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SPRING
VOLUME 23
ISSUE 1
2011



Village SPIRIT

OUR MISSION IS TO PROTECT, FOSTER, DEVELOP AND ADVANCE THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

Valley Village is 40 Years Old!

Here's how we got there
By Dolores Zimmermann
THE ROAD TO A VILLAGE

The road to a "village" was uncharted territory and filled with many twists and turns.

The original plan was for a "village" of twelve houses on seven acres in the north San Fernando Valley. Recreation facilities could be located on the property. However, the plan for a cluster of homes was quickly dismissed by federal officials, to whom we turned for financial support. Community "inclusion" for the developmentally disabled was what government agencies thought was in their best interest.

Much work had been done on the original plans, but we knew that to achieve our vision we had to adapt. It also became clear that we needed funds beyond what our back yard lunches and yearly Steak Fry could raise. We had to learn about Grants and Foundations. We also had tackle the world of licensing requirements, building and fire codes, Department of Rehabilitation requirements, insurance, and other City, County and State rules. It took almost six years for the first house to be established, equipped and occupied.

While preparation was ongoing towards our first home for six young women, we were busy with many projects including

providing parent speakers and a slide show presentation at local community organizations, and having a representative from the Valley

(continued on page 10)



Board of Directors President's Message



RON SMITH
President

By Ron Smith

It was one of those hot Sacramento days and dignitaries had assembled for the signing of the Lanterman Act in 1969. Nobody was prouder than State

Assemblyman Frank D. Lanterman, for all his hard work had

come to fruition when Gov. Ronald Reagan signed the act. For one mother in the crowd, a tear came to her eye because she knew that from this point forward, she would not have to worry about her son's future.

The landmark legislation said that Californians with disabilities deserved the same benefits all other Californians had. It was the beginning of regional centers and supportive services that took persons with developmental disabilities out of hiding and into the open. Life for those with developmental disabilities today is far better than it was then.

But even though these services are mandated by law, we cannot take them for granted.

All of us in the Valley Village family and the community need to be vigilant to save our programs and services. First, we need to contact our state senators and assembly members to tell them how important it is that they support this special population. The current budget battle is under way as this is written and may have come to a vote before you read this. But our efforts must continue for new budgets and new battles will come. Our clients need us to advocate for them.

You can help. Become a registered voter and take an active role in our democratic process. You can make a difference in the lives of the vulnerable men and women we serve.



Barbara



TJ



Karen

**VILLAGE SPIRIT
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Why I Like Valley Village



Mary Jo

We asked Mary Jo, who attends our Winnetka ADHC, why she likes Valley Village? "I like all the people and the staff are very nice too." Mary Jo adds that it's important that people support Valley Village because "Half of these clients would have no place to go and would have to stay home and probably just watch television. I would probably be in a nursing home." You can meet Mary Jo online at www.youtube.com/ValleyVillageMKTG.

Guest Editor



Jo Ellen Krumm

This edition of the newsletter is something special. Several articles were written by our LA Fellows-graduate volunteer development specialist, Jo Ellen Krumm. Jo Ellen began volunteering as a development specialist in October through the LA Fellows job training program. She is honing her journalistic skills in grant writing. "I feel this is a perfect match for my research and writing talents

and am learning so much about nonprofit management," she notes. To date, Jo Ellen has contributed over 350 hours to Valley Village - and she just keeps giving more! We are fortunate to have Jo Ellen until she finds a full-time position, and we hope she'll continue to volunteer for us after that, too. Thank you, Jo Ellen!



Edmond

Nonprofit of the Year



The Canoga Park West Hills Chamber of Commerce has named Valley Village 2010 Nonprofit of the Year. The award was presented at the Chamber's annual gala Feb. 4 by Congressman Brad Sherman. Also recognized in the nonprofit category were participants of PathPoint. Several businesses and Chamber members were also honored.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine, Debra Donovan, Congressman Brad Sherman, Ron Smith, Jack Dawson
Photo by Leo Gattenio

Congratulations Marla and Steven Kort

Board member Marla and her husband Steven Kort were recipients of the 2010 Philanthropists of the Year award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (www.afp-gsfv.org) at their National Philanthropy Day



Marla & Steven

event which honors those who give back to the community. Marla and Steven have been involved with Valley Village since 2006 when their son, Aaron, moved into one of our houses. Marla joined the Valley Village Board of Directors in 2007 and has served on the Luncheon committee since then as well. Marla and Steven are an amazing couple who always show up when we are in need. Thank you both for all of your love and support!

