

# VALLEY VILLAGE

## BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

August 24 • 6:30 p.m.  
Valley Village Board of Directors

September 28 • 7 p.m.  
General Membership Meeting  
Winnetka Adult Day Center

September 28 • 8 p.m.  
Valley Village Board of Directors  
Winnetka Adult Day Center

October 19 • 6 p.m.  
Valley Village Foundation  
Board of Directors

## CLIENTS ENJOY THE SPRING FLING



Left Photo: Amanda and Ethan take a spin on the dance floor at the Spring Fling. Above Photos: Joey (l) and Shawn (r) swing with the help of the DJ. The dance was hosted by the Canoga Park Kiwanis Club.



20830 Sherman Way  
Winnetka, CA 91306

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- President's Message • Pg. 2
- Executive Directors's Message • Pg. 3
- SHOWTIME! • Pgs. 4 - 5
- Valley Village Foundation Pg 7

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# THE VILLAGE SPIRIT

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 3

S U M M E R 2 0 0 6

## OVERFLOW CROWD ATTENDS THE ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The ballroom at the Warner Center Marriott was overflowing with 540 guests who enjoyed an afternoon of shopping, bidding, smoozing, and entertainment at the Annual Luncheon on June 24. The festivities began with a boutique with unique clothing, jewelry, candles, and hand-crafted items, and a Chinese auction for beautiful gift baskets donated by area businesses, and the Valley Village Board of Directors and the Foundation Board of Directors.



Dick Cooper, of Telesis Community Credit Union waving his pom pom to bid on a live auction item.

Comedian Bob Saget, who is best known for his starring role on "Full House" and host of "America's Funniest Home Videos," once again emceed the luncheon. This year's celebrity guest was 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. His delightful humor and water antics kept the audience in stitches.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine (l) and Valley Village Board of Directors President Kitty Cooper, honor Bob Saget for being the Luncheon's MC for the past five years.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Dennis P. Zine was the auctioneer for the live auction. He whipped up a frenzy of bidding

(Continued on page six)

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO CARE FOR VALLEY VILLAGE'S CLIENTS

"It takes a village" to provide compassionate care for the clients at Valley Village. The community is one element of that "village" and on June 24 it came together to provide its generous financial support to Valley Village.

Another component of "the village," is the unconditional caring that is extended by the staff to Valley Village's clients.

Valley Village serves some 300 adults who live in group homes scattered throughout the San Fernando Valley. The homes blend right into their neighborhoods and one may not realize that the eight to ten residents who live there have developmental disorders. Specially-trained caregivers oversee their care 24/7. They are one of a kind and have chosen a difficult field in which to work. But each one truly loves his or her job. With warmth and compassion the caregivers patiently assist those who cannot take care of themselves.



Laura B., a resident at Baird House cleans up after dinner.



Kim D. at Altano House shows the colorful fish bowl she painted.

The real story is found when you visit a group home, talk to the caregivers and watch as they interact with the residents, helping each one to seek his or her highest possible level of independence. You may find an autistic resident who is learning to do simple tasks by being prompted with a spoon of chocolate pudding. You may find someone who has minimal coordination

yet is coaxed to use a paint brush to create a colorful fishbowl. You

(Continued on page three)

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



VALLEY VILLAGE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kitty Cooper  
*President*

Ron Smith  
*Vice President*

Judi Prejean  
*Treasurer*

Dr. Himadri M. Patel  
*Secretary*

BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Beilinson  
Larry Diamond  
Jeffrey Francis  
Ramash Jayakumar  
Carson Schreiber  
Marc Weisel

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fred Chapa

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*

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DIRECTORS

Dick Bartus  
Dolores Zimmermann

20830 Sherman Way  
Winnetka, CA 91306  
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Visit our Web site at:  
www.valleyvillage.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kitty Cooper



Wow, another spectacular and successful Valley Village Luncheon! I, both as President of the Board and as Co-chair of the event, want personally to thank my Co-chair, Patty

Sztapka, and all the volunteers and staff who worked so hard to make this event the best ever.

The more than 500 attendees had a day of treats in beautiful surroundings. Before the doors to the main hall were even opened, guests shopped the boutique whose 15 vendors offered a variety of creative, beautiful (and some quirky) items for sale; checked out the super-sized gift baskets that are a Valley Village hallmark, voting for their favorites with red and blue Chinese auction tickets, and studied the live auction items on which they would later have a chance to bid. Of course, many also bought additional tickets for the Grand Prize and 'trip' drawings.

