



The 2010 Census is coming, Make sure you're counted!



With your help we can ensure that our community receives proper representation and the federal funding it deserves.

An accurate census count is vital to our community and residents' well-being because it helps local leaders make decisions on where to build

new roads, hospitals, child care and senior citizen centers, schools and more.

Data also determines the number of seats each state will have in the US House of Representatives.

Information collected by the census is confidential and protected by law.

Complete your Census 2010 forms. Questionnaires will be mailed in February-March 2010 to households. BE COUNTED! Visit www.2010census.gov.

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The Future is Bright for TLC's Vision Forward



old. Hizela's mother says the process of receiving services took some time until her Visual Impairment Teacher from LAUSD contacted her Regional Center worker. The result was TLC's services were approved for Hizela. Reyna was relieved when TLC was contacted, but hesitant, wondering if we could truly help Hizela. At that time, the family was unclear about her diagnosis.

"When [Hizela] was little...I would cry because I didn't know how to help her," Reyna said. She was unsure if TLC could help Hizela because everything she was learning was so new. Then she began to see a marked improvement in her daughter.

"Hizela has learned a lot from [TLC staff] and so have I," she said. "I used to get very frustrated and now I am learning so much and it is helping me." Reyna described how Hizela used to kick and scream and have tantrums when she would attempt to take her out in the community. Hizela would only quiet down when her mother would hold her. Life looks very different today. Reyna expresses that TLC has had a tremendous impact on her interactions with Hizela: "TLC has motivated me to take Hizela on outings such as the grocery store," she said.

Hizela, one of TLC's youngest clients loves to explore the TLC campus and especially enjoys playing in the fountain.

An Update from Director of Children's Programs, Diana Dennis

Nearly one year ago, our **Early Intervention Program** began providing services to infants, toddlers and preschoolers challenged by developmental disabilities and visual impairments. Today TLC is serving over 20 children and their families within their homes and the community including the **Martinez family** and their three year old daughter, **Hizela**.

I recently sat down with Hizela's mom, Reyna Lopez and an interpreter to hear how our program has impacted Hizela and her family. Hizela's family was referred to TLC through the Regional Center when she was two years

One of the first things we did with Hizela was give her mother the "okay" to set her down, and find a way for her to travel safely and explore her environment. We introduced her to a "Move About" which resembles a miniature walker to help her navigate and orient herself when walking. She took to it right away. She began to walk for longer and longer periods and became very curious about her surroundings. She no longer needed

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7915 Lindley Avenue
Reseda, CA 91335



On Sat. Oct. 17th, members of the TLC staff joined Councilman Dennis Zine in supporting "Revitalize Reseda" and helped remove trash, weeds and graffiti to clean up the city that has been home to TLC for over 25 years.

Providing Lifetime Care to Those Who Are Challenged by Developmental Disabilities Along With Visual Impairments.

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Show your support for us!
Donate your vehicle to:



TLC 2012 PROJECT
Brought to you by the Vision Forward Campaign
Help send Hizela to pre-school by participating in the TLC 2012 PROJECT.
See Page 2 for more details!



Letter From Executive Director Ford Neale

that time I have tried to protect and appropriately grow the agency. I believe that we have come a long way, but will refrain from taking a look backward and instead, I want in this last article to take a look forward.

TLC is positioned to take a number of consequential steps forward. The recently initiated Early Intervention Program has paved the way for the preschool, which together has the potential of not only providing quality programs and services for multi-disabled and visually impaired birth to five-year-olds, but also it will help TLC become better known. This is vital as the health of our agency requires that we become more and more visible in the community at large. It all gets back to the importance of strong, effective advocacy.

The administration is planning a smooth transition and I will do all that I can to ensure that the new director feels prepared and at home. TLC's wonderful and dedicated staff will continue to provide excellent care to those we serve and TLC will continue to move forward.

My abiding wish for the agency would be for all who consider themselves a friend of TLC to make sure your representatives know and care about us, the work we do and the individuals we serve. TLC and all that it has accomplished is too important, too vital to be kept a secret. Get out the good word!

Sincerely,

Ford Neale
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

With this edition of Vision Forward, I will be penning my final column. It is with mixed emotions that I announce my retirement effective March 31st, 2010. The decision to end my tenure as Executive Director has been a difficult one and although there may never be a good time to announce that one is stepping down to retire, there is a right time, and for me that time has come.

It was ten years ago that the TLC Board of Directors asked me to take over as Executive Director and since

As part of the Vision Forward Capital Campaign and the matching funds grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, we are launching the TLC 2012 Project.

TLC 2012 PROJECT

Brought to you by the Vision Forward Campaign

In 2012, TLC will be in the midst of major construction on the TLC Children's Center which will be an integrated resource for children birth to five years old who are challenged by developmental disabilities and visual impairments. The TLC Children's Center is an essential resource for these babies and their families. Help us build the building. Donate \$20.12 per month for at least one year through the Development Office or the TLC Causes Page on Facebook.

