

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
2016 - 2017

Kenneth Klein Channels His Feelings into Artistry

F. Scott Fitzgerald once wrote "Genius is the ability to put into effect what is on your mind". One young man at Desert Haven is doing just that...bringing to life what is in his mind. Kenneth Klein has endured and struggled with tremendous loss in his lifetime of just 26 years, but rather than allowing the weight of that loss to hold him down, he steadily aims to improve himself, focusing his energy toward putting his thoughts and feelings into his music. He is dedicated to writing, singing, and performing and has performed his original music at the Moose Lodge in Lancaster, clubs and bars throughout the valley, and even here at Desert Haven. Each crowd pleasing performance at Desert Haven has been greatly appreciated by his peers and staff.



Not only is Kenneth musically inclined, but he also took up martial arts in 2011. He practices at a dojo in Lancaster two or three times per week and recently received his second degree black belt. Kenneth uses his natural gifts and talents to bring joy to himself and others. American football player, coach, and analyst Lou Holtz is quoted as saying "Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it". Desert Haven would like to present a great big BOOYAH to Kenneth Klein not only for his motivation that drives him to express himself through music and martial arts, but more importantly for the positive, determined attitude that has spurred him on to great accomplishment, self-improvement, and perseverance through times of great challenge and difficulty. Kenneth has shown all of us that even the most trying times in life can help to bring out the best from within ourselves.

HAPPY RETIREMENT CHARMAINE HENGEL



After a dedicated 15 years of service, Charmaine Hengel has retired from her position here at DHE to travel, especially by motorcycle with her husband, and to enjoy time with loved ones. Charmaine came to work at DHE in April 2001, serving as a receptionist, contract services assistant, and a substitute hab crew trainer. Then, in December 2002, this one time psychiatric nurse was selected to fill an open Counselor/Program Manager position.

In her time with the agency, Charmaine demonstrated outstanding ability for working effectively with consumers, supporting them in their efforts toward goal attainment, and challenging them to stretch beyond their own expectations. She was calm in her approach and very good at connecting with each one on her caseload. Her previous experience was apparent in her handling of difficult situations, supporting consumers through challenging times in their lives or helping them address their difficulties at work. In each and every matter she handled, Charmaine always proved her desire to preserve the dignity, well-being, and best interest of the consumers at all times.

Charmaine's retirement day was full of festivities to honor her and to thank her for her years of service to the consumers of Desert Haven Enterprises. You will be missed, Charmaine!

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 2016-17

Work Readiness-EST

Donna Jeffery
Darrio Curtis
Vanessa Bailey
Michael Jeffery
Gloria Ficklin
Jose Gonzalez
Cathy Allison
Herman Johnson
Denise Duarte
Willie Brown
Carina Chavez
Jesus Garibay
Chai Kim
Jesse Briggs

Project Independence

Bobby Plunkett
Sandra Brazzil
Jamaria McBride
Thalia Delgadillo
Amanda Pino
Elisa Sanchez

Supported Employment Individual Placement (Chosen Quarterly)

Marquez Hamilton
Smart & Final, Palmdale
January - March

Terrance Carr
BYD
April - June

Great Job and Congratulations!



ATTENTION Snowflake Ball Signup Coming Soon!



The Snowflake Ball will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 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.

It will be here before you know it! Hope to see you there!

We want to hear from you!

The Desert Voice is a newsletter for and about 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 facilitators of the Consumer Advisory Committee: Pascha Miller, Diana Saldivar, or Alberto Saldivar.

Special thanks and appreciation to Pascha Miller, a contributing writer for this edition of the Desert Voice.

You have a voice...Use it!

2016-17 Consumers of the Year

Off Site Hab Crews: Justin Hacsí



Justin began program at Desert Haven in October of 2014. Since his start on the off-site crews, he has greatly expanded his marketable skills and has proven extremely versatile, working on a number of contracts, including Lockheed, Arbor Court, and Lancaster City Park. There is no question that Justin takes great pride in his work, always going the extra mile to not only complete his assigned work, but also to seek additional work. He is a true team player and is extremely flexible and willing to do whatever is asked of him in support of the crew. This past year, he has received nine perfect attendance awards with an average attendance of 99%. Justin is a hard worker with great attention to detail.

Off-Site Hab Crews: Angelica Jimenez

Angelica began attending DHE in October 2015, when she relocated to the AV. The training offered here proved a helpful distraction from some significant life challenges she faced and she absolutely has soaked it up, working on nearly every crew offered. She is extraordinarily capable, flexible, and willing to do whatever is required. Each day, she maintains a positive attitude, great focus on the task at hand, and regularly expresses thankfulness for the opportunity to participate in the program. Given her tremendous personal and professional growth, Angelica will no doubt soon be moving on into regular community-based employment, where she will surely prove an incredible asset to her employer just as she continues to do here.



Work Readiness On-Site Crews: Airestede Coleman



Airestede has been participating in program since November 2013. During his initial evaluation, he was offered the opportunity to try out the onsite housekeeping crew and performed so exceptionally that he was offered a permanent position, which he gladly accepted. Airestede is an individual who demonstrates great professional maturity, essential for long-term success in any position, and he is extremely polite and respectful toward others. He has excellent focus, when it comes to completing the job at hand, as well as flexibility and willingness to help wherever and whenever needed. With an eye for detail, his work quality is excellent and it is evident that Airestede takes great pride in a job well done.

SEP Individual Placement: Casey Weaver

Casey started in the Work Readiness Program in June 2011, working on a number of contracts including Rite Aid, BeX, and Ironwood Properties. From the moment he began, he impressed everyone with his charm, enthusiasm, willingness to help as needed, and his ever present smile. In terms of his work performance, Casey has a strong sense of motivation and professional responsibility and seeks feedback as to how he might improve. In April 2016, he was hired as a courtesy clerk at Stater Bros Mkts on Avenue S in Palmdale. Just as he had done here, Casey quickly impressed his employer with his helpfulness and overall work ethic. He is focused, puts forth 100% effort on a daily basis and spreads joy among all with whom he has contact, becoming a favorite among the regular shoppers.



Project Independence: April Williams



April has been attending Project Independence since December 2015. From the moment she arrived, it was clear that she was committed to the program and to doing her best when she made sure to read the handbook in its entirety so that she could follow all the guidelines of the program. April is sweet and genuinely kind to everyone she encounters and is typically one of the first to introduce herself to new consumers, making them feel welcome. Needless to say, she is very well-liked and has many friends. April is particularly focused on improving her computer skills, as well as her reading and writing. She has excellent attendance and demonstrates true positivity and joyfulness each and every day in program, enhancing the overall experience for everyone.