VALLEY VILLAGE *Showtime!*

Saturday, June 25, 2011

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

CELEBRATE VALLEY VILLAGE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY WITH CONGRATULATORY ADS, MEMORIALS AND RECOGNITIONS

You can include your congratulations in your 40th Anniversary Program Book advertising.

- ★ Say "Happy Anniversary" to Valley Village clients, staff, founders, board members and volunteers.
- ★ Recognize those at Valley Village whose hard work you appreciate.
- ★ Remember loved ones whose lives were enriched by their time at Valley Village.

You can add a line to your regular ad, or create an ad for your special purpose.

Need help? Our marketing and development staff can assist you.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page, Color \$650 | <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page, Black & White \$350 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page, Black & White \$600 | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter Page, Black & White \$150 |

Full-Page ad size: 4.75"W x 7.5"H • Half-Page ad size: 4.75"W x 3.75"H • Quarter-Page ad size: 2.25"W x 3.75"H

Showtime! is an opportunity for 500 guests to experience a special afternoon of comedy, live music, boutique shopping, live auction, prizes, and fabulous food at the Sheraton Universal Hotel. Proceeds from the event will be dedicated to the essential services, day programs, and local residential housing provided by Valley Village. Valley Village, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, currently supports nearly 400 men and women with developmental disabilities in the San Fernando Valley.

SPECIFICATIONS AND RESPONSE REQUEST

Ads must be submitted digitally. Acceptable formats: PDF (high-quality), InDesign, Illustrator or Photoshop. Image files (logos, photographs) should be EPS, TIFF, or JPG files (minimum 150 dpi at actual size). If you submit artwork in Microsoft Word or PowerPoint, please provide a printout proof and we will do our best to match your chosen font. Ads can be e-mailed to: showtime@valleyvillage.org.

Please reply before June 1, 2011. You may also pay online at www.ValleyVillage.org.

Company: _____ Contact: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Alt.Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ Check Enclosed (Payable to Valley Village) ☐ AMEX ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard

CardNo: _____ Expiration: _____

Signature: _____

VALLEY VILLAGE Showtime!

Bob Saget
Emcee

Councilman Dennis P. Zine
Auctioneer

Join us for a great time with exceptional entertainment and fine food in a lavish setting – all for an outstanding cause – at our Showtime! Garden Party and Annual Luncheon on **Saturday, June 25, 2011**. This Showtime! will be unique as we celebrate Valley Village's 40th Anniversary.

We'll be back at the Sheraton Universal Hotel filling the garden and ballroom, with emcee and host extraordinaire Bob Saget returning to regale us once again. Bob is a long-time supporter of Showtime! More celebrity performers are expected, so be ready to be awed and amused. It's a day you won't forget. Connect with old friends, meet new friends, and get to know some of our very special clients. You'll have an opportunity to talk with community leaders, too. Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis Zine, another staunch supporter, is

a regular attendee and our auctioneer.

We start at 10 a.m. with the Garden Party outdoors, featuring champagne, hors d'oeuvres and live music. You can shop at our boutiques featuring unusual items, including handcrafted objects. Deluxe opportunity-drawing baskets will be on display.

We then move indoors to the ballroom where lunch will be served – along with more entertainment. Drawings for prizes and a live auction will conclude our fabulous event. We are hoping for 500 attendees to enjoy a delightful day and support Valley Village. Last year's Showtime! raised more than \$90,000 for Valley Village programs.

Luncheon tickets are \$85 per person (unchanged for four years!), which is a remarkable price for an elegant fundraising event with name performers. This includes lunch, entertainment and the opportunity to shop at our boutiques and bid in our auction. As usual, auction items are special treasures and fun outings and may sell well below market value. You can order Showtime! tickets from Valley Village, by phone at (818) 587-9450 ext.120 or online at www.ValleyVillage.org. Proceeds go toward programs and services for our clients.

