

# THE VILLAGE SPIRIT

VOLUME 23 • NUMBER 2

S P R I N G 2 0 0 8

## SHOWTIME!

ANNUAL LUNCHEON • JUNE 28, 2008

**K**ABC's Rob Marinko will be Master of Ceremonies at the June 28 *Showtimel* being held at the Sheraton Universal Hotel. Marinko is a regular on KABC's *McIntyre in the Morning*. The festivities begin at 10 a.m. with an elegant and grand Garden Party featuring champagne cocktails; live music; shopping at boutiques where you will find unique, jewelry, purses, ceramics, candles, and other hand crafted items; opportunity drawing for beautiful gift baskets; and schmoozing with your friends and other guests.

This year's **Grand Prize** is a 6-day holiday to "The City of Light" (La Ville-lumière), a name that Paris owes both to its fame as a centre of education and ideas, and its early adoption of street lighting. The itinerary is yours to plan and there are many wonderful sights and activities to enjoy. The prize includes round-trip business class airfare from Los Angeles to

Paris and deluxe hotel accommodations for two.

The **live auction** has some exciting items including a week-long vacation at *Punta Esmeralda* near Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The beach front resort is on Mexico's Banderas Bay. The luxury oceanfront two bedroom villa has world-class amenities and

is nestled in a gated 10 acre oasis that has eight swimming pools, a jogging trail, beach clubs, restaurants/snack bars, two tennis courts, and gym and spa. Of course, there are miles of white sandy beaches just outside the front door. There is a private tour and tasting for eight at *Clos Pegase* in the Napa

Valley, his or her Cruiser Bicycles from NBC's *Deal or No Deal* and a day with Los Angeles City Council member Dennis P. Zine, an honorary Foundation Board member, who will also be joining Rob Marinko on stage for the live auction. (Continued on page six)



*Live Auction Vacation: A week-long stay at the Punta Esmeralda Resort near Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.*

## A SIGN OF THE TIMES

**W**e want our clients to be an active part of the community, says Jeannine Bass, who is teaching some of them American Sign Language (ASL). They get frustrated or angry because they cannot find the right way to communicate. So we needed to find another avenue to help them express their feelings. Instead of hitting or shouting when angry, they are now able to use American Sign Language to tell us what they want. It has given our clients another way to commu-

nicate when all else fails. Jeannine Bass, who has been with Valley Village for over seven years, says the reaction

(Continued on page three)



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

VALLEY VILLAGE

**OFFICERS**

Kitty Cooper  
President

Ron Smith  
Vice President

Judi Prejean  
Treasurer

Steve Beilinson  
Secretary

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Brian Blake  
Larry Diamond  
Jeffrey Francis  
Ramesh Jayakumar  
Leela Kapur  
Marla Kort  
Dr. Himadri M. Patel  
Carson Schreiber

**CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS**

Fred Chapa/Debra Donovan

VALLEY VILLAGE  
FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**HONORARY DIRECTOR**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Guenther W. Engel  
President

S. Dwight Wheeler  
Vice President

Judi Prejean  
Treasurer

June Stanton  
Secretary

Directors  
Dick Bartus  
Dolores Zimmermann

20830 Sherman Way  
Winnetka, CA 91306  
(818) 587-9450 • (818) 587-9184 Fax  
The *Village Spirit* is designed by  
Bearsworth Communications, Inc.  
(818) 772-2678  
www.bearsworthcommunications.com

Visit our Web site at:  
[www.valleyvillage.org](http://www.valleyvillage.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — NEWS FLASH!

by Kitty Cooper



we do have seasons in California!

For Valley Village this spring is a time of change as well. Major Change!

The Board of Directors has temporarily modified the position of Executive Director so that as of April 1, we have two "Co-Executive Directors." Debra Donovan will share the position with Fred Chapa. As many of you know, Debra has been with Valley Village for many years. Most recently, she has been the Director of Residential Programs. She has been instrumental in much of the organization's growth, and her care, compassion, and administrative abilities have contributed significantly to Valley Village's stellar reputation in the developmental disabilities field. The co-directorship arrangement will continue through the end of 2008. This will allow for a smooth transition. Effective January 1, 2009, the position of Executive Director will change back to having a single occupant, Debra Donovan. Fred Chapa will remain through June 2009 to shepherd the completion of the Sunland facility renovation and be a consultant to the Valley Village administration and Board.

