

The Imagine LA Times

Fall 2011

A Message from Jill...

I've heard it said that there are a number of pillars to "newsworthiness" – impact and novelty being a couple. Another is the pillar of timeliness. In other words, is the news *new*? As we write *The Imagine LA Times* each quarter, we strive to engage you with stories that fit into these pillars of newsworthiness and give you a picture of what's happening at Imagine LA *right now*. So, without further ado, here's a little summary of what you'll find as you read on:

- **New families** – Ten new families are currently in the process of being matched with their Faith Partner Teams, and at least two more will join the program by the end of the year.
- **New leadership** – Imagine LA's staff has grown to include two more Family Team Managers and some extra help in the faith outreach area; we've also added another amazing member to our Board of Directors.
- **New funding** – In addition to a very successful fall event (our Dinner With a View netted well over \$100,000!), several new foundations and organizations have offered us generous funding.

And that's not all! This edition will also introduce you to some of our volunteers and family members as well as the tremendous work they're doing. So read on, Imagine LA supporters, and enjoy!

Fondly,



Jill

DON'T MISS OUT...

Walk with us to End Homelessness

Imagine LA invites you to join our team for United Way's annual HomeWalk: a 5k walk in support of ending homelessness in Los Angeles. The walk will take place on Saturday, November 19, at Exposition Park. Go to [Imagine LA's Team Page](#) to join our team and support our efforts!

Mentorship Training Opportunity

Imagine LA has launched a new program to support our Faith Partner Volunteer Teams. We will be holding quarterly Mentorship Roundtables for Imagine LA mentors to attend. These will provide training and discussion time for mentors from different Faith Partner Teams to come together, compare experiences and hone their mentorship skills.

2012 Celebration of Family

Mark your calendars! It may seem like a long way off, but we all know how the time flies! So save the date for next year's Celebration of Family on Sunday, May 20. This year's celebration will be bigger and more spectacular than ever – you don't want to miss it!

For more information on these and other upcoming events and opportunities, please email lisaj@imaginelo.org or call 323.944.0210.

Imagine LA thanks the generous support of:

The Ahmanson Foundation, The Anderson-Somes Family, Bank of America, John & Judy Bedrosian, Bel Air Presbyterian Church, Sean Burton & Homes for L.A. Families, California Community Foundation, The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation, CapitalSource Bank, John W. Carson Foundation, CB Richard Ellis, Bruce Corwin, Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation, John Emerson, Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation, First Republic Bank, Susan & Evan Friedman, GUESS? Inc., Morris A. Hazan Family Foundation, Clarence E. Heller Foundation, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Hoag Family Foundation, Jewish Community Foundation, Karisma Foundation, Karin L. Larson, Dana & Paul Kiesel, Law Offices of Lisa L. Maki, Los Angeles Trial Lawyers' Charities, Steve & Joni Martino, Brian & Leslie Matthews, Nickelodeon, Jeri O'Donnell & Don Spradlin, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, Bruce & Marleen Rognlien, The Rose Hills Foundation, Nancy & Brad Rosenberg, Todd & Donna Rosenberg, S. Mark Taper Foundation, Thomas Safran & Associates, The Scott Group of Merrill Lynch, United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Van Nuys Charities, Venable LLP, Reese Witherspoon, LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, DJ & Elizabeth Young, Zukin Family Foundation and our amazing Board of Directors.

Program Update

From the Eyes of a Mentor...



Dennis Hill, an actor and former mentee in a 'Big Brothers' program, has volunteered with Imagine LA for about 18 months as a mentor to Francisco, a teen whose family participates in the Imagine LA program. Dennis was eager to share his experience with our program, and we're thrilled to share his perspective with you!

My experience with Imagine LA has shown all the signs of a promising and fulfilling relationship with my community. Imagine LA has provided a very supportive way to "pay it forward," teach and encourage the ones around us. I know firsthand how effectively an intelligent and caring organization can spark change in the world, and for that Imagine LA will always have my support. I look forward to being a part of that change with them.