Individuals and businesses interested in providing sponsorship for the event or in advertising in our special 40th Anniversary Program Book should also contact us by phone at (818) 587-9450 ext.120 or by email us at showtime@valleyvillage.org.

Guests at Showtime! 2010



The Valley Village Button Campaign

Button, Button?



Dr. Barry Leonard, Dr. Barry Leonard & Associates

Have you joined our 40th Anniversary Button Campaign? It's easy. Just pin on your button, have your picture taken and send it to us for posting on facebook. If you have your picture taken in an interesting or distant locale, all the more fun. You can email photos to info@valleyvillage.org.

Check out our other Button Campaign members too. So far we have nearly 100 photos submitted for facebook. We are wearing the buttons to raise awareness and promote better lives for persons with developmental disabilities. Sporting the buttons also shows our support for Valley Village, which has been helping persons with disabilities thrive for 40 years. The bright yellow buttons were mailed out in March to friends of Valley Village. Keep wearing your button all year to help spread the word about our programs and our 40th Anniversary.

If you would like a button, please contact us at info@valleyvillage.org, or call 818-587-9450, ext. 120. Wear your button and a big smile and send us your photo.



John Parker, Parker Brown

Thank You For Your Support



Jamie Chien, San Fernando Valley Business Journal

So, Valley Village, Why facebook?

Valley Village is on facebook because we're making a difference in the lives of developmentally disabled adults. It's important for you to "like us" on facebook because we depend on the support of the community. We want everyone to see how we're improving the lives of our clients. Plus, there are many ways to get involved including attending events, volunteering, and donations. We are always happy to see new faces. Check us out sometime.



facebook.com/ValleyVillageLA



Hank Yuloff, Promotionally Minded

Valley Village Honors 40 Employees

For Years of Service to Our Clients

Valley Village honors 40 employees for years of service to our clients

Congratulations to the following employees who celebrated milestones in 2010 and through March 2011 in their years of service to Valley Village clients.

In 2010

25 Years

Jim Murray
Maria Sullivan

20 Years

Debra Donovan
Paula Romero
Radeep Rawate
Sujata Rawate

15 Years

Armando Garcia
Kathleen Holly
Victoria Dobbins

10 Years

Bearance Hudson
Cesar Galan
Kimberly Lozano
Susie Effatian

5 Years

Corazon Tolentino
Delmy Solorio
Elizabeth Topete
Maria Gonzalez
Minelly Maldonado
Ruben Garcia
Samantha Herrera
Tania Rodriguez
Travis Peavy

In 2011 (through March 31)

15 Years

Gregory Miraglia
Lisse A. Chen
Mitch W. Bloom

10 Years

Amelia Acosta
Luis Ruiz, Jr.
Ruth Weinstein

5 Years

Alma de Campos Oregon
Johanna Rodriguez
Marina Mancia
Rolando Tolentino
Sandra Garibay
Sheila Canales
Victoria Mejia Paz
Yolanda Lopez

Valley Village identifies itself as the place "where adults with developmental disabilities thrive." Because of the loving care and commitment the staff has for the clients, it's also the place where they smile.

-Dorothy McGuire, RN



Arlene and Susie



Alex



Cathy and Patty

Contributions Made Through Valley Village and the Valley

Contributions made to Valley Village through the 2010 Annual Appeal

Karen Abbott
Christina Anthony, in memory of Dominick
and Christina Bruno
ATK
Mary Banner
Maxine and Paul Barkley
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Behringer
Robert Novak
Howard Berry
Georganna and John Beuerman, in honor
of Dorothy Paxton
Josephine Bird
Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Blum
Eugenie Ruth Boruski, in memory of John
Boruski
Judi and Stanley Broudy
Henrietta and Dennis Burgess
Dorothy and LeRoy Bushong
Jeanette Campbell
Craig Dillmann and Todd Dillmann
Yolanda Chapa and John Chapa
Margarita Clement and Michael
Goldenberg
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Coglianese
Warren Cook and Mada Leach
Kitty and Don Cooper
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Corkery
Dick and Virginia Crouch
Karolyn Crowell
Kelly and Patrick Dalbec, in memory of
Robert Hawthorne
Catalina and Leopoldo Daulo
Ruth Deel
Irma Derrick
Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Dixon
Debra and David Donovan
Jane and Glen Drake
Thomas and Mary Emerson
Paula and Greg Farrington
Mr. and Mrs. Israel Fatoorechi
Joyce Feld
Marlene and Ralph Feldman
Glenn Finmark
Mr. and Mrs. Derrick Fisher
Evelyn Fleishman
Fred Weiner, D.D.S.
Joan and Joe Freeman
Jenny and Allen Freese
Mr. and Mrs. David Fung
Caron James Garrett
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gazal
Rickey Gelb
Darl Gibson
Henry and Jane Goichman

