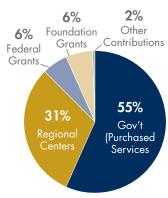


A Charity **YOU** Can Trust!

## 85cents

of every dollar raised goes directly to TLC's programs and services

### **TLC's Annual Revenue**





## THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME FOR A SHOPPING SPREE!



On **Saturday, August 27, 2011, Macy's** will host its 6th annual **Shop For A Cause** benefiting charities nationwide.

### What is Shop For A Cause?

A national fundraiser that we have been invited to participate in!

### How does TLC benefit?

Macy's is giving TLC Shop For A Cause tickets to sell for \$5 each. TLC keeps 100% of the ticket proceeds!

When you buy a ticket and Shop For A Cause on Saturday, August 27, 2011, you'll receive 25% off regular, sale and clearance merchandise throughout the store. And, you are eligible to win a \$500 gift card, no purchase necessary. Special giveaways, fashion shows, wine, and appetizers are plentiful as you shop!

To purchase tickets you may: go online at www.tlc4blind.org, pick up at TLC or call Loni at 818-708-1740, ext 118 to have tickets mailed to you!



Therapeutic Living Centers 7915 Lindley Avenue | Reseda, CA 91335 for the Blind (818) 708-1740 | www.tlc4blind.org

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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.



# c VISION FORWARD

SUMMER 2011 | VOL. 3 NO. 1

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Cyndi McAuley

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## Bringing Back the Smile...

Over 35 years ago my sister Darlene and I walked into an abandoned nursing facility in East Pasadena. It was to be the home of what we later came to call TLC, which was the acronym of Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind. A grand name for what was going to become the home for the first residents. The old and decrepit nursing facility had been standing vacant for some time.



It required so much work to make it habitable. The founding families pooled all of their resources and came up with \$5,000, which was the capital that allowed them to secure the property and begin renovations. Having exhausted most of their initial funds, much of the work was done by the parents. And yet they were ecstatic because, for the very first time in their children's lives, they had the hope that they could give them a true home, a place where they could live a full life and be well-cared for and happy.

Most of the first residents had come from either their parents' homes or from placements that provided horribly inadequate care. People and institutions, in their unease, and lack of understanding, largely ignored individuals like our residents. In fairness to them, this was new territory and there just was not any comprehension of their special needs. As the community at large continued to ignore them, the families knew that something had to be done. Quite fitting, then, the parents thought, that an abandoned nursing home to house the children whom many believed had likewise been abandoned and forgotten by the community at large. Most of those original children had forgotten how to smile. The parents' mission was to bring their smiles back.

My purpose in describing these beginnings is to put the achievements, and leadership of TLC in the proper perspective. So many wonderful individuals, whether they were house parents, TLC staff and administrators, the Board of Directors, TLC Foundation Trustees, individual donors, or corporate sponsors have all played a significant part.

Everyone who is familiar with the development of the infant and young children program at TLC is aware that the Hilton Foundation not only provided major financial support for these and other programs at TLC, but they also gave us so much more support to acquire the tools to become a true leader in the care of the Developmentally Disabled Blind, whether they be newborns, young children, young adults, and our elderly population. Hopefully, it will become TLC's mission to carry the message to other parts of the world who so desperately need to acquire the training and understanding of how to insure that these special individuals are supported and cared for so that they too can live a life to their fullest potential. They deserve the right to enjoy their lives... to be able to appreciate the special joys of life, to be able to smile again.

-Dennis Frederickson

# An Update of the TLC Early Intervention Program from Diana Dennis, Director of Children's Programs

As the summer is upon us, it is a delight to look back at the past 3 years and share the recent highlights of our Children's Programs. We want to welcome our new staff including Program Assistant Daniela Villanueva, Speech & Language Pathologist, Patricia Schallert and Physical Therapist, Angie Jedlicka. I'm excited to announce the new position of Sally Walbert as our EIP Outreach Coordinator who has been busy building community partnerships. We are truly gaining momentum in our Early Intervention Program (EIP) as we have developed a dynamic Parent-Professional Advisory Committee, a bi-monthly family group, and an active vision screening program. All the while we continue to provide best practices in our comprehensive home based services to children birth to 5.



