

# VALLEY VILLAGE

## BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All meetings held in Valley Village's conference room at 20830 Sherman Way unless otherwise noted.

May 25 6:30 p.m.  
Valley Village  
Board of Directors

June 24  
Annual Luncheon  
Warner Center Marriott

July 25 6 p.m.  
Valley Village Foundation  
Board of Directors



## CLIENTS ENJOY A WHALE WATCHING TRIP

Hosted by Northridge Kiwanis

VALLEY  
VILLAGE

20830 Sherman Way  
Winnetka, CA 91306

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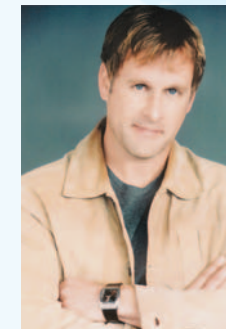
# THE VILLAGE SPIRIT

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S P R I N G 2 0 0 6

## 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LUNCHEON TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 24

Over 400 people enjoyed an afternoon of shopping, bidding, smoozing, and entertainment at last year's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon. This is the time to circle June 24 on your calendar, the date of this year's Annual Luncheon at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills. The festivities began at 10:30 with shopping at the Boutique where you will find unique clothing, jewelry, candles, and hand-crafted items. There will also be a silent auction for beautiful gift baskets donated by businesses and Board members of Valley Village and its Foundation.



Dave Coulier

Comedian Bob Saget, who is best known for his starring role on "Full House" and host of "America's Funniest Home Videos," will again emcee the luncheon. This year's celebrity guest will be Dave Coulier, who appeared with Saget on "Full House." Dave played Joey, a professional comedian and children's TV host. Dave was recently on "Skating with Celebrities" with professional skater Nancy Kerrigan.

There will an opportunity drawing for a 7-day cruise on Carnival Cruise Line, a Napa Valley holiday at Indian Springs Resort, and a vacation at Hilton's Waikoloa Village<sup>®</sup> resort on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Dennis P. Zine will be the auctioneer for the live auction. You will have the opportunity to bid on lunch at the Playboy Mansion in Holmby Hills, dining around town, Dodger box seats with parking and a California



Someone will win a cruise on Carnival Cruise Line.

(Continued on page three)

## VALLEY VILLAGE: A FUN PLACE TO SPEND THE AFTERNOON

It is the end of the school day, or a break for the summer or the holidays, and you are thinking, "Where is there a safe and fun place where I can leave my special needs child until I get off work?" The answer is the After School Program at Valley Village.

The program is divided into two groups, one for children, ages 5 to 17, and the other for adults 18 and older. During the school year the program runs from 2 to 6:30 p.m. and during school breaks (winter holiday, spring and summer) the children's program is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Karen F. (l) and Darlene R. enjoying drawing at the Winnetka After School Program.



Lauren R. enjoying her time at the After School Program.

"The After School Program allows parents to work full-time, yet feel there is a warm and inviting place for their children, where they can learn skills to become more independent," said Alex Krasnoshtein, director of the After School Program.

A typical day may include working on an arts and craft project, playing games, watching a movie or participating in other stimulating activities. During school breaks there are trips to the bowling

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OUR MISSION: VALLEY VILLAGE IS COMMITTED TO ADVANCING THE INTERESTS AND WELL-BEING OF CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

VALLEY VILLAGE

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

by Kitty Cooper



Spring greetings to you all! This is my favorite time of year. We have sunny weather usually without the constant withering heat of summer. It is a time of renewed energy. For the Valley Village

Board of Directors it is a time to move more determinedly forward on the priorities we have set: 1) increasing family (especially of day program participants) 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.

Inclusion of Day Program Families in the fabric of Valley Village is crucial. As we continue to expand the programs of Valley Village, we need to tap into the energy and ideas of all the families that we serve. One step the Board is taking is to personally contact families of participants in the Adult Day Health Care Centers, Adult Development Center, and the after school programs, as well as other new families to officially welcome them into the Valley Village family and explain how they can play an active role in it.

