



## Taste of the Town

*14th Annual Event  
Raises \$127,000!*



*Board member Ken Kreyenhagen toasts the success of the event with Jerry Shepro and Roger Gelsing.*



*Over one thousand people attended the event.*

### **Outpatient Counseling**

Behavior problems  
Improving relationships  
Delinquency prevention  
Child abuse prevention  
& treatment  
ADHD treatment

### **Crisis Intervention**

Stabilization  
Hospitalization if needed

### **School-based counseling**

Therapists on campus  
Help in a familiar setting

### **Substance Abuse**

Prevention:  
DAPEC program  
Treatment:  
Individual counseling  
Family counseling  
Support groups

### **Parenting Classes**

Improve communication  
Parent "Chat Room"

### **Therapy Groups**

Social skills  
Adolescent "Rap" group

### **Circle of Care Teen Parenting**

Life skills  
Support group  
Child abuse prevention

### **Preschool/Daycare**

### **Day Treatment**

School program for  
students ages 12 and over  
who have severe  
emotional problems

### **CalWorks**

Help for adults entering  
or returning to work



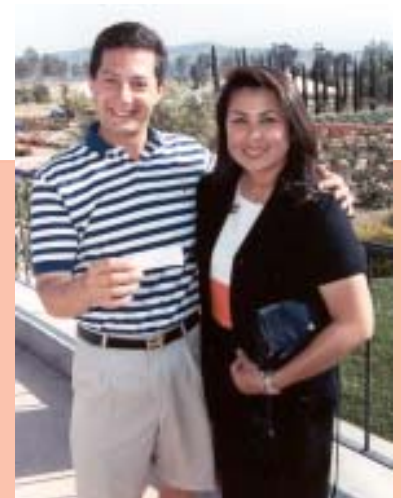
*Board member Joyce Carson and Pam Ingram greet guests as they arrive.*



*Co-Chairs Ethel Nakutin and Gail Ortiz thank all who supported the event.*



*Diane Crawford is shocked when Apo Yessayan of Classic Designs tells her that her glass of champagne contained a diamond. Two hundred glasses were sold, 199 had a cubic zirconia, and one a diamond!*



*Arthur Sobikian displays his winning raffle ticket for two roundtrip tickets to Paris.*

# A Message from the Center's CEO

## Center

### Board of Directors

Roberta Veloz, *Chair*  
*Aquafine Corp.*  
Elizabeth Seipel,  
*President*  
*Child & Family Center*  
Wes Toy, *Vice Chair*  
*WesLar Framing*  
Paul Frease, *Treasurer*  
*Carlson Wagonlit Travel*  
Robert C. Lee, EdD, *Secretary*  
*Wm.S. Hart School District*  
Dale Donohoe  
*Intertex*  
Judy Fish  
*Saugus Union School District*  
Cheri Fleming  
*C&FC Foundation Chair*  
William Groves, M.D.  
*Facey Medical Group*  
Millie J. Jones  
*County of Los Angeles*  
*Supervisor Michael Antonovich*  
Terry Martin, CPA  
*Martin & Coy, CPAs*

*"Child & Family Center  
helps build healthy communities by providing  
mental health and behavioral services  
to children, adults and their families."*

*Liz Seipel*



All of us who care about children who are emotionally or behaviorally disturbed should be alarmed at the proposed state and county budget cuts. We've all heard that there isn't enough money to go around, so cuts are inevitable. However, children should not be the ones to suffer when there is a lack of funds for services. In the long run it is short sighted and less cost efficient to ignore the mental health problems of children. Those problems never just go away, they grow with the untreated child and become crises that require far more expensive forms of treatment.

The families who come to the Center are often those who "fall through the cracks." They lack the money, knowledge and the connections to obtain services for their children. The unfortunate consequence of not being able to get treatment for these children is that the entire community suffers as a result. These children are our neighbors, they attend school with our children, they come into contact with all of us, and affect the quality of our daily lives. They need our help - how can we turn our backs on them? Haven't we learned anything from the rash of school violence and suicides that has spread throughout the country over the past few years?

We implore each of you to join us in advocating for these children and their families. What can you do? Write your local representative and tell him that Santa Clarita is a great community because we care about all of the families who live here. Tell him that Child & Family Center is providing vital mental health services to our children and encourage him to ensure adequate government funding. Join us in fulfilling our mission to build healthy communities by providing mental health and behavioral services to children and their families.



