rates with local laws. While the aforementioned issue does not impact DHE, it does impact many of our colleagues and ultimately hundreds, and perhaps thousands of persons served.

Please join us in support of AB 279 by sending your letters of support to:
 Senator Ricardo Lara, Chair Senate Appropriations Committee,
 State Capitol, Room 2206, Sacramento, CA 95814
 or fax your letter to (916) 651-4933

This edition of the Desert Enterprise is dedicated to the memory of former DHE Executive Assistant Carolyn Daniel, who passed away unexpectedly on April 13, 2017 in Charlottesville, NC. Carol was a friend to all and will forever be missed!

April 4, 1961 - April 13, 2017



ANNUAL INSTALLATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

DHE Recognizes Efforts of Business Leaders, Consumers and Staff Members



Above, NLACRC Deputy Director Diane Ambrose, accepts the Henstra

On May 25, 2017, Desert Haven held its annual Installation and Awards Ceremony, installing the 2017-18 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 Brian Yep served as installing officer and Jenni Moran, DHE's Executive Director, served as the mistress of ceremonies.

This year, twelve awards were presented to the following recipients:

Henstra Award
Friends of Desert Haven Award
Employer of the Year Award
Contractor of the Year Award

NLACRC Deputy Director Diane Ambrose
The Outlaw Chefs
Stater Bros Markets #130 and #144
Rite Aid Southwest Customer Support Center;
Antelope Valley College; Boys & Girls Clubs of
Antelope Valley; City of Lancaster

Consumer of the Year Award

Justin Hacsí, Off-site Hab Crews; Angelica Jimenez, Off-site Hab Crews; Airestede Coleman, On-site Crews; Casey Weaver, Individual Placement; and April Williams, DTAC

Employee of the Year Award

Elizabeth Valenzuela, Receptionist; Roberta Terry, Director of Finance; Maria Sanchez, Hab Crew Trainer, and Lorraine McKesson, DTAC Manager

Distinguished Service Award
Volunteer of the Year Award
President's Award
Ten-Year Service Award

Cheryl Hughes - The Whole Wheatery
Raymond Guadalupe
The Honorable Brian C. Yep
Patricia MacGregor, Job Coach; Tiffany Russell, Hab Crew Operations Manager; Veronica Ramirez, Counselor/Program Manager; and Shareace Browne, DTAC Instructor
Alberto Saldivar, Director of Landscape Operations and Roberta Terry, Director of Finance
Leslie Fuller - Baja Bash Committee Chair

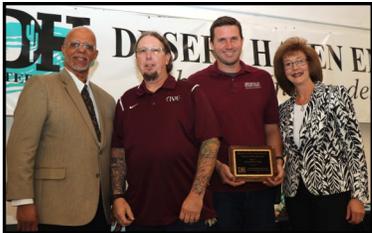
Fifteen Year Service Award

Bozigian Award

At right, Shaun Atwell, Lana Harper, Ed Wojick, and Dana Hickman accept the Contractor of the Year Award, for large, for-profit site on behalf of Rite Aid Southwest Customer Support Center.



At left, Jared Simmons and James Yoakum accept the Contractor of the Year Award, for mid-range, for-profit site on behalf of AV College



At right, Store Managers Matt Smith and Tony Benson accept the Employer of the Year Award on behalf of Stater Bros. Mkts #130 and #144



Leslie Fuller accepts the Bozigian Award as presented by DHE Board Director Jeff Clark, grandson of the late Lou Bozigian



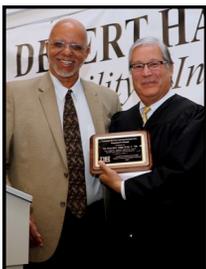
Rick Cook and Sally Altobelli accept the Contractor of the Year Award for large non-profit/public site on behalf of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Antelope Valley



The Outlaw Chefs - Alan (and Angela) Hetter, Dennis and Meloni Buie, and Ross and Melody Briseño - accept the Friends of Desert Haven Award



At left, Parks Supervisor Ramon Galo and Lead Maintenance Worker Aaron Johnson accept the Contractor of the Year Award for small to mid-range non-profit/public site on behalf of The City of Lancaster.



Above left, The Honorable Brian C. Yep accepts the President's Award from Outgoing DHE Board President Dr. Harry Taylor



Above right, Cheryl Hughes, owner of The Whole Wheatery, accepts the Distinguished Service Award

ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

In June, the Board of Directors and administration spent time 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 2017-18 fiscal year:

- ⇒ Secure additional community-based crews to support growth and heightened diversity of work opportunities within the Work Readiness Program and to generate additional revenue to support the agency's fiscal solvency and continued progress;
- ⇒ Secure a minimum of nine new community-based, individual placements;
- ⇒ Utilize the Consumer Advisory Committee to consider and provide input on key consumer-related policies and procedures; and
- ⇒ Ensure program compliance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and prepare for compliance with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) final ruling for Home and Community-based Services (HCBS).

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 28 years
- Ronnie Hofius 26 years
- Nancy Matherly 23 years
- Roberta Terry 15 years
- Maria Leija 12 years
- Lucia Portillo 12 years
- Hector David Zavala 11 years
- Shareace Browne 10 years
- Veronica Ramirez 10 years
- Diana Saldivar 9 years
- Christina Bonner 9 years
- Maria Campos 9 years
- Pamela Schuoler 7 years
- Tonjia McMaster 7 years
- Kristen Strait Connors 6 years
- Rhina Perez 6 years
- Sunshine Eustace 6 years
- Paulette Payne 6 years
- Maria Sanchez 6 years
- Cindy Ziegler 6 years
- Deida Hernandez 6 years
- Rita Gonzalez 5 years
- Mark Franklin 5 years
- Fernando Navarro 4 years
- Ericka Pasley 4 years
- Martha Flores 3 years
- Maria Erazo 3 years
- Jessica Russell 3 years
- Rosalinda Caceres 2 years
- Claudette Glenn 2 years
- Angela Eaton 1 year
- Kimberly Santucci 1 year
- Schofana Davis 1 year
- Lenora Ross Morris 1 year
- Sara Segura 1 year
- Sarah Boyd 1 year
- Ramona Aloyo 1 year
- Jessica Martinez 1 year
- Ruben Garcia 1 year
- Christine Iagnemma 1 year
- Latisha Jackson 1 year
- Gina Lake 1 year

MEET OUR HONORED STAFF

2016-17 Employees of the Year



Elizabeth Valenzuela Roberta Terry Maria Sanchez Lorraine McKesson

2016-17 Service Awards

10 Years



*10 Year Service Award Recipients for 2016-2017
 Pictured at left are Veronica Ramirez and Patricia MacGregor
 Tiffany Russell and Shareace Browne were recognized at a later date*

15 Years



*15 Year Service Award Recipients for 2016-2017
 Pictured at right are Roberta Terry and Alberto Saldivar*

CARF ACCREDITATION

DHE last participated in the CARF accreditation survey in April 2015, receiving a three-year accreditation. Interested persons may review the most recent CARF survey by contacting the CARF Coordinator, Executive Director Jenni Moran @ 948-8402.

SAVE THE DATE

“Viva La Fiesta” Baja Bash

Friday, September 8, 2017
 Antelope Valley Fairgrounds

Annual Snowflake Ball

Saturday, December 2, 2017
 University of Antelope Valley — Grand Ballroom

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.

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