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May 2013 Newsletter

1 message

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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 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!

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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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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