

## Valley Presbyterian Hospital *a committed and valued partner!*

College. Internship. Employment. A naturally sought-after transition for most young adults in today's working world. But, what about those with developmental disabilities? What does their future hold?

For many who complete Tierra's College-to-Career NEXUS program, internships and employment are a reality, thanks to partners such as Valley Presbyterian Hospital.

Since committing to adopt a Project Search Site model more than four years ago, Valley Presbyterian Hospital (VPH) has given students in Tierra's NEXUS Program, the unique opportunity to pursue internships with the potential for employment after transitioning from college. Project Search is a national model designed to give young adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to learn relevant, marketable skills, while being immersed in a professional work environment.

"When Tierra first approached us about creating an internship to employment program, we knew the hospital's diverse departments would provide plenty of opportunities," said Pegi Matsuda, Valley Presbyterian Hospital's Senior Vice President of Community & Market Development. "Managers from Tierra's Community Integration Programs worked with us to match students' talents and skills with the hospital's needs." Today, that groundwork has made Valley Presbyterian home to Tierra's largest internship program and a valued employment partner, who sponsors five interns and employs three Tierra clients.

Candy Zavala, Area Manager for the Nexus Internship Program, notes, "Being selected for an internship is a competitive process.

Candidates must first earn an AA degree or college certificate, and meet certain criteria before submitting their resumes and interviewing. Once accepted, they are required to work four days a week and complete two, six-month rotations. Fridays are spent at Los Angeles Valley College, where interns participate in a Cooperative Education Program to develop business and communication skills. Each quarter, hospital department heads meet with both Tierra and the interns' on-site supervisors to review each intern's progress and identify new opportunities."

"The candidates Tierra sends us have been remarkable," said Victoria Muller, VPH's Director of Revenue. "They all share the desire to work hard and succeed; and, each brings a unique talent to the hospital. It truly touches my heart."

What does a day in the life of a Tierra intern at Valley Presbyterian Hospital look like?

*Continued on page 3*



*Sambreen Sultana at work in VPH's Environmental Services Natal Unit.*

## Message From Rebecca Lienhard, CEO



Spring is in the air, and at Tierra, we've been 'springing into action!' Our vision statement declares, 'We are actively working toward the day when people with any type of disability are fully accepted in our community – as neighbors, co-workers, and contributors to our society.' With all the achievements over the last several months, this statement could not ring truer. When you read the articles in this newsletter about Valley Presbyterian Hospital, Vaughn Early Education Center, Hamer Toyota, and our new board members, you will know firsthand that our local business community has embraced this message as its own. These businesses are now the leaders for other businesses to follow.

*Continued on page 2*

## CEO Message from page 1

Traditional careers are not enough. There are those among us who bring art, culture, and beauty to our world. Therefore, we must strive with equal effort to work towards the day when artists *'are fully accepted in our community – as neighbors, co-workers, and contributors to our society'*. Tierra del Sol's Fine Arts Programs are bursting with events, openings, and exhibitions. For instance, Helen Rae, an artist of the First Street Gallery Art Center, is leading the way with her first solo show at The Good Luck Gallery in Chinatown. This is an incredible moment for all artists, and a true testament to the career opportunities Tierra artists are attaining.

Over the last few months, many have heard me say, "Join me, Stand with me, Work with me." It is simple. Together, we must find a way to sustain Tierra's amazing services.

**We must fill the gap between what the State agrees to reimburse providers and what it truly costs to provide first rate, top-notch services to each and every person we serve.**

Join me, in our Circle of Inspiration Campaign. If you can't join me, then Stand with Me. We need your voice to be heard in the State Capitol and with the Governor. Read how you can raise your voice to Stand with me on page 7 by contacting your legislators. And finally, if you are not able to Join me or Stand with me, then Work with me. On the back of your newsletter, you will find a list of events coming up in the months ahead. We need volunteers for each of these events – set-up, clean up, greeting, etc. There is something for everyone, so I encourage you to get involved.

Join me, Stand with me, Work with me – simple. I can't wait to see what will continue to unfold as we *'actively works toward the day when people with any type of disability are fully accepted in our community – as neighbors, co-workers, and contributors to our society'*.

