

Desert Friends of the Developmentally Disabled (DFDD) is a public benefit charity dedicated to improving the lives of all developmentally disabled children and adults in the Coachella Valley.

On Friday night, July 23rd, a fabulously fun time was had by all who attended the first COUTURE TO PROCURE EVENT, held at Mission Hills Country Club and sponsored by Slovak Baron & Empey, LLP, Attorneys at Law. This unique fundraising event was spearheaded by Valerie A. Powers Smith, Esq., Of Counsel at Slovak, Baron & Empey, and Dr. Mark J. Smith, applied physiologist and Director of the Wellness Program at Mission Hills Country Club. The event benefited Desert Friends of the Developmentally Disabled and its We Care Dental Center. A variety of couture items were donated and procured during a silent and live auction.

Dr. Mark Smith conducted an entertaining and spirited live auction, where the attendees reveled in outbidding each other for a great cause. Proceeds from this event will ensure that nearly 200 adults with developmental disabilities receive medically necessary dental services from DFDD's WE CARE DENTAL CENTER located in Palm Desert.

Based on the success of this "off season" inaugural event, a Second "Couture to Procure" Event has been scheduled for Saturday, November 20, 2010, at the Main Clubhouse at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage. DFDD will be accepting couture item donations from individuals and businesses now through November 10, 2010. Tickets will be \$75.00 per person and can be purchased by calling DFDD at 760-832-6555 or by going to DFDDNOW.org. All attendees receive a tax deductible receipt from DFDD for the full amount of their ticket price and donation. Save the date and don't miss out on the fun!!

DFDD is committed to providing dental support, in addition to the other services being discontinued. We now have a local dentist on our board of directors. DFDD has created a Dental Center and we are currently treating DD patients on a weekly basis. Demographical statistics provided by the state indicate there are over 1500 individuals in Coachella Valley and a total of 24,130 developmentally disabled individuals registered in Riverside County. The Center provides these vital services at no cost to the adult patients we serve. When state funding was in place less than 20% were able to obtain treatment. DFDD, with the

support of local dentists has decided to move forward immediately and formally create a nonprofit support organization to provide dental services on a permanent basis. The organization will be called "WE CARE DENTAL CENTER." We are in the process of creating a fully equipped, approximately 1100 sq. ft., staffed office located in Palm Desert. We are also developing dental hygiene programs and will work with parents and care givers to provide them with necessary training to teach our population technique and help them establish a daily routine.