The Board of Directors spent several months in interviews, consultation, and evaluation before unanimously determining that Debra was the right person to take over the helm of this organization we all care so much about. We pledge to her our support and look forward to the continued success of Valley Village under her direction.

This transitional period will also be a time to celebrate Fred Chapa and his significant

Each year we welcome spring. It is a time of reawakening. Even in Southern California we see the change to brighter colors, longer daylight, and warmer temperatures. Yes,

contributions to Valley Village and the community as a whole. You'll be hearing more about this in the months ahead.

The message I want you all to take away from the Board's action is that Valley Village is an established organization that will continue into the future. It has a strong foundation and structure created by its founders. It has grown with their vision in mind while adapting to new challenges, knowledge, and technology. The Executive Directors since the beginning have been the instrument for implementing that vision. The success of Valley Village is not dependent on any group or single individual. Rather, it is a solid, forward looking organization that will continue to serve the current and changing needs of the developmentally disabled individuals who are at its core.

Now, to one of the things that keeps Valley Village going:

### SHOWTIME! 2008

Once again, I'm co-chairing the event and it promises to be a spectacular "happening" with a Garden Party to kick it off. We are at the Sheraton Universal again



with its elegant surroundings (although its lobby is being remodeled!). I suggest you come early so you

have plenty of time to shop the boutiques, check out the baskets and live auction items, and visit with friends. It promises to be better than ever. Here are some pictures from last year. See you on June 28!

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Fred Chapa



So when do you know it is alright to walk away? As I prepare to leave Valley Village I was concerned that the program was self sufficient and could

prosper in my absence. I know this is very self-centered but it was still a concern. The other day an incident occurred that signified that the program has definitely outgrown the limitations of my paranoia and would be fine without my input.

On Friday, April 4 at about 1 p.m., the clients and staff of the Winnetka ADHC were suddenly interrupted by the blaring of smoke alarms.

The staff quickly evacuated the clients to the side yard as the smell of smoke began to fill the building. Within minutes, dark smoke was visible in the building

Soon afterward the fire trucks began arriving and were parked

along Sherman Way, from east of the Winnetka building to west of DeSoto Avenue.

Firefighters worked quickly to extend ladders to the roof, and half a dozen firefighters ascended with their axes and chain saws ready to let the smoke out of the attic, if needed. Additional firefighters entered the building with ladders and began to open ceiling tiles to find the source of the thick black smoke that was filling the building.

During all this excitement, the staff had moved the clients to the parking lot and kept them safe and calm. Additional staff from the Valley Village Day Program and administrative staff from across the street came to assist. While interested in what was going on, the clients were comfortable with the chaos around them

because of the way they were being cared for by Valley Village staff.

As the firefighters continued to go through the building, the clients were evacuated to the building across the street. The orderly procession made its way out the gate, down to the corner light and back up to the Valley Village Headquarters.

The buses that arrived to take the clients home at their normal time of 1:30 were quickly rerouted to the location of the clients. The staff from the Winnetka site made sure that all the clients were placed on the appropriate buses to return them to their homes.

The firemen eventually found that the source of the smoke was a ballast in a light fixture which had shorted out and began to smolder, sending black smoke into the attic. The air conditioning helped

to distribute the smoke throughout the attic and it then began to seep into the classrooms.

As the ballast had already burned out, there was no need to spray water throughout the building, or to chop holes in the roof. The

firemen placed fans in the attic area to help clear out the smoke. The fire personnel were very courteous and congratulated the staff on its ability to keep the clients calm. One of the fire chiefs spoke to Gregg Miraglia, Director of Operations, regarding what needed to be done to clean up, then they packed up and left.