"Kids are having fun at Family Groups, here is Bryant waiting for another spin!"

Recently, Theresa Lund, one of our parents, facilitated the second Parent Support Group. Theresa has a special touch as she has "been there". As a parent of a child with special needs, she has a deeper understanding where families are at this stage in their

new journey. We have learned that having the tools and unique strategies to take care of yourself so you can be present for your child may be the greatest gift of all. Finding time to just love your baby and have fun is critical to working through these difficult times. It is evident that the stresses placed upon caregivers can often make these times seem unimaginable and out of reach, but they can be achieved. Our goal is to provide opportunities for caregivers to develop satisfying relationships with others where they learn to communicate and express emotions in a healthy and positive way.

Lastly, and most importantly, we are thankful to all of the community support and generous donations we've received over the past year. Each day we are looking forward to the construction of the Child Development Center and as our services evolve we are truly building the foundation for the future.



### A Note on the Children's Afterschool Program

- Estee Anderson, Supervisor

Our Children's Afterschool Program is welcoming summer and long days with fun filled activities for all. We are enjoying, swimming, playing ball, trips to the park and socializing with friends. We were thrilled about the 2nd Annual Dance-A-Thon and our participation in the upcoming Talent Show. We continue to enjoy the community outings and special visits like our yearly visit from the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium who so generously donate their time. We are truly fortunate to have the support of the community to keep this program alive and well. Sadly, many community organizations like ours have closed due to the budget cuts, but the need for programs that provide support for families is increasing, and we want to thank each and everyone who has stood behind this much needed community collaboration.

## TLC's Hearts 4 Vision Tour! 3rd Thursday of every month

3rd Thursday of every month from 5:30–6:30 p.m.

We'd like to personally show you how TLC changes lives. Please join us for our one hour introductory tour and open house. You'll hear from our volunteer and staff leadership, and meet some very special tour guides who are developing their own keys to independence through TLC's comprehensive programs and services.

TLC's Hearts 4 Vision tour and open house is complimentary and no one will be asked to make a financial contribution. Tours last for 1 hour. They begin exactly when scheduled, so please plan to arrive on time.

Space is limited. Please RSVP to Loni Breidert at 818-708-1740 ext 118 or lbreidert@tlc4blind.org



### "If We Fail, Who Will Take Our Place?"

### From the Desk of Cyndi McAuley, Executive Director

Each time I prepare an article for a TLC publication, I find myself trying to balance the various aspects of the difficult work we do with the impact our work has on the individuals and families served by our programs. The best way for me to clear out the "Administrator" role is to walk the campus and visit our program participants. It is because of them that we, as staff, are here day in and day out, helping to ensure that our residents and program participants are getting every opportunity to excel and gain their highest level of independence.



This most recent walk led me to the Woman's Club where members of the Mid-Valley Lions Club were hosting a surprise St. Patrick's Day Party for our children's Afterschool program. Everyone – volunteers, children, and staff – had broad smiles on their faces as they decorated hats and enjoyed snacks.

I moved on to the Day Program where the interactions ranged from a touch of the hand to a question about weekend plans, and more pointedly, a question about the California Budget and why the representatives thought it was alright to cut our programs, and even more importantly, what are we going to do about it. It's a reasonable question in light of the cuts being made to services for our constituents, and one that, quite frankly, I find extremely difficult to answer. It's the same question that was posed in a full-page "Los Angeles Times" ad on February 7th by the Coalition of Service Providers, a group of local agencies, including TLC, organized on behalf of our respective program participants, their families and the Lanterman Act.

