



# THE DESERT ENTERPRISE

**First Half  
issue  
Jan – Jun  
2022-2023**

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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...

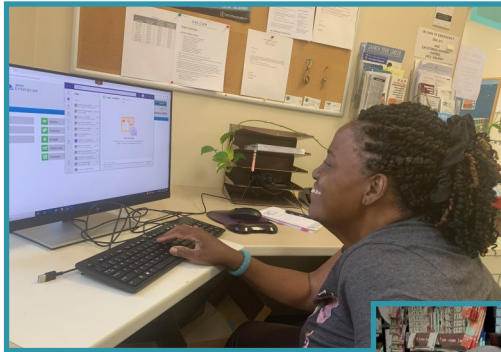
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Commission on  
Accreditation of  
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## DHE LAUNCHES THE PAID INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



Here at Desert Haven Enterprises it is our mission to empower and equip persons served to become independent, self-sufficient, fully-integrated participants within their community. As a person-centered agency, it is imperative that we truly know our consumers on an individual basis...their hopes, dreams, aspirations, and choices...in order to ensure all services and supports provided assist them in reaching, achieving, and maintaining what it is they want, particularly in terms of employment.

A new service available to consumers enrolled in any of our programs, the Paid Internship Program, or PIP, will enhance consumer opportunity to explore employment interests and enable DHE to better support consumers in obtaining their absolute dream job.

Consumers enrolled in any of DHE's three programs: Work Readiness, Supported Employment, or Project Independence, may participate concurrently in a paid internship for up to a maximum of 1,040 intern hours in a one-year period. Once the job developer has met with interested consumers to determine their individual strengths, needs, limitations, job interests, and career plans, the developer will then

**LABOR FORCE STATISTICS**  
U.S. Department of Labor

**In 2021, while 76.5% of persons without disabilities actively participated in the work force, only 35.1% of those having a disability were employed and persons with intellectual and other developmental disabilities experienced even greater levels of joblessness.**



meet with local employers to develop internship positions in keeping with each consumer's career interests and related employment goals and will carefully match those consumers with identified employers and positions. The ultimate choice, however, rests in the hands of the consumer.

DESERT HAVEN RESPONSIBILITIES	EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES	CONSUMER RESPONSIBILITIES
Learn consumer employment interests and career goals	Provide job description	Provide career interest/goal information
Interface with employers to develop placements of interest to consumers	Create work schedule	Participate in the search process
Present options to consumers and secure consumer approval for placement	Maintain records of time worked	Accept or reject offered internship opportunities
Provide on-the-job supervision, coaching, and feedback	Evaluate performance	Follow work schedule
Pay the intern's wages		Fulfill essential functions/tasks of the job
Ensure consumer and employer satisfaction and address needs/concerns		Provide feedback on the experience

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN A PAID INTERNSHIP

Consumers interested in participating in the Paid Internship Program may contact their DH case manager, who will explain how they may go about doing so. Employers interested in providing internship opportunities for program participants may do so by calling DHE's Employment Services Coordinator, Nancy Matherly, at (661) 948-8402.

**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 2022-23 fiscal year:

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

- ✓ Twenty-two percent of consumers placed in the Work Readiness program were trained on jobs new to them.
- ✓ The availability of paid work averaged 58% for consumers in the Work Readiness program.
- ✓ A total of eighteen additional contract opportunities were developed or expanded in the second 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 2.7 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 \$15.96 per hour for consumers in individual placement.
- ✓ No consumers transitioned into follow-along status this review period, while another one moved into competitive employment.
- ✓ Consumers within active job search averaged 1.8 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

- ✓ Thirty-one 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 129 community outings in the review period, including trips to the Palmdale Sheriff's Station, Heritage Airport, Tropico Gold Mine, Cesar Chavez Museum, Lazy T Ranch, Sweet Water Ranch, and Barber's Farm.
- ✓ Thirty-seven 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

- ✓ Burns & McDonnell Janitorial/Custodial Crew
- ✓ Lancaster Community Ctr Janitorial/Custodial Crews
- ✓ Windswept Ranch Ranch Hand Crew
- ✓ NASA Weed Abatement
- ✓ Cedar Ridge Apartments Grounds Maintenance
- ✓ Kensington Campus Weed Removal
- ✓ Arbor Court Apartments Detail/Janitorial Crew
- ✓ EAFB Multiple Buildings Weed Abatement
- ✓ Kross Residential Property Grounds Maintenance
- ✓ Longhorn Pavilion Apts Weed Removal

*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

- ✓ RD Properties  
Santa Clarita Plaza 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.*

## STATE OF THE STATE California State Budget Update

On May 12, 2023, Governor Newsom released his May Revision proposal for the state budget, which included proposals for spending on critical services, such as regional centers, In Home Support Services (IHSS), Medi-cal, and Education.

After two years of unprecedented growth and a \$100 billion surplus last year, the state now faces a \$32 billion shortfall this year due to state revenues dependency on capital gains. Thankfully, despite concerns there may be cuts proposed by the Governor or delays to investments in critical services and supports, the Governor made no such recommendations. In fact, the proposed budget not only included no cuts to developmental services, but also included a few new investments, including: Service Provider "Rate Reform" to adjust Independent Living Services rate assumptions to align with the types of services provided with more equivalent occupations; Coordinated Family Support Services to continue funding the pilot program through June 2024; and the continued suspension of the Family Cost Participation Program until December 31, 2023.

