



THE

Desert Enterprise

**Second Half
issue
Jan- Jun
2013-2014**

Board Officers:
Sandy Price
President

Dr. Harry Taylor
Vice-President

Dennis Davenport
Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Lou Bozigian
Tom Fuller
Judy Gray
Alan Kreps
Terry O'Connor
Steve Paulson
Tammy Romero

Executive Director:

Jenni Moran

**Desert Haven
Wants...**



Interested in supporting the mission of DHE by employing those whom we serve, donating your time or financial resources, or joining our team as an employee...

**Call us today
661-948-8402**

Accredited Agency



Commission on
Accreditation of
Rehabilitation Facilities

LOU BOZIGIAN: A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT



Lou Bozigian became involved with Desert Haven in 1958, when his daughter Caren was very young. Tragically, Caren was severely injured in a car accident in 1956 at just nine months of age. In the early days, Desert Haven operated as a pre-school for children with developmental disabilities, preparing them to make the transition into kindergarten. It was the perfect fit for young Caren Bozigian and the start of a lifetime commitment for Lou, who has been a driving force behind the organization since his election to his first term as board president in 1958.

Lou Bozigian was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award upon the culmination of 56 years of service to and support of those served by Desert Haven Enterprises.



In the 56 years since that first term, Lou has continued on the board of directors, serving as president 10 times for a total of 20 years, as well as a number of terms as Secretary/Treasurer. In 1977 Lou chaired the first Desert Haven Benefit Auction, raising some \$20,000 in its inaugural year to an unsurpassed record \$306,000 in 1990. Continuing as the chairman for the succeeding 15 years, the Desert Haven Auction grew to become the premiere fundraising event in the Antelope Valley, raising some \$4 million for the organization over its 29 year history. In recent years, Lou strategized and created the donor wall, becoming the first member of the President's Circle of

Honor, having donated a gift of \$25,000 in memory of his late, beloved wife Nellie, and their wonderful life together, and their precious daughter Caren.

Bozigian has a long-standing reputation for community involvement and leadership throughout the Antelope Valley. For many, many years, Lou and his brother Ralph were the owner/brokers of an extremely successful real estate business, Coldwell Banker-Bozigian Realty. Lou served as a former City of Lancaster Mayor, Vice-Mayor, City Council Member, School Board Member, and Planning Commissioner. He has since been named Mayor Emeritus and presented with a key to the city by the Lancaster City Council. He has also served and supported the American Cancer Society, the AV Sheriff's Boosters, and has been seated as the President of the Lancaster Performing Arts Foundation for some 25 years. Many sites throughout the City bear his name, including the Board Room at DH Enterprises, the football stadium at Lancaster High School, and the Black Box at LPAC. One could not even count the awards he has received over the years for his generous service to the people of the Antelope Valley, L.A. County, and the State of California.

In her words of accolade to Lou Bozigian, DHE Executive Director Jenni Moran stated, "I would be remiss, if I did not add that Lou has been my professional mentor and personal friend for more than 25 years now and much of my success, I owe to his support, encouragement, influence and guidance. Now, Lou is nearing "semi-retirement" from the Board," she added, "and has recently relocated to Valencia to be near his family. However, despite his move, there is no way we would even consider letting him go that easily," she remarked. "Afterall, it has only been 56 years that he has devoted here," she concluded tongue in cheek. As the audience of more than 500 consumers, staff, award recipients and other invited guests erupted into applause, Moran encouraged Lou to take a look around at "the house that Lou Bozigian built".

Lou Bozigian was honored by the DHE Board of Directors with the Henstra "Lifetime Achievement" Award and was extended lifetime emeritus status as a member of the Board of Directors. Dignitaries, representing Congressman Buck McKeon, State Senator Steve Knight, State Assemblymember Steve Fox, L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, the City of Palmdale, and the City of Lancaster were also on hand to acknowledge Lou's lifetime contribution to DHE.



*Desert Haven Enterprises
Serving persons with developmental disabilities since 1954*

CHECK OUT WHAT'S INSIDE...