Valley Village has never had this kind of emergency. It was wonderful to see our staff in action, moving seamlessly to evacuate and move the clients to a safe site and to get them all on their buses to return home. The work was done so smoothly that the clients did not become agitated or frightened.

The following Monday we sent a letter to Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis P. Zine to thank the firefighters for their

work. The clients and staff visited the fire station on DeSoto near Vanowen with a large cake. We also celebrated the work of the staff at the Winnetka ADHC and the Day Program with a special pizza party.

I hope that you feel the same pride that I felt knowing that the staff was well prepared and capable of handling the emergency with such professionalism and efficiency.

## SIGN LANGUAGE

*(Continued from page one)*

from the clients has been very positive. In addition to teaching ALS, she talks with them about various subjects such as Helen Keller, Women's History Month and the upcoming presidential elections. This helps them to understand society and the world in which they live.

Initially, there was resistance to the class by the clients, but eventually they realized the benefits and began to respond positively to the lessons. Now the clients are able to connect with others on a different level.

As a child, Jeannine experienced hearing loss, and at age five with the help of a hearing aid, she was able to hear for the first time. She learned ASL at the National Helen Keller Center in Sandpoint, NY. Today, they are even teaching sign language to newborns at six months. They can use their hands before they are able to talk. The ASL therapy is really thinking out of the box and is another way to serve the needs of our clients.



# HERE'S WHO'S HELP

Donor names comprise those who provided support to Valley Village from January 1 to April 30, 2008

## 2007 ANNUAL APPEAL

### ON GOING OPERATIONS

Brian Blake  
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Joyce  
George & Maria Stanley

### DAY EXPANSION PROGRAM

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Chapa  
Cynthia Kawa

## GENERAL DONATIONS

Christine & Lee Benchay (Eddie Freeman)  
Sadie & Angelo Botoglou (Steven Maneff)  
Ruth Deel (Altano House)  
Israel Fatoorechi  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Haege  
(Nirvana Titleman/Altano House)  
Kenneth Jacobs  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Lopez  
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Lovell (Byron Bushong)  
Lynn Mesirov  
David Moh  
Dr. Scott Newhart  
Dorothy Rossillo-Trusty  
Mr. & Mrs. Ignazio Sammaritano  
Mary Sandorf  
Marion Schwanbeck  
George & Maria Stanley  
Mr. & Mrs. William Trebasky  
Martha Waugh

## MEMORIALS

### IN MEMORY OF:

Kevin Deel  
Helen Sweet  
Rayner Moschetti  
Jim Sousoures  
Eugene Sydow  
Melinda Murray

### GIVEN BY:

Ruth Deel  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Dixon  
Mr. & Mrs. Ross Goldware  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Hawthorne  
Jo Merryfield  
Mr. & Mrs. Guenther Engel  
Mary Sandorf  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Zimmermann

## TRIBUTES

### HONOREES:

Corbin Bushong's retirement  
Russ and Judy Hawthorne's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
  
Willie & Darleen Hamburger's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Guenther & Laura's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Larry & Barbara Diamond's Anniversary  
Barbara Diamond's Birthday  
All my love and appreciation for all you do."  
To Lurline House in honor of Larry's Birthday,  
your loving mom!  
Sharon Taubor  
David Lazaroff

### DONOR:

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Acosta  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Acosta  
Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Blum  
Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Bushong  
June Stanton  
Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Bushong  
Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Bushong  
Lilli Diamond

Aaron Lazaroff

## FOUNDATION

Floyd Coverston (Annual Appeal 2007)  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kort (Annual Appeal 2007)  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Hawthorn (In memory of our dear Robbie)

## AROUND THE VILLAGE

The Lincy Foundation gave a \$25,000 grant towards the renovation of the Sunland Adult Day Health Care Center....JPL Zoning assisted in obtaining the Zoning Variance/Zoning Administrator's Determination letter for the Astoria House....Larry Pressman donated a Permobil Wheelchair....Judith Hawthorne received a Prudential CARES Volunteer Grant Award of \$1,000, which was presented to Valley Village. Judith has dedicated over 400 hours to Valley Village....Board Member Steve Beilinson donated a wrought iron table and two chairs....Phil Lorigo from NBC's Deal or No Deal donated Cruiser Bicycles....The Ahmanson Foundation assisted by providing a grant for the funding of the Astoria House and the Sunland Day Program expansion....

