



VISION FORWARD

TLC Welcomes New Director of Children's Programs



Diana Dennis is an expert at making play a learning experience.

It is with a great deal of excitement and joy that Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind announces that services to infants and toddlers will soon begin. One of the critical steps in our *Vision Forward* has been to find someone with the credentials and experience to lead the TLC Children's Center. TLC is extremely fortunate to have found that in **Diana Dennis, Director of Children's Programs.**

"We are pleased to have found someone like Diana," said Ford Neale, Executive Director. "Her experience and her desire to help serve are the most wonderful combination we could have imagined."

Diana has specialized in the field of early intervention and visual impairment for close to 20 years. Most recently, she was the Early Intervention & Vision

Impairment Specialist for the Santa Clara County Office of Education. In addition, she has worked for Blind Babies Foundation and as a Family Consultant for children and families in Monterey County. Diana holds an M.A. in Early Childhood Special Education as well as an Education Specialist Credential.

The Promise of *Vision Forward*

Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind was started in 1975 by eight families who had a mission to create, not just a residence, but a home that was dedicated to serving the lifetime needs of their children with developmental disabilities and blindness. These challenges presented the need for a level of care that was not easy to come by, yet essential to their child's development and well-being.

Today, TLC embarks on a program that is specifically designed for children ages birth to five years old. The early intervention program will offer integrated resources that will include physical, occupational and speech therapies, access to medical professionals and support services for families. What an amazing program this will be. Imagine how wonderful and beneficial this resource would have been for TLC's founding parents. This is what drives the passion and dedication for this new program.

The TLC Children's Center is scheduled to break ground in the coming year and services to families are beginning now under the guidance of Diana Dennis.

TLC is eager to begin this special program and the need for financial

"Early intervention works."

Diana Dennis

support is great. We want today's families to receive critical intervention resources that their children need and deserve.

Vision Forward & Diana Dennis

Vision Forward: Why is TLC's children's program so important?

Diana Dennis: My first thought goes back to basics, and that is early intervention works. When parents are dealing with a difficult diagnosis and trying to understand the unique needs of their child who is blind or visually impaired, they are in need of guidance. The support and information we will share is how best to help their child learn and, as a parent, understand their child's eye condition in order to facilitate their development.

We will provide a comprehensive service delivery model that is specifically designed to address the needs of the children we serve. Initially, we will do this in the home and in the community and, once completed, at the TLC Children's Center. We will create an environment rich in active education and experiential opportunities. Children will have a place where they can learn and parents will have a place where they can engage in best practices in early intervention.

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Letter From Executive Director Ford Neale



Dear Friends,

At a recent gathering of our Visionaires, Diana Dennis, TLC's Director of Children's Programs spoke about the new services we will be initiating for infants and toddlers who have multiple disabilities and visual impairments. As much as I have been closely involved in this project, it wasn't until Diana shared her past experiences and the powerful impact they will have on the children and families we will serve that I truly felt the tremendous, life altering affect these programs will have.

Looking around the room as Diana was speaking, I could see reflected in the faces around me a deep understanding of the need for these services and a growing excitement about how TLC is fulfilling an essential part of our mission by serving infants, toddlers and preschoolers. I sensed that as a group there was a feeling that TLC had been destined to take on these new and consequential programs. While the task is challenging, we will be successful because we will bring a unique understanding to this endeavor as a result of the work we have done for more than 30 years.

TLC families and friends know first-hand the needs of those with developmental disabilities and blindness and can truly appreciate the benefits of early intervention. Our family members who have a son, daughter or sibling living at TLC remember their personal struggles to access services when their family member was younger. They know that as TLC serves this new generation, today's

families will be free of much of the frustration and pain they had.

I give thanks for the great support from TLC families. We know how much they would have sacrificed years ago to have had the services TLC will now offer for babies and young children. It is heartening to realize that as we engage in our *Vision Forward*, TLC is embracing the full scope of the obligation set forth in our mission—lifetime care: serving the very youngest and the most elderly in our population.

We thank you as you join us on this exciting and important journey.

Vision Forward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ford".