How are we doing?...Keeping a finger on the pulse of our consumers

Following is a summary of performance in DHE's key program areas, based upon a review of data for the second half of the 2013-14 fiscal year:

Work Readiness Services: Food Service, Housekeeping, and Off-Site Hab Crews

- ✓ Sixty-one percent of consumers placed in the Work Readiness program were trained on jobs new to them.
- ✓ The availability of paid work averaged 67% for all consumers in the Work Readiness program.
- ✓ A total of eighteen off-site hab crews were developed or expanded in the second half of the fiscal year.
- ✓ Two consumers obtained individual, community-based employment from the Work Readiness Program during this review period.
- ✓ One hundred percent of consumers placed in the Work Readiness program expressed satisfaction with DHE's services, as did 100% of the customers utilizing the off-site hab crew service.

Community Employment Services: Supported Employment - Individual Placement

- ✓ A total of 2.5 individual placements were achieved for the second half of the year for consumers seeking community employment.
- ✓ Hourly earnings exceeded minimum wage with an average of \$9.60 per hour for consumers in individual placement.
- ✓ One consumer working within the community transitioned into follow-along status this review period.
- ✓ Consumers within active job search averaged 10.3 months of job seeking with limited opportunities in the current job market.
- ✓ One hundred percent of responding consumers placed in program expressed satisfaction with DHE's services, as did 100% of employers responding to the survey.

Day Training Activity Services: Project Independence

- ✓ Thirty percent of consumers in the DTAC program achieved individual ISP/IPP goals.
- ✓ Twenty-three percent of consumers in the DTAC program demonstrated an increase in their productivity rating.
- ✓ Consumers in program participated in a total of 97 meaningful and diversified community outings.
- ✓ Thirty-six percent of consumers in the DTAC program demonstrated skill acquisition and retention in a key area.
- ✓ One hundred percent of consumers placed in program expressed satisfaction with the services offered.

NEW JOBS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The following employers have recently hired consumers into regular jobs within their business:

- ✓ Home Depot (Lancaster) Lot Attendant
- ✓ Crothall Healthcare (Palmdale) Waste Technician

Please show your appreciation to these businesses for supporting persons with developmental disabilities in achieving their career aspirations.

NEW CREWS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The following companies and corporations have recently contracted with DHE for the listed services within their business:

Off-Site Habilitation Crews

- ✓ Catalyst Foundation Janitorial Crew
- ✓ City of Lancaster
 - Division/K-4 Pressure Wash Crew
 - The Incubator Suite Cleaning Crew
 - Vacant Bldng Janitorial/Pressure Wash Crew
 - Kleiner Bldng Floor Cleaning Crew
- ✓ Children's Center Weed Pulling Crew
- ✓ Downtown Association Boulevard Crews
- ✓ George's Cleaners Pressure Wash Crew
- ✓ Kinetic Brewery Janitorial Crew
- ✓ Michaels Stores
 - Corporate UPC Overlabel Pom Poms
 - Corporate Label Dye Cutting Master Cartons
 - Corporate Reconfigure Note Pads #1 and #2
 - Corporate Master Carton Repacking
 - Corporate Grounds Maintenance
 - Fashion Angels Ent. Master Carton Overlabel
- ✓ Private Residence Rake Crew

STATE OF THE STATE

California State Budget Update

While there is still some legal wrangling to be done, service providers scored a huge win when the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Arc of California and UCP San Diego in a suit against DDS and other agencies and departments. According to the lawsuit, the Department of Developmental Services failed to consider the negative impact on the ability of service providers to deliver high-quality services, prior to imposing the 4.25% funding cut, the full day/half day billing procedure, and the additional mandatory no-service days. Federal law requires DDS to perform such a review and, further, to obtain the approval from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. DDS failed on both counts.

After a lengthy process of moving the case through the courts, the Ninth Circuit issued their ruling on June 30, 2014. There are additional hearings to be held and rulings to be made, which will determine the outcome and impact of these corrections upon service providers, but we are hopeful that the Court will rule that these policies cannot continue. More to come in the months ahead...

In other news, successful strides were also made in defeating AJR 36 (Gonzalez), which would call upon Congress to phase out and eliminate 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which permits payment of sub-minimum wages or productivity-based wages to persons whose earning or productive capacities are impaired by a physical or mental disability.