Aaron Goldenberg
Maria and Salvador Gomez
Randy and Rozanne Haege
Janyce and Jay Hecker
Ken S. Honbo, M.D.
Raul Huerta
Eileen and Barry Ilberman, in honor of
Miss Janey Press and Family
Beverly Izen Harris
Althea and Krishan Kapur
Mr. and Mrs. John Kelleher
Bernice and John Kendryna
William Klein
Elayne Bernstein-Landy
Aaron Lazaroff, in honor of David
Lazaroff
Lee Hamer Memorial Charities
Jean Lewis
Richard Leyden
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Light
Councilman Dennis P. Zine
Glenna Lotspeich
Dan Marrow
Les McCormick
Marilyn McMahon-Peterson
Mike Quiroga
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mines
Jean and Gregg Miraglia
Marsha Richards and Robert
Murashige, in honor of Valley
Village Archwood House
Gretha Mosher
Manouchehr Mostafiz, in honor of
Ravash Mostafiz
Marsha Richards and Robert
Murashige
Linda and Ed Niebergall
Kenso and Yoko Nomura
Gloria and Mike Hahn
Gay Lyn Parrish, in honor of Valley
Village's 40th Anniversary
Mr. and Mrs. Plucinik, in memory of
Myrtle Tanis
Dorri Raskin and Florence Raskin
Susan and Edgar Rector
Leticia and Agustin Rey
Enid M. Ross
Rudnyk Family
Larry and Marlys Sack
Mary Sandorf
Merlyn and Carl Schack, in honor of
David Fung in commemoration of
his birthday!
Carson Schreiber
Joan Schugel
Joan Schulman, in memory of Mark
Schulman
Marion Schwanbeck
Jerry and Suzan Sears
Madeline and Robert Sharples, in

honor of Eric Sharples
Ellen Shavelson
Mr. and Mrs. Congressman Brad
Sherman
Robyn Shobu Fisher
Shomrei Torah Synagogue, in honor of
Lauren Rubin
Ellen and Greg Simon
Judith Simonian, in memory of Mary
Catherine Simonian
Mr. and Mrs. Cornell Smith
Joan Soper
Marie and Elio Spinello, in memory of
Mark Oliver
June Stanton
Judith Steimer, in honor of Irv Broudy
Congrats on your 90th Birthday!
Judith Steimer, in honor of Staff at
Tupper House
Stephen M. Rousso
Mr. and Mrs. Rich Stewart, in honor of
Ricky Stewart
Melinda and Craig Sweat, in honor of
Mary and Andrew Dixon
Shirley Sydow, in memory of Eugene
Sydow
Patty and John Sztapka
Bob and Edith Tannenbaum
Ms. Judy Theriault, in honor of Gloria
Hahn and Robert Theriault
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Thompson
Tossetti Family
Dorothy and Larry Trusty
Value Care Pharmacy
Alfredo Vasquez and Douglas
Vasquez
Victor Viereck
Martha Waugh
Ida and Ron Weiss
Aida Wittman
Elsie Wolfe
Eugenia Zeitlin, in honor of Kitty
Cooper
Jill and Mark Zeitlin, in memory of
Herbert Zakary Zeitlin

Contributions made to Valley Village

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Beilinson
Cathy and Louis Casas
Jay Rubinfeld
Kitty and Don Cooper
Elizabeth Cooper
Ruth Deel
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Diamond
Dena Garabedian, in honor of Stephen
Michaels Bar Mitzvah
Maria and Salvador Gomez

Contributor lists comprise those who have given to Valley Village or the Valley Village Foundation. Please contact us at (818) 587-9450 x120, or info@valleyvillage.org, if we have made any omissions or other errors.

