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## May 2013 Newsletter

1 message

**Valley Village** <info@valleyvillage.org>  
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Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Valley Village. Don't forget to add [jenny@vc.org](mailto:jenny@vc.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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# Village SPIRIT

## e-newsletter



Michael & Shawn

### In This Issue

[A Very Special Story](#)

### Showtime!

**Saturday, June 15**  
**Sheraton Universal Hotel**  
 10:00 am Garden Party  
 12:00 pm Comedy Luncheon  
 Live Comedy, Boutiques,  
 Live Music, Silent Auction, Live Auction  
[Tickets](#) \$100, Parking Included  
[Sponsorship](#) Levels  
 \$1,500, \$3,000,  
 \$5,000, \$6,500

[May Calendar](#)

**Issue: #55**

**May 2013**

Hello [valleyvillage.development@gmail.com](mailto:valleyvillage.development@gmail.com)!

April showers bring May flowers! At Valley Village that means more outings that are outside when the weather is warm but not too hot yet. May also means that **Showtime!** is right around the bend on **June 15**. You can expect your invitation in the mailbox in the next week. We expect to sell out this year so [purchase your tickets](#) early!

**It's always a good time to reflect on how much our clients mean to us**, and this article by one of our staff says it all. We hope you enjoy it.

Wishing you a great May,

Your friends at Valley Village

**"VALLEY VILLAGE CLIENTS ARE MY**

5 [Cinco de Mayo event](#)  
for all Valley Village  
Clients

9 [Volunteer Thank You  
Event](#)

27 Memorial Day  
Valley Village Office  
and Day Programs  
closed

June Calendar

15 [Showtime!](#)

Giving

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facebook



facebook has photos  
and news first!

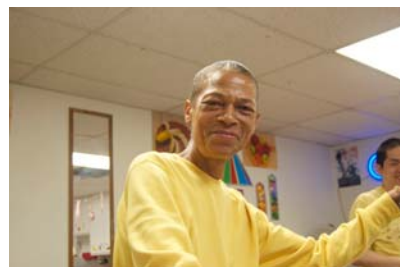
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## INSPIRATION!"

**"They helped me get  
through my cancer  
treatment."**

Victoria Dobbins, the head behavior specialist at the Valley Village Development Center, returned to work recently after surgery and months of grueling chemotherapy and radiation for cancer. She came back to hugs and tears of joy. Coworkers and clients were happy to see her, of course, but she was even happier to see them.



Victoria

"The clients were my inspiration," she explained. "I saw their faces in my mind, visualizing them, as I went through my treatment. I visualized them getting off the buses and in their wheelchairs. I would picture them saying to themselves, 'I can't move but I'm here, knowing I'm going to get some type of support and services, for a better quality of life and happiness.'

"During my treatment, I had radiation five days week in five sections of my body. I had to go live near the Kaiser hospital in Los Angeles, staying at an apartment building the hospital has for patients. I was there for 3½ months. "I needed to rest. Radiation and chemo take all your energy. They take your appetite away and give you nausea - want to vomit all the time."

"Fighting a disease like cancer, the main thing is to stay focused. You've got to have a purpose. If you have to go through this, you've got to have faith. God said to me, 'I'm giving you the strength, but you have to have the willpower, Victoria.'

"So much goes through your head when you're lying there sick. Either you're a giver or a taker. Will you be for other people, or be for yourself?"



"As my recovery progressed, I was tired of thinking about myself. I wanted to think about someone else. Now, every time I think about my problems, I think about the clients, that if they can come to the program, I can come to the program. How many surgeries have our guys gone through? And most can't even talk about it. They don't have the verbal skills.

"Coming back to Valley Village was coming home to me. Working with the clients is my passion in life. It's what I get

up every day to do. I'm on a mission. I feel so much stronger that I weathered the storm."

Victoria's treatments ended in early summer, but she is still recovering. "I need to build my strength all over again," she explains. "I was in a wheelchair, then used a cane, now I'm walking upright again. I have special exercises I do. Now I need compression wraps since lymph fluid is collecting.

"But I'm so happy to be back at Valley Village. At our program, we on the staff put a smile on our face and be all we can be for these guys. Our job is to make their lives the best possible," she stressed. "I'm all about advocating for these guys. The clients don't ask for this, to be disabled and in pain.

"I want to thank everyone, staff and clients, for their love, support and prayers during my illness. When something like this happens, you find out really quickly who your friends are."

Victoria, who has been with Valley Village for 16 years and has been in the developmental disabilities field for 35 years.

**"The world worries about disability  
more than disabled people do."**

- Warwick Davis

Every time you **give** through Valley Village, you're supporting 400 men and women with developmental challenges.

Thank you.

[DONATE NOW](#)

- Your friends at Valley Village

## **Volunteer Party May 9**

Ice Cream, Ice Cream! We all scream for Ice Cream!

Board members and volunteers (old and new) are encouraged to join us for some fun on **May 9th** here at Valley Village. We'd love to thank you for your commitment and dedication to the people we serve through our loving programs!

**RSVP** to Jo Ellen, (818) 587-9450 ext. 161.

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