All consumers employed in regular jobs within the community, through DHE, are paid at or above minimum wage, but, for consumers, who, because of their disability, cannot compete with workers with no disability, performance-based wages give them entrance into the workforce. That is how consumers working on crews through DHE's Work Readiness Program, have opportunity to work and to train within a community-based setting because of the 14(c) special minimum wage certificate. This is also the reason why DHE performs productivity evaluations every six months, for consumers receiving payment for work performed during program. Repeal of the certificate would most certainly result in the loss of community-based employment opportunities for thousands of consumers who perform below the highest levels of productivity. We have worked diligently to educate legislators of the negative impact of this type of legislation upon those whom we serve. More to come on this, as well...

MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD

Senator Steven Knight
848 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 729-6232

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-2841

Assemblyman Steve Fox
41319 12th St. W, Suite 105
Palmdale, CA 93551
(661) 267-7636

ANNUAL INSTALLATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

DHE Recognizes Efforts of Business Leaders, Consumers and Staff Members



Above, Len Engel, accompanied by consumer employees, accepts the Employer of the Year Award on behalf of AVTA.



At right, George Petzoldt accepts the Contractor of the Year Award, for large, for-profit site on behalf of Rite Aid Southwest Customer Support Center.



At left, Dan Munz accepts the Contractor of the Year Award, for large, non-profit or public site on behalf of the City of Lancaster.



At right, Samuel Davila accepts the Contractor of the Year Award, for mid-range, for-profit site on behalf of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company.



Above left, Superior Court Judge Brian Yep served as the installing officer, administering the Oath of Office to the incoming Board of Directors.



Above right, Cheryl Fletcher accepts the DHE Volunteer of the Year Award.



Above left, Kevin Dobbs, DJ Dobbs of Global Spinners, accepts the Friends of Desert Haven Award from DHE Board President Sandy Price.



Above right, new addition to the Baja Bash Committee, Dave Stark, is also presented with the Friends of Desert Haven Award.

On June 19, 2014, Desert Haven held its annual Installation and Awards Ceremony, installing the 2014-15 Board of Directors and recognizing individuals, groups and businesses having made significant contributions toward the fulfillment of the agency's mission. Superior Court Judge the Honorable Brian Yep served as installing officer and Jim Moran, husband of DHE's Executive Director Jenni Moran, served as the master of ceremonies. This year, twelve awards were presented to the following recipients:

**Lifetime Achievement Award
Friends of Desert Haven Award**

*Lou Bozigian
Kevin Dobbs, Global Spinners
Baja Bash Committee Members - Chris Biggerstaff, Richard Curtin, Larry Jones, Margo Acosta, Dave Stark, and Claudia Weaver*

**Employer of the Year Award
Contractor of the Year Award**

*Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA)
Rite Aid Southwest Customer Support Center;
Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company; City of Lancaster*

Consumer of the Year Award

Martin Camarillo, Off-site Hab Crews; Heidi Rivera-Ventura, Off-site Hab Crews; Ian Simpson, Employment Skills Trng; Christopher Co, Individual Placement; and Sharon Ellis, DTAC

Employee of the Year Award

Gregory Fall, Counselor/Program Manager; Cindy Ziegler, Hab Crew Trainer; Loretta Lucero, Job Coach/Scheduler; and Christine Glover, DTAC Instructor

Distinguished Service Award

Knights of Columbus Council #10667

Volunteer of the Year Award

Cheryl Fletcher

President's Award

Lamar Advertising

Twenty Year Service Award

Nancy Matherly, Employment Specialist

Twenty-five Year Service Award

Jenni Moran, Executive Director and Martha Knight, Manager of Supported Employment Services

Louis V. Bozigian Award

Tom Fuller, DHE Board Director



Bob Marshall and Jacob Billeter, accept the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the OH Knights of Columbus, Council # 10667.



DHE Board President Sandy Price presents Jim Moran with the President's Award on behalf of Lamar Advertising.