## New Leadership for Tierra's Board

A warm welcome to Tierra del Sol's newly elected Board Members, Matt Chase, Executive Vice President of Bolton & Company, and Dave Gilman, General Manager of Hamer Toyota. Bringing passion and enthusiasm to their roles, Matt and Dave are longtime supporters of Tierra, both personally and professionally.



As a family member of a longstanding client of Tierra, Matt has always seen Tierra as "a place where miracles happen." In addition to the professional relationship Tierra has with Bolton, Matt has seen firsthand the amazing results the organization brings to its clients and the community at large. "The empowerment and encouragement of the Tierra staff has enriched many lives, and Tierra has taught me that every life has a purpose." As Chair of Tierra's 8th Annual Golf Tournament, Tee off for Tierra, on May 18th at Angeles National Golf Club, Matt has hit the

ground running to make this year's tournament and Tierra's biggest annual fundraiser, the most successful yet.

Dave's support for Tierra is strongly rooted in the 20-year partnership between Tierra del Sol and Hamer Toyota. The collaboration is a true testament to Tierra's mission to integrate men and women with developmental disabilities into society through work, volunteerism, and education. "The Tierra team instills a strong work ethic, sense of pride and high morale among everyone here at Hamer Toyota," relates Dave. But employment is only one way that Hamer furthers Tierra's mission. "The Open Road," a special art exhibition featuring the work of artists from Tierra's Fine Arts Program, is appearing at Hamer Toyota through September. Dave notes, "This exhibition is one of the many reasons why we're committed to changing challenges to opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. I'm glad we can play a part in sharing such an important message with others."



(L-R) Amichai Rubinstein (Hamer Employee), Joe Zaldivar (Tierra Artist), Jose Mercado (Hamer Employee), and Rebecca Lienhard (Tierra's CEO)

## Hamer Toyota and Tierra Present "The Open Road"

On March 22nd, Hamer Toyota of Mission Hills and Tierra del Sol presented "The Open Road," an art exhibition featuring works by the artists of Tierra's Fine Arts Department. Additionally, friends, families, and supporters gathered to recognize Tierra and Hamer's employment partnership, which has spanned more than two decades! Many thanks to Hamer Toyota for hosting such a wonderful event. As CEO, Rebecca Lienhard said "the people standing here with me today are the pioneers who laid the foundation of possibilities for our future."

The Open Road runs through September.



# Valley Presbyterian Hospital *a committed and valued partner!* from page 1

For **Malcolm Batulan**, it's learning filing skills in VPH's business office or greeting visitors as a concierge assistant in the hospital's Environmental Services Department. "Having interns in various departments teaches them flexibility and exposes them to a variety of workplace scenarios," said Patty Supparkpisut, NEXUS Transitions Coordinator.

For **Nina Adel**, it's working in VPH's Financial Services Department where she assists VPH's Patient Representative Coordinator, Diane Smith. "Nina has been a pleasure to work with," said Diane. "We're going to miss her when she returns to school in the Fall, to earn her Bachelors degree in Social Work at CSUN."

For **Desiree Mossakowski and Jared Rimer**, who work in Distribution Services, under VPH Supervisor, Frank Martinez, a typical day may entail creating 40-50 patient welcome baskets. With the help of Tierra's Internship Coach, Lylia Garcia, the two interns have developed a system to ensure timely and accurate delivery of supplies throughout the hospital. Jared, who is legally blind, has created labels for the department's supply shelves with his braille machine. Once submitted, Jared pulls the order, Lylia verifies it, and Desiree delivers the items promptly to each department. "They're quite a team," said Frank. "We haven't had an order wrong yet, and that keeps everyone happy."

For **Steven Chu**, customer service, tracking payment logs and assisting with security are all part of his training as an Environmental Services intern at VPH's busy 800-car parking lot. "Steven's ability to bring a smile to a customer's face goes a long way," said Steven's supervisor, Mario Lopez.

"I know I speak on behalf of all the managers who work with Tierra's interns, when I say, we love the program," tells Trish Price, manager of Patient Financial Services. "While it's an investment, it's well worth it, because we're helping others to grow and succeed. Giving back is so very important."