## Tommye Warner

June 28, 1945 – May 18, 2002

Tommye Warner's passion was helping all children with special needs. Before joining the Center's board in March of 1997 she served on the Center's client services committee for many years. She was a school psychologist, Licensed Marriage and Family Counselor and the Director of Pupil Services for the Sulphur Springs School District. She was instrumental in establishing the Primary Intervention Program in Santa Clarita Valley schools, which helps children ages kindergarten through third grade who are having emotional or behavioral problems.

Tommye was truly a beautiful person both inside and out and was loved and respected by her friends and colleagues. You sensed her warmth immediately upon meeting her. She will always have a special place in all of our hearts here at the Center. A commemorative brick will be placed in her honor in the courtyard of the Center's facility on Redview Drive, a project she was instrumental in planning, yet never had the opportunity to see. Our sincere condolences are extended to her husband Bob Nolet and their family.

# Center Programs

## School Based Counseling

For many people there is a stigma attached to mental health problems. Parents are sometimes uncomfortable about seeking professional help for their children. Sometimes they are in denial, or they may have transportation problems or other issues that prevent them from bringing their child to a mental health facility. In order to meet the needs of these children, Child & Family Center is striving to provide staff therapists at every elementary, middle and senior high school campus in Santa Clarita.

Larry Schallert, Director of Community and School Based Services, designed the current school based program in Santa Clarita schools, basing it on a model he had worked with during his thirteen years at Verdugo Mental Health. The Hart District staked \$50,000, enough to assign therapists to four local campuses just three years ago. Today, Child & Family Center therapists are at 18 local elementary, middle and senior high schools. Although there is still a long way to go to have a presence on all 50 valley schools, tremendous progress has been made.

Many of the children who visit the Center are from low-income families or can be served through special education grants. That leaves out 75% of the kids in this valley. The School Based program is truly meeting the needs of ALL the children in Santa Clarita.

Some of the children who are seen on campus have suffered from abuse, suffered through a traumatic event, harbor violent thoughts or have a variety of psychotic disorders. Many just need a little extra support through troubling times. Sometimes they are the “problematic” kids on campus. They may not draw attention to themselves, but they are suffering from anxiety or depression. Therapists can work with them at the school, and later refer them to outpatient counseling at the Center or to a private therapist if needed. If they can be seen early before the problems escalate, it will avoid difficulties for them later on in life.

The program is mutually beneficial for everyone involved.

- By using therapists from the Center, the schools have a local resource for providing mental health services
- Children are receiving quality, accessible services in a familiar, comfortable setting
- By seeing the children early, crises are avoided
- Many children who might otherwise slip through the cracks are able to be helped
- It is fiscally more efficient for both the school district and the Center to share the operational costs
- The community is working together in partnership to improve the lives of the children

However, there are many obstacles, the biggest being funding. “We can’t see kids that don’t have government funding, so it is imperative that we have community support. We have been fortunate to have the \$50,000 in seed money from the Hart School District, and we’ve also received a \$50,000 grant from the Eisner Foundation. But we need much more if we are able to reach all of the students at all of the schools,” said Schallert.

The second barrier is a lack of staff. Without the funding, we can’t hire additional staff to serve the kids who don’t have government funding. Finally, space is an issue. The schools are overcrowded and often there isn’t office space available for counseling sessions. “At one school we were literally seeing kids in a closet of the wood shop, with paint cans around us. At another school we were in a side room near the stage, with the band, dance groups and stage crew right outside. The therapists are very flexible and will make do with the conditions. Our primary focus is to help the kids no matter what,” said Schallert.

In addition to meeting the goal of a therapist on every campus, there are plans to expand the services with anger management groups, social skills groups and parent groups. The ongoing support of the community, the Center’s Foundation and the dedication of the staff ensure that all of the children in Santa Clarita will receive the finest in mental health care.

### Larry Schallert Director of Community & School Based Ser- vices



Larry Schallert, LCSW, brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his position as Director of Community and School Based Services.

Larry became interested in helping children with disabilities because his younger sister had developmental disabilities. He’s worked as a recreation director, school aide and school counselor for emotionally disturbed children. While going to college he worked at a summer camp for disturbed and troubled boys.

“I was drawn to these kids but I realized that we couldn’t achieve lasting success because their family life remained the same. I decided to go into counseling to help the kids and their families” He worked at various agencies for twenty years before joining the staff at Child & Family Center three years ago.

Larry is as dedicated to his family as he is to his job. He is heavily involved in activities with his two sons and daughter, volunteering for Boy Scouts and sports. He and son Eric perform in a band “Simply Marie and the Canyon Country Cowboys”, volunteering their services for the recent Taste of the Town and last year’s Harvest Ride. The family also volunteers for Activities for Retarded Children in North Hollywood.