After a sumptuous lunch (with a truly decadent dessert), 'Showtime' began. Valley Village's good friend, Bob Saget, was our Master of Ceremonies for the fifth consecutive year. His warmth and humor truly make the Luncheon a special occasion. This year, Bob brought his buddy, Dave Coulier, to entertain us. A gifted comedian, Dave had us all laughing and utterly amazed as he became a human water fountain, drawing on a water source which seemed much greater than the glass of water he drank in preparation.

As in past years, Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis P. Zine was our auctioneer extraordinaire. He created excitement in the room and drew substantial bids for our select and exotic items which included lunch and a tour at the Playboy Mansion (he sold two!). For a day on

the set of General Hospital, Councilman Zine brought members of the show's cast onto the stage to spur on the bidding. What a treat, to have many members of the popular TV show's cast and crew in attendance.

The Luncheon is our major fundraising event for the year, and I particularly want to thank our Title Sponsors, Bank of the West, Marion Letsch, Smith Barney citigroup, Telesis Community Credit Union, and Lee Hamer Memorial Charities for their generous support.

As we plan for the future of Valley Village and the changing needs of the people we serve, it is critical that we continue to raise funds beyond those provided by government sources so that our programs are of the high quality that Valley Village was founded to provide. It is also vital that we expand the base of individuals who participate in the strategic and event planning and governance of Valley Village.

Opportunities for learning more about us and getting involved are coming up. Planning for Valley Village "Showtime" 2007 has already begun! Also, our **General Membership Meeting** will take place on September 28. At that time the Executive Director and members of his staff will report on the state of Valley Village and its various programs. The membership will also vote on Bylaws changes and appointments to the Board of Directors.

Please contact Susan Basler, Development Director, for more information on how you can become an active participant.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**ANNUAL LUNCHEON**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2007**  
**SHERATION UNIVERSAL HOTEL**

**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.**



# Valley Village Foundation

THE LEGACY GROUP

By Dick Bartus, Planning Coordinator

PRESIDENT

Guenther W. Engel

WHY NOT THE SAME???

That was the question that came up when my wife Alaine and I sat pondering the distribution order of our assets in making our Living Trust. Along with everything else that goes into drawing up a Will and Trust, the question of how to distribute the family assets among the children when you have a disabled child who is going to need a lifetime of care.

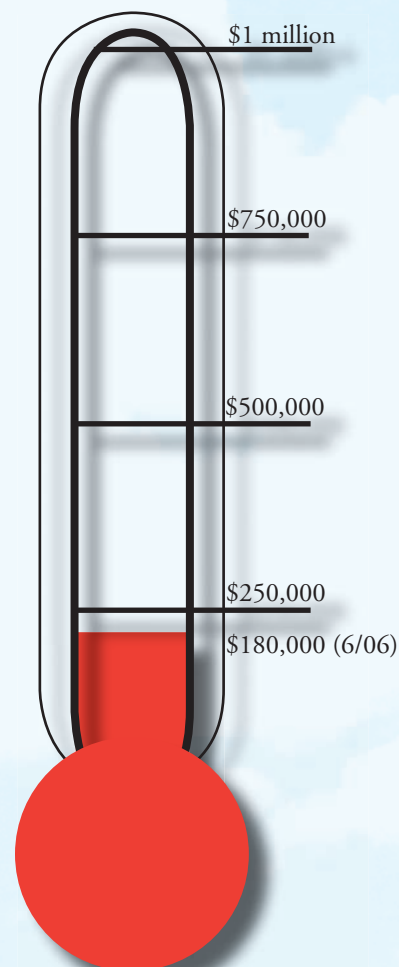
The first and most immediate thought is that the other children will look after Laura. After all they all love her and would want her to live a good life. But on further reflection it became apparent that the responsibility would not fall equally on the other children and could easily cause dissension and problems.

That is when we decided that Laura should be treated just the same as our other children and get an equal share of the family estate. But, you might ask, "Will this not disrupt her governmental funding?" NO! Not if it's done correctly.

Laura cannot own the money outright but it can be held in a Special Needs Trust for her benefit and her two sisters can be the Trustees for this trust. The sisters will determine what Laura might need and pay for it from the trust. This removes the financial burden from the rest of the family. Also when Laura passes away what money remains in this trust will go to Valley Village, the people who have cared for her for these many years.

Now that makes sense to me. What an ideal solution to a complex problem. I can't think of a finer way to handle this problem where everyone wins!

If you would like more information on how this can be done for you and your child, call me and I will be glad to help. My phone number is (818) 587-9450, extension 139.



Legacy Group founder and member, Marion Letsch (pink), enjoying Valley Village's Annual Luncheons with her close friends. Marion was a Title Sponsor of the Luncheon.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 2006 LUNCHEON!

