

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
2017 - 2018

10,000 SURPRISES FOR DESERT HAVEN



Desert Haven was thrilled to present the Quartz Hill Knights of Columbus with the agency's top honor this year. During the annual Installation and Awards Ceremony, several members of the Knights were in attendance to receive the Henstra Award for their years of fundraising on behalf of persons with disabilities and the tens of thousands of dollars in donations they have made to Desert Haven for more than 30 years.

Needless to say, Executive Director Jenni Moran was absolutely stunned when, during his "acceptance" speech, Grand Knight Sam Simpliciano pulled out of his pocket a check for \$10,000 made out to Desert Haven Enterprises. Several months prior, Ms. Moran had completed and submitted a grant to the Columbian Foundation of the Knights of Columbus asking for \$10,000 to purchase new computers for the Project Independence Day Training Activity Center.



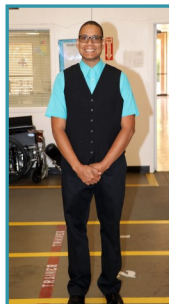
Consumers enrolled in the Project Independence Program, who also attended the ceremony, cheered loudly when she announced that they would be receiving new computers in the computer lab to replace those that have been there since the program opened ten years ago.

DESERT HAVEN'S GOT TALENT

There are so many talented consumers at Desert Haven. Truthfully, every consumer at Desert Haven has talent. In this newsletter, we want to focus on five talented consumers who have helped out at the Installation and Awards Ceremony for several years, helping our guests get to

Thank you to our ushers:
Ian Simpson and Aqeel Rahman

Thank you to our entertainers:
John Crawford, Nicole Harmon, and Jacob Jenkins



their seats and enter-
be-



taining the crowd
fore the event
starts.

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 2017-18

Work Readiness-EST

Carlene Cole
Marty Camarillo
Catherine Merati
Jimmy Martinez
Sharon Ellis
Francisco Barajas
Josselyn Fuentes
Jason Prater
Chante May
Ashton Clines
Sonjia Ellis
Ronnie Martinez

Project Independence

Wilfredo Guerra
Jamari McBride
Ralph Harper
Dorothy Lessley
Alice Ritz
Stephani Black

Supported Employment Individual Placement (Chosen Quarterly)

Danny Nelson
Sodexo/Palmdale Regional Medical Center
January - March

Gary Chaviz
BYD
April - June



ATTENTION **Snowflake Ball Signup** **Coming Soon!**



The Snowflake Ball will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2018 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.

*We want to hear from you...
the amazing and gifted consumers of
Desert Haven Enterprises!!*

2017-18 Consumers of the Year

Off Site Hab Crews: Jonathan Roberts



Jonathan enrolled in the Work Readiness Program in August 2013, training on the off-site hab crews. In that time, he has expanded his marketable job skills and has proven to be extremely versatile, performing a variety of tasks on a number of contracts, including Arbor court A, Arbor Grove, Rite Aid Tag, and Rite Aid Wash. Jonathan is a very pleasant and calm young man, who maintains a mature and professional attitude at all times. He focuses on the task at hand, yet is flexible and adaptable when changes are needed. Jonathan is also very precise, detail oriented, and thorough in the completion of his tasks. As a result, he is now enrolled in Sup

Off-Site Hab Crews: Vanessa Bailey

Vanessa began attending DHE in November 2015, training on the off-site hab crews, including Arbor Grove, AV College at Fox Field, and Longhorn A and B, where she expanded her skills in janitorial and light grounds services. Vanessa comes to program prepared each day, maintains a positive attitude, and is always willing to help wherever needed. At all times, she is polite, respectful, and professional in her interactions with others. She is diligent and focused and works hard and is described by her supervisors as detail oriented and as one who takes great pride in her work. Vanessa consistently receives excellent ratings in all areas related to her work performance



Work Readiness On-Site Crews: Jesus Garibay



Jesus began attending DHE in October 2014 and worked on nearly every one of off-site hab crews in the Work Readiness Program. In February 2016, he opted to try out the onsite food service crew, where he could learn every aspect of food service, from bussing tables, to food prep, to cooking, and even operating the cash register. Jesus is very friendly, a true team player, and is always willing to assist in any way possible. In fact, he not only supports the team in the café, but he also lends a hand to the Maintenance Technician in a variety of special projects, as needed. Jesus takes great pride in a job well done, demonstrates a strong work ethic. In fact, he rarely

SEP Individual Placement: Nekol Dummett

Nekol began at DHE in the Work Readiness Program in October 2014, performing a variety of tasks on a number of crews. From the moment she started, Nekol impressed everyone with her enthusiasm, positive attitude, hard work, excellent quality, and her ever present 1000-watt smile. Just one year later, Nekol was hired by Sodexo as a dishwasher at Palmdale Regional Medical Center. Just as she did here at DHE, she presented with a positive attitude, great enthusiasm, and excellent ability for learning new things. Today, she is described on the job as a flexible, hard worker, who takes great pride in a job well done and gives undivided attention to the task at hand. She is a perfect example of how hard work and having a "can do" attitude



Project Independence: Shana Walker



Shana has been attending Project Independence since January 2015. Wanting to improve her social skills in order to make friends, she visited the counseling office on a daily basis and often felt that she would not fit in. After much encouragement, however, Shana proactively took steps to reach a new level of confidence. First, she decided to get into shape and set up transportation to the gym several days per week after program, and has lost over 40 pounds. Next, she started journaling in order to reduce her visits to the counseling office, and today, she leaves encouraging notes for the staff to express her gratitude. Shana arrives each day with a smile on her face and a positive attitude; and, with her growing confidence, she has set her sights on a new goal...transferring to Work Readiness.