Lou Bozigian presents the Bozigian Award to Tom Fuller, co-owner of Hunter Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Ram and DHE Board Director.

ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

In June, the Board of Directors and administration spent an evening planning and strategizing for the upcoming fiscal year. The resulting strategic plan is designed to best meet the needs of our consumers and to continue to position the agency for further growth and greater self-sufficiency.

Following are a few of the objectives to be achieved in the 2014-15 fiscal year:

- ⇒ Secure additional community-based crews to support growth within the Work Readiness Program and to generate additional revenue to support the agency's fiscal solvency, self-sufficiency, and continued progress;
- ⇒ Secure a minimum of eight new community-based, individual placements;
- ⇒ Explore possible expansion of Project Independence DTAC Program;
- ⇒ Develop additional commercial landscape contracts under C-27 license to enhance and support consumer training opportunities and also to generate revenue to mitigate the impact of the continued suspension of the EAFB contract; and
- ⇒ Ensure compliance and follow through with agency Cultural Competence Plan.

For more information regarding the strategic plan, please contact the office of the Executive Director



Desert Haven Enterprises
43437 Copeland Circle
Lancaster, CA 93535

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
 STAFF MEMBERS:**

- Martha Knight 25 years
- Ronnie Hofius 23 years
- Nancy Matherly 20 years
- Charmaine Hengel 13 years
- Roberta Terry 12 years
- Frederick Gonzalez 9 years
- María Leija 9 years
- Lucia Portillo 9 years
- Hector David Zavala 8 years
- Veronica Ramirez 7 years
- Carolyn Caldwell 7 years
- Shareace Browne 7 years
- Yolanda Deschene 6 years
- Diana Saldivar 6 years
- María Campos 6 years
- Margo Gunner 6 years
- Loretta Lucero 6 years
- Christina Bonner 6 years
- Jason Moyer 5 years
- Roxanne Marquez 4 years
- Pamela Schuoler 4 years
- Sandra Vendola 4 years
- Gina Smith 4 years
- Kayla Runner 4 years
- Kristen Strait Connors 3 years
- Carol Machart 3 years
- Rhina Perez 3 years
- Paulette Payne 3 years
- Sunshine Eustace 3 years
- Diann Akins 3 years
- Deida Hernandez 3 years
- Jackie Jones 3 years
- María Sanchez 3 years
- Cindy Ziegler 3 years
- Breanna Hulse 2 years
- Rita Gonzalez 2 years
- Mark Franklin 2 years
- Ericka Pasley 1 year
- Robin Whitt 1 year
- Fernando Navarro 1 year

MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD DIRECTORS



Dianne Knippel



Laurie Formentera

Please welcome our latest recruits to the DHE Board of Directors.

Dianne Knippel has 30 years of business development, public relations and government affairs experience. She is the Region Manager for Public Affairs for Southern California Edison in the Antelope Valley.

Laurie Formentera has extensive banking experience and is a strategic driven leader with a special focus on employee development and empowerment. She is the District Operations Manager for US Bank.

The duo were duly installed as members-at-large on June 19, 2014, by **Judge Brian Yep, during Desert Haven's Annual Installation and Awards Ceremony**, held at Desert Haven Center. We wish them well and thank **them for committing their time and talents to furthering DHE's mission of service and support to persons with developmental disabilities.**

CARF ACCREDITATION

DHE last participated in the CARF accreditation survey in April 2012, receiving a three-year accreditation. Interested persons may review the most recent CARF survey by contacting the CARF Coordinator, Executive Director Jenni Moran @ 948-8402.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Snowflake Ball

Saturday, December 6, 2014

University of Antelope Valley — Grand Ballroom

Mission Statement

Desert Haven Enterprises, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to developing, enhancing, and promoting the capabilities of persons with developmental disabilities.

The primary objective of the agency is to enable persons served to maximize their potential to become independent, self-sufficient, and participating members of their community through pre-vocational and vocational training, independent living and community skills training, job placement, community-based employment, and supportive services.

Support DHE: Shop AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you.

Simply copy the link below into your browser and start shopping:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-6006073>

It's that easy!! Amazon will make a donation of 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to Desert Haven Enterprises!