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Your time and talent helped to make the  
First Annual TLC Friendraiser a success.

For more information about Sierra Highway visit  
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**(818) 708-1740, ext. 111**  
[www.tlc4blind.org](http://www.tlc4blind.org)

**California Disability  
Community Action Network**  
[www.cdcan.us](http://www.cdcan.us)  
**Make Your Voice Heard**

Legislative decisions are being made that directly affect the community of people with disabilities. CA Disability Community Action Network website provides detailed information about current events in Sacramento. Stakeholder meetings and demonstration events are listed as well. Adequate funding is a "forever" problem but the crisis is now.



*Providing lifetime care for individuals who are challenged by multi-disabilities with visual impairments.*

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# VISION FORWARD



Summer Update

## Kick Off TLC Friendraiser, A Great Success

Nearly three hundred guests gathered at Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind on June 6th for the TLC Friendraiser Open House to learn about the many programs that the organization offers for individuals who are challenged by developmental disabilities along with visual impairments.

The evening began with a proclamation presentation to TLC by Councilman Dennis P. Zine of the 3rd District, a long time supporter. In addition to congratulating TLC on its history of delivering quality programs, he also mentioned that the TLC Children's Center Capital Campaign could benefit from the expansion of the boundaries of the Reseda beautification project. The Councilman supports the expansion of the boundary to include TLC. We are hopeful that he can accomplish this mission.

Visitors were invited to take a tour of the campus where artwork, informative classroom displays and presentations offered guests an "up-close" appreciation of all of TLC's vital programs. Attractions included a cookie stop in one of the TLC residences hosted by clients and a vision simulation table that demonstrated examples of what it might be like to have a visual impairment.

In addition to the tour, guests were given the opportunity to move about the campus independently, listen to blue grass music performed by Santa

Clarita-based band, Sierra Highway and view the Vision Forward video about the Early Intervention Program and the TLC Children's Center.

TLC could not have accomplished such a successful event without the help of many people in the community. The Mid Valley Lions Club generously hosted the Friendraiser by donating, preparing and serving all the food and beverages. TLC cannot begin to thank them enough for their friendship and support.

Amazing support was also received from other community organizations such as the Northridge and San Fernando Valley Kiwanis Clubs, James Monroe High School Key Club, Eagle Rock, Toluca Lake and L.A. International Lions Clubs, Dream Dinners and the Woodland Hills/Tarzana and North Valley Regional Chambers of Commerce.

TLC employees volunteered their time both prior to and during the event. Also, the TLC Board of Directors, Foundation Trustees and especially Foundation President Andrea Zeller were instrumental in making this event a success.

The goal of this event was to raise awareness about Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind and build friendships within the community. By the end of the day it was evident that guests had truly enjoyed themselves. In the course of two and a half hours, TLC had grown an entire bouquet of new friendships.



Executive Director, Ford Neale accepts a proclamation of support from Councilman Dennis P. Zine of the 3rd District.



Thank you to the Mid Valley Lions Club for providing food and beverages.



Friendraiser guest, Leslie Gerard learned about different kinds of visual impairments from TLC Employee, Javier Zepeda



**Summer  
Update from  
Executive  
Director,  
Ford Neale**

Dear Friends,

I would be remiss if I did not continue to inform this readership of the growing challenges all non-profit service providers are facing as California's budget woes worsen. Consequential funding cuts have begun, more are on the way and they will affect our ability to deliver quality programs.

It is important to remember that Regional Center personnel will come and go, agency executives and administrators will inevitably retire and direct care staff will change, but parents and family members will always carry the burden of responsibility for finding the resources that address their unique needs. It is our responsibility as citizens to become actively involved in advocacy. This is OUR fight.

We are so thankful for all the new friends and supporters who have joined the TLC Family. Last year our development office set out to put TLC "on the map." We wanted to become known in the community at large, expand our donor base and raise awareness for our Early Intervention Program. I am happy to say that due to the hard work of so many we have made significant progress in growing support for the TLC mission. This is very encouraging given the multitude of shadows being cast from Sacramento and Washington D.C.

If you happen to be one of those new friends of TLC, we welcome you into a community with a sense of purpose and VISION FORWARD.