- Dennis Hill

Check out Imagine LA and "like" us on Facebook!

Exciting News

Dinner With a View a Smash Hit!

Imagine LA's Dinner With a View was a major success! **The event, held Saturday, November 5, on the top floor of the Hotel Angeleno, brought together nearly 150 people and raised more than \$115,000!** It featured a Cocktail Hour, Silent Auction, live music, fantastic food and, of course, stunning views of Los Angeles. Making the evening even more special was the presentation of awards: Dana Kiesel, PhD, was honored with the Inspiration & Impact Award for her extraordinary work on behalf of Imagine LA; and the Cervantes Family was presented with the Flourishing Family Award in recognition of their tremendous achievements in the Imagine LA Program. The evening was topped off with a fantastic "live auction" emceed by Board Member Scott Sale, MD. **Imagine LA would especially like to thank the Event Committee for their contributions and efforts: Yvonne Benveniste, Dee Dee Dorskind, Amy Peer and Suzanne Robinson.** More information about the event, including a list of our generous supporters, can be found by clicking [here](#).



Sue Wohl, Dana Kiesel, Paul Escoll, Hayley Kaplan and Stacey Raskin



At left, Scott Sale, MD, riles up the crowd during the Live Auction. Nearly \$30,000 was raised for the Imagine LA program.



Program Director Amber Vera Mendoza presents the Flourishing Family Award to the Cervantes Family.



Honoree Dana Kiesel (center) with CEO Jill Bauman and Rabbi Ken Chasen.



Spotlight

Bonnie Mark & Dereck Sonnenburg



Imagine LA is excited to recognize super-volunteers Bonnie Mark and Dereck Sonnenburg! Both have spent their free time over the last four months working to plan, shoot and produce ILA's new informational video. Bonnie has been involved in many facets of the organization – from our first video created nearly four years ago to helping recruit new staff members! Dereck was also introduced to ILA a few years ago when he worked on our original video, and he's done a fantastic job with the new one. Many thanks also to the generosity of Dereck's boss, Richard Kidd of Catalyst Media, for sharing Dereck's talent and time with us! We are very proud our new video and couldn't have done it without these two!



Don't miss out on all the fun – join Imagine LA and Kobe Bryant at United Way's HomeWalk on November 19!!! Become a part of the Imagine LA Team by clicking [here](#).

Leadership News

Amy on Board!

We are pleased to announce the addition of Amy Peer to Imagine LA's incredible Board of Directors – now 18 members strong!! Amy is incredibly passionate about helping animals and the less fortunate in her community, and she does a tremendous amount of volunteer work in support of those causes. As part of UCLA's PAC (People Animal Connection) Program, Amy has trained multiple dogs over the past 13 years that serve as therapy animals at UCLA's Neuro Rehab Unit. Amy has also served on many boards, such as the Education Board of The Junior League and the San Diego Repertory Theater Board. Amy's career began with 15 years of investment banking, but her entrepreneurial spirit and passion for animals led her to start her own, now thriving, business SIT (Specialized Individualized Training for Dogs and Cats), Inc. We are so excited to add Amy to our Board of Directors!



CEO Jill Bauman (left) with Board Member Amy Peer.

Focus on Funding

Grants Galore!

Imagine LA is excited to report that we received funding from the following foundations and organizations over the last couple of months: Edelman, Michael & Irene Ross Endowment Fund of The Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles, The Rose Hills Foundation, S. Mark Taper Foundation and United Way of Greater Los Angeles. We thank all of them for their support of Imagine LA's life-changing work.

Vroom vroom!

Imagine LA recently received a very exciting donation: Lisa Maki, a member of our Board, sold her Bentley and donated the proceeds to us – an unexpected but exciting gift!



Exciting News

Three's Company!