In the last newsletter the photo on the back page identified Susie Glover as being a resident of Altano House. It should have been Parthenia House. We apologize for the error.

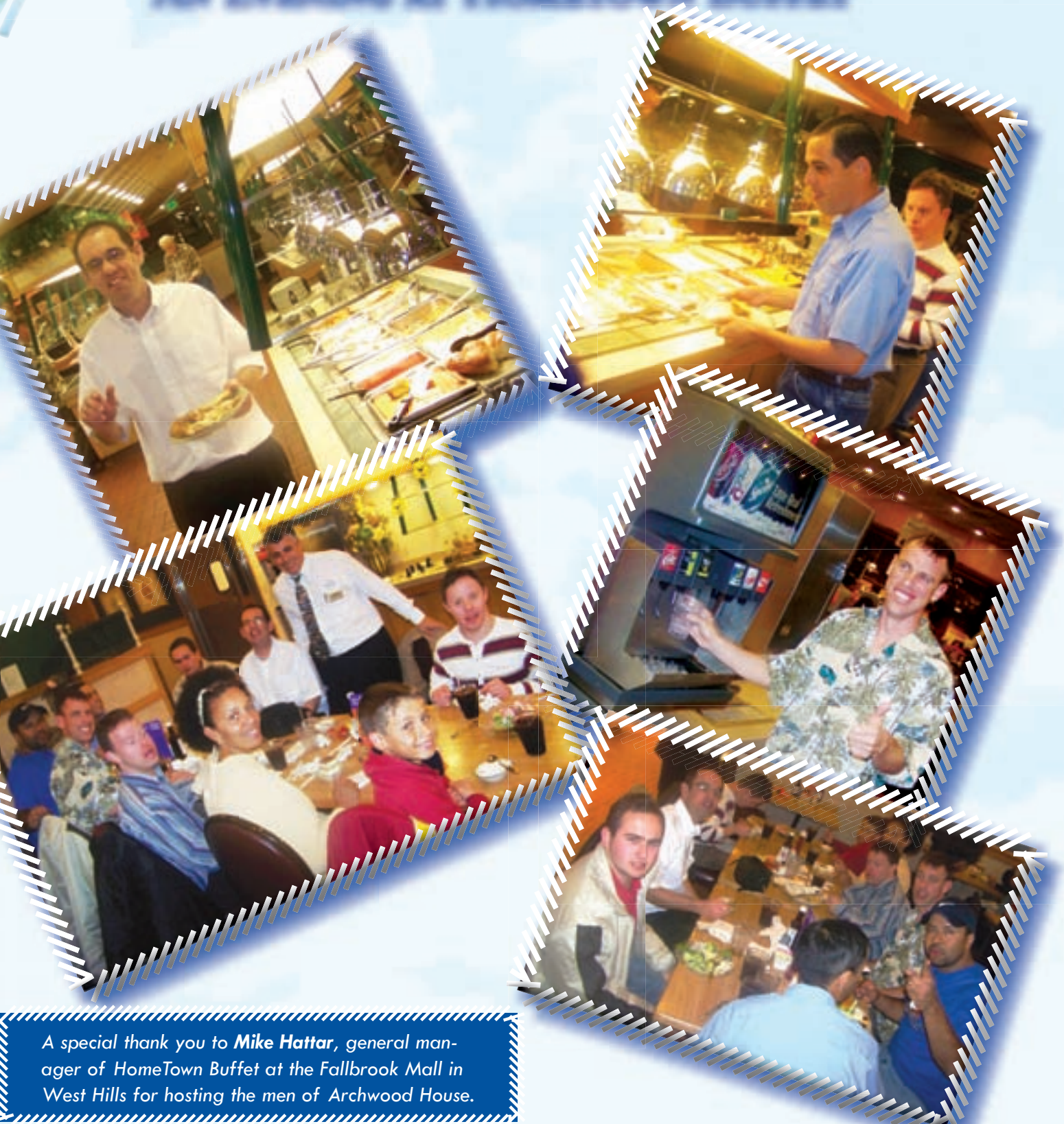


Clients getting spruced up courtesy of Secrets in Northridge.

