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Our Mission: Valley Village is committed to advancing the interests and well-being of citizens with developmental disabilities.
The Village Spirit - Spring 2007

President’s Message
by Kitty Cooper

Springtime in Southern California - What a treat! For the members of the Valley Village Board of Directors it is a time of renewed commitment to our fine organization. Our goal is to ensure that Valley Village continues to provide the high quality programs for which it is known. That includes strengthening, adapting and enhancing the programs to meet the changing needs of our participants.

Keeping our goal in mind, the Board’s priorities are the same as I reported a year ago: 1) increasing family and community participation in the activities of Valley Village, 2) increasing the size and diversity of the Board of Directors, and 3) maximizing the fiscal resources of the organization.

We are making progress. It is my pleasure to welcome two new Board members: Marla Kort and Brian Blake. Marla, whose son is in our residential program, brings a parent’s perspective as well as community and business experience to the Board. Brian, as vice president for Human Resources at Telasis Community Credit Union, provides expertise regarding our role as the employer of choice for the many people who make Valley Village function day to day. Both Marla and Brian are enthusiastic about their new positions, and are already active participants on the Board.

In our efforts to provide the best programs for the individuals we serve, in March we sent a questionnaire to the families of all Valley Village residential and day program participants. The initial response was strong and more forms continue to trickle in. If you haven’t responded, you may still do so. (If you misplaced your form, call Susan Basler for a new one.)

The results so far are interesting and indicate a need for further planning and action. The largest single response was a concern about what will be available for our clients as they age. Specifically, as health issues become more significant, will Valley Village be able to continue to provide residential care? A joint committee of the Valley Village Board, the Valley Village Foundation Board, and the administration is currently exploring various options.

The responses to a question about parents’ planning for the future when their children are no longer able to care for or make decisions for their disabled children were disturbing. Out of 69 responses to the question, 25% said they had no plans. What becomes clear is that families need information and assistance regarding this important area. Even those parents who indicated that they have made arrangements, may have only very general agreements with other family members. To ensure continuing care at the level the parents wish, their planning must be more specific. Given that the vast majority (85%) also responded that they expected their disabled relatives to participate in Valley Village programs for their entire lifetimes, we must address these issues. Preliminary discussion on how best to disseminate the needed information has begun.

Parent/family participation in the planning process is crucial. To facilitate this, the Board of Directors has established a Planning Services Committee comprised of parents and other responsible family members from both the residential and programs. This group, chaired by a Board member, will provide information to the Valley Village Board and administration regarding current and future operations and needs. A good starting place for the Committee is an analysis of the questionnaire responses, and suggestions for addressing any issues identified.

It is critical for parents to have a voice in Valley Village. The parents who founded Valley Village 30 years ago have continued to be the backbone of the organization. They are the folks who have (Continued on page Three)

If you would like to have friends or relatives added to our mailing list to receive The Village Spirit, please contact Susan Basler at (818) 587-9450, ext. 120.

Our Endowment Grows

The Village Spirit is designed by Bearsworth Communications, Inc. (818) 772-2678

Visit our Web site at: www.valleyvillage.org

Our Endowment Grows

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ANNUAL LUNCHEON
(Continued from page one)

There will also be drawings for a 7-day fall cruise on Carnival Cruise Line, a two-night Ojai holiday at the Ojai Valley Inn and Spa and a Hawaiian vacation at the Westin Kualapa Resort Villas.

The Title Sponsors for the luncheon are Bank of the West, Citismithbar, Lee Hamer Memorial Charities, Marian Letch, Danny Macklin, Teslaic Community Credit Union, and Joan Winchell. Gold Sponsors are Coldwell Banker, Humanomics, Inc., Northridge Kiwanis, Doctors Richard and Harriet Shingram and the Winnetka Neighborhood Council. Silver Sponsors are Bearsworth Communications, Inc., Kitty & Dan Cooper; Grub & Ellis Company; Mike’s Roofing; AMP Printing & Digital Graphics; Northridge Insurance Agency, LLC; Carson Schreiber; and Barbara & Dwight Whiting Enterprises.