Valley Village Foundation September 1, 2010 to March 1, 2011

Contributions made to Valley Village (continued)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hay
Mr. and Mrs. Pat Joyce
Marla and Steven Kort
Millicent Laskey, in honor of
Dede Cooper
Aaron Lazaroff, in honor of
David Lazaroff
Sheba Levine, in memory
of Norman Levine to
continue his good work
Mike Choi

Althea and Bud Brown, to
the Fred Chapa Client
Vacation Fund in memory
of Fred Chapa
Michael Goldenberg
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mines, in
honor of Debbie Broudy
Mrs. Mary Oliver, in memory of
Clifford "Bo" Rice
Mrs. Mary Oliver, in memory of
Mary Black

Mrs. Mary Oliver, in memory of
Vita D'Anna
Ron and Judi Prejean
Richard J. Schmidt
Lesa and Michael Shapiro, in
honor of Ryan Berger
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Smith
June Stanton
Kent and Peggy Stevens
Jonathan Tessler, in honor of
Stephen Michaels Bar

Mitzvah
Gloria Perez
Martha Waugh
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Zimmermann
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Zimmermann,
to the Fred Chapa Client
Vacation Fund in memory
of Fred Chapa

In-Kind Contributions made to Valley Village

Independent Pool and Spa Services Association, San Fernando Valley Chapter
Allen and Jenny Freese
Jay Rubinfeld, CMTLA Inc
Saier Sadiq

Contributions made to the Valley Village Foundation through the 2010 Annual Appeal

Susan Anderson, in memory of Mary
Simonian
Christina Anthony
Maxine and Paul Barkley
Susan Basler
Thelma Bronet, in memory of Elaine
Bronet
Althea and Bud Brown, in honor of Susan
Basler
Dorothy and LeRoy Bushong
Jeanette Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Coglianese
Kitty and Don Cooper
Ruth Deel
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Diamond, in honor of
Sheryl Diamond
Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Dixon
Debra and David Donovan
Guenther and Laura Engel, in honor of
Audrey Corkery
Guenther and Laura Engel
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Engel
Mr. and Mrs. Derrick Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. David Fung
Henry and Jane Goichman
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Goldware
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Hawthorne, in
memory of Robbie Hawthorne

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hay
Healthline Medical Group
Janyce and Jay Hecker
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hinman, in honor of
Scott and Bruce Hinman
Raul Huerta
Althea and Krishan Kapur
Bernice and John Kendryna
Marla and Steven Kort
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Light
Glenna Lotspeich
Marilyn McMahon-Peterson
Corinne Miller, in honor of Ginger and
Corky Miller
Gloria and Mike Hahn, in honor of Robert
Therault
Mr. and Mrs. Rogelio Pena, in memory of
Roberto Pena
Barbara Ruben
Mary Sandorf
Jerry and Susan Sears
Joan Soper
Maria Stanley and Family
June Stanton
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. John Toffan
Kay Pearce
Angelita and Rey Vestuto

Victor Viereck
Martha Waugh
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memory of Fred Chapa
Patricia and Ken Werth
Barbara and Dwight Wheeler
Eugenia Zeitlin, in memory of Herbert
Zakary Zeitlin
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Zimmermann, in memory
of Leah Graver
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Zimmermann



Bessie



Adam

Contributions made to the Valley Village Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harris, in
honor of Valley Village
for the excellent care and
attention given to Clare!

Mr. and Mrs. Russell
Hawthorne, in memory of
Robbie Hawthorne and
Warren Kelly

Judy and Ron Prejean
Dolores and Ed Zimmermann,
in memory of Dede
Wheeler

Dolores and Ed Zimmermann,
in memory of Marthana
Crouch

Becoming Conservators (cont. from page 1)

Parent Group for the Trainable Mentally Retarded (later changed to Valley Village) Board attend monthly PTA meetings at each of the three schools to exchange ideas and encourage parents of younger children to join in the vision. Attending these meetings resulted in the start of an after-school program to assist working parents.