If you would like to have friends or relatives added to our mailing list to receive The Village Spirit, please contact Anush in the Development Department at (818) 587-9450, ext. 131. Please also call Anush if we omitted your name from the donor list.

# ING VALLEY VILLAGE

## AN EVENING AT HOMETOWN BUFFET



A special thank you to **Mike Hattar**, general manager of HomeTown Buffet at the Fallbrook Mall in West Hills for hosting the men of Archwood House.

## ANNUAL LUNCHEON

(Continued from page one)



Someone will win a holiday at the Westin Ka'anapali Ocean Resort Villas North on the island of Maui.

InterContinental Los Angeles/Century City Hotel.

Bank of the West, a long-time sponsor of **Showtime!** is returning this year as the **Presenting Sponsor**. **Title Sponsors** are Lee Hamer Memorial Charities, Marion Letsch, and Winnetka Neighborhood Council. **Gold Sponsors** are Humanomics, Inc.;



The trip opportunity drawings has a week's vacation at a one-bedroom ocean front condo at the Westin Ka'anapali Ocean Resort Villas North, a 7-day cruise on Holland America Line, and a weekend stay (Friday and Saturday) in a deluxe suite for two at the InterContinental Los Angeles/Century City Hotel.

Moulton Logistics Management; Northridge Insurance Agency, LLC; Northridge Kiwanis; and Telesis Community Credit Union. **Silver**

**Sponsors** are Bearsworth Communications, Inc.; Don & Kitty Cooper; Mike's Roofing; MMP Printing & Digital Graphics; Prudential Financial; Carson Schreiber; John and Cheryl Toffan; Marc Weisel & Sharon Sackin, and Barbara & Dwight Wheeler.

Tickets are \$85 per person. To purchase tickets for the **Showtime!** or to become an event sponsor, call the Development Department at (818) 587-9450, ext. 120.

## KABC'S ROB MARINKO

**R**ob Marinko is the co-host, news man, and sidekick on McIntyre in the Morning, one of the most successful Los Angeles radio morning shows since KABC's Ken and Bob.

Rob began his radio journey after 15 years in the defense industry. The unusual career transition was prompted by the downturn in Southern California's aerospace business.

On the way to Talkradio 790 KABC in Los Angeles, Rob honed his skills on morning radio shows in Las Vegas and Palm-dale. Currently, Rob is one of the driving forces behind KABC's McIntyre in the Morning.

Rob's unique talent includes his quick wit and remarkable ability to enhance conversations about nearly any subject. Rob and show host Doug McIntyre make up one of the most listenable teams in morning radio today.

When not in front of the mic, Rob enjoys life in Burbank where he and his wife Miranda have been longtime residents. Rob and Miranda have put their support behind numerous local charitable organizations.

Rob is a huge fan of NASCAR and other sports, but still finds time to grab a pizza at 6:00 am. The Marinko household includes a dog and two cats.



## 2008 GRAND PRIZE

6-DAY PARIS HOLIDAY WITH BUSINESS CLASS FLIGHT AND DELUXE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR TWO



\$100 EACH

ONLY 250

WILL BE SOLD

(WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT)

SHOWTIME!

## MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS: STEVE BEILINSON & BRIAN BLAKE



**Steve Beilinson** is the senior vice president and senior credit manager for Bank of the West and oversees a commercial loan portfolio of companies and high net worth individuals from San Diego to Santa Barbara. Additional responsibilities include training and managing the bank's Credit Training Program and providing credit approval guidance to various other divisions within the bank. He has been with Bank of the West for 17 years and in the industry for over 31 years, and holds a BS in business administration from Louisiana State University and an MBA in finance from Pace University in New York City. Steve and his wife Denise enjoy traveling, seeing the latest movies, and spending quiet time at home in Sherman Oaks. Steve is the Secretary for the Valley Village's Board of Directors.