Ford Neale
Executive Director

TLC Receives Grant From Santa Monica Rotary



Executive Director, Ford Neale (L) receives the grant check from Kent Colberg of the Santa Monica Rotary Club.

Ford Neale, Executive Director, was on hand to receive a generous grant to TLC from **Kent Colberg**, on behalf of the **Rotary Club of Santa Monica**.

The monies awarded went to the Adult Developmental Component room and allowed TLC to put in much-needed new flooring.

Kent Colberg of A.G. Edwards is a Rotary member and was our champion. We are grateful to Kent and all the members of the *Rotary Club of Santa Monica*.

The Adult Developmental Component classroom works with our clients who have significant disabilities in conjunction with vision impairment. Due to their need for consistency, they receive almost one-on-one care.

This classroom is a huge part of their daily life; they learn, have meals and interact there.

The new flooring that was so generously funded is the first step to a complete makeover for this room that when completed will have more comfortable and supportive seating, new tables and updated equipment and storage.

A Family Affair



L to R: Felicia Aizuss, their daughter's friends Alexa and Sarah, daughters Amanda and Julia, and Dr. David Aizuss.

TLC Steering Committee member, **Dr. David Aizuss**, his wife Felicia, daughters Amanda and Julia and friends Sarah and Alexa, stopped by for a tour. Dr. Aizuss has just finished his term as President of the Los Angeles Medical Association. As one of the leading ophthalmologists in Southern California, Dr. Aizuss brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to TLC. It was also wonderful to have young people on campus and to respond to their poignant questions.

Some New Faces

Graciella Espinoza has joined the TLC team as **Development Coordinator**. She recently graduated from California Lutheran University with a BA in marketing.

"I have completely fallen in love with TLC. I am eager to help and watch it grow," she said.

Also new to the TLC experience is **Claire Brevidoro** from **Farmers Insurance Group**, a first-time visitor. She was very impressed by the organization. "After seeing the campus I would love to do what I can to help," she said.

Claire became aware of TLC through the Woodland Hills/Tarzana Chamber of Commerce.



L to R: Development Coordinator, Graciella Espinoza & Claire Brevidoro, Farmers Insurance agent & first time visitor to TLC.

TLC Poker Tournament

"All In for Kids"

Save the date

January 17, 2009

\$200 per person - \$2,000 Table
\$10,000 Champagne Limo Package



Think about it . . .

The life of a child with developmental disabilities and blindness shouldn't be a gamble.

And that's why we are going to play poker for a great cause--the TLC Children's Center. We are going to join together and go "all in" for kids.

You Play. Kids Win.

TLC Video Features "E.T." Star as Narrator



Dee Wallace, movie and TV star, best known for her role in "E.T.: Extra Terrestrial" is joined by BJ Davis (L) Producer/Director of TLC's video and Mike Murphy, Director of Photography.

The TLC Community

San Fernando Valley Friendships

A wonderful group of long-time Valley residents came for a tour of TLC. The ladies chatted with residents and were amazed at all that is happening on our campus.



Barbara Connell shares a tender moment with longtime TLC resident Daryl on a visit to the Day Program.



L to R: Barbara Connell, Patty Patano - TLC, Lin Porter, Debbie McAnally and Marilyn Young

The Cammie Farrer Courtyard

Thanks to a generous donation from **Geoff Farrer**, TLC's entry courtyard is now a showplace—The Cammie Farrer Courtyard. This gift allowed the purchase of beautiful patio tables with matching umbrellas and stands. The centerpiece is a terra cotta fountain that flows down two levels and provides the relaxing sound that only a fountain can give. The courtyard makes a wonderful impression on visitors, and during the day residents and staff alike can be seen enjoying the pleasant atmosphere.



Reseda Woman's Club

The Reseda Woman's Club has been in existence since 1918. The building on Lindley Avenue has been home to this club since 1953. Recently, about 25 of the women, many of whom have been members for decades, toured TLC. It was an enjoyable afternoon and many women commented on the fact that it was the first time they had visited TLC.

It is wonderful having this historic organization take a new journey with us as we begin serving infants, toddlers and preschoolers with developmental disabilities and blindness.

