

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



Second Half Issue
2014 - 2015

Spotlight: Jeffrey Yuan Earns Associate's Degree

Jeffrey Yuan moved to the United States from Taiwan when he was just eleven years old. He attended Lancaster High School, where he graduated in 2010. Shortly after graduating, Jeffrey joined DHE as part of the work readiness program. Jeffrey is fluent in Mandarin Chinese as well as English. He even has some experience speaking Japanese and Korean! In his spare time, he enjoys watching Japanese anime, and even cosplaying (dressing up as) one of his favorite characters, "Luffy," a pirate from the anime show *One Piece*.

In December of 2014, Jeffrey earned his Associate's Degree of Applied Science in Web Graphic Design from DeVry University. Describing the experience at his graduation, Jeffrey said he felt very proud when he got to walk across the stage at DeVry University in a cap and gown, shake the hands of University staff, and receive his degree.



Jeffrey's interest in web graphic design sparked from the enjoyment he experiences when playing the very same type of games he hopes to one day design. Now that he has his Associate's degree, his goals for the future are to work towards the Supported Employment Program at DHE, and hopefully secure a job in the community doing game design and animation.

Congratulations Jeffrey!

Have You Seen Our Billboards Yet?

Long-time supporter of Desert Haven Enterprises, Lamar Outdoor Advertising has gone above and beyond to ensure our name and, more importantly, our mission to persons with developmental disabilities, are known throughout the Antelope Valley. With the fresh new look, featuring our hard-working consumers in action, more and more businesses are checking us out and joining our long list of partners in providing vocational training and employment opportunities for you!

Watch for these awesome billboards as you make your way around the Antelope Valley.



Lidia Puentes at work on the Rite Aid crew



Carla Alva at work on The Blvd crew



Johnny Stevens at work on the EAFB crew



Marquez Hamilton at work on the Rite Aid Crew

Mavis

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 2014-15

Work Readiness-EST

Jesus Garibay
Trenise Liner
Airstede Coleman
Samantha Pica
Shelly Hampton
Christian Segovia
Cathy Browning
Aldo Espinoza
Marisa Byers
Maurice Butler
Mary Licea
Juan Sola

Project Independence

Edward Hammond
James Kline
Brandon Whitford
Betty "Machi" Minikwu
Travis Tibbits
Mark Mendenhall

Supported Employment Individual Placement (Chosen Quarterly)

Jonathon Bayron
Del Taco, Palmdale
January - March

Christopher Moore
Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market
April - June

Great Job and Congratulations!



ATTENTION CALLING ALL CONSUMER'S !



The Snowflake Ball will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2015 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 Paige Kachold.

You have a voice...Use it!

2014-15 Consumers of the Year

Off Site Hab Crews: Emilio Villalobos



Emilio began program at Desert Haven in May of 2014. He started with an eager attitude, great attendance, and an awesome personality, and those traits are shown every day that he comes to work. Whenever Emilio is asked to do a task, he smiles and gets to it with no hesitation. He is proactive and productive, and always a joy to work with. His flexibility is commendable. He comes to work each day with a smile; is always prepared for his day and is rated excellent in his work habits. Emilio is a reliable worker who always makes an effort to do the best he can. There is never a job too big or too small for him. His willing and dependable persona makes him a winner in the hearts of staff and consumers alike.

Off-Site Hab Crews: Carla Alva

Carla has been attending Desert Haven since September 2013 and is a prime example of a thoughtful individual who considers the employers with whom we contract and always strives to make a good impression. Carla is currently assigned to Blvd 1 & 2, Foxfield and Longhorn A & B crews, but she can be plugged into any crew as needed, making her a great asset to the hab crew department. Carla is flexible, positive, maintains a team player attitude, and has excellent attendance! In fact, she had eight months of perfect attendance in 2014 and was only absent four times. It is a privilege to work with Carla. She is dedicated on a daily basis to meeting her established goals and always doing her best for herself and for Desert Haven.



Work Readiness On-Site Crews: Herbert Winbush



Herbert has worked for DHE since April 2007 and has won the hearts of staff and consumers alike with his sweet spirit and compassionate heart. Though, he cannot speak or hear, Herbert communicates through gestures, lip reading, sign and his big winsome smile. Herbert currently works on the Housekeeping Towel Crew, but has also helped on the AV Boys & Girls Club contract when needed. His attendance average is 99.5% and he has been awarded ten Perfect Attendance Awards this year. He comes to work each day with smile and a positive work attitude; he is always prepared for his day and is rated excellent in his work habits. Herbert is a reliable and dependable worker who always makes an effort to do his very best.

SEP Individual Placement: Danny Nelson

Danny has participated in DHE programs for 24 years. In June 2014, Danny landed a position as a Maintenance Worker for Crothall Healthcare at Palmdale Regional Medical Center. His primary job duties are to collect patient linens, as well as to empty trash throughout the very large and very busy hospital. Danny has worked hard to rise to the challenges of this very important job. He has maintained an excellent attendance record and has willingly worked additional shifts whenever he is needed. According to his job coaches, Danny demonstrates a very responsible work ethic and ALWAYS demonstrates a keen sense of urgency in the completion of his tasks. He also maintains a positive attitude, is polite and respectful to others, takes his job seriously, and gives 100% effort every single work day!!



Project Independence: Kyra Crawford



Kyra has been attending Project Independence since June 2011. When Kyra started at PI she was very shy, but always kind and friendly. When Kyra began program she would visit the counseling office almost daily, as she needed reassurance as to how she was doing. Kyra has gone through many life changes that required her to adapt to new people and environments, such as moving from her family home to several different group homes. Once she became stable in her living situation, she began to show real growth in program. Through all of her life changes, Kyra remained kind and hardworking. When PI provided production work, she had one of the highest productivity in the program and showed great initiative when it came to learning a new task.