On June 15, 2023, California lawmakers passed the legislature's version of the budget. The \$312 billion spending plan covered a 30.7 billion gap, despite Newsom's administration and the Legislative Analyst's Office noting the budget problem would be much bigger, by some \$11 billion more. The LAO also projects continuing deficits averaging \$18 billion or more for the next several years.

The plan includes no cuts to core programs and increased spending for education, health and flood protection and the legislative version involves more borrowing and cost shifts than Newsom's proposal. The legislative plan also does not involve any tax increases on individual Californians or businesses and does not involve any withdrawals from the state's \$37 billion rainy day fund.



**DIVERSITY IS BEAUTIFUL  
VALUING OUR  
DIFFERENCES MAKE US  
STRONGER**

**At Desert Haven...  
We share our similarities and  
celebrate our differences**

-M. Scott Peck

# QH Knights of Columbus Come Through for DHE Yet Again

Just like clock work, the QH Knights of Columbus were on Desert Haven's doorstep, yet again, with a hefty gift, totaling nearly \$3,000.

In a single weekend, during the annual tootsie roll drive, Knights across the country raise funds in support of persons with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.



Above, Deputy Director/CFO Roberta Terry accepts the annual Knights of Columbus donation from Knights Richard Iosue and Vince Fisher.

Standing outside local supermarkets, braving the elements, the Knights of Columbus of Quartz Hill, collected funds from hundreds of Valley residents, who, in exchange for a tootsie roll, demonstrated their commitment to Desert Haven and their appreciation to the Knights.

In addition to awarding DHE a \$10,000 grant in 2018 for the purchase of 12 new computers for the project Independence computer lab, the Knights have raised nearly \$90,000 for the organization through the drive.

## CELEBRATING DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH - MARCH 2023



Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2023  
*Beyond the Conversation*

#DDAM2023

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed March "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month," a time to raise awareness about the importance of inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of community life, particularly employment.

Here at Desert Haven, persons with disabilities demonstrate each and every day that they are more than CAPABLE of making significant contributions to the workplace, to the community-at-large, and to the world around them!

On behalf of the nearly 600 individuals served by DHE, we thank our customers, employers, and community partners for providing opportunities for persons with disabilities to realize their hopes and dreams for a full and productive life lived similarly to any other member of the community.

## VENDOR APPRECIATION ACCOLADES FROM NEOTECH

Neotech Products of Valencia loves their vendors and work hard to make sure they know it each and every day.

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. Needless to say, their products are extremely important, making a difference in people's lives each and every day.

Needless to say, the vendors who assist and support them in this endeavor are essential to the success of their operation and in the saving of lives. For this reason, each year, Neotech goes above and beyond to say THANK YOU to all who provide products and services to help them make a difference.



This year, in addition to an incredible luncheon, DHE's production crew was treated to a walk down the red carpet, as well as their very own star "on Witherspoon Parkway".

Thank you, Neotech!



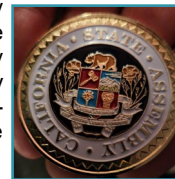
## STEVE CASSELMAN RECOGNIZED AS A "CHAMPION" BY NLAC REGIONAL CENTER

Long time DHE consumer Steve Casselman, accompanied by DHE's Sr. Contract Services Manager Jeff Whiteford, was honored as a "Champion" during the "Celebration of Champions Dinner", hosted by the North Los Angeles County Regional Center's Board of Trustees at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City. Recognized for his exceptional service as a member of the grounds maintenance crews servicing sites throughout the Antelope Valley, as well as for his receipt of a national Volunteer of the Year Award from the ASPCA for his volunteer efforts at the Love This Horse Equine Rescue, Steve was featured in a video presentation and received accolades from NLACRC.



As if that weren't enough, Steve also received two very special lapel pins from our very own California State Assemblymember Tom Lackey. Assemblyman Lackey expressed his great appreciation for Steve's exemplary performance by gifting him with a California State Assembly pin, as well as with his personal California State Highway Patrol - Retired / Assemblymember Pin.

Congratulations Steve! We are so very proud of you!!





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

### Paid Internships

The following PIP's were established in the second half of the 22-23 fiscal year:

Department of Rehabilitation  
Office Technician

High Country Feed and Pets  
Retail Associate

The Whole Wheatery  
Stocker

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

### **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

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

### CARF ACCREDITATION

DHE last participated in the CARF accreditation survey in December 2021, 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".

DHE's next CARF accreditation survey will be conducted sometime in March or April of 2024

### **ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION**

Following are a few of the objectives authorized by the Board of Directors during the June 2023 Board Retreat to be pursued/achieved in the 2023-24 fiscal year and beyond:

- ⇒ Purchase three augmentative communication devices for the Project Independence Program to assist participants with a speech or language impairment to communicate;
- ⇒ Purchase additional e-powered equipment for grounds maintenance services, including the purchase of an e-powered tractor through the AVAQMD grant process;
- ⇒ Fully implement Paid Internship Program (PIP) component within the Antelope Valley and introduce component to the Santa Clarita Valley in the coming year;
- ⇒ Finalize vendorization process for the Competitive Integrated Employment Incentive Program and utilize funds to further support community-based placement program;
- ⇒ Continue to explore and implement additional targeted measures to cut rising costs and/or garner increased revenue, as appropriate;
- ⇒ Achieve enrollment goals for all programs/services, as projected and budgeted.

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

### **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 empower and equip persons served to become independent, self-sufficient, fully integrated participants within their community, in keeping with their individual hopes, dreams, aspirations, and choices.