# Center Board Spotlight

## Robert Veloz Board Chair

Roberta Veloz is the new Center Board chair. As CEO and Chairman of Aquafine Corporation, she is held in the highest esteem amongst her colleagues and the community.

*Philanthropy* is Roberta's middle name. She has dedicated her life to many local organizations, serving the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, Samuel Dixon Family Health Center, Boys and Girls Club, Soroptimist International, and the College of the Canyons. In addition, she generously supports the work of the American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Girl Scouts, and SCV Committee on Aging.

She is a member of the Board of Trustees at her alma mater Whittier College, as well as supportive of programs at area elementary and high schools and the engineering department of California State University, Northridge. In 1999, she accepted the challenge of helping with a capital campaign for both the Center and the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital Emergency Room. She is also a member of the Santa Clarita CEO Advisory Committee for United Way.

She was the SCV Woman of the Year in 1998, the College of the Canyons' Silver Spur Honoree in 1999, the State of California's 36th District Woman of the Year 2000, and is currently the Woman of Honor 2002 by the Betty Ferguson Foundation. The Center is proud to have Roberta at the helm.

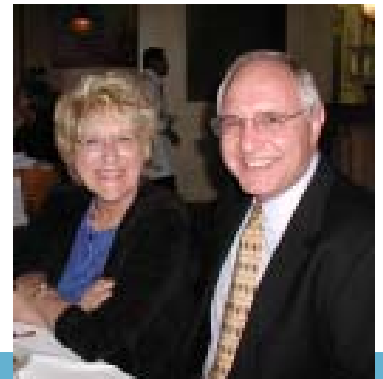
## Board Installation



*Liz Seipel, Ronda Chobanian, Steve Stark,  
Frank Ferry, Millie Jones and Carol Gelsing.*



*Anna Ott and Cheri Fleming*



*Barbara Stearns-Cochran and Paul Frease*



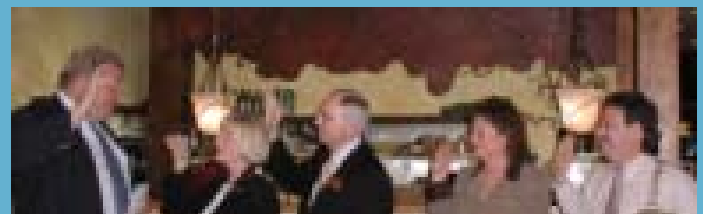
*Mayor Frank Ferry performed the installation for the Center and Foundation Boards on Monday, April 15.*

*Pictured above, Center Executive Board: Roberta Veloz, Chair; Paul Frease, Secretary; Bob Lee, Treasurer; and Wes Toy, Vice Chair.*



*Incoming Foundation Board Treasurer Jeff Hacker,  
Kiki Hacker and Frank Kleeman.*

*Right, the incoming Foundation Executive Board: Cheri Fleming, Chair; Paul Frease, Vice Chair; Charlotte Kleeman, Secretary; Jeff Hacker, Treasurer.*



# Child & Family Center Foundation

## Foundation

### Board of Directors

Cheri Fleming, *Chair*  
Valencia Acura  
Carol Gelsinger, *President*  
Child & Family Center Foundation  
Paul Frease, *Vice Chair*  
Carlson Wagonlit Travel  
Charlotte Kleeman, *Secretary*  
Community Member  
Jeff Hacker, *Treasurer*  
Hacker, Kanowsky & Braly, LLP  
Alan Barbakow, DDS  
Chris Blazey, CPA  
Blazey Accountancy Corp.  
Lisa Burke  
Santa Clarita Concessions  
Joyce Carson  
Sulphur Springs Elementary School  
Ronda Chobanian  
ReMax of Valencia  
William Cooper  
Castaic Lake Water Agency  
Robert DiPrimio  
Valencia Water Company  
William Groves, MD  
Facey Medical Group  
Elizabeth Hopp  
City National Bank  
Janice Hoskinson  
Valencia Professional Services  
Christopher Ingram  
Morgan Stanley  
Debbie Krawczyk  
Fast Frame  
Ken Kreyenhagen  
Retired CEO Titan Research  
Nicholas Lentini  
Transamerica Occidental Life  
Pam McGuire  
Realty Executives  
Ethel Nakutin  
The Signal Newspaper  
Paula Nichols  
DynaMedia  
Gail Ortiz  
City of Santa Clarita  
Anna Ott  
Community Member  
Roy Patt  
Litho Sales  
Cory Larocca-Peterson  
Alpha Graphics  
Jeff Pollard, CPA  
Valencia Bank & Trust  
Betty Seldner  
Seldner Environmental Services  
Myrna Shepro  
Realty Executives  
Barbara Stearns-Cochran  
Community Member  
Elena Voshell  
Astro Awards & Apparel

## Time to Tee it Up!

Sun, surf and sand in Santa Clarita? The Center will host its fourth annual golf tournament at Robinson Ranch on Monday, August 12– but this year there's an added twist. It's beach a party! There'll be beach balls, surfin' music, and fun in the sun!