Continued from page 1

VF: How will you know the TLC program is a success?

DD: Before I left the Santa Clara County Office of Education to return to Southern California, the father of a child I had been working with wrote a letter to our principal and stated, "Being a parent of a totally blind child with 5 severe, life threatening heart conditions is a terrifying experience." He describes their entry into the early start system as being met with fear and trepidation for her future, but that through "exemplary early intervention services" their fears were put to rest and they were given hope for her future. Today he says his daughter is a "happy exuberant child." Audrey is now 18 months old and an inspiration to everyone she meets. If we have one family that can speak of their child in this way, I feel we are well on our way. And I believe we will have many.

VF: How do children who are blind with developmental disabilities learn?

DD: All children learn through

experiences and in environments that are carefully created to promote active learning. Children who are blind or visually impaired and have other developmental disabilities need special consideration. They benefit most from a multi-sensory approach with opportunities for experiential learning in a variety of settings. I believe that any child is able to learn, and that a child learns from his or her own activities performed in their day-to-day environment.

VF: What is the most difficult task ahead?

DD: The most difficult task ahead will be starting a program when budgets in public health and education are being cut at many levels. The constraints of tightened budgets put increased stress on families with infants and toddlers with disabilities. Coordinating services will be challenging for our staff but we



The Children's Programs Team

are seeking the most qualified people to help meet the needs of the children and families we serve.

VF: What are you most excited about?

DD: I'm most excited about the challenge of beginning something from scratch. Although TLC has had programs serving adults for more than 30 years, serving families with infants is a new and exciting challenge for the agency. The beginnings of a program are the foundation for everything.

**Children's Programs Assistant
Sally MacDowell**

Another addition to our Children's Center project is **Sally MacDowell, Children's Program Assistant.** Ms. MacDowell combines a successful career in business with a dedication to the nonprofit arena. She has operational and financial experience in commercial real estate and property management.



Sally combines her business credentials with her heart for children. Most recently, she was the Administrative Director of the Verdugo Hills Autism Project and worked in the adaptive living program at Activities for Retarded Children and Adults—ARC.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to help make a difference in these children's lives," Sally said. "TLC is such a special place and the TLC Children's Center will be so beneficial. I am thrilled to be a part of it."

Annual Visionaires Brunch

TLC would like to offer a special thanks to **Zane Alsabery** and **Geoff Farrer** for generously providing brunch at the Jonathan Beach Club for the Visionaires.

Santa Monica beach served as the backdrop for a heartfelt introduction of TLC's new early intervention program by **Diana Dennis**, Director of Children's Programs.

Due to her personal and professional background, Diana was able to paint a picture of the future of Children's Services for the Visionaires and discussed the importance of early intervention. She was also able to help the audience gain an understanding of the differences in vision impairments.

Ford Neale, Executive Director commented, "Diana really brought the program to life with a passion that gave it heart and soul."



VISIONAIRES BRUNCH

"Serving a New Generation"

Jonathan Beach Club
September 7, 2008

Help Youth Charities Pledges \$100,000 to TLC Children's Center

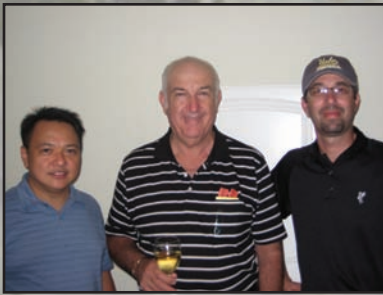
Help Youth Charities has been an outstanding supporter of TLC for more than two decades. The organization recently passed a motion to pledge \$100,000 toward the TLC Children's Center. The focus of the organization has been to raise funds for "handicapped and underprivileged children."

"We are continually overwhelmed by the generosity that Help Youth extends to TLC," stated Patty Patano, Director of Development. The organization is an example to the entire community of true service. The dedication of Help Youth's board members always results in something that enhances the lives of children in need.

Cyndi McAuley, Associate Director at TLC, spoke at Help Youth's recent Board meeting. Members wanted to know more about the progress of the TLC children's program. Cyndi provided an important perspective on how our plans are proceeding.