Success rings true for three Tierra clients, **Sambreen Sultana**, **Francisco Garcia** and **Marius Endewardt**, who have been hired

by VPH during the last year. Exhibiting a strong work ethic enabled these three to get hired months before their internship ended. While Sambreen works in Environmental Services Natal Unit and other areas of the 350-bed hospital, both Francisco and Marius work in Dietary Services visiting about 65 patients each day during their five-hour shifts. Their main responsibility is to ensure that patients' dietary and nutritional needs are met.

"All three of these employees have a way of interacting with patients and staff that is aligned with our commitment to service excellence and satisfaction. Tierra staff and interns truly exhibit our core values, and that's what makes them such an integral part of our team," said Jonathan Wu, VPH's Vice President of Human Resources.



(Top L to R): Marius and VPH Supervisor Dave; Francisco and Tierra Coach Sandi Baranowski; Nina (right) joins colleagues and coaches before a busy day.



## Honoring our Employment Partners

Special thanks to VPH for hosting Tierra del Sol's Annual Employment Partnership Reception on April 9th. Leaders of businesses and organizations throughout the San Fernando Valley were honored for their roles in helping Tierra clients fulfill their dreams of becoming active, productive members of our community through employment. An Art Exhibition and Awards contributed to the evening's festivities, which included recognition of:

### Six Flags Magic Mountain World Changer Award

for innovation and leadership  
in employment integration and training

### Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City Trailblazer Award

for pioneering accomplishments  
in employment integration and skills development

### Valley Presbyterian Hospital Pacesetter Award

for establishing and implementing  
an exemplary internship to employment program



(clockwise): Tierra clients work side by side with VPH staff; Malcolm Batulan greets visitors at front desk, Tierra Coach, Lily, and VPH Supervisor, Frank, team up with (seated) interns, Desiree and Jared; Intern, Steven, and VPH Supervisor, Mario.



# Experience the *Creativity* of

*T*ierra del Sol's Fine Arts Programs operate with the belief that creativity and artistic expression are not limited to physical or developmental challenges. Through artistic growth, there is no limit to the level of expressive accomplishment a person can achieve. Arts bridge communities, and employment offers the platform to self-empowerment. By highlighting education, creative expression, and cultural development, a connection is created.

Year round, unique and innovative artists of Tierra's Fine Arts Programs produce new works and pursue professional careers in the arts by participating in exhibitions, both locally and nationally. Tierra artists regularly collaborate and inspire many other artists and designers, community art and cultural programs, and work with guest curators and commercial galleries.

## First Street Gallery **TILE SHOW 2015** Opening Reception

First Street Gallery Art Center  
250 W. First Street, Ste. 120  
Claremont, CA 91711

Friday, September 4, 2015  
6pm - 8pm

For more details, contact Seth Pringle, Gallery Manager, at [springle@tierradelsol.org](mailto:springle@tierradelsol.org) or (909) 626-5455.

Tierra del Sol Foundation's  
Sunland Studio Arts

## **TILE SHOW & OPEN HOUSE**

**Save the Date: July 18, 2015 10am-2pm**

Tile Workshops

May 30th and June 13th 2015

9-11:30am and 12:30-2pm

9919 Sunland Blvd. Sunland, CA 91040

The Tile Show promises to be a popular event and fundraiser. Space is limited, so contact Maria Jones at 626.590.9664 or via email at [mjones@tierradelsol.org](mailto:mjones@tierradelsol.org) to sign up for one of these exciting workshops. Each workshop is \$10.



# Tierra's Fine Arts Programs

**SUNLAND STUDIO ARTS**

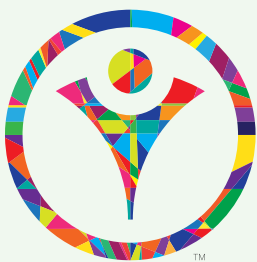
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[www.tierradelsol.org](http://www.tierradelsol.org)



## **Artist Spotlight:** **HELEN RAE**

Helen Rae is an artist who works at First Street Gallery, a Fine Arts Program of the Tierra del Sol Foundation, located in Claremont. Over the years, Tierra's Fine Arts Programs have encouraged the growth of some remarkable artists; artists like Helen, a 76-year-old who has been a longstanding artist of the First Street Gallery since 1989.