In addition, we had to work with, learn from and educate governmental officials at the State, County and City levels. This involved several trips to Sacramento to talk with the various state agencies.

As “children” became “adults” (in California at 18yrs. of age) parents no longer had the right to give or withhold consent in many areas of their adult children’s lives. For ten years a Valley Village volunteer and two attorneys assisted one hundred families through the court process of having parents become the “Limited Conservators” of their adult children. As a Conservator the parent was granted input regarding the following;

1. The decision as to where the Conservatee will reside.
2. Authorization to have access to confidential records and papers.
3. The power to disavow any contract the Conservatee would enter into.
4. The sole power to make decisions concerning education.
5. The power to give or withhold medical consent on behalf of the Conservatee.

NEXT ISSUE: SPECIAL EDUCATION



Statement of Core Values from Founding Parents’ Perspective

By Dolores Zimmermann and Dwight Wheeler

The core values from our founding still stand today.

Original Core Values:

- The well being of the client is the number one priority.
- The dignity of the client is to be scrupulously protected.
- The quality of services is not to be compromised for the expediency of any other objective.
- Parental involvement is essential and is to be encouraged.
- Governance of the residential program is to be a shared partnership between the professional staff and the respective parent. Each has important contributions to make.
- The residents and home staff will always be respectful community citizens and the properties will be maintained at a standard to always be a community asset.

Today’s Statement of Core Values

Our values today are not so different.

We are compassionate and committed to excellence.

All of our clients deserve dignity, respect, lifelong care, growth of their personal set of values, the opportunity to optimize their potential and to maximize their capabilities.

We believe in family involvement, community participation, innovative programs, dedicated staff, professional and caring staff, dignity, respect, fairness, high quality, stable environment, lifelong care, client specific, longevity of Valley Village, integrity, kindness, compassion, being at the forefront of developmental disabilities and dynamic programming.

Our Vision:

Valley Village is a leading provider of a continuum of care for adults with developmental challenges. Through a partnership of families, professional staff, and community leaders, Valley Village operates neighborhood residential and day programs.

The Happiest People are at Valley Village



Advocacy Begins At Home



The Strongest Mobilizer
By Christina M. Anthony,
Valley Village parent and
advocate

Hello, parents,
relatives and friends
of intellectually and
physically challenged
girls, boys, women and
men everywhere. We are
all being called upon to

create and deliver new avenues of financial commitments
for all concerned members of our disabled community.

Advocacy has been and is our most powerful resource. The majority of family members can remember the days when we had no services or schools available for our loved ones. We organized, wrote letters and applied pressure to the government agencies and members of our legislature. Thus the Lanterman Act became law. Public schools and programs were developed specifically for our community and much more.

Today these programs are in danger. This is a pivotal time. All of us who have access to a computer and/or pen and paper, start today – write your elected officials stating your concerns and worst fears. Just the other day I received a response from Assemblyman Bob Blumenfield thanking me for my concern and letter. Citizens from all over our country are gathering and protesting. The cuts to our local and federal programs will impact all of us, not just the unions and/or public workers.

My first introduction to advocacy was through the Valley Village parent group. Our meetings and fundraisers were responsible for the majority of programs our daughters and sons are utilizing today. I can remember my first “Steak Fry” at Valley Village. Hard-working families came together and cooked, organized raffles, and cleaned up after the event was over. I will always hold this dear to my heart. A concentrated, dedicated and fastidious approach was displayed. Yet something was lacking.

We all realized that a small group of committed family

members was not enough. We now have our annual “Showtime!” luncheon. We fill nearly two ballrooms at the Sheraton Universal and successfully raise money through our wonderful families and community participants. But it’s still not enough.

Advocacy begins at home. We can direct our donations to various programs at Valley Village, as well as designate our donation toward a particular home. For example, one of the projected cutbacks will include staffing for afternoon aides, which impacts our population. Fewer staff, fewer activities. And this is only one of the projected cutbacks. Perhaps as is done in many nonprofits, we as family and friends can pledge a monthly contribution. The amount can be based on what a family can pay and where they would like their donation allocated. This is an option – not mandatory, but tax deductible.