Expanding Board Membership is another important goal for Valley Village. Term limits and attrition have reduced the membership numbers over the years. Thanks to our Development Department and word of mouth about our excellent programs, Valley Village has been fortunate to have gained greater recognition in the business, service and civic communities. This has paid off with the result that we have two new Board members, **Steve Beilinson** and **Carson Schreiber**. Both of whom bring with them expertise, creativity and energy.

However, the search continues. What the Board needs are more individuals (family members,

members of the community) who love and respect our clients and who value our programs. We want Board members who bring a diversity of talents, skills, and resources. For more information on joining the Board, please contact Susan Basler.

Maximizing Fiscal Resources is necessary to pay for our wonderful programs. This includes making sure we get all State payments to which we are entitled, actively pursuing government and foundation grants, and fundraising through events such as our annual luncheon, VALLEY VILLAGE SHOWTIME on JUNE 24 and the Annual mail Appeal at the end of the year. To provide additional sources, the Board has established a Fundraising Committee with our new Board member, Carson Schreiber, as Chair. Anyone interested in participating on this committee, please contact Susan Basler.

Good News  
Finally, I want to tell you about a special group of women who saw a need and took action to fix it. In March I contacted Julaine Berger as part of my outreach to day program families. Her daughter participates in the Adult Development Center. Julaine told me that she and several other mothers had identified a need for a gate in the railing along the ramp at their facility. They had observed that individuals (not clients!) were climbing over the rail as a short cut and they believed that was dangerous. They had spoken to program staff and then obtained cost estimates for the work. I shared their idea and planning efforts with Fred Chapa, Valley Village Executive Director.

The result was that the gate was installed within a week of my conversation with Julaine. The point here is that ideas for improvement come from many sources. Having families from all the Valley Village programs actively involved with the governance and committees of the organization will facilitate getting those ideas to the right people.

(Continued on page six.)



# Valley Village Foundation

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Guenther W. Engel

I want to first thank the members of our Legacy Group for all that you promised to the Valley Village Foundation. In appreciation, the Foundation held a wonderful brunch on February 26 at the Porter Valley Country Club in Northridge. For those who missed this event, we hope to see you at the next event and for those who haven't joined the Legacy Group yet, there is still time before the next event. The members in attendance were recognized for their contributions with certificates mounted in frames hand-crafted by Valley Village clients. Marion Letsch, a founding member of the Legacy Group, also received a beautiful handmade plate that was produced by her daughter.

Following brunch, Raul V. Castillo, executive director of the Patrons Society at Valley College, spoke to the Group about the Society's planned giving program. He discussed the various ways the Society receives and uses their restricted and unrestricted gifts. Restricted gifts are those that can only be used for a specific purpose designated by the donor such as, in the case of the Patron Society, a particular department program or scholarship. Unrestricted gifts can be used for any purpose that the Society determines is worthwhile.

Much of what Raul shared with the Legacy Group has relevance for the Valley Village Foundation. At present, the Foundation has a small unrestricted fund for its expenses and a long term restricted fund, which is the Endowment. As the Foundation grows we will look to using some of Castillo's ideas to increase options for our contributors.

In March the Foundation received an additional gift from The Nichole R. Fortman Fund, which is administered by The California Community Foundation. We are indebted to Fred Weitkamp, our attorney and supporter of Valley Village and the Foundation, who was primarily responsible for securing these funds.

This latest check brings the three year total from the Fortman Fund to about \$100,000 and takes the Foundation's net assets to over \$200,000 as indicated in the chart below.

**THE LEGACY GROUP**

By Dick Bartus, Planning Coordinator

It was a beautiful Spring day at the Porter Valley Country Club in Northridge when the first ever Legacy Group event was held. This was an idea which was a long time in the making and one which was accepted and endorsed by a number of people associated with Valley Village.