Contact **Graciella Espinoza in the Development Office at (818) 708-1740, gespinoza@tlc4blind.org.** You can also find us on Facebook through the Causes Application or Fan Pages. Everyone who donates \$20.12 per month for at least one year will be recognized on a special plaque at the TLC Children's Center.

Many people coming together to donate \$20.12 per month will make a substantial difference!

\$20.12 = 4 trips to Starbucks

\$20.12 = 1 pedicure

\$20.12 = Packing your lunch for work twice per month

We're raising \$20.12 through 2012! Make a difference in a child's life and join the TLC 2012 PROJECT. For a chance to win a special prize, be sure to let us know what \$20.12 per month means for you by posting on our Facebook wall or by contacting the Development Office.

TLC is now on Facebook!



Keywords:
Therapeutic
Living
Centers for
the Blind

Continued from page 1

her mother to carry her the moment they left her yard. It was a great success.

Reyna stated, "I noticed how much [the 'Move About'] has helped her, I see how it helps her learn about her space and orientation."

Hizela continues to receive services from a Visual Impairment Teacher with LAUSD, Aracely Calderon. Aracely recently introduced her to a long cane and TLC is helping Hizela to follow through with this transition. She has become more confident in moving through her environment which has helped her in other aspects of her development. Collaboration with other programs working with Hizela is the key to her success.

When Reyna was asked about Hizela's progress, she gave a long list of Hizela's accomplishments. Some examples include: she is now able to communicate her needs with



Hizela and Diana Dennis working with the "Move About." learn about sharing, and

2 and 3 word sentences, she's able to tell differences in shapes, open and unlock doors, identify body parts, follow a routine, use eating utensils, and she has learned that when she goes outside she needs to put on her shoes.

Hizela's family hopes that with the help of TLC, she will soon learn how to sit at the dinner table for meal times without having outbursts,



Hizela with her mother and father, Reyna Lopez and Luis Martinez during a recent home visit.

learn that it's alright to be left with a babysitter, as her mom and dad will always be back.

"I hope that the Early Intervention Program can continue to educate parents and teach them how to help their children learn," Reyna said. "I also hope for the Children's Center to be open soon and for Hizela to be able to go there." Lastly, Reyna stated that Hizela is calmer, because "I am calmer. I know that she responds to how I am feeling and I need to stay calm."

Hizela is a true inspiration and we are very excited to see her grow. She is a great example of how early intervention works and it is a pleasure and an honor to work with her family. We are here to make a difference and we look forward to a bright and progressive future for our Early Intervention Program. We are grateful for those who provide support to strengthen this venture. The benefits are life-long and we look forward to many more successes like Hizela.

Saturday, January 9, 2010

Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind & Love Across the Ocean

2nd Annual All in to Win for Kids Celebrity Charity Poker Tournament

2:00 p.m. Pre Party, Buffet & Registration, 4:00 p.m. Tournament Begins

- ♦Early Bird \$250 per person buy-in (\$300 after December 1st, \$350 at the door)
- ♦Early Bird \$75 non-playing guest (\$100 after December 1st and at the door)
- ♦Re-buys can be purchased for \$200 until Dec. 1st (Re-buys will be \$250 at the tournament)

1st Prize: \$5,000 Cash

Plus more cash and other great prizes!
Seating is Limited!



6131 E. Telegraph Road
Commerce, CA 90040
(323) 721-2100



TLC proceeds will benefit the construction of TLC's new Children's Center. The Center will serve infants, toddlers and preschoolers who are challenged by blindness and developmental disabilities. This event is being held in conjunction with Love Across the Ocean (LATO), an organization dedicated to improving the learning environment and lives of underprivileged children and families in Vietnam. TLC and LATO are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. TLC Fed Tax ID #51-0143029, LATO Fed Tax ID # 56-2391928. Must be 21 to participate and please play responsibly---1-800-GAMBLER or www.problemgambling.ca.gov.

2009 TLC Western Cowboy Talent Show



The Western Cowboy themed annual talent show was an exciting event for clients and guests alike. The show featured singing and dancing performances, a client art sale, bake sale and farmers' market.

The clients put on a thunderin' show that was enjoyed by approximately 230 guests.

Funds raised from all sales are used to support the continuation of activities in the Adult Day Program.



33rd Annual Help Youth Charities Golf Tournament



On September 11th, **Help Youth Charities Fund (HYCF)** held their 33rd Annual Golf Tournament at the Braemar Country Club.

TLC was among the very worthwhile charities that benefitted from this fundraiser.

As a part of their \$100,000 five year pledge toward the construction of the TLC Children's Center, HYCF makes a generous contribution from this event.

TLC would like to recognize the wonderful members of HYCF for their ongoing support for TLC and their compassion for underprivileged children.

Pictured above are some of the dedicated members of Help Youth Charities.