We are all putting our heads together. I’m reaching out to our new families and siblings as well as our founding mothers and fathers. I know we can do it, because we already have proven that human power is the strongest mobilizer of them all.

Thank you.

You can view Christina’s speech at our February 10, 2011 rally online at youtube.com/valleyvillagemktg and at facebook.com/ValleyVillageLA



Valley Village clients and staff at the February budget rally



It Takes A Village

An Interview with Ms. Elizabeth Cooper, Valley Village parent and advocate

By Jo Ellen Krumm

For Ms. Elizabeth Cooper, advocacy is her mission in life. She speaks up for her son, Jonathan, and others with developmental disabilities. "Our sons and daughters cannot speak for themselves, so we have to," she says.

Families of those with developmental disabilities have to do more than just enroll their children in programs, Ms. Cooper says. "You have to be an active parent, you have to advocate, to talk to legislators and regional centers, to go where the funding is done.

"Being an advocate empowers you not to be afraid to speak up in order to ensure that programs continue to exist. It takes a village, all of us together. No matter what part we play, we've got to take more active roles to make sure that programs continue to exist. I would not like to see empty buildings. I know how much effort it took to open the centers and how important they are to our children."

Her adult son has been in the Valley Village program for years, but she cannot become complacent about his continued care. "We can never just assume these programs will continue," she states. "We must keep in touch with the legislators and make them realize that the developmentally disabled still need services as they age. They enjoy getting on the bus to go to the day programs. It's a learning experience for them, whether they are verbal or not. We are concerned that programs will be there after we parents are gone, so my son and others know there's someone who can take my place or the other parents' place."



Ian, Jonathan, Darin Henry

That, of course, was the reason for the founding of Valley Village, to provide a continuum of care for clients that endures after their own parents are gone. But as we know from this year's state budget debate, even an existing legislative mandate doesn't ensure full funding for programs. Thus, notes Ms. Cooper: "You need to take advocacy seriously. You always advocate."

In addition to increased awareness among legislators, advocacy has brought changes in the public's perception of people with developmental disabilities. "There is greater sensitivity," says Ms. Cooper.

While she takes advocacy seriously, Ms. Cooper notes that she has met a lot of nice people while working for the cause. "On the fun side," she adds, "I enjoy attending the fundraisers like Valley Village's Showtime! It's a chance to dress up and have a good time with friends." Yes, but it's fun for a cause, and these events also create awareness.

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-2841
Fax: (916) 558-3160

To find your legislators by zip code, go to: www.legislature.ca.gov/port-zipsearch.html

For information regarding the state budget, visit: assembly.ca.gov and sen.ca.gov

Contact information for the Assembly Budget Committee is: Phone (916) 319-2099, Assemblyman Bob Blumenfield, Chair, Assemblyman Jim Nielsen, Vice Chair

Contact information for the Senate Budget Committee is: Phone: (916) 651-4103, Senator Mark Leno, Chair, Senator Robert Huff, Vice Chair

For more information about California's legislative process, visit ca.gov

Building the Legacy of Valley Village

The Valley Village Foundation Board of Directors is requesting help from members of the Valley Village family to attract new Foundation Board members. Specifically, the Board seeks to expand its membership in both numbers and skills to better serve Valley Village. The primary mission of the Foundation is to provide for the future financial viability of Valley Village. To accomplish this, the Foundation has established an Endowment through donations and investments. Now, more than ever, with looming budget cuts, the importance of building the Endowment is obvious.

Perhaps you, or someone you know, would be willing to serve on the Foundation Board. The Board raises and invests money and it oversees the investments under its stewardship. Presently, the major sources of funds are the donations received from the annual appeal and planned giving through wills and trusts. Additional funding sources are needed; therefore, more Board members with fundraising ideas and experience are urgently needed. Of course, those members must be willing to put forth the energy and the wherewithal to bring their ideas to fruition.

Serving our client community can bring emotional rewards to the participant that far exceed their investment. It can provide an opportunity to apply one's expertise and life experiences resulting in the improvement of the quality of life of others. I hope you will consider a directorship on the Valley Village Foundation today. Your service and leadership can make a meaningful difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities as well as provide the lasting legacy of the Endowment. Please contact us at (818) 587-9450 x120, or email us at info@valleyvillage.org.