Valley Village assists people with developmental disabilities by providing day and residential programs that are warm and nurturing. More than 30 since its founding, Valley Village has grown to offer quality day and residential services for over 300 clients. It also serves as a role model for other organizations for the developmentally disabled. For more information visit: www.valleyvillage.org.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Dennis Zine is an honorary Founding Board member and has worked with Valley Village for several years. “I am proud to actively participate in the efforts of Valley Village, where each client is recognized as a valuable member of our community. Our Board strives to ensure the programs we operate continue to meet the needs of our clients and others who join us in meeting the needs of people who require a little extra help. We have common goals and a common desire to foster the spirit of giving and love within their respective communities. Leo Buscaglia was a cheerful leader and truly believed in the goodness of people. He often said that there is no shortage in this world of selfless individuals who contribute their time, money and effort to help others in need. The many millions of hours of volunteering and mentoring that take place each day are due in large part to the efforts of Leo and his foundation, that he fervently hoped would continue on its way to helping others was what it’s all about. Helping others overcome their limitations, not just to survive, but to thrive in ways they didn’t think possible; bringing music and art and a love of learning into the lives of people of all ages who, for whatever reason, were missing those things, and always helping with an emphasis on spreading the word that great things are possible with each and every act of love and kindness, whenever and wherever they happen. As the Leo Buscaglia Foundation continues in its mission to foster the spirit of giving, it is my hope to continue to honor Leo’s legacy of giving and loving. Over the years it has awarded organizations and individuals who will benefit by a helping hand and will in turn offer a helping hand to others. For Leo this was a labor of love because he believed that people helping people was what it’s all about. Helping others overcome their limitations, not just to survive, but to thrive in ways they didn’t think possible; bringing music and art and a love of learning into the lives of people of all ages who, for whatever reason, were missing those things, and always helping with an emphasis on spreading the word that great things are possible with each and every act of love and kindness, whenever and wherever they happen.

The Leo Buscaglia Foundation is dedicated to continuing Leo’s legacy of giving and loving. Over the years it has awarded organizations and individuals who will benefit by a helping hand and will in turn offer a helping hand to others. For Leo this was a labor of love because he believed that people helping people was what it’s all about. Helping others overcome their limitations, not just to survive, but to thrive in ways they didn’t think possible; bringing music and art and a love of learning into the lives of people of all ages who, for whatever reason, were missing those things, and always helping with an emphasis on spreading the word that great things are possible with each and every act of love and kindness, whenever and wherever they happen.

Leo Buscaglia Foundation

(Continued from page two)

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Presidents Message (Continued from page Two)

FRED CHAPA
HONORED FOR 25-YEARS OF SERVICE TO VALLEY VILLAGE

Yolanda and Fred Chapa (l - r), Valley Village Board President Kitty Cooper and Councilman Dennis P. Zine.

Yolanda and Fred Chapa (l - r), Valley Village Board President Kitty Cooper and Councilman Dennis P. Zine.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE
By Fred Chapa

While the court did not persevere in collecting payment, neither did it waive or remove the fees. The current round of collection in most instances covers current and previous investigator costs and in some instance the amount is well over $2,000. The conservators or parents are not liable for the expenses of their adult children.

It is unfortunate that the current court correspondence to the parent is often going to retirees who in many instances have health problems which are being exacerbated by the undue pressure of the courts trying to collect on old charges.

In regard to the above article, I acknowledge the help and guidance of a successful attorney with years of experience working with setting-up Conservatorships and the related legal services required in these matters.

A NOTE OF THANKS
Yolanda and I thank the board, the parents, clients and others who joined in the celebration of my 25th Anniversary at Valley Village. We will remember everyone when we take our vacation.

Fred & Yolanda
**Here's Who's Helping Valley Village**

*Donor names comprise those who provided support to Valley Village from January 1 to April 30, 2007.*

### 2007 Annual Appeal

**ON-GOING OPERATIONS**
- Joan Campbell (matching gift)
- Mary & Thomas Emerson
- Mr. & Mrs. Light
- Mr. & Mrs. Mantor
- Judi & Ron Preisman (matching Bank of the West)
- Carson Schreiber
- Joan Schugel