**Brian Blake** is the chief administrative officer for Telesis Community Credit Union and has been responsible for overseeing all human resources, training, and facility operations for the past 10 years. Brian holds a bachelor's degree from California State University, Northridge, and is involved extensively with a number of community organizations. He is an advocate and board member of the Telesis Community Non-Profit Trust (TCNPT) and also serves as a director of the Valley Village Board. Through the TCNPT, a Telesis Community Credit Union promotes financial literacy and educational opportunities for many local non-profit organizations and schools. The long-term goal of TCNPT is to educate and inspire those they serve to become a catalyst for change to produce more prosperous communities.



# Valley Village Foundation

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Guenther W. Engel

The *Legacy Group* was established by the Valley Village Foundation to honor the people that have made arrangements in their trusts or wills to bequest part of their estate to the Valley Village Foundation or to Valley Village. Dwight and Barbara Wheeler are the latest members of the *Legacy Group*. Under the guidance of Attorney Fred Weitkamp, they have updated their trust to include the Valley Village Foundation.

Other Members of the *Legacy Group* are:

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

In past years, the Foundation has provided a special brunch at the Porter Ranch Country Club to honor members of the *Legacy Group*. At these special events the *Legacy Group* members have had the opportunity to hear a wide range of interesting speakers covering such subjects as financial planning, fundraising for nonprofits and medical conditions for our aging developmentally disabled population.

Following are comments from some of our *Legacy Group* members that provide insight into their motivation for support-

ing Valley Village by joining the *Legacy Group*.



### Dick Cooper:

"I have been involved with Valley Village since about 1990. I have volunteered, worked part-time and helped organize events. Through it all I have enjoyed working with some

of the most caring people I have ever met. The parents' group continues to amaze me with its commitment to keeping the organization client service focused. The clients always touch me with their honesty, curiosity, and loving personalities. Without a family of my own, my hope is that my contribution to Valley Village will help perpetuate this great place for those who may need it for years to come."

### Donna Harney:

"I joined the Valley Village *Legacy Group* to help ensure lifelong services and programs for Valley Village's clients. My daughter, Terri has lived in a Valley Village home for 26 years, and has enjoyed many experiences throughout the years which have encouraged her to become the best person she can be. Her house



parents, John and Patty Sztatka, their sons Jason and Jeremy, aides, and the women

Terri lives with have become her second family. My entire family has been blessed by the people Terri has lived with; we never expected that what began as a house would become a Home."

### Dwight & Barbara Wheeler:

"Through Dee Dee, we have been associated with Valley Village for over thirty five years. And, during that time, we have developed many deep and caring friendships. Participating in planned giving through the *Legacy Group* seemed like the correct and logical way to honor both Dee Dee and those friendships by helping to assure the continuation of the valuable services provided by Valley Village."

## MARION LETSCH HELPS TO UPGRADE ALTANO'S KITCHEN

Marion Letsch, whose daughter Karen is a resident of Altano House, noticed that the kitchen was in need

of an upgrade. In talking with Co-Exec-



utive Director Fred Chapa, Marion offered to help Valley Village pay for the renovation.

Marion donated \$5,000 towards a new sink, counters, and appliances. The clients of Altano love their new kitchen, which has more open space and more room for gathering. Said Marion, "it needed to be done, so I said let's do it."



# VALLEY VILLAGE

## BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

**June 28 • 6:30 p.m.**

Valley Village  
Board of Directors

**July 19 • 6 p.m.**

Valley Village Foundation  
Board of Directors



*Valley Village clients and staff enjoying a day out in one of the new buses.*



20830 Sherman Way  
Winnetka, CA 91306

NONPROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
VAN NUYS, CA  
PERMIT NO. 2654

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- President's Message  
Page 2
- Executive Director's Message  
Page 3
- Donor Recognition  
Page 4
- Hometown Buffet  
Page 5
- Meet the Board Members  
Page 6
- Valley Village Foundation  
Page 7