



March 11, 2015

THE *village* SPIRIT!



newsletter no. 101

Community Matters

Dear valleyvillage.development@gmail.com,

What actually defines a community? Many believe it is a sense of cohesiveness among a group of people. The idea of "community" may simply come down to supporting and interacting positively with other individuals who share common interests. An individual's community serves a vital role by offering camaraderie and acting as a support system. People of all ages and backgrounds tend to feel a sense of belonging. Belonging to and being active in a community leads people to happier and healthier lives.



Volunteers and Clients dancing at Hike It Up Valentine's Day Party

A strong community benefits the individual and the community as well as greater society. Strong communities create a more stable and supportive society. So, consider joining [Valley Village](#) and partners at [Community-At-Large Day](#).

Sincerely,
Your friends at [Valley Village](#)

Thank You

We Can't Do This Without You

The support Valley Village receives goes directly to caring for 400 men and women with developmental challenges. Thank you.

More of our amazing 2014 Annual Appeal contributors:

Lilli and Al Diamond
Georganna and John Beuerman

Please forgive any omissions and [contact us](#) if we have regrettably left you out.

Please help us thank these individuals for their philanthropic spirit!

Share the Excitement at the Getty Villa

Community-at-Large Day on March 28 Will Be a Day to Remember!

Here's your chance to enjoy a day of community camaraderie while enjoying one of the great art venues of the world. Our [Community-at-Large Day](#) on Saturday, March 28, will be at the amazing [Getty Villa](#) in Malibu. This is a day when anyone with an intellectual or developmental disability is invited for a day of culture and friendship. Families, care providers and volunteers are invited, too.

The Getty Villa is the perfect locale. Along with its stunning art, architecture and gardens, the site is accessible and the hosts are so welcoming. The museum focuses on early Etruscan, Italian and Greek art. The villa is a recreation of an Italian country house. Four tranquil gardens include fountains, arbors and reflecting pools.



Debbie, Diana and Annalyn enjoying Community-at-Large at the Getty Villa

Clients and guests should arrive between 10:30 am and 11 am. We will meet in the picnic area, which is flagged on the [map](#). Participants are invited to enjoy a casual lunch on arrival or at their convenience. You may bring your own picnic lunch, or purchase food at The Café at the Getty Villa.

Departure time is 2 pm. Families, groups and volunteers are welcome to stay as long as they wish after checking out. The Getty Villa closes at 5 pm.

Parking is free for those who are preregistered, and oversize vans can be accommodated. Families and groups who wish to participate should [register](#) by March 24 or by calling [818\) 587-9450, ext. 120](tel:818-587-9450). All participants must be accompanied by a staff member or family member.

We have eight partner organizations for this event: New Horizons, TLC for the Blind, PathPoint, TASC, Ability First, Easter Seals, Exceptional Children's Foundation, and Tierra del Sol. Partners spread the word, sharing information and distributing fliers to their clients, families, staff and community. Groups of clients and staff or family relish the friendship and fun of the day.

For Volunteers

We need many volunteers to help guide special tours of the museum and grounds, to lead the activities, and to help push wheelchairs and interact with clients. Volunteers will have their own special tour beforehand to learn the best routes and offerings for the participants. Volunteers should meet at 9:45 am for training and the tour. Don't come too early. The gates don't open until 9 am.

Individuals and groups are welcome to volunteer. You must [preregister](#) or call [\(818\) 587-9450, ext. 120](tel:(818)587-9450).

Location

The Getty Villa is at 17985 Pacific Coast Highway, Pacific Palisades. You can enter only from the far-right northbound lane of PCH.

Hearts Aflutter at Clients' Valentine Party

Hike It Up and Dozens of Other Volunteers Bring Joy

No broken hearts at our Valentine's Day Party. Happy clients, smiling volunteers and cheerful staff members were surrounded by hearts, flowers, music, balloons, crafts and food at the Valley Village Development Center on Saturday, Feb. 14. [Hike It Up](#) sponsored the event once again, aided by many volunteers from Concorde Career College, CKI from CSUN, and other amazing [Valley Village](#) volunteers.

Volunteers decorated with flair, transforming the parking lot into a ballroom setting. Red and pink tablecloths helped set the theme, with balloons galore for the tables and beneath the canopy.



Volunteers setting up for Hike It Up's Valentine's Party

The CKI students from CSUN made clever Valentines for the clients with the funny, punny slogans we still love, such as the hand-drawn slice of pizza with the message "You've stolen a pizza my heart" or "You are 'toad'ally awesome. Happy Valentine's Day" illustrated by a cute yellow toad.

A student from Concorde Career College prepared treat bags for each client, which the clients treasured. Clients were so excited as volunteers distributed the individual bags.

Lunch preparation was a major undertaking, with Hike It Up providing the makings for more than 100 lunches. Sandwiches were made, carrot slivered, and apples sliced. The pasta salad made by a Hike It Up volunteer was much appreciated and consumed to the last bite.



Dessert was an edible art project. Clients were able to ice and decorate their own cookies. Mmm -- fun and tasty. Clients also worked on a group art project. After lunch, the energized clients enjoyed the music of DJ Bo Chang, with many dancing up a storm.

Hike It Up lunch prep for more than 100 meals

Then it was over, except for the clean-up. Volunteers and staff made quick work of that, with everyone helping.

Valley Village Board Member
Ron Smith with CKI

Thank you to Hike It Up and all of our lovely volunteers for the Best Valentine's Day Ever!

These special events mean so much to our clients. If your group would like to host a Super Saturday celebration, [contact us](#). It doesn't have to be for a specific holiday. The clients love a party, whatever the reason, and they would love to celebrate with you and your group.

2015 Calendar

March 28	Community-at-Large Day, Getty Villa, Malibu. Participants and volunteers welcome .
March 31	Cesar Chavez Holiday. Day programs closed. Office open.
April 25-26	Valley Village table at Woodland Hills Rotary Club Arts & Crafts Faire.
May 2	Cinco de Mayo celebration for clients. Volunteers welcome .
May 25	Memorial Day holiday. Office and Day Programs closed.
May 28	Chillin' & Grillin' Fundraiser BBQ. Save the date.



How You Can Help



Be An Art Lover
 Check out client art works at the [Woodland Hills Rotary Club](#) Arts & Crafts Faire April 25 & 26, Warner Center Park, Woodland Hills. Help our programs. [Volunteer.](#)



Cue Up for BBQ
 Zesty barbecued ribs. Savory grilled vegetables. All for a good cause -- the clients. Save the date: Thursday, May 28, in the cool of the evening. Call us: [\(818\) 587-9450.](#)



Hit the Road
 Hop on the bus with the clients for Super Saturday adventures to festivals, plays, and more. Let us handle driving and parking. [Contact us.](#)

"The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life"- Jane Addams

DONATE NOW



Bob enjoying his Valentine Treats

Stay Connected.
Events & Photos are always on Facebook First!



ValleyVillage.org
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