Her work, in colored pencil and graphite, is immediately striking for its vivid imagery and resonant use of color. Her drawings exude a strange power and sense of menace. Fierce or frightened-looking women, with distorted figures, often seem to be hiding or escaping in furtive dream-like adventures, emerging out of, or disappearing into ornate floral patterns, shrouded in luxuriant foliage, or on the verge of vanishing into abstraction. Using fashion advertisements as a point of departure for otherworldly journeys into the unconscious, Helen holds up a shattered mirror to the source material, breaking down the images into something uniquely expressive.



Helen's drawings have been featured in numerous group shows both locally and as far afield as Scotland, Belgium and Japan. Helen will have her first solo show in Los Angeles, which is a significant event for an intuitive stylist with a growing reputation, whose singularity will surely gain her wider recognition.

Helen's artwork will be on display at the Good Luck Gallery, 945 Chung King Road, Los Angeles, CA from April 18 to May 16, 2015. For more information, visit [www.thegoodluckgallery.com](http://www.thegoodluckgallery.com).



# Volunteering at Vaughn *More than just Child's Play.*

Volunteering at Vaughn is not taken lightly by the Tierra clients who spend four days a week at the well-established Pacoima Early Education Center.

With over 155 children, ages 2-5, who attend Vaughn each day, teachers greatly appreciate the help and support that Tierra volunteers bring to their classrooms during a 20-hour week. "They're not only an extra set of ears and eyes for us," tells Head Teacher, Carolina Gomez, "they are considered part of our staff. The Tierra clients are wonderful and caring individuals who inspire us everyday."



**Tierra volunteers and Vaughn staff take a "time-out" at recess.**

From taking attendance, to room set-up, naptime, gardening, art projects and more, the team of four well-qualified, childcare volunteer employees is constantly engaged and active.

Tierra's Sunland Community Integration Program Transitions Coach, Minelva Davila, who has been the point person at Vaughn since the partnership began five years ago, plays a key role in maintaining a trusted and professional relationship between the Tierra clients and staff at Vaughn. "The teachers treat each volunteer with respect and admiration and always value their ideas," tells Minelva. "Whether

we're cleaning linen for the children's cots, hanging art work or organizing relay races in the yard, each activity gives the Tierra team a chance to learn valued skills."



**Luis Martinez works with preschoolers.**

For longtime volunteers such as Luis Martinez, who recently graduated to the next stage of Tierra's integration services, being a volunteer employee at Vaughn has been a catalyst in helping him reach the next stage of his life. "Luis has always taken his job seriously, putting the care and safety of the children first," tells Ms. Gomez. "His spirit and gentle ways have touched all of us at Vaughn."

Including Tierra volunteers in everything, from staff meetings to pot lucks and birthday celebrations, is a culture and philosophy that comes from the top. Principal, Sheila Hardy, shares, "We love the Tierra program. I know I speak on behalf of all the teachers here when I say there's a mutual respect for everyone at Vaughn, and the Tierra team is very much a part of that. Inclusion and trust is what's made this partnership a success on many levels."

Thank you to the staff of Vaughn for changing challenges to opportunities for more than 30 Tierra team members who have volunteered at the early education site since 2010.

## Join. Lead. Inspire.

At Tierra, we are inspired every day by the clients we serve. Their struggles and accomplishments fuel stories of triumph, kindness and dedication. Their contributions, through work, volunteerism, education, and the arts, strengthen our communities, empower them, and inspire others to lead a life filled with value and meaning.

Join us as we grow Tierra's Circle of Inspiration—a dedicated group of individuals who are committed to the future of Tierra del Sol. As a charter member of Tierra's Circle of Inspiration, your gift of \$1,000 or more in 2015, will help Tierra continue the critical work that we do throughout the community.

Special thanks to the 100 plus supporters who have already become members of Tierra's Circle of Inspiration. Their generosity will help Tierra reach its \$1 million annual fundraising goal and ensure that Tierra can continue providing high quality programs and services each day.