Meet Brandon: Mascot of TLC

Never fear, WONDERDOG is here, and he's giving a new meaning to 'MAN'S BEST FRIEND'



Three times per week, the TLC Day Program gets a visit from a three-year-old furry friend named **Brandon**, a therapy dog who has become known as the "Mascot of TLC."

Brandon's owner, **Burt Pittler**, pictured top left, has worked with Guide Dogs of America for many years raising puppies for individuals who are challenged by blindness. Brandon was training to become a guide dog but did not pass because he was too "people friendly." Instead, Burt had him certified as an Animal Assisted Therapy dog by the SPCA because of his sweet temperament. Brandon is so gentle and responsive to commands that he easily passed the course.



"I've never seen a dog show affection to so many different people as Brandon and he knows that he's giving his love to the TLC Clients," Burt said. "He's actually doing what he was meant to do and I'm proud and delighted to be his partner."



Burt and Brandon love their visits to TLC because of the interactions that they have with the clients. Burt has made sure to learn every client's name and how they like to interact with Brandon. TLC Clients like Dee Dee, bottom left, Jeanette, top right, and Wayne, bottom right, love to snuggle up to Brandon.

"I'm good with Brandon, he gives me kisses," Dee Dee said. "He is a good boy and I love him so much."



TLC at the JC Clambake 2009

Underwritten by TLC Board of Director **Hal Lampert** and his wife **Sharon**, the TLC at the JC Clambake 2009 was a successful event that gave TLC the opportunity to meet new supporters.

Board members were asked to invite guests who they felt may be a good addition to the TLC Family. Donors and special guests were invited to the Jonathan Club at the Beach in Santa Monica for a special fundraiser focused on celebrating "The Spirit of Charitable Giving."

Rhoda Benedetti, TLC parent and disability rights advocate, spoke about the challenges she faced while raising a child with multi-disabilities. **Leyna Nguyen**, KCAL/KCBS news anchor/reporter, spoke about the importance of philanthropy and the impact that giving has on individuals with special needs.



Hal and Sharon Lampert and their guests, Lenny and Sherri Ripps and Bud and Carolyn Rhoades were joined by Associate Director of TLC, Cyndi McAuley and Hal Gelman of Help Youth Charities Fund to enjoy the Nantucket-style clambake.

News from Development



Dear TLC Family and Friends,

As the end of the year approaches, we have the opportunity to look back on what we have accomplished, and what we have to look forward to in 2010.

This year we have been working on building a foundation for future fundraising at TLC and strengthening our outreach and relationships within the community through tours and events, and fundraisers. We recognize that by creating awareness, we can build a future for this amazing organization that we have come to know and truly love.

Through this year of building there has been one general theme that has been ever present: many people coming together and giving whatever they can, makes a tremendous difference.

We have seen family, staff and community members come together to make the Friendraiser a huge success, we have watched contributions ranging from \$5 to \$50,000 come in for a capital campaign in the middle of a recession and we have watched as TLC has touched the lives of politicians, business professionals and community members alike one tour at a time. Most importantly, we have seen the smiles on the staff's and clients' faces.

All of these examples of people coming together to make a difference makes us excited to be here and be a part of TLC's mission of providing lifetime care to those who are challenged by developmental disabilities and visual impairments.

So as we approach the end of this year and the beginning of 2010, we encourage you to keep up the good work. Support TLC in any way you can, whether it is by volunteering for a fundraiser or participating in the TLC 2012 Project by pledging \$20.12 per month for a year. Every contribution helps!

Thank you for staying involved, giving what you can and continuing to help and watch TLC grow.

Sincerely,
Sally MacDowell & Graciella Espinoza

A Gift That Continues to Give

Consider making a tribute gift for a birthday, holiday, anniversary, graduation or memorial.

A tribute is a unique gift for any occasion, celebration, memorial or a way to say thank you. You can honor or appreciate a loved one and help individuals with multi-disabilities and visual impairments.

To honor a loved one, please complete the tribute information on the Vision Forward envelope when you make your donation or contact Graciella Espinoza at (818) 708-1740 ext.125 or gspinoza@tlc4blind.org.

A tribute gift is a special way to give and make a difference.

GHSNC Awards Grant to the TLC Early Intervention Program

On October 8th, TLC was awarded a Neighborhood Purposes Grant from the **Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council (GHSNC)** to purchase adaptive equipment for the Early Intervention Program.

TLC would like to thank the GHSNC for their contribution and for helping babies with developmental disabilities and visual impairments within the community.



Pictured above is a Little Room where a baby with blindness can learn to find their place in space.

TLC expresses deep appreciation to the following for their gifts to *Vision Forward*

(This list represents our best efforts to reflect pledges and giving from March 2009 through October 15 2009)

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Conrad N. Hilton Foundation*

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\$250,000 - \$500,000

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\$100,000 - \$249,999

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TLC 2012 Project**

\$20.12 per month for one year
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Richard & Catherine Espinoza
Graciella Espinoza
Sally MacDowell
Ford Neale
Sherry Potter
Frank Walbert

* Grants and Restricted

** Pledged Amounts