TLC's mission is to provide LIFETIME care for very deserving individuals and we are being challenged more and more by limited resources. It's imperative that we continue to be pro-active, to educate our family and friends, our elected representatives, and others in our community. We have doubled our efforts to make sure we are heard and recently participated in a letter-writing campaign with agencies similar to TLC. Our goal as an agency was to write 250 letters. Clients, families, and staff sent close to 1,200 letters to Governor Brown as well as members of the Assembly and the Senate, and our colleagues across the state helped us exceed the statewide goal of 100,000 letters by an additional 75,000!

We couldn't begin to do what we do without each of you. Thank you for helping us continue our mission of providing lifetime care for everyone currently in our programs. We want to make sure that we are here for the next generation who need our support and services. We want to ensure that we don't have to answer the question; "if we fail, who will take our place?"

- Cyndi



### THANK YOU MID VALLEY LIONS CLUB!

A special thank you to the Mid Valley Lions Club who helped TLC's Childrens After School Program celebrate St. Patricks Day in style. It was definitely a lot of fun!

The children enjoyed cupcakes and fruit and wore St. Patrick's Day hats that the members of the Lions Club helped them decorate. As a surprise ending the Lions Club members gave each child a goodie bag!

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### TLC's Family Campout August 1982

## **SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY**

### TLC RESIDENTS **CELEBRATE 34 YEARS!**

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart." -Helen Keller

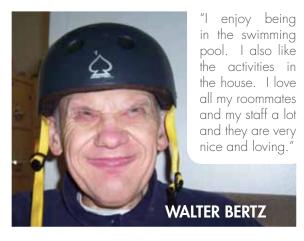








"I like to go out on Friday nights. We play Bingo on the weekends and sometimes we do arts and crafts and I like that.









### TLC thanks the Northridge Woman's Club for their support!

On Tuesday June 14th, the members of the Northridge Woman's Club made a special presentation to TLC as they enjoyed a tour and luncheon in their honor.

The Northridge Woman's Club held their annual fashion Show in March at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills. The event was a wonderful mixture of great food, fun, friends, fashion and fundraising! TLC was the proud recipient of the money that the event raised and received a check from the Club for \$4,000 to be used for the Early Intervention Program.





### TLC's Day Program Introduces the iPad!

by Rhonda Bunnin, Day Program Director

Several of our clients in TLC's Day Program have physical challenges that prevent them from using a regular desktop computer. However, we have had many adaptive equipment and technology advances that have allowed our population to increase their communication skills. Nothing has enhanced our client's ability to enjoy technology like the iPad! TLC's day program clients find the iPad easy to use and enjoy exploring its applications, which are educational, fun and functional. It's remarkable to me to see how easy it is for our clients to maneuver the iPad to independently communicate with friends and family members. The most frequently asked question has become, "can we get more iPads?"

Donate an iPad today to TLC! Contact: lbreidert@tlc4blind.org



Are you looking for a greeting card for that special occasion? TLC's Day Program clients are designing and making one-of-a-kind greeting cards to help raise money for their art program. Purchase an original TLC designed card for any occasion by contacting Rhonda Bunnin at rbunnin@tlc4blind.org you will not be disappointed!





"Second to None dance crew meet some of the TLC's Children's After-

"Second to None and their #1 fan!"

school Program Fundraisers!"

TLC's Dance Revolution Dance-a-Thon 2011 was held on Friday, July 15th and raised over \$7,000 in support

As the Reseda Woman's Center began to fill with this year's dance-a-thon participants, DJ EQ of Power 106 and resident Entourage DJ, hit the turntables and announced the Dance Revolution was underway! The first song was proudly dedicated to TLC's residents, clients, families and friends who were dancing to raise money!

The highlight of the afternoon was undoubtedly the entrance of Second to None dance crew! They performed several routines and had additional crew members join them...the TLC clients!

Special medals for participation were proudly worn by all who took part.

