



**tlc**

# VISION FORWARD

Therapeutic Living Centers  
for the Blind

Fall 2014

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Cyndi McAuley*

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*Hal Lampert*

*Joan Schulman*

## THERAPEUTIC LIVING CENTERS FOR THE BLIND

7915 Lindley Avenue

Reseda, CA 91335

(818) 708-1740

[www.tlc4blind.org](http://www.tlc4blind.org)

*TLC believes in the value  
of each individual and  
promotes the philosophy  
that each participant  
can be assisted to achieve  
his or her full potential*



## You Make Me Feel Like Dancing!

Friends, family, staff, and clients all joined together to raise funds for TLC's facilities at our 4th Annual Dance-a-thon! The theme

was Back to School, and was held in TLC's W.M. Keck Children's Center, formerly known as the Reseda Woman's Club. Clients from all programs were in attendance, including our littlest guests from the Early Intervention Program!

Our new venue was festively decorated with hand-painted banners, representing each TLC program and created by the artists in Day Program. A stage was erected for the DJ who played an array of tunes to keep those happy feet moving! While TLC clients were on the dance floor, attendees placed bids in our silent auction which boasted hot-ticket items like ParkHopper tickets to Disneyland, and designer clothing.

The Dance-a-thon was an overwhelming success, shattering its original goal and raising a whopping \$15,000! The funds will be used to continue improving TLC's facilities, thereby ensuring the safety and comfort of all of our clients! The event was also a springboard to launch TLC's first crowd-funding effort on Indiegogo, where we raised an additional \$1,700 to replace our broken and used musical instruments, and expand our musical repertoire.



Thank you to all who were in attendance, both in person and in spirit, and to all of our extended TLC family who helped us reach new fundraising heights. Your enthusiasm and dedication continues to inspire us to grow as an organization.

### A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR DANCE-A-THON SPONSORS:

A1 Notary Livescan - Absolute Fire Protection - Councilmember Bob Blumenfield - Councilmember Mitch Englander - East West Bank - Galpin Ford - Kennedy Lock & Safe - Landegger Baron Law Group - Montage Insurance - Carl Aldrich - Rick Lind and Kate Aldrich - Anonymous - Cyndi and Bill McAuley - Alan and April Meadow - Brooks and Theresa Powell - Joan Schulman - Audre Slater - Scott and Denise Smith - Andrea Zeller

## Dear Family and Friends,

It has often been said that people who provide services for those with disabilities are somehow elevated because they do such important work. While that may be true in some sense, I maintain that we are treating the people we work with in the same manner that we want to be treated. And every now and again, we get to do something special that recognizes and elevates someone in our programs for who they are and what they contribute to their peers and their community. I witnessed that very thing recently when Barbara Stephens, one of our Day Program participants, was honored by LA City Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld at the City's Deaf Awareness Week event.

Barbara has attended TLC's Day Program since 2003. She makes the most beautiful cards for friends, family, and TLC staff; recognizing birthdays, special events, and even cards designed to let them know she is thinking about them. Barbara has knitted scarves for friends and family. She transcribes large-print magazine articles and books into braille.

Barbara and two staff members, Elena Gutierrez and Sandra Najuna, traveled to Los Angeles City Hall on September 19th so that Barbara could receive recognition for her contributions to the community.

Although Barbara could not hear the presentation, Elena signed what was being said so that she could understand that she was being honored not only by Councilmember Blumenfeld, but by the entire City of Los Angeles.

This was an exciting day in and of itself, made even more special by the Recognition Plaque awarded by the City of Los Angeles. The fact that Barbara got to share the celebration with people who are important to her added the finishing touches. Several pictures were taken so that she could share the day's events with her housemates and family. It all came "home" to me when I delivered the pictures to Barbara later that day. She pointed to the plaque, then to the picture and then to herself with one of the broadest smiles I can remember seeing, as if to say "That's me and I did something special today."

Days like these are why we do what we do: why we fight so hard to ensure that people of all ages—tiny babies, children, adults and seniors—receive opportunities in life that make them part of the community. It doesn't get any better than this!

*Cyndi*  
Cyndi McAuley



## Meet the Board

Our Board of Directors provide strategic guidance in the fulfillment of our mission, and the general governing of our organization. Recently TLC welcomed three new members to our Board of Directors: April Meadow, Murray Heltzer, and Nick Nagatani.