Sincerely,

**Ford Neale, Executive Director**

# TLC Programs Update



One of the great joys as the Director of Children's Programs is telling people about our growing services. The Friendraiser was a wonderful success and many guests were coming by the EIP table to hear about Active Learning and the unique tools that our program is introducing to families. We even had a few visitors who were curious enough to lie down and explore a "Little Room" first hand. TLC has planted the seeds for the Early Intervention Program and now beautiful things have begun to blossom. We are now serving families from Oxnard to Saugus to Studio City. In May, I had the pleasure of speaking to a group of therapists at the Child Development Institute about the importance of vision screenings for children under 3 years of age and how children with visual impairments need a unique approach to program planning. It is exciting to see the collaboration occurring within our community to help strengthen services for all children.

--Diana Dennis, Director of Children's Programs



Summer is officially here and the days are getting hotter! That means that the clients are here for the summer and the Day Program, and After School children and adults are busy working on the sets and singing for the Annual August Talent Show. The theme this year is Country Music. The clients are busy practicing in classrooms, working on solo performances, and the TLC Choir can be heard throughout the building. The Talent Show allows us to showcase our artists and the clients are able to generate funds from

the art sales to support the Art Program. Also, our garden is blooming, and we will be having our Farmers Market soon. Stay cool, use lots of sunscreen and enjoy the summer, we are!

--Rhonda Bunnin, Day Program/Adult After School Program Director



As TLC's Vision Forward grows, the residential program would also like to announce progress toward opening a new group residence. The house is located in West Hills and will provide a home for six new TLC residents. More information will be provided to you as we proceed. In addition, the Residential Program welcomes Cari E. Fike, the new Orientation and Mobility Specialist. She brings to us a wealth of knowledge and experience in teaching, case management and of course, orientation and mobility.

--Charles Muchina, Residential Program Director

## Dream Dinners is a Dream Come True



In June, Dream Dinners held a fundraiser for TLC. Owner, Romy Lampert, donated 50% of all sales. Supporters included Kiwanis Northridge, TLC employees, Dream Dinners' customers and community members.

# Donor Spotlight: Philip Parmelee



We wanted to share this story with our readers because it is such a wonderful example of how the mission and spirit of TLC is beginning to spread beyond California. This time it reached Philip Parmelee of Zolfo Springs, Florida. Just how that happened is the interesting part of the story.

Philip decided that he wanted to contribute to a charity making sure that what he gave would directly benefit individuals in need. He wanted his participation to make a difference.

Philip asked his dear friend Miriam (Mimi) Wyan if she knew any charities that would enable him to accomplish that goal. Philip knew that Mimi had always been actively involved in charities and assisting individuals in need for most of her life. Mimi suggested to Philip that he should consider donating to TLC if he wanted to make a difference in someone's life. Mimi knows one of TLC's residents quite well, and is convinced that the care that TLC provides is excellent. Philip is now a generous contributor to TLC.

Philip and Mimi grew up together as next door neighbors on adjoining farms in a rural area near Hudson, Ohio. They both left their home in Ohio to attend different colleges, and as Mimi says, "to begin life away from the farm."

He attended Kent State, and eventually ended up working for the City of Los Angeles, from which he retired several years ago. He then moved to Florida, and now has a small ranch raising cattle, like the life he left so many years back in Ohio.

Today Philip and Mimi live on opposite sides of the country but they still maintain their lifelong friendship.

The photograph [left, above] shows Philip and Mimi standing next to Philip's plane. Flying has always been, and still is, his lifelong passion. When Philip flies west to California, we hope he will visit TLC.

**Thank you for your support Philip.**

## Welcome Anne Bell



TLC has recently hired Anne Bell, a Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired. She is teaching clients in the Early Intervention and Adult Programs.

Anne comes to us with many years of experience as a music/choir teacher with the Braille Institute. Her enthusiasm and excitement are contagious and many clients line up at her door for Braille instruction. She has also started going on home visits with our EIP Staff.

Anne's commitment to building access for people who are blind and visually impaired is strong. She is sure to give TLC a burst of new energy and resources to increase pre-literacy and Braille literacy skills. TLC is truly grateful that she is a part of our staff.

## Upcoming Events

**September 11:** Help Youth Charities Fund 33rd Annual Golf Tournament, Braemar Country Club

**August 28:** TLC Talent Show, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Reseda Women's Center

**October 4:** TLC at the Jonathan Club 2009 Clam Bake- Underwritten by Board Member and Trustee Hal Lampert

**January 9, 2010:** 2nd Annual "All in to Win for Kids" Charity Poker Tournament