

# The Desert Voice

Published by consumers of Desert Haven Enterprises for persons living with developmental disabilities

Desert Haven Enterprises  
43437 Copeland Circle  
Lancaster, CA 93535



First Half Issue  
2012-2013

## All Hail the King and Queen of the Snowflake Ball



Above, Tyron Lawson and Etoya Spates are all smiles after being crowned King and Queen of the Snowflake Ball.

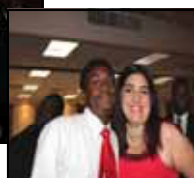
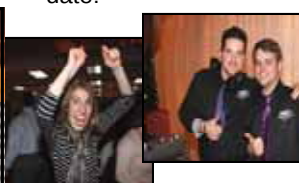
Some 240 consumers and their guests attended the annual Snowflake Ball at the University of Antelope Valley's Grand Ballroom in Lancaster, where Tyron Lawson and Etoya Spates were crowned the King and Queen of the event.

Tyron is in the Work Readiness Program, while Etoya attends Project Independence. They were elected King and Queen by consumers who voted throughout Desert Haven. They were both very surprised and happy to have been selected. Tyron and Etoya enjoyed their first dance together after being announced by Senior Counselor/

Program Manager Peggy Goad and crowned by her assistants Veronica Ramirez and Lorraine McKesson. Congratulations King Tyron and Queen Etoya!

## MORE FUN AT THE SNOWFLAKE BALL

More than 240 consumers, staff and guests danced the night away to tunes spun by Global Spinners, during the annual Snowflake Ball. Held at the University of Antelope Valley's Grand Ballroom, guests enjoyed a delicious meal, had opportunity to win stuffed teddy bears, and showcased their best dance moves. Everyone had a wonderful time. Many thanks to the staff for all their hard work in making this one of the best holiday parties to date!



## Consumers of the Month

**Congratulations to our fellow coworkers, who have been selected by the staff as Consumers of the Month for the first half of 2012-13:**

### Work Readiness

(Food Service; Housekeeping/Towel; Off-Site Hab Crews)

Lorrie Gibbs  
Christopher Co  
Kristina Drumgole  
Francisco Barajas  
Ernesto Quintero  
Heidi Ventura  
La Tangella Mitchell  
Herman Johnson  
Kody Arruda  
Irene Nellis  
Carina Chavez  
Damian Robinson

### Project Independence

Richard Lewandowski  
Alma Santos  
Melissa Veliz  
Maria Melgar  
David Walsh  
Amanda Wood

### Supported Employment Individual Placement (Chosen Quarterly)

**July—September**  
Rebecca Blair  
Chuck E. Cheese, Lancaster

**October—December**  
Christopher Co  
Wal-Mart, Valley Central Way, Lancaster

## CAFÉ CREW HELPS OUT AT BAJA BASH



Left to right: Instructor, Deb Petty, Eric Chan, Marshall Shaw, Ehryn Haman, David Smith, Faith Williams, Donald Weatherill and Fleet & Facilities Director Sunshine Eustace

The hard working café crew was the highlight of a fundraiser to benefit Desert Haven as they did what they do best...food service.

The 1st annual "Viva La Fiesta" Baja Bash was held on Friday, September 21, 2012 on the rooftop of HW Hunter Dodge. The café crew stepped in to help with many jobs, including food preparation, as well as serving dinners to the more than 200 guests in attendance, followed by cleanup.

The entire café crew looked very professional in their DH hats, t-shirts and, finishing the look, aprons. Attendees were thrilled to have Desert Haven consumers at the event and commented about the great job each had done. Board President Dennis Davenport remarked that he was extremely honored to serve Desert Haven because of the men and women on the food service crew and the hundreds more served by the agency that they represent.



**Great Job Café Crew!!!!**

## A Christmas Poem From Our Hearts

By: Keith Gregory McCollom

Christmas story is the greatest celebration and happiest holiday ever.

Christmas songs of giving thanks with a spirit.

Rainbow of Christmas comes once a year.

Christmas gifts from everyone full of big thanks!



Keith came to Desert Haven in March 1997. He currently works in the Work Readiness Off-Site Hab Crews Program and is assigned to Rite Aid on the Sort, Tag and Wash crews. Keith also works on the Sagebrush crew. Keith always has a great attitude and loves to motivate others to be happy.

## HAUNTING HALLOWEEN PARTY

### Project Independence Winners



Clarence Martin  
Run DMC



Bryana Haywood  
Michael Jackson



Larissa Ecklund  
Hello Kitty

### Work Readiness Winners



Starla Warner  
Moonlight Lady



Tony Turner  
Monk Zombie



Joseph Alexander  
Obama of the 60s

# THANK YOU!

We at DHE and Project Independence would like to express our sincere thanks to Sandra Sheets who, for the past three years, has provided cupcakes to help celebrate every special occasion, as well as providing frosting so consumers may decorate their own cupcake. Your generosity is what makes this world a **sweeter** place!!

Sandra is the sister of Bill Bierman. Bill is a trainer in the Project Independence Program.