**April Meadow:**  
*Board Secretary*

Having recently retired from a career as the Director of Human Services for the City of Beverly Hills, April sought to extend her talents to a local nonprofit organization. April has extensive experience with staff management, employee relations, and effective communication. She is a passionate problem solver who loves working with people. April believes Board Members should be closely involved with the organization they support.



**Murray Heltzer:**  
*Board Treasurer*

Murray came to the Board of Directors after being introduced to TLC by then-Board President Hal Lampert. Murray has long been involved in important movements concerning social justice, and continues to advocate for groups that are generally marginalized. Murray has a strong financial background which makes him ideal for TLC's Board Treasurer.

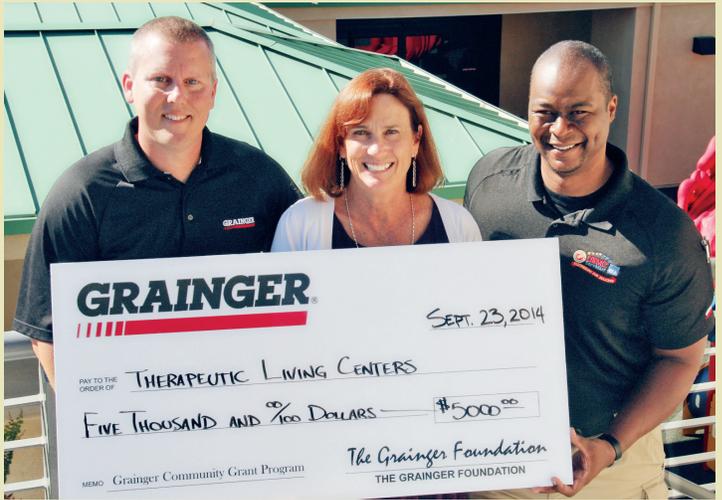


**Nick Nagatani:**  
*Director*

When Nick's daughter graduated from high school, it was difficult to locate a program that would accommodate both her visual and special needs. When Nick and his wife learned about TLC, they immediately visited the facility. After meeting staff, and learning about the program structure, they knew that TLC was the right place for their daughter. Nick not only provides a parent's perspective to our Board of Directors, but a professional background as a children's advocate in the Dependency Court in Los Angeles County.

## New Partnership

TLC received \$5,000 from The Grainger Foundation, an independent, private foundation in support of TLC's new Children's Center. This donation was recommended by Ben Wise, Branch Manager of W.W. Grainger, Inc.'s Northridge location.



## School's In Session!

On September 30th, we welcomed our very first students to our newly completed Children's Center and Preschool! Designed for experiential learning and sensory integration activities, the school will foster independence for both special needs and typically developing students. We have a full Developmental Team on staff. For more information please contact Diana Dennis, Director of Children's Services at 818-708-4948.



## Committed to the Cause



TLC has long held partnerships with local clubs, schools, and agencies. The mutual benefits are innumerable, as is the potential for personal and professional growth. TLC's partnerships with California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and Azusa Pacific are two such examples.

For over 10 years, CSUN students majoring in psychology, education, recreation, and music therapy have been volunteering at TLC's Day Program. Students are asked to observe and interact with clients in a variety of classes, and ultimately report on their experiences. Our volunteer program has been

so successful that our college volunteers find themselves reluctant to leave once they've completed their assignment.

TLC has also recently joined with psychology students from Azusa Pacific University (APU). "Students are able to observe real world applications of their studies, and are able to witness the therapeutic benefits that exists at TLC," according to APU professor, Dan Cayem.

Such partnerships provide positive results on both ends: clients are able to meet, socialize, and interact with new and interesting people, while students gain new skills and experiences that help shape and guide their future.

One of TLC's objectives as an organization is to extend community outreach and increase awareness. Our collaborations with local universities have



allowed TLC to make a positive impact in the public's awareness and perception of people with developmental disabilities. We are only as strong as our community, and with shared goals and objectives we can engage our community's youth and achieve a higher level of dialogue in assessing the needs of our community.



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A California not-for-profit corporation established for the primary purpose of providing for the lifetime needs of people challenged by developmental disabilities and blindness.

## Upcoming Events

**Nov. 1**

Los Angeles Vision Walk

**Nov. 21**

Red Cross Blood Drive at TLC

**Nov. 22**

Lion's Club Wine Tasting

**Dec. 13**

TLC Family Holiday Party



The TLC's  
Children's  
Center and  
Preschool are  
now open!