### THANK YOU to everyone who supported the event!

Special recognition given to our event sponsors; Vine Street Hit Factory, GPP Events Management, Costco, Trader Joes, Starbucks Nike and Balloon Celebrations

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### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY BRANDON!**

Smiles were all around as TLC's residents and clients celebrated the birthday of one of their favorite volunteers..."Brandon"

Burt Pittler's passion to make a difference in the lives of others, and his desire to volunteer led him to TLC almost three years ago. At that time Burt had recently certified Brandon as an "Animal Assisted Therapy Dog" by the SPCA.

Now Burt and Brandon are frequent visitors to TLC – volunteering 3 times a week – and have made an incredible impact on the lives of everyone they spend time visiting.



"Burt and Brandon join the party!"

On May 10th, in celebration of Brandon's fifth birthday, TLC's residents and day program clients joined together to give Brandon a special party..they spent the day making dog biscuits that Brandon could enjoy, and share with his buddies at the dog park! Thank You Burt and Brandon for sharing your time and creating many special memories!

### TLC'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM EXPANDS!

On May 21st the latest addition to TLC's Residential Program was open for visitors! The fondly named "Shoup House" is located in the heart of West Hills and is meeting a critical gap for the ever expanding needs of adults challenged by visual and developmental disabilities. The open house provided a great opportunity for its residents to give friends and family a tour in the midst of enjoying a barbeque, sodas, and singing!







### **Save the Date!**

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT TLC4BLIND.ORG
For more info on all events contact Loni Breidert
at 818-708-1740 ext.118 or lbreidert@tlc4blind.org.

### Saturday, August 21st

Join us for TLC's first annual silent art auction and garden party at the beautiful home of Bob & Wendy Fowlie in La Canada Flintridge on Saturday, August 20th from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Admissions is by \$25 ticket and includes entry to the garden party, live music, silent auction, selection of wines and appetizers. The event will feature, and display original works of art created by TLC's clients, as well as local notable artists who have donated their work to help raise funds for Tlc's art programs.

### Friday, September 9th

Help Youth Charities 35th Annual Charity Golf Tournament is being held at Braemar Country Club. Please show your support of Tlc and register to play golf! Hole-in-one prize is a new Acura! Special thanks to all the members of Help Youth Charities. Register online now at tlc4blind.org or complete the registration form enclosed!

### Wednesday, September 21st



TLC hosts "Bags to Riches" in Hollywood to benefit TLC's Early Intervention Program. The event will feature a live charity auction of new and gently used designer purses. Admissions is by \$25 ticket and includes entry to the event, open bar, live music by DJ EQ, live auction, appetizers and valet parking! Event sponsors include Bliss, Affinity Nightlife LA, Northridge Lions Club, Chanel, Kitson. For event sponsorship opportunities,

purse donations, to volunteer, for promotions kits or fund raising opportunities please contact kberry@tlc4blind.org.

### Wednesday, November 9th

TLC's Heart 4 Vision Fundraising Dinner at the Woodland Hills Hilton. A free 1 hour fundraising dinner. Wine reception begins at 6:30 p.m. Dinner and program 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Invite your friends, colleagues, and family to sit at your table and enjoy a delicious three course meal as they hear for themselves the impact TLC has on lives! It's a great way to show off the organization you support!

# TLC relies on the generous support of individuals, foundations, corporations and community organizations. Our special thanks go to the following people for their investment in our mission.

(This list represents our best efforts to reflect pledges and giving from October 1, 2010 – May 15, 2011)

#### **FOUNDERS**

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

#### \$100,000 plus

David Siegel

#### \$25,000 - \$99,999

The Green Foundation Help Youth Charities Fund St. Judes Trust for the Forgotten Blind

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Green Foundation \$25,000

TICF Macro - Healthy Vision Community Awards Program \$10,000



Harvey and Danielle Horowitz

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Ronald McDonald House Charities \$10,000

FASADENA SHOWCASE H O U S E for the Arts

Pasadena Showcase
House for the Arts
\$5,000

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