AutoNation is again the title sponsor of the tournament. Randy and Anna Ott are dinner sponsors, Jeff Kreitzman is trophy sponsor, and Corky Knight of Northwestern Mutual is a \$10,000 hole in one sponsor. Gold sponsors include Blue Barrel Disposal, China Manufacturers Alliance and Valencia Acura. Capital Office Products is a silver sponsor.

This year's venue of Robinson Ranch promises to be even better than before. The course is rapidly becoming known as one of the Southland's premier courses. So sign up early – it's sure to be a sellout! Contact the Foundation office 661-255-6847 ext. 3072 for details on sponsorships and player spots.

## Second Annual Harvest Ride

Save the date for the second annual Harvest Ride, Sunday September 29. Last year's event was an overwhelming success, with over 500 people participating. This year promises to be even better. Chris Ingram and Pam Ingram are event co-chairs. If you would like to help plan this exciting fundraiser, or want more information, visit the website at [www.harvestride.org](http://www.harvestride.org), or call the Center at 255-6847 ext. 3072.



## Do you have Will Power?

Did you know that you could leave a lasting legacy by specifying distribution of your assets through your will? Bequests to Child & Family Center, or another 501c3 charity, are not taxable as part of your estate.

There are many options and methods for making a bequest. Together with your attorney you should choose the type that best suits your personal objectives. For example, a bequest could be a stated dollar amount, or it could be a specific property or asset. Your bequest could be immediate, or contingent upon non-survival of preferred beneficiaries (such as your spouse).

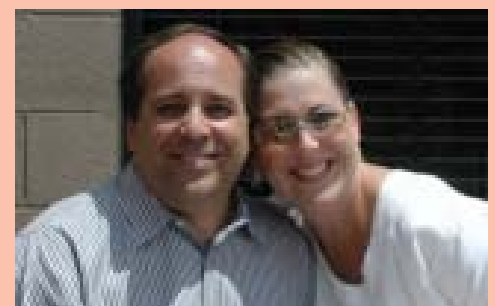
You can direct your bequest to be used for the general needs of the Center, or for a specific field of interest. Whatever method of giving you use, and whatever amount you choose to give, thank you for being a part of our community of support.

For further information, contact Carol Gelsinger 255-6847 ext. 3016.

## Thanking Our Volunteers



The Center's Foundation held a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 25, in recognition of National Volunteer Week. Pictured clockwise from top are Sharyn Buncick, board member Paula Nichols, Linda Moss, Mary Beblman, and board members Ronda Chobanian and Bob DiPrimio.



# Foundation Board Spotlight

## Cheri Fleming Board Chair

Cheri Fleming is the new Chair for the Foundation Board. Her name and face, along with her pet shitzus Scooter and Sparkplug, are familiar to everyone in Santa Clarita. She and husband Don, owners of Valencia Acura, spread their philanthropy and dedication to many non-profits in the valley, serving on the Boards of several local organizations. Cheri is the President-elect of Soroptimist International of Santa Clarita Valley and is the current Chair for the Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital Foundation Board.

“I’m proud to be the Chair for Child & Family Center Foundation. We have some great plans for the coming year,” said Cheri. “We want to increase the revenue from our fundraising events, and are off to a great start with the recent success of Taste of the Town. I’m hoping that everyone in the community will get behind our golf tournament at Robinson Ranch coming up in August, and our Harvest Ride the end of September. It’s amazing the level of support we have from businesses and volunteers. We could never do it without everyone’s help!”

Cheri and her Board are planning to focus on developing an endowment program, which will enable the Foundation to invest funds and ensure the long-term stability of the Center. In addition, a “Corporate Family Program” will be unveiled to local corporations, encouraging their annual commitment to the Center’s programs. “We are also working hard to increase the visibility in the community, so that every family is aware of the vital resources the Center has to offer the children in Santa Clarita,” Cheri said.

Together Cheri and Don continue to pour their energy into raising funds for the Center. Don has co-chaired the golf tournament, and is always a favorite as auctioneer at various Center events. Both have been key in garnering community support, and Valencia Acura participates as a sponsor in every event. Cheri’s enthusiasm is contagious, and the Foundation is certain to prosper under her leadership.



### Child & Family Center

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