**SUNLAND PROGRAM**
- Carson Schreiber

**GENERAL DONATIONS**
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles Berglund
- Mr. & Mrs. Leon Bash
- Councilman Tony Cardenas
- Leopoldo Daulo
- Faye Deane
- Ruth Deel & Mary Banner (Altano House)
- James Domit
- Terry Gaddis
- Jeffrey Francis & Betty Guzzo
- Mr. & Mrs. Randy Haege
- Mr. & Mrs. Sharen Kort (Archwood House)
- Mr. & Mrs. Rogelia L. Pena
- Gloria Perez
- Rudnyk Family
- Mr. & Mrs. Ignazio Samaritano
- Marion Schwanbeck
- Councilman Dennis P. Zine

**MEMORIALS**

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<th>In Memory Of:</th>
<th>Donors Who Honor:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Belmont</td>
<td>Laura &amp; Guenther Engel 50th Anniversary</td>
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<td>Nina Critchfield</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. LeRoy Bushung, Judy &amp; Ross Hawthorne &amp; Mr. &amp; Mrs. Ed Zimmerman</td>
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<td>Harry Dardis</td>
<td>Dorothy &amp; Leroy Bushung 50th Anniversary</td>
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<td>Kevin Deel</td>
<td>Jaretta Acosta, Frank &amp; Doris Bostianic, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Henry Bronet, Louise Bushung, Jeanette Campbell, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Terry Critchfield, Sylvia Dorfman, Bonnie Elrtr, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Guenther Engel, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Willis Hamburger, Judy &amp; Ross Hawthorne, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Joe Lopez, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Vern Lovell, Norma Ryals, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert Shrub, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Larry Shrub, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Raymond Shrub, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Rex Skinner, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Donald Standard, June Stanton, Martha Waug, Larry Woetz, &amp; Ed Zimmermann</td>
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<td>Marge Denemberg</td>
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<td>Rebeca Deane</td>
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<td>Kevin Deel</td>
<td>Aaron Lazaroff’s Birthday</td>
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<td>Mary &amp; Mrs. Henry Bronet</td>
<td>Mary &amp; Mary Rue 50th Anniversary</td>
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<td>Robert Fenton</td>
<td>Ann Hill</td>
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<td>Ruth Deel &amp; Mary Banner (Altano House)</td>
<td>Bob Sharps Birthday</td>
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<td>James Domit</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Thomas Smith</td>
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<td>Judy &amp; Russ Hawthorne</td>
<td>Tanis’s Birthday</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. LeRoy Bushong</td>
<td>Martha Waug</td>
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**Tributes**

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- Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Bushung, Judy & Ross Hawthorne & Mr. & Mrs. Ed Zimmerman
- Jaretta Acosta, Frank & Doris Bostianic, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Bronet, Louise Bushung, Jeanette Campbell, Mr. & Mrs. Terry Critchfield, Sylvia Dorfman, Bonnie Elrtr, Mr. & Mrs. Guenther Engel, Mr. & Mrs. Willis Hamburger, Judy & Ross Hawthorne, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Lopez, Mr. & Mrs. Vern Lovell, Norma Ryals, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Shrub, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Shrub, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Shrub, Mr. & Mrs. Rex Skinner, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Standard, June Stanton, Martha Waug, Larry Woetz, & Ed Zimmermann

**Memorial Donations**

- Mr. & Mrs. Ross Goldware
- Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Bushong, Judy & Ross Hawthorne & Mr. & Mrs. Ed Zimmerman
- Mr. & Mrs. Henry Bronet
- Judy & Ross Hawthorne
- Judith Smith
- Mr. & Mrs. Derrick Fisher
- Aaron Lazaroff
- Mr. & Mrs. Joe Lopez
- Mr. & Mrs. Vern Lovell
- Norma Ryals
- Mr. & Mrs. Rex Skinner
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Standard
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- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Standard
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- Martha Waug
- Larry Woetz
- Ed Zimmermann

**Grants for the Sunland Expansion**

- SKETCH Foundation
- Sidney Stern Memorial Trust

**In-Kind Donations**

Thank you to our computer “guru,” Guenther Engel, for the donation of equipment for our clients.

**Special Olympics**

We apologize if your name was omitted. Please call Susan or Melanie at (818) 587-9450, ext. 120 so we may include your name in the next issue of the Village Spirit.

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**St. Patrick’s Day At Valley Village**

*Thanks to Canoga Park Kiwanis Club for Hosting This Event.*