Members of the Foundation Board have been aware for some time that we had people that had written Valley Village into their Will to receive a gift at some future date. After making a few discrete inquiries it was determined that a number of families had made such designations and it was then decided that they should be recognized as a group. That was the beginning of "THE LEGACY GROUP" Funds coming to Valley Village from The Legacy Group will go to the Valley Village Endowment Fund unless otherwise designated and go a long way to ensure the future of the Valley Village dream.

And so it was when we got together on February 26, 2006 to identify and honor the people who will hereafter be known as "The Charter Members" of The Legacy Group. A good time was had by all and I know everyone is looking forward to next years event. Please see some of the picture from the Brunch on Page 6.

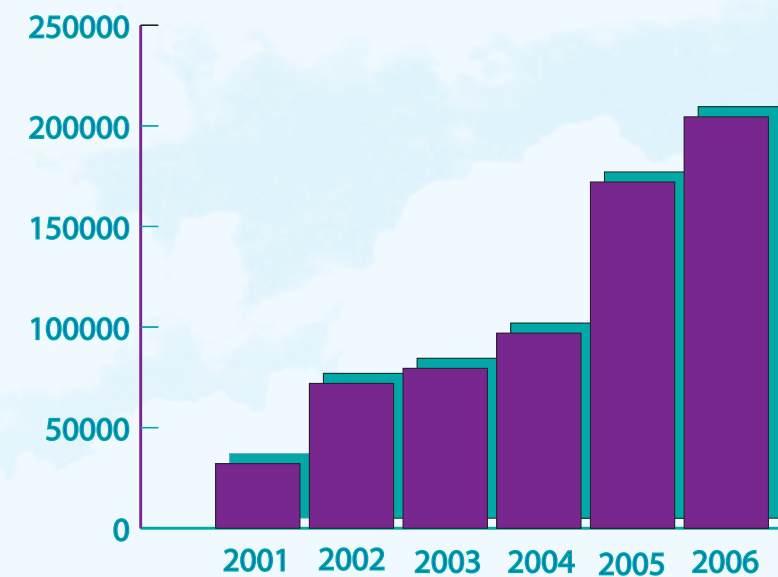
Think about it. If you would like to become a member of this outstanding group it is easy enough to do. Call me at the Valley Village

office (818) 587-9450 x139 or call at home at (661) 254-2900.

**Legacy Group Members:**

- Ernie and Marion Letsch, *Founding Members*
- Christina Anthony\*
- Dick and Alaine Bartus
- Robert and Jeanette Campbell\*
- Richard Cooper\*
- Dick Crouch\*
- Andrew and Mary Dixon\*
- Guenther and Laura Engel
- William and Donna Harney\*
- Aaron and Nora Lazaroff
- Glenna Lotspeich\*
- Mary Sandorf\*
- Robert Sharples\*
- George and June Stanton
- Larry and Dorothy Trusty
- Marc Weisel and Sharon Sackin\*
- Ed and Dolores Zimmermann

Presented on February 26, 2006  
\* Indicates Not Attending



**Net Asset Growth**

**VALLEY VILLAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Ron Smith  
*Vice President*

Judi Prejean  
*Treasurer*

Dr. Himadri M. Patel  
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Steve Beilinson  
Larry Diamond  
Jeffrey Francis  
Ramash Jayakumar  
Carson Schreiber  
Marc Weisel

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Fred Chapa

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**VALLEY VILLAGE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**HONORARY DIRECTOR**  
Hon. Dennis P. Zine  
*Councilman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
City of Los Angeles*

**BOARD MEMBERS**

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**DIRECTORS**  
Dick Bartus  
Dolores Zimmermann

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The *Village Spirit* is designed by  
Bearsforth Communications, Inc.  
(818) 772-2678  
www.partnershippr.com

Visit our Web site at:  
www.valleyvillage.org

**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.**

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

(Continued from page one)

alley, theme parks, the beach or movies. Or, there may be a barbecue and water activities. There is also at least one activity where all the clients participate to encourage social interaction. "Interaction with other clients is important and helps to build their confidence," said Alex.



