



# THE DESERT ENTERPRISE

**First Half  
issue  
Jul – Dec  
2022-2023**

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Wants...**



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## DHE RECEIVES MONUMENTAL GIFT FROM SPECTRUM



Desert Haven was awarded the first of four installments of \$50,000 through Charter/Spectrum's Community Center Assist program, the company's five-year, \$30 million initiative to revitalize local community centers and invest in job training programs in underserved communities where Spectrum operates.

Spectrum kicked off the local partnership with a revitalization event at Desert Haven's main campus on December 3, 2022, where Spectrum employee volunteers made improvements to Desert Haven's training rooms for both consumers seeking jobs within the community through the supported employment program, as well as for staff training.



In addition to the funds provided during the event and those to come, Spectrum also donated 25 new laptop computers to support DHE's workforce development program; provided new tables, chairs, and storage cabinets for the consumer training room; and upgraded the internet service to 1gb at no charge to DHE.

"Our primary focus at Desert Haven is to equip adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with the skills, knowledge, and experience they need to be independent, fully-integrated participants within and contributors to their local community," said Executive Director Jenni Moran. "Spectrum's generous contribution of new digital technology and upgraded broadband service, not to mention their financial investment in our organization over the next several years, will help guarantee that those whom we serve will have every opportunity to realize their hopes and dreams for increased independence, competitive employment, and a fulfilled and rewarding life."

Community centers like Desert Haven Enterprises are hallmarks of our neighborhoods, where people go for support, shared experiences, and develop new job skills or find employment," said Rahman Khan, Vice-President of Community Impact for Charter Communications. "Through our partnership, Spectrum Community Center Assist will help DH provide essential employment training and resources to our AV neighbors in a safe and revitalized space."

## DESERT HAVEN RECEIVES AIRE AWARD



On September 20, 2022, the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District's Board of Directors awarded the 2022 William J. "Pete" Knight Memorial Achievement in Reducing Emissions (AIRE) Award to Desert Haven Enterprises.

The AIRE Award is presented annually to local businesses, organizations, or individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the prevention and/or control of air pollution within the High Desert Region. In February 2022, DHE partnered with the American Green Zone Alliance (AGZA) to transition its landscape maintenance operations from gasoline-powered to battery electric equipment to achieve zero emissions. Capitalizing on a grant program available through

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## 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 2022-23 fiscal year:

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

- ✓ Twenty-one percent of consumers placed in the Work Readiness program were trained on jobs new to them.
- ✓ The availability of paid work averaged 61% for consumers in the Work Readiness program.
- ✓ A total of sixteen additional contract opportunities were developed or expanded in the first half of the fiscal year.
- ✓ Three 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 6.8 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 \$15.48 per hour for consumers in individual placement.
- ✓ Two consumers transitioned into follow-along status this review period, while another four moved into competitive employment.
- ✓ Consumers within active job search averaged 2.4 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*

- ✓ Nineteen percent of consumers in the DTAC program achieved individual ISP/IPP goals.
- ✓ One (1) consumer transitioned from the DTAC program into the Work Readiness Program this review period.
- ✓ There were 122 community outings in the review period, including trips to the Extreme Game Truck; Borax Museum; George Lane Swim Park; Lancaster Indoor Swap Meet; Bloom Ranch of Acton; and the Pumpkin Patch.
- ✓ Twenty-four 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 Antelope Valley

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

- ✓ **EAFB Medical Clinic** (StructSure) Irrigation/Xeriscape Installation
- ✓ **Kensington Campus** Weed Abatement
- ✓ **NASA Armstrong Flight Ctr** Weed Abatement
- ✓ **CA State Senator Wilk** Janitorial/Custodial Crew
- ✓ **Wolf Connection** Janitorial/Custodial Crew

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

## NEW COMMUNITY CONTRACTS Santa Clarita Valley

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

- ✓ **AMC, LLC Management**  
Stevenson Apts Janitorial/Custodial Crew  
Magnolia Villas Apts Janitorial/Custodial Crew  
Harmony Gates Apts Janitorial/Custodial Crew
- ✓ **Animal Assisted Therapy** Animal Care Crew
- ✓ **The Salvation Army** Sorting/Packaging/Distribution Crew

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

## AIRE AWARD (CONT)



DHE Executive Director Jenni Moran is presented the AIRE Award by AVAQMD Executive Director Bret Banks.

AVAQMD and the training available through AGZA, DHE became the first organization of its kind to make the transition, for which the organization was designated with a Green Zone Certification and crew members received training to become certified "low noise, clean air operators".

The transition to zero emissions landscape maintenance operations has proven to be successful and serves as a model to other landscape maintenance operations that battery electric equipment can be achieved in a cost effective, productive, and efficient manner. DHE takes pride in the many benefits of going zero emissions, from the operational cost savings, removal of gas and oil, and the elimination of nearly 400 tons of exhaust emissions each year.