The Valley Village Foundation board extends their wholehearted congratulations on a very successful luncheon. The board acknowledges the many hours of hard work by the volunteers and the staff.

Congratulations to Kitty Cooper and Patty Sztapka, the 2006 Luncheon Committee, all of the volunteers and Valley Village staff.

## THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED VALLEY VILLAGE

Donor names comprise those who provided support to Valley Village from April 16, 2006 to June 30, 2006

### VALLEY VILLAGE DONATIONS

#### GENERAL DONATIONS

Ruth Castersen  
Terry Gaddis • Matching Gift from Boeing, United Way  
Sue Gunther  
Claudia Lapin  
Marion Schwanbeck

#### MEMORIALS

##### IN MEMORY OF:

Sam Bronet  
Sam Bronet  
Guy & Kevin Deel  
Kevin Deel  
Nora Lazaroff  
Robert Hawthorne

##### GIVEN BY:

Thelma Bronet  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bronet  
Chris & John Deel  
Ruth Deel  
Aaron Lazaroff  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Zimmermann

##### TRIBUTE TO:

Eddie Freeman  
Charlie's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Arlene Watson  
Eric Shobu to ADC & Cozycroft

##### GIVEN BY:

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Saget  
Mary Sandorf  
Leigh Ann Shine  
Robyn Shobu Fisher

#### ANNUAL LUNCHEON

(Continued from page one)



The cast of General Hospital (l to r) Derk Cheetwood, Cynthia Preston, Rebecca Herbst, Lindze Letherman, Natalia Livingston, and Michael Saucedo pose with Board Member Carson Schreibner winner of the live auction prize of a spending a day on the set of the ABC soap opera.

for dining experiences, a day on the set with the cast of ABC's *General Hospital*, a day with Councilmember Dennis P. Zine, and a tour and lunch at the infamous Playboy Mansion, among other wonderful items. Zine, an ardent supporter of Valley Village, commented that "I am proud to actively champion the efforts of Valley Village, where each client is recognized as a valuable member of our community. I remain thoroughly convinced of the premium services that Valley Village provides to developmentally disabled adults and children, and am

committed to helping the organization in furthering its mission."

Carole Murio was the winner of the 40" Sony TV and DVD package which were donated by the Winnetka Neighborhood Council and Time Warner Cable. The trip winners were: Carlton Chamberlain (a founding parent of Valley Village, by the way) • Hawaii; Clara and Arun Rawate • Napa Getaway; and Francine Landau • Holland America Cruise.

Luncheon co-chairs Kitty Cooper and Patty Sztapka were overjoyed with the sell-out crowd at this year's event. "We were very excited to see the ballroom filled to capacity with enthusiastic supporters of Valley Village," said Cooper, president of the Board of Directors. "Next year we will need to move to a larger venue to accommodate everyone who wants to come this wonderful event," Sztapka.

### VALLEY VILLAGE FOUNDATION

#### ANNUAL APPEAL

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Bailey • On-going operations

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Bill Harney  
Peyton O. Feltus

#### GIVEN BY:

Janet Greer  
Janet Greer

#### GENERAL DONATION

Martha Waugh

### 2006 LUNCHEON SPONSORS

**Title:** Bank of the West • Lee Hamer Memorial Charities • Marion Letsch • Smith Barney citigroup • Telesis Community Credit Union

**Gold:** Humanomics, Inc. • Winnetka Neighborhood Council

**Silver:** Kitty & Don Cooper • JPL Zoning • Kiwanis Club of Northridge • Mike's Roofing • Dr. Himardi M. Patel • Dr. Richard V. V. Stringham & Arihi Stringham • Primcare Pharmacy • Prudential Financial • Carson Schreiber • Time Warner Cable • John & Cheri Toffan • Union Bank of California • UPS • Barbara & Dwight Wheeler • Marc Weisel and Sharon Sackin • Councilman Dennis P. Zine

**Patron:** Dorothy & Leroy Bushong Family • Kelleher & Associates • Northridge Insurance Agency • Mellon First Business Bank

### LUNCHEON COMMITTEE

Kitty Cooper, Co-chair

Patty Sztapka, Co-chair

Susan Basler

Dick Cooper

Jenny Daniels Freese

Laura Engel

Joan Freeman

Florine Goodman

Janet Greer

Donna Harney

Judy Hawthorne

Cheryl Kobashigawa

Alex Krasnoshtein

Noel Miranda

June Stanton

Jackie Wardle

Susie Warmbrand

Dolores Zimmermann

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Fred Chapa



### IN THE MIDDLE IS THE HEART OF THE ORGANIZATION

The best way to begin this column is to ask you to think of the Oreo cookie. The baking com-

pany has a great commercial where you see a pre-teenager opening an Oreo and eating the creamy center first. I believe that a well-run organization, in which people receive optimum service, is a program that has a strong centerpiece that cements service and clients into a program where we all can enjoy working. From this analogy I have to tell you that we have a sweet operation at Valley Village.