To learn more about joining Tierra's Circle of Inspiration, contact Cathy Galarneau, Chief Development Officer at [cgalarneau@tierradelsol.org](mailto:cgalarneau@tierradelsol.org) or log onto: [www.tierradelsol.org](http://www.tierradelsol.org)



# Legislative Advocacy: A Call to Action

Family, friends, partners, and staff gathered for the first in a series of three Tierra's Distinguished Speakers Seminars on Tuesday, March 3rd on Tierra's Sunland Campus. Special guest speakers Eveline Bravo-Ayala, District Representative from Senator Robert M. Hertzberg's office, Terry Debell, Registered Nurse and long time advocate from the National Association of Healthcare Advocacy

Consultants, and Steve Miller, former Chief Executive Officer of Tierra del Sol, discussed detailed ways in which our community can get involved and engage their elected officials in over coming the financial crisis facing the service delivery system for individuals with disabilities in California.



## 4 Steps for Legislative Action

1. Go to: [findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov](http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov)
2. Type in your address then click **locate**. Both your Assembly and your State Senate Representative will display.
3. Click on the name of your State Senator. It will take you directly to the link for your specific legislator. Then go to the **CONTACT** tab. Click email (Name of Senator).
4. Enter in the following information under the comment section:

*Please support critically needed increases in funding for people with developmental disabilities. Please sign on to Senator Jim Beall's letter seeking a 10% increase for community services. Reimbursement rates for these services have been frozen and/or reduced for more than 20 years. Without your help, thousands of people will lose their services and their opportunity to live good lives, like everyone else. Please help us. Please sign Senator Beall's letter and let the Budget Committee know that you support the request for funding community services for people with developmental disabilities. Thank you.*

### Daily News

#### Editorial: Restore Funding for Those with Developmental Disabilities

California's community of individuals with developmental disabilities is in crisis, but few outside that community are aware of it. That needs to change, and fast, before things get even worse.

Services for the disabled have been declining since the 1990s, long before the Great Recession. Then, during that downturn, funding was slashed by more than \$1 billion. State reimbursement rates for services have barely budged in two decades, while costs to provide services have grown steadily.

If you agree that individuals with developmental disabilities need more state support, let your local legislators and the governor's office know about it.



Changing Challenges to  
Opportunities!



9919 Sunland Boulevard, Sunland, California 91040

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PRESENTS



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YOUR INVITATION & REGISTRATION

Join us for Tierra del Sol's Eighth Annual  
Golf Tournament!

Monday, May 18, 2015

Angeles National Golf Club, Sunland

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TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS**



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**Mission Statement:** Tierra will work continuously to increase opportunities for people with disabilities to participate, contribute, and succeed as productive and valued citizens of our community. In addition, we will communicate, educate, and advocate to increase our community's understanding of and appreciation for the capabilities of the people we serve.

## Mark Your Calendar!

**Tuesday, May 12**

12:00pm - 1:30pm  
*Sunland Celebration*  
Sunland Campus

**Monday, May 18**

10:00am - 8:00pm  
*Annual Golf Tournament*  
Angeles National Golf Club

**Thursday, June 11**

5:30pm - 7:00pm  
*NEXUS Certificate Ceremony*  
Sunland Campus

**Thursday, July 9**

6:00pm - 7:30pm  
*Distinguished Speakers Bureau*  
Sunland Campus

**Saturday, July 18**

10:00am - 2:00pm  
*Sunland Studio Arts Tile Show & Open House*  
Sunland Campus

**Tuesday, August 11**

12:00pm - 1:30pm  
*Sunland Celebration*  
Sunland Campus

**Saturday, August 29**

4:00pm - 7:00pm  
*Circle of Inspiration Reception & Sunland Summer Art Show*  
Sunland Campus

**Friday, September 4**

6:00pm - 8:00pm  
*First Street "Tile Show 2015" Opening Reception*  
First St. Gallery Art Center - Claremont

**Thursday, September 10**

5:30pm - 7:00pm  
*NEXUS Certificate Ceremony*  
Sunland Campus

**Saturday, October 17**

10:00am - 3:00pm  
*13th Annual Fall Festival*  
Sunland Campus