Lancaster Vice-Mayor and Chair of the AVAQMD Board of Directors Marvin Crist noted, "Desert Haven Enterprises has been an amazing community partner within the Antelope Valley for decades. Desert Haven has shown tremendous leadership in converting to clean battery electric equipment that will aid in protecting their workers, their customers, and the Antelope Valley environment."

## Thank You "Giving Tuesday" Supporters



Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you to all those who contributed in support of the mission of Desert Haven Enterprises during the Giving Tuesday event. All told, DHE received gifts in excess of \$5,000.

Created in 2012, Giving Tuesday is a global philanthropic movement that occurs on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Check out DHE's Facebook page next November for details.

# DHE Featured in synkd Magazine Oct/Nov Issue

Following the organization’s designation as a Certified Green Zone by the American Green Zone Alliance (AGZA) and its grounds maintenance crew members as certified, “low noise, clean air operators,” Desert Haven Enterprises was featured in synkd Magazine for its transition from gas-powered landscape maintenance equipment to electric battery-powered equipment.



The article lauds the partnership between Desert Haven, the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD), and AGZA that made this happen. “The Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) helped Desert Haven work with AGZA through a grant program,” which funded the lion’s share of the purchase of the new equipment. “The AGZA allowed the grounds maintenance teams to test different commercial battery electric equipment to find what worked best for the property”. Once the new equipment was in place, DHE received the Green Zone Certification and the Service Pro training Certifications, becoming “the first nonprofit to receive two AGZA notorieties”.

For those interested in seeing the article firsthand, it can be located online at [https://issuu.com/oneindustry/docs/synkd\\_west\\_octnov2022?fbclid=IwAR3cCfpg3uNi065ozRIJ5-u6F-Sz16DSp36Jlb3IT9JsSN8lbgWUEKNWAY](https://issuu.com/oneindustry/docs/synkd_west_octnov2022?fbclid=IwAR3cCfpg3uNi065ozRIJ5-u6F-Sz16DSp36Jlb3IT9JsSN8lbgWUEKNWAY)

Synkd (formerly Pro Landscaper Magazine) is “a modern take on a trade publication and collaborative yearly event that promote connections and collaboration between the sectors of the industry - from design to construction to horticulture and long-term maintenance.

# TWO EXEMPLARY BUSINESS PARTNERS RECOGNIZED

During the month of October, in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, California State Senator Scott Wilk and the Santa Clarita Mayor’s Committee for Employment of Individuals with Disabilities honored two extraordinary and exemplary businesses partnering with Desert Haven in the Santa Clarita Valley.

## Crissair, Incorporated:



A major manufacturer of aircraft fluid control components, Crissair has been in business since 1954, designing, developing, and manufacturing superior quality products for nearly every airframe manufacturer and major subcontractor in the industry, both military and commercial aircraft. Crissair has been partnering with Desert Haven for janitorial/custodial services since 2011, first in the Antelope Valley and now in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Special thanks to Michael Alfred, Crissair President; Beverly Miller, Vice-President of HR; and Tomas Ochoa, EHS Facilities Manager for their kindness and generosity in opening their doors and hearts to Desert Haven consumers, who truly have become fully incorporated members of Team Crissair.

## Neotech Products



In business for more than 30 years, Neotech Products is a leader in the production of high-quality, medical products and devices commonly used in pediatric intensive care units, children’s oncology, and home health markets.

For nearly two years now, Neotech Products, LLC has partnered with DHE to provide meaningful, integrated work opportunities for DHE consumers, who perform critical assembly and packaging functions onsite at their facility in Valencia.

Special thanks to Craig McCrary, Neotech President; Angela Votruba, Director of HR; Netta Garcia, Production Manager; and Neil Ceniza, Director of Operations for inviting and incorporating DHE into the Neotech family.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month celebrates the contributions of America’s workers with disabilities and highlights supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices. At Desert Haven, we value the countless business partnerships forged over the years on behalf of our employment-minded consumers and thank both Crissair and Neotech for their ongoing support of and belief in DHE and those whom we serve.

# BRING ON THE HOLIDAY CHEER

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DOOR DECORATING CONTEST





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

**CELEBRATE  
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY**

The International Day of People with Disability is a United Nations-sanctioned day, celebrated annually on December 3rd. It aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life. The theme for 2022 is "Transformative solutions for inclusive development (in employment, in reducing inequality, and in sport): The role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world."

As we celebrate this very important day, 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.



**CARF ACCREDITATION**

**DHE currently holds a 3-year accreditation, demonstrating the highest level of achievement possible.**

DHE last participated in the CARF accreditation survey process in December 2021, receiving a three year accreditation and ZERO recommendations.

Note: The survey process was postponed from March 2021 until later in the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions.

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", followed by clicking on "Accreditations".

**NEW JOBS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY**

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

**Individual Placements**

- ✓ **Michaels Distribution Center** Material Handler Position
- ✓ **Palmdale Regional Medical Ctr** Environmental Svcs Position
- ✓ **City of Lancaster** Maintenance Assistant

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

**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.

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