In the Residential Programs we have seven Qualified Mental Retardation Professionals (QMRPs) that are responsible to oversee the management of services and programs for all of the residential programs. We have Alex Krasnoshtein, Barbara Smith, Clare Carney, Susie Effatian, and Jodi Hollan. Mirna Deleon and Scott Stella are new staff members. Mirna replaced Glenda Flores who entered a master's program in San Antonio and Scott Stella replaced Jill Teagarden who is now a care provider at Lurline House. The Qs are supervised by Debra Donovan, who is a former QRMP. This group coordinates services for all of our residential clients, which include a myriad of consultants, such as nursing, physical therapists, speech therapists, recreational therapists, nutritionist, occupational therapists, psychologist, psychiatrist, and a medical director. They integrate these disciplines into a workable program plan for each resident. Finally, they supervise the care provider staff and the aides that work the homes. They are also responsible to oversee and provide staff training on an ongoing basis. The Qs take turns responding to an emergency pager and answer any call 24 hours a day to deal with any situation that might occur in the homes. They are the first line of communication with funding programs and the resident's family and others. Their jobs require patience, understanding and maturity and above all, dedication to ensure that the residents live as safely and as independently as they can and receive the best care.

In our Day Programs we have three program directors that manage services for three sites providing care for 250 clients. The directors are Julie Ippoliti who directs the Adult Development Center in Winnetka, Walter Bunkley who directs the Adult Day Health Center in Winnetka and Ana Rojas who directs a combination Adult Day Health Center and an Adult Development Center in Sunland. Their supervisor is Donna Thomas. Like the QMRPs, these directors coordinate many of the same consultants and develop client program plans for each participant that is used to provide the services needed to maintain abilities and where possible, increase these capabilities in a safe and nurturing program. The directors supervise the teachers and aides working with the clients and provide training on an on-going basis to keep the staff updated on the best way to work with the clients. They work with funding sources to ensure service delivery meets or surpasses expectation of funding sources. They also work with interested parties and parents to ensure the best services for the clients.

All of the above managers work with licensing agencies who make unannounced visits to the homes and the Day Programs. Any deficiencies are taken into account to strengthen programs and to provide better services. Reporting to these licensing agencies is the responsibility of the managers. Overall, the management staff does an incredible job.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I commend them for their effort. They are the true quality assurance providers for Valley Village who keep our programs operating at the level that we have come to expect.

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

(Continued from page one)

may find another who is fascinated with squirrels as they scamper around the yard and he diligently feeds them peanuts. There is excitement on his face as the squirrels grab their bounty.



Donald at Gladstone House placing a peanut in a squirrel feeder.

These slices of life at the group homes demonstrate the commitment and dedication of Valley Village's staff in creating a warm and inviting environment in which adults with development disorders can live a "normal" life.

Volunteers play a critical role in creating this "village." They spend countless hours assisting the residents and the staff. Families of the residents are another crucial element. Individually, as well as together, they create an important link between the clients and the staff.

The "village" is not complete without the Boards of Directors who provide fiscal and operational oversight of Valley Village. The last piece of the "village" puzzle are the managers and administrative staff who maintain the fabric that holds Valley Village together.



Left: Terry at Baird House enjoys reading a book. Above: A little hoop play at Gladstone House.



# SHOWTIME! ANNUAL LUNCHEON



*Lee Hamer Memorial Charities*



*Kelleher & Associates*



*Which cards to buy at the Boutique*



*Dwight Wheeler*



*Buying the "lucky ticket"*



*Telesis Community Credit Union*



*Smith Barney citigroup*



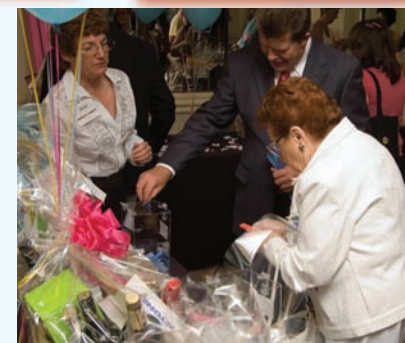
*Colorful scarves at the Boutique*



*Dave Coulier*



*Northridge Kiwanis*



*A ticket for this gift basket*



*Carson Schreiber*



*Bank of the West*



*Winnetka Neighborhood Council*



*Bank of the West*