

Desert Haven Enterprises  
43437 Copeland Circle  
Lancaster, CA 93535



Second Half Issue  
2013 - 2014

## HAPPY RETIREMENT PEGGY GOAD



After a dedicated 22 years of outstanding service, Peggy Goad has left Desert Haven and the Antelope Valley desert to retire to the even warmer desert in the beautiful state of Arizona. Peggy came to work at DHE on October 23, 1991 as the secretary within the former Vocational Assessment Center, but, thankfully, was redirected into the position of Client Services Secretary, supporting the Director of Client Services, who, at that time, happened to be Jenni Moran. In less than one year, Peggy Goad was promoted to Consumer Services Specialist with even greater responsibility for support of the program director and the counseling staff, and even served as the board liaison in support of the Executive Director after Jenni was promoted.

In September 1997, Peggy became the Program Management Assistant for sheltered employment program services and remained in that position until her brief departure from the Antelope Valley in May 2000. Fortunately for us, Peggy returned in July 2000 as a case aide within the Supported Employment Program until being promoted into a Counselor/Program Manager position in 2001. At the point of her retirement, Peggy was a senior counselor/program manager with responsibility for overall case management for consumers within the work readiness program, including admissions, discharges, counseling, goal development and related supportive services.

Peggy's retirement day was full of festivities to honor her with gifts and warm remembrances. Many of the consumers spoke as to how much Peggy meant to them as their counselor, while others expressed their feelings in song. DHE's resident "Michael Jackson" (Herman Johnson) presented Peggy with his famous glove, after performing.



BEST WISHES, PEGGY, FOR A WONDERFUL RETIREMENT!

## Mavis Plunkett and Bill Staats Take An Adventure "Down Under"

**Mavis Plunkett and Bill Staats went on a 14 day trip to Australia. This had been a dream of Bill's since he watched the Summer Olympics held in Australia in 2000.**

Bill, his two sisters and Mavis landed in Sidney on February 6, 2014 and were greeted with a hot, sunny day. It also happened to be Bill's birthday! They ate at a restaurant called the Blackbird, where Mavis and Bill tried kangaroo steak. Bill liked it. Mavis, not so much. They also ate at an Outback Steakhouse, where Bill ate Crocodile, which Bill says tasted like chicken. They also toured the local Opera House; the Sidney Zoo, which required taking the ferry in order to get to it; and also rode around parts of Sidney on a double-decker bus, affectionately called the "hop-on/hop-off". Bill went to see a professional Australian basketball game, the Sidney Kings vs. the New Zealand Breakers. They all went to the beach where it was reported that Bill waded into the water and Mavis stuck her toes in it. They went to the local wax museum, which is a lot like the one in Los Angeles. There they were able to get up close and personal to some famous people or so they claim. The day after that, they went mall crawling and watched some locals doing street performances. On their 9<sup>th</sup> day in Australia, they flew to Cairns, Australia, where the Great Barrier Reef is located, and went on a glass bottom boat ride to see the reef. During the 4 days that they were in Cairns, they visited the Blue Mountains and rode the tram to the top of the mountain; and visited a local petting zoo, where they got to pet a koala bear and found out that if you try to pet the top of their heads, they will bite you. They had a great time while they were there and returned to the good ole USA on February 16<sup>th</sup> totally exhausted, a bit darker and peeling.



Mavis came to DHE on July 16, 2007 and is currently working on the multipurpose crew. Bill came to DHE on August 21, 2006 and is currently working on the Work Readiness off-site hab crew at The Boys and Girls Clubs 1 & 2 as well as the Lancaster City Park Crew.