Imagine LA has grown to a whopping NINE employees since we published our last newsletter in August! **We are thrilled to introduce three amazing additions to our team: Jacquelyn Horton, Chantal Duson and Shelley Weitzel!** Jacquelyn and Chantal join our Program team as Family Team Managers. **Jacquelyn** (pictured at left) has worked with the Los Angeles Urban League and the California State Assembly. She is very passionate about motivating citizens to make a difference in their community. **Chantal** (at right) has a background in social work and years of experience working with children and low-income families at Women's Care Cottage, Mary's Shelter and others. Chantal also founded Rescue International, an organization dedicated to helping orphaned children in South Africa. Last but not least, **Shelley** (bottom left) recently joined our staff to support Imagine LA's outreach to faith communities. Shelley is what we like to fondly call a "professional volunteer". She is the former president of the National Charity League's Glendale Chapter and, as the wife of a pastor, she has a great deal of experience working with local faith-based organizations. We are so thrilled to be adding such strong new members to our team!



Success Breakfast



ILA participant Reco Varnado (center) with Laura (far left), Jen and Greg (right), members of the Cornerstone West LA mentor team, and ILA Program Director Amber.

Imagine LA was thrilled to celebrate with Reco Varnado, an Imagine LA participant who was recently honored at the West Side Shelter and Hunger Coalition's annual Celebrating Success Breakfast! Reco and his two young sons joined the Imagine LA Program about 18 months ago. Reco has worked consistently with his Faith Partner Team to set and achieve his goals, and he has been incredibly successful throughout his time in the program. In Reco's words, "Imagine LA has set the foundation for me to maintain the basic skills and discipline for a self-sufficient life." We at Imagine LA could not be more pleased to see Reco and his family thriving, and to commemorate his accomplishments at this year's Success Breakfast!

About Imagine LA

There are over 8,000 homeless families in Los Angeles and 8,000 faith institutions (churches, synagogues and mosques). Imagine if each institution aided one homeless family in achieving long-term housing and self-sufficiency...

Imagine LA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a big mission: To help families transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency through the power of mentorship.

Our two-year mentorship program helps families stay in housing and flourish. It provides the missing link in existing homeless services by addressing homelessness *and* the underlying issues that create it. In this way, Imagine LA works to end family homelessness, one family at a time.

Board of Directors

- Rev. Dr. Mark Brewer, *Founder*
- Brad Rosenberg, *Chairman*
- John Emerson, *Vice Chair*
- Lisa Maki, *Secretary*
- Amy Peer, *Treasurer*
- Ken Braskamp
- Rabbi Ken Chasen
- Dee Dee Dorskind
- Gary Hunt
- Alton Johnson
- Dana Kiesel, PhD
- Shelley Miller, MFT
- Suzanne Robinson
- David Rognlien
- Scott Sale, MD
- Lee Silver
- Charles Sipkins
- Toby Waldorf

Staff

- Jill Govan Bauman, *President & CEO*
- Amber Vera Mendoza, MSW, *Program Director*
- Rebecca Amado-Sprigg, *Family Team Manager*
- Chantal Duson, *Family Team Manager*
- Jacquelynn Horton, *Family Team Manager*
- Lisa Sall, *Operations Manager*
- Miranda Spradlin, *Development Manager*
- Christie Stewart, *Development Strategy & Events*
- Shelley Weitzel, *Faith Outreach*

Faith Partners

- All Saints' Beverly Hills, Bel Air Presbyterian Church, Congregation Tikvat Jacob, Cornerstone West LA, Hollywood Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Islamic Center, Lake Avenue Church, Leo Baeck Temple, New Life Christian Church, St. Cross Episcopal Church, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church of Glendale, Stephen S. Wise Temple, Temple Ahavat Shalom, Temple Beth Ami, Temple Beth Hillel, Temple Beth Shir Shalom, Temple B'Nai David-Judea, Temple Emanuel, Temple Judea, Temple Kol Tikvah, Temple Valley Beth Shalom, Thad's Episcopal Church, Wilshire Boulevard Temple and Zion Temple Community Church

5455 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1001
 Los Angeles, CA 90036
 (323) 944-0210
 info@imaginela.org
 www.imaginela.org