Holly R. playing with a board game.

Alex is very encouraged about the positive feedback from parents. Many inform us that they would not be able to keep their jobs without the After School Program. Some clients have been participating for over 10 years.

The After School Program is licensed through the Los Angeles County Department of Social Services. There are nine staff members who work with the children and seven for the adult program. The staff is also trained in CPR and first aid.



A picnic in the park.

For information about this program or if you have equipment, such as computers or CD player, please contact Alex at (818) 587-9450, extension 105 or Donna Thomas at extension 127.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page two)

I was particularly struck by something else Julaine told me. She said that she and the other women had gotten to know each other as they worked together on behalf of their children in the public special education schools. She said that when their children "graduated" to Valley Village, they felt like their kids had gone off to college and they, the parents, no longer had a defined role to play. My reaction was that there is a role for them to play and that their participation is not only welcome, but needed. With the Board's focus on outreach to these families, we hope to bring other people like Julaine and her friends into active participation in Valley Village operations and governance. I look forward to their involvement.

## LEGACY GROUP BRUNCH



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Fred Chapa



Valley Village's Day Program provides clients with a range of enriching in-house or community-based instructional and therapeutic

activities. Our emphasis is to provide rehabilitative and developmental opportunities in all areas of daily living including social skills, money management, self-awareness, food and nutrition, and community integration.

We understand that our Day Program does not stand alone. What we deliver must interface with what you provide your family member at home. This means we must coordinate our efforts so that we complement each other. At the same time, Valley Village realizes that it must offer the best possible care with the resources that we have at our disposal.

It is our goal at Valley Village to work closely with you by:

- Developing a level of optimal trust.
- Allowing you to interface with care providers.
- Providing accurate, up to date information about our programs and services.
- Identifying and developing critical community resources that enhance client services.
- Establishing as many options as possible to meet clients' needs, interests and concerns.
- Being available to answer questions.
- Ensuring that you have input in establishing policies and procedures.
- Using your recommendations to create innovative services and programs.
- Encouraging you to play an active role in the family member's life.
- Creating opportunities for partici-

- Empowering families to make decisions.
- Leveraging your expertise and resources.

Since family members play such a crucial role in the care we deliver, we seek your advice and guidance. Valley Village is looking to enhance the opportunities provided by its Day Program. We need to embrace your ideas and suggestions. To do this we will be holding an open family forum in the near future. Your participation is critical in determining any changes that may need to be made with current programs, but as important, what new and exciting services you would like us to provide so it will enhance the quality of care your family member receives.



## ANNUAL LUNCHEON

(Continued from page one)

attractions package. Wrapping up the afternoon will be the drawing of the Grand Prize ticket for a 40-inch Sony Bravia TV-HDMI with LCD flat screen donated by the Winnetka Neighborhood Council, and a DVD player. Time Warner Cable will also include a selection of movies and TV shows and coupons good for a year's worth of free Time Warner Cable Movies on Demand. Only 250 of these tickets will be sold at \$100 each.



Hilton's Waikoloa Village® resort on the Big Island.

Title sponsors for the Luncheon are Bank of the West, Telesis Community Credit Union, Smith Barney citigroup, Marion Letsch, and Lee Hamer Memorial Charities. Gold sponsors are Humanomics, Inc. and the Winnetka Neighborhood Council. Silver sponsors are Barbara and Dwight Wheeler, PrimeCare Pharmacy, Councilmember Dennis P. Zine, John and Cheri Toffan and Mike's Roofing.

Individual tickets are \$65 which includes self-parking. Sponsorships and advertising opportunities are still available. For information, contact Susan or Jenny at (818) 587-9450, ext. 120. See you on June 24.