## Consumers of the Month

**Congratulations to our fellow coworkers, who have been selected by the staff as Consumers of the Month for the second half of 2013-14**

**Work Readiness-EST**

- Dawn King*
- Brian Dolphin*
- Giovanni Rico*
- Miriam Perez*
- Mary Hernandez*
- DeShonte Burks*
- Carla Alva*
- Francisco Barajas*
- Cathy Browning*
- Dustin Simmons*
- Ian Wilson*
- Desiree Bell*
- Dontay Franklin*
- Miriam Perez*
- Skyler Steward*
- Stacy Quintero*

**Project Independence**

- Leon Logan*
- Darnell Ferguson*
- Lonnie White*
- Kyle Chavez*
- Joshua Musselman*
- Wilfredo Guerra*

**Supported Employment Individual Placement**

*(Chosen Quarterly)*

**January - March**

- David Smith*
- Target, Lancaster*

**April - June**

- Gary Doss*
- Caliber Collision Center, Lancaster*

**Great Job and Congratulations!**



**ATTENTION  
CALLING ALL  
CONSUMER'S !**



The Snowflake Ball will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at the University of Antelope Valley in the Grand Ballroom. This is definitely one party you do not want to miss! Watch for upcoming flyers and information. If you have any questions speak with your counselor.

Hope to see you there!

### We want to hear from you!

The Desert Voice is a newsletter for consumers of Desert Haven Enterprises, published by consumers of Desert Haven Enterprises. If you are interested in writing or sharing a story, poem, photo, artwork, joke...or anything else you would like to see published in the newsletter, please contact one of the members of the Consumer Advisory Committee or feel free to contact Peggy Goad (Staff Facilitator).

You have a voice...Use it!

## 2013-14 Consumers of the Year

*Off Site Hab Crews: Marty Camarillo*



Marty has participated in Desert Haven programming for some 25 years. In February 2000, he re-enrolled in the sheltered workshop and ultimately transitioned into a regular Desert Haven staff member position on the "A" Crew at Edwards Air Force Base, where he performed a variety of landscape/grounds maintenance duties. When the scope of work on the contract was reduced due to federal cutbacks, Marty enrolled in DHE's Work Readiness program to work on the BeX, Downtown Theater, Rite Aid, and Lockheed off-site crews. Marty is a very hard worker, who takes pride in a job well done and is a great support to any crew on which he is placed.

**Congratulations Marty!**

*Off Site Hab Crews: Heidi Rivera-Ventura*



Heidi began attending DHE in November 2011 when she enrolled in the Work Readiness program, in which she works on a number of the off-site hab crews throughout the community, including the BeX Restaurant 1 and 2, Crissair, Children's Center, Fox Field/Arbor Garden, and Cal State Long Beach/George's Cleaners crews. Heidi has consistently demonstrated excellent work habits, including overall quality and productivity. She is a real team player, who maintains a positive attitude and enthusiasm about her job. Heidi is also extremely flexible and willing to work on any crew, at any time, on any day. She is always professional, respectful, and polite and works extremely well with both staff and coworkers alike.

**Congratulations Heidi!**

*Work Readiness-EST: Ian Simpson*



Ian began attending DHE in 2007. As a participant in the Work Readiness Program, he has worked on a number of the off-site hab crews. Recently, Ian transferred into the food service program, where he has continued to demonstrate just how seriously he takes his position. Ian consistently maintains a good attitude, flexibility, reliability and professionalism. He is enrolled two evenings per week in classes at AV College and is striving toward one day working within a community-based placement position through the supported employment program.

**Congratulations Ian!**

*SEP Individual Placement: Christopher Co*



Chris was initially referred for supported employment services in August 2011, but a stagnant economy made placement challenging. In an effort to assist him to build a resume and enhance job skills, Chris was enrolled in the Work Readiness Program in January 2012. Working on the off-site crews, Chris demonstrated an exceptional work attitude and work ethic and was regarded by trainers as very polite, respectful, and a cooperative team worker. Eventually, Chris was hired by Wal-Mart, in September 2012, where he worked as a cashier until his transfer into the maintenance department. There he has continued to demonstrate great enthusiasm and willingness to put 100% effort into each and every task assigned.

**Congratulations Christopher!**

*Project Independence: Sharon Ellis*



Sharon began attending Project Independence in 2010 and, prior to that time, she had participated in Desert Haven's sheltered workshop program for many, many years. Each and every day, she arrives happy, energetic, and ready to participate. When Sharon first started in program at PI, she had health issues that required her to use a walker on a daily basis. She made it her personal goal to improve her overall mobility and to get rid of the walker. Less than a year later, staff observed Sharon picking up her walker and dragging it from class to class and they knew...she had met her goal. Now, Sharon is the first person dancing on free day and is always eager to help her fellow consumers.

**Congratulations Sharon!**