



## The JSEI Affiliates

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THE JSEI AFFILIATES IS A BROAD-BASED VOLUNTEER NETWORK CREATED TO SUPPORT THE FACULTY, STAFF AND PROGRAMS OF THE JULES STEIN EYE INSTITUTE. THE AFFILIATES PROVIDE OUTREACH TO THE GREATER LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY THROUGH VISION SCIENCE EDUCATION AND PATIENT SERVICES. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON JOINING THE AFFILIATES OR VOLUNTEERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS, CONTACT TERESA CLOSSON AT 310.825.4148.

# THE SPECTRUM

THE JSEI AFFILIATES

SUMMER 2007

We're on the Web!

[www.jseiassociates.com](http://www.jseiassociates.com)



Affiliates Board member Linda Valliant with Garnie before her Canine Companions for Independence "graduation" ceremonies.

## GRADUATING WITH HONORS!

Volunteering and community service have been an integral part of Affiliates' board member **Linda Valliant's** life since her teenage years. In addition to being a founding member of the JSEI Affiliates since 1990, Linda has volunteered for the Methodist Hospital of Southern California, the Blind Children's Center in Los Angeles and the Napa Valley Museum.

The majority of Linda's professional career has been centered on non-profit management and fund development. She is currently employed by **Canine Companions for Independence** and is a Regional Executive Director of the Southwest Regional Center.

In addition to working for Canine Companions, Linda also volunteers as an official "puppy raiser" for the organization. She shared her story about her second dog Garnie, a yellow lab that recently graduated from the training program and is now working with her new partner.

*"Graduation with Garnie was an awesome experience. I calculate that Garnie's success is due 50% to her amazing genetics, 40% to the incredibly talented instructors that worked with her at CCI and the remaining 10% is shared with the (approximately) 100 hands that helped to raise her while she was with me. Her new partner is deaf and she is a teacher of 5th and 6th grade learning disabled kids in Turlock. Garnie will be alerting Lucille when the phone rings, the alarm clock goes off, the fire alarm sounds or when someone calls her name. She will also be teaching the kids a lot of intangible things like trust and responsibility - messages that dogs deliver so gently and lovingly."*

Congratulations Linda and Garnie. We look forward to sharing photos of Linda's next puppy!

## A MATCH WELL-MADE!

Last fall the JSEI Affiliates and its members made a generous \$10,000 challenge grant to support the UCLA Vision Rehabilitation Center (VRC) at the Jules Stein Eye Institute. Not only was the challenge to raise an additional \$10,000 met, but to date, more than \$20,000 has been raised to purchase low-vision aids for the VRC's lending library!



Known as the Affiliates' **MagniVision program**, this lending library collection

allows patients to assess and utilize vision aids before they purchase their own to ensure that the device meets their needs. This campaign allowed the VRC to further build its library of vision aids in order to assist more patients.

**Dr. Melissa Chun**, UCLA Vision Rehabilitation Center Director offered "heartfelt thanks to all Affiliates



A sample of new low-vision aids purchased for the VRC Lending Library through the generosity of JSEI Affiliates and VRC donors.

members who in part contributed to this important program which empowers low-vision patients by making the appropriate technology and training available to help them maintain their independence and improve their quality of life." If you would like additional information on donating to the MagniVision program or utilizing the VRC, please contact us at 310.825.4148 or affiliates@jsei.ucla.edu.

## VISION IN-SCHOOL CELEBRATES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR

The Affiliates Vision IN-School (VIS) program celebrated its eleventh year offering their popular vision safety and education



Dedicated VIS Volunteer, Dr. Alex Yuan, leads a dissection demonstration.

curriculum to elementary students in the Los Angeles community. During the 2006-07 school year, more than 20 VIS volunteers introduced this unique science program to 240 fourth-to-sixth grade students, with

program highlights including anatomy of the eye, eye safety, optical illusions and dissection of a bovine eye.

**Cherie Hubbell**, Affiliates Co-Chair noted that "without the dedication of our program volunteers, we would not be able to reach out and enthusiastically teach this very important curriculum to local students. Special thanks to our VIS teachers who are leaving us this year to further their education, including one of our most dedicated volunteers, **Dr. Alex Yuan**. We wish them the best." If you would like information on becoming a Vision IN-School volunteer or are interested in scheduling a presentation, please contact **