

# The Finish Line

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Nov. 20, 2014

## THE village SPIRIT!



newsletter no. 92

### Village Run/Walk A Winner!

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Dear Friends,

#### The Finish Line

What a run! What a day! The first annual **Village Run/Walk** and Family Festival was a success. Nearly 300 participants were registered, and 230 crossed the finish line. To us, you're all winners, aiding two great causes while pushing yourselves to new levels of accomplishment.

The morning of Sunday, Nov. 9, was cool as we arrived at Woodley Park. We had much to do. The first shift of volunteers reported before the sun rose. We started setting up. Vendors came to give away food, beverages



Eddie and The Clippers Spirit Girls

and information. Then the runners and walkers started coming, and kept coming.

When the dust settled, we had raised a good amount for **Valley Village** and **The Village Family Services**. We had also created awareness and camaraderie. And memories, which will last a lifetime.

Thank you to all who helped.

Sincerely,  
Your friends at **Valley Village**

## Ready, Set . . . They're Off!

### The Game's Afoot at The Village Run/Walk

With so much happening at the **Village Run/Walk** and Family Festival Nov. 9, it was more fun than a three-ring circus. The race was paramount. After an enthusiastic warm-up led by Heather Binns of Full of Life Fitness, just shy of 300 runners and walkers took off from the starting line in Woodley Park, heading underneath Woodley Avenue to adjacent Balboa Lake Park and the Metro Orange Line path, then south along beautiful Lake Balboa.



Village Run/Walk Winners with the Clippers Spirit Girls

Congratulations to Zach Jaeger, first place, who finished in 19:01.51. Tom Davidson finished second; and Craig Lang, third. Our next four finishers were Angela Valazquez, Megan Severa, Liam McGilvray and Julio Martinez.

Runners and walkers kept coming in over the next hour plus. Meanwhile, participants enjoyed coffee and bagels, KIND bars, Corner Bakery treats, and Jamba Juice. Kids worked on crafts and had their faces painted in fantastic designs, then went on to compete in the Kiddie K. Children and adults joined the Wahlbangers Drum Circle in a lively beat. Our musical maestro Juno played and sang, as well as emceed.

Our volunteer medics, from the Bobby Sherman Volunteer EMT Foundation, were more than helpful. We appreciate their professional expertise and calm demeanor.

The grand finale was the raffle drawing for Delta Air Lines tickets. Earlier in the

day, Clippers Dance Team members help sell raffle tickets.

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield and Kaiser Executive Shirley Suda, MD, welcomed participants. The community participation was heartwarming. Sponsors included Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills, Finish Line Sponsor; Los Angeles Daily News, Starting Line Sponsor; Marla and Steven Kort; Southern California Health Institute; Delta; Gelb Group, A Family of Companies; Councilman Bob Blumenfield; Councilman Mitchell Englander; Councilman Paul Krekorian; Dr. Barry Leonard and Associates; Promotionally Minded; MMP Printing; Paul Davis and Alberta Bellisario Insurance Services; U-Frame-It Gallery; and Vonte Products.



Jim, Charlie and Robert

Our partners included the Chatsworth Chiefs; Metro; Fleet Feet Encino; Full of Life Fitness; and Santa Clarita Running Co. Donors included The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf; Corner Bakery; Bel-Air Exteriors; Trader Joe's West Hills; Jamba Juice, SOCHI, Bobby Sherman EMT, The Body Shop, Farm Fresh, AAA TLC, State Farm, Covered California, Fresh and Easy; Panera Bread; David and Cathy Kort; Westfield Topanga; Voskos Yougurt; KIND; and Western Bagel.

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## Volunteers Shine at Village Run/Walk

### We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!

To our dedicated volunteers, thank you for your hard work and positive attitude at our Village Run/Walk. Many of you were up at the crack of dawn (or before) and handled many different duties.

With almost 300 runners to check in, vendor tables and booths to set up, parking spots to manage, information to provide, musicians to assist, dozens of children to entertain, clients to help, water to distribute, pompoms and bells to shake, bagels and coffee to share, and then handle take-down and clean-up, you had a busy and productive day.



Village Run/Walk Volunteers

We raised money for our programs and awareness of our causes. We couldn't have done it without you. You have made a difference for our clients. Thank you so much, and we hope to see you again.

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## Coming Home

### Annual Appeal to Benefit Special New House

As we gather with our families around the Thanksgiving table, we appreciate all that we have and we think about the needs of others. In the lives of persons with developmental disabilities, those needs are many. One of the most basic is a home.

Through this year's Annual Appeal, we will all have an opportunity to create a special new home for persons who have developmental disabilities and are medically fragile. There is a great need for such residential care. We have received a generous bequest from aremainder trust toward this home, but we now need to raise matching funds. The bequest is from the trust of Marion and Ernst Letsch, with the house to be named for their daughter, Karen Linn.



Karen Linn Letsch

You can help fund this much-needed special home. Please read your Annual Appeal letter when it arrives in December, and respond. For more information, contact us at [info@valleyvillage.org](mailto:info@valleyvillage.org), or  [\(818\) 587-9450, ext. 120](tel:(818)587-9450). Happy holidays, and thank you.

## 2014 Calendar

- November 27- 28 Thanksgiving holidays. Office and day programs closed.
- December 24 Christmas Eve. Day programs closed.
- December 25 Christmas. Office and day programs closed.
- December 26 Day after Christmas. Day programs closed.
- January 1, 2015 New Year's Day. Office and day programs closed.

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"GI THRIEVERS" Kaiser Woodland Hills

"The Finish Line is just the beginning of a whole new race."  
- Unknown

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