Many thanks to Help Youth for their ongoing support!

Help Youth Golf Tournament



Board member Dr. Maurice Zaghera (center), is joined by two fellow golfers.



L to R: Board and Trustee member Jim Wood, Rob Phair, Dr. Stephen Weiss, and Bill Overfelt.



L to R: Board member Larry Barzman, Joe Ferrero, Bill Thon, and Jeff Rubell.

Board members and friends of TLC participated in Help Youth's annual golf tournament at Braemar Country Club.

How To Be a Visionaire

A charitable bequest allows your gift to live on and allows you to leave a legacy to TLC that you can be assured will make a difference for generations to come. Anyone wishing to make their bequest information known to TLC can enjoy the reward of giving long before your gift is received by being named a member of the TLC Visionaires.

If you would like to receive TLC's brochure "Reaching New Heights" and learn more about how you can remember TLC via your charitable gift and estate plans, please contact the Development Office at TLC at (818) 708-1740.

If you are working with your own attorney or accountant, the following language may be helpful in your planning efforts:

Specific Bequest: A gift of a specific dollar amount, item of value or % of estate. *"I give, bequeath, and devise (amount, item named, percentage of estate) to Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind, a qualified 501 (c) (3) charitable institution, located in Reseda, California, to be used for its general purposes."*

Residual Bequest: A gift of all or a portion of the remainder of the estate after other obligations or bequests have been distributed. *"I give, bequeath, and devise (all, or state % or shares) of the rest, residue, and remainder of property, both real and personal, wherever situated, which I may own or be entitled to at my death, to Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind, a qualified 501 (c) (3) charitable institution, located in Reseda, California, to be used for its general purposes."*



Reaching New Heights



TLC's Financial Planning Brochure

TLC expresses deep appreciation to the following for their generous donations

(This list represents our best efforts to reflect pledges and giving from
February 15, 2008 through August 15, 2008)

Founders

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Philanthropists

\$500,000 - \$250,000

TLC Board of Directors & Trustees**

Zane Alsabery

Larry Barzman

Geoff Farrer

Dennis Fredrickson

Louis B. Horwitz

Hal Lampert

Joel Ravitz

Chris Rohan

William Rohan

Jane Vogel

James Wood

Dr. Maurice Zagha

Andrea Zeller

Vanguards

\$249,999 - \$100,000

St. Jude's Trust for the Forgotten

Blind**

Help Youth Charities**

Benefactors

\$99,999 - \$50,000

David & Myra Siegel*

Leaders

\$49,999 - \$10,000

Brookreson Trust*

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\$9,999 - \$1,000

Confidence Foundation*

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Shomrei Torah Synagogue

Tod Silvers

Martin Sklar

Thomas Starbird

Gregory Starbird

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Eleanor Wallen

George & Rita Wilson

Edward & Carol Wood

Aaron & Janie Zimmer

Friends

Under \$100

Ruth Kleinbaum Bartnoff

Allen & Faye Brown

Harold & Caroline Cherness

Nan Cool

Benjamin & Faye Deane

Truman Der

Peter & Alison Eichberg

Soraya Sami Faryab

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Eugene & Geraldine Peterson

Ray Prochnow

Shai & Hedra Redlich

Robert Rome

Susan Scott

Mits Shimotsu

Justus & Margaret Spillner

Jenny Sullivan

Manny Vejar

United Way

Allan & Judith Whitman

Cy Ward & Elaine Yee

* Grants and Restricted

** Pledged Amounts

Visit TLC's New Website



www.tlc4blind.org

TLC has launched its new website. Pictured above is a preview of the new homepage.

The website provides TLC a new updated look along with expanded information on the new Children's and Senior Programs. The site also offers visitors an opportunity to "tell a friend" about the organization by simply providing an email address.

Please visit www.tlc4blind.org and tell a friend.

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www.tlc4blind.org

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TLC first-time visitor, Claire Brevodoro, poses with Debbie and Daryl on her tour of the Adult Support Center on campus.



Caring for the lifetime needs of individuals with multi-disabilities and blindness.