Sincerely, Guenther Engel, President




Dolores Zimmermann, Councilman Zine, Doug Green, Dick Bartus at the March Legacy Group Brunch

Valley Village Foundation Board of Directors

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GUENTHER ENGEL
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Vice President

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L.A. City 3rd District

20830 Sherman Way, Winnetka, CA 91306
(818) 587-9450 x120 · Tax ID #91-2160112



Marion Letsch

In Memory of Ms. Marion Letsch

We remember Ms. Marion Letsch whose philanthropic spirit and devotion to Valley Village have been strongly felt throughout the organization. Her daughter, Karen, is a resident of Valley Village's Altano House and an attendee of the Adult Development Center program in Winnetka. Ms. Letsch had been involved with Valley Village since the 70s. Her late husband, Ernst Letsch, was a former president of Valley Village. Ms. Letsch was a Legacy Group member and had been a premiere sponsor of Showtime for the past several years.

Ms. Letsch advocated for the rights of adults with developmental disabilities. She worked closely with the late Fred Chapa to ensure that Valley Village had the things that it needed so that clients can enjoy life without worrying about the small stuff.

Ms. Letsch passed away in March 2011. She was 90 years old. She was a professional violinist and a graduate of Mills College. She will be greatly missed.

A Tradition of Giving

☐ I would like to make a donation to Valley Village.
Donation amount \$ _____

☐ I would like to make a donation to the Valley Village Foundation Endowment.
Donation amount \$ _____

☐ I would like to donate a gift of \$
☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly
☐ Yearly ☐ One time only

☐ My employer has a Matching Gift program and I have enclosed the matching gift form
Employer's name: _____

☐ Enclosed is my check
☐ AMEX ☐ MC ☐ VISA

Card# _____ Exp. _____

Signature: _____

This gift is in memory, honor or Occasion of: _____

Please send an acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Personalized note: _____

☐ I/we are interested in becoming members of the Legacy Group. Please follow up with us.

☐ I would like to be involved with the Valley Village team by:

- ☐ Serving on a Board of Directors committee
☐ Working on specific fundraising events
☐ Providing a few hours of time as the need arises
☐ Other: _____

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

For additional information, please contact Valley Village at (818) 587-9450 ext.120 or visit us at www.ValleyVillage.org

VALLEY VILLAGE
20830 Sherman Way, Winnetka, CA 91306

Valley Village is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization Tax ID #23-7314159





20830 Sherman Way
Winnetka, CA 91306
www.ValleyVillage.org

To update your address or add friends or
relatives to the mailing list, please call us at:
(818) 587-9450 x120.

Valley Village Calendar - 2011

APRIL - MAY

**PROGRAMS WILL BE
CLOSED ON:**
Memorial Day, May 30

Saturday, May 21
Valley Village Rummage Sale
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Thursday, May 26
Board Meeting
6:30 pm

SEPT - OCT

**PROGRAMS WILL BE
CLOSED ON:**
Labor Day, September 5

Thursday, September 22
Annual Meeting
4:00 pm

**PROGRAMS WILL BE
CLOSED ON:**
Columbus Day, October 10

JUNE

Saturday, June 25
Showtime!
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Sheraton Universal Hotel
Comedy Luncheon and
Garden Party, Boutique, Live
Music
Emceed by Bob Saget
Tickets: \$85, available online
at www.ValleyVillage.org

NOV - DEC

Sunday, November 6
40th Birthday Celebration
Live Music, Activities, Food
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Thursday, November 17
Board Meeting
6:30 pm

**PROGRAMS WILL BE
CLOSED ON:**
*Veteran's Day, November
11th*

JULY - AUG

**PROGRAMS WILL BE
CLOSED ON:**
Independence Day, July 4

Thursday, July 28
Board Meeting
6:30 pm

**PROGRAMS WILL BE
CLOSED ON:**
*Thanksgiving, November
24-25*

**PROGRAMS WILL BE
CLOSED ON:**
*Christmas, December 23,
26-27*



Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield

All meetings are at 20830 Sherman Way,
Winnetka, CA 91306 unless otherwise
noted