



# THE DESERT ENTERPRISE

**First Half  
issue  
Jul – Dec  
2020-2021**

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Wants...**



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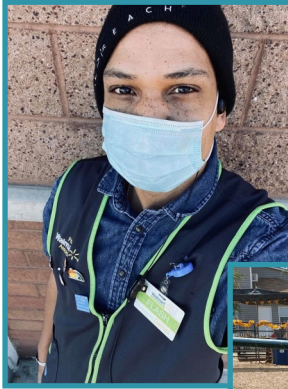
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Commission on  
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## DHE CONTINUES TO WORK THROUGH PANDEMIC



Team Desert Haven has more than demonstrated that neither rain, snow, sleet, or pandemic can prevent us from continuing to get the job done!!! Having re-opened in mid-May to in-person services for consumers enrolled in our employment skills training Work Readiness Program, DHE was back in full-swing starting in July, as increasing numbers of consumers began to return to work at sites throughout the local community, both here in the Antelope Valley and at our expanded location in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Following strict COVID protocols, consumers and staff members alike worked hard and remained vigilant in order to ensure that DHE not only remained opened, but also was positioned to continue to grow and to develop additional vocational training opportunities for our consumers. In fact, in the Antelope Valley, additional multi-purpose contracts were negotiated with Rite Aid Distribution Center, Antelope Valley College (Palmdale Tech Center), AMC Properties (Arbor Fields Apartments), Lockheed Martin, Barber Family Farm, and the Salvation Army; while contracts were developed with Pet Supplies Plus and AMS Fulfillment in the Santa Clarita Valley. Grounds maintenance training opportunities were also expanded at Edwards Air Force Base, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Antelope Valley, Agua Dulce Airport, Michael's Distribution Center, and at Plant 42.



While many...perhaps most...service providers remained closed to in-person services throughout the State of California, Desert Haven not only re-opened, but re-invented itself in a manner that resulted in further growth in the way of contracts, development in terms of programming, and tremendous creativity with regard to the manner in which service provision was conducted, both in person and remotely. "To say that I am proud of the employees and consumers of DHE would be an incredible understatement," commented Executive Director Jenni Moran. "Each and every staff person and consumer has absolutely given their all to ensure DHE could re-open, remain open, and continue to provide the very best services and supports for those whom we serve. They are all rock stars and, once again, we are trail-blazers, leading the way in terms of best practices for service provision and supports for the I/DD community, as well as exemplary service for our incredibly supportive customers and employers."

## GREAT NEWS!!!! WE DID IT!!!



Thanks to the literally tens of thousands of urgent phone calls, emails, tweets, and faxes to the Governor's Office and to members of the California State Legislature, Governor Newsom signed a budget deal that removed all proposed cuts to services; thereby, keeping the promise of the Lanterman Act alive for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

You may recall that a 14% reduction to rates was initially on the table for consideration; deep DEEP cuts that would have equated to more than half a billion dollars more taken from the already depleted system. Fortunately, your efforts thwarted that plan and we can

breathe a sigh of relief... for now! However, we must remain vigilant as next year could prove even more challenging... Though, we know that we are, indeed, up to the challenge!!! Stay tuned....

## 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 first half of the 2020-21 fiscal year:

### Accelerated Work Readiness Services: Off-Site Hab Crews - AV and SCV

- ✓ Sixteen percent of consumers placed in the Work Readiness program were trained on jobs new to them.
- ✓ The availability of paid work averaged 68% for consumers in the Work Readiness program.
- ✓ A total of fifteen additional contract opportunities were developed or expanded in the first half of the fiscal year.
- ✓ No 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 1.1 individual placements were achieved for the first half of the year for consumers seeking community employment.
- ✓ Hourly earnings exceeded minimum wage with an average of \$13.49 per hour for consumers in individual placement.
- ✓ Two consumers transitioned into follow-along status this review period, while another five moved into competitive employment.
- ✓ Consumers within active job search averaged 10.8 months of job seeking for the job of their choosing.
- ✓ 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

- ✓ Fourteen percent of consumers in the DTAC program achieved individual ISP/IPP goals.
- ✓ No (0) consumers graduated from the DTAC program into the Work Readiness Program this review period.
- ✓ Due to the program's being closed to in-person services and given the COVID-19 restrictions, there were no community outings conducted during the review period; though, DHE did hold a drive-by Halloween and Holiday party, as well as a virtual Snowflake Ball.
- ✓ Twenty-five percent of consumers in the 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 COMMUNITY CONTRACTS

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

### Employment Skills Training Contracted Opportunities Antelope Valley

- ✓ **Antelope Valley College**  
Palmdale Tech Center     Janitorial/Custodial Service
- ✓ **AMC, LLC**  
Arbor Fields     Janitorial/Custodial Service
- ✓ **AV Boys & Girls Clubs**     Grounds Cleanup Service
- ✓ **Barber Family Farm**     Animal Care Service
- ✓ **Michael's Distribution Ctr**     Tree Removal Service
- ✓ **Plant 42**     Weed Abatement Service
- ✓ **Rite Aid Distribution Center**     Painted Safety Line Removal Svc  
Tote Labeling Service
- ✓ **Salvation Army**     Multi-purpose Support Service
- ✓ **Spears Property**     Grounds Maintenance Service

Please show your appreciation to these businesses for supporting persons with developmental disabilities in developing/enhancing their vocational skills toward future employment.

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

### Employment Skills Training Contracted Opportunities Santa Clarita Valley

- ✓ **Pet Supplies Plus**     Special Janitorial/Custodial Service  
(Stevenson Ranch)
- ✓ **AMS Fulfillment**     Production/Assembly/Pack Crew  
(Valencia)

Please show your appreciation to these businesses for supporting persons with developmental disabilities in developing/enhancing their vocational skills toward future employment.



## STAY CONNECTED

For those consumers and employees continuing to shelter at and to work from home, don't forget our Zoom Hangouts hosted by our very own Employment Specialist Nancy Matherly every Friday at 2 p.m.

This is a great way to see your friends, fellow staff members, to hear about what's happening at DHE, and to share what's happening with you too!!!

Be sure to check DHE's Facebook Page each week at <https://www.facebook.com/deserthavenenterprises> for further details and the link for the next Zoom Hangout!

**Don't miss out...Hang Out with DHE on Zoom!**

## Check out DHE's Expanding Social Media Sites

As DHE has had to pivot and to alter the manner in which it conducts business and provides services, the organization has developed and expanded its use of the world wide web and social media. Thanks to a few of our very creative staff members, you can find important information on Desert Haven, as well as valuable training opportunities at the following sites:



[www.deserthaven.org](http://www.deserthaven.org)



<https://www.facebook.com/vicki.mayer.75286>



<https://www.youtube.com/c/DesertHavenEnterprisesInc>



<https://www.facebook.com/deserthavenenterprises>



<https://www.facebook.com/Nancydhe.matherly>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/desert-haven-enterprises-inc->

## CARF ACCREDITATION SURVEY TO BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY SPRING 2021

In this unprecedented time, all of us are learning new and innovative ways to conduct business in order to continue moving forward in spite of the pandemic. CARF International (formerly the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities), the premiere accrediting body for organizations serving persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is certainly no exception.

At some time between March 1, 2021 and April 30, 2021, Desert Haven will once again participate in the peer review process for the purpose of accreditation to determine how well the organization demonstrates conformance to the applicable standards for each program/service being surveyed. The mission of CARF is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of persons served. To that end, a survey team of two to three professionals from within the industry typically visit the organization to review its policies, procedures, and processes, and to interact with persons served and other stakeholders to ensure that DHE is truly meeting the intent of the standards and providing services and supports in keeping with the individual needs, preferences, and expectations of persons served.

However, in light of COVID, CARF has determined that DHE's survey will be conducted as a Digitally Enabled Site Survey (DESS). In other words, the survey will be conducted virtually. No matter the method, Desert Haven looks forward to participating in the process and learning from others in the field how to further develop services and supports that demonstrate best practices and truly meet the needs of persons served.

Stay tuned for further details regarding the time frame for accreditation.

## SANTA'S HELPERS BRING ON THE HOLIDAY CHEER AT DHE



## The Snowflake Ball Must Go On

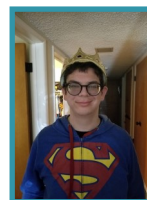


Desert Haven has always enjoyed a good party and there was no way that a pandemic was going to squelch our fun! So, rather than dancing the night away in the ballroom of the University of Antelope Valley, our very creative DTAC Manager Lorraine McKesson and DTAC Counselor Jordan Williams planned a virtual

party for the ages!!!

On December 4th, from the comfort and safety of our offices and homes, nearly 100 consumers and several staff members, danced the day away to popular tunes livestreamed via Zoom. Participants dressed for the occasion and partied the day away, visiting with one another, laughing together, and doing what we do best...dancing like nobody's watching!

The Snowflake Ball 2020 was so true to form, a King and Queen were even crowned. Please be sure to congratulate our King, Matthew Anderson, and our Queen, Mary Ortiz, who were all smiles as they proudly sported their crowns for the day.



## NEW JOBS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

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

### Individual Placements

- ✓ **Macy's** Seasonal Recovery Position (Antelope Valley Mall - Palmdale)

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



**Desert Haven Enterprises**  
43437 Copeland Circle  
Lancaster, CA 93535

### CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

The International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992 by United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life.

As we celebrate this very important day on December 3rd each year, may it serve as a reminder that each of us brings something of value to the table and each of us has a valuable contribution to make to our world.

To that end, Desert Haven shall work to ensure that the hopes, dreams, and rights of persons with disabilities are made possible in a world that is inclusive, accessible and sustainable for all.



### **"SHARE THE LOVE" EVENT**

#### **Subaru Antelope Valley to Share the Love Again with DHE**

In July 2020, Desert Haven was selected by Subaru Antelope Valley for a second time to participate in Subaru's "Share the Love" program as a Hometown Charity. Entering its 13th year, during the Share the Love event, Subaru of America donates \$250 to the purchaser's choice of participating charities. Over the past twelve years of the event, Subaru and its retailers have donated more than \$170 million to a wide range of both national and local charities.

In 2019, DHE received a check for \$25,725 from CEO of LA Car Guys Mike Sullivan and General Manager of Subaru AV Sean Homayoun.

They say, "Timing is Everything"...and the timing for this blessing to come could not have been better! Thank you, Subaru AV!



### **CARF ACCREDITATION**

DHE last participated in the CARF accreditation survey in April 2018, receiving a three-year accreditation. Interested persons may review the most recent CARF survey report by visiting Desert Haven's website at [www.deserthaven.org](http://www.deserthaven.org) and clicking on "About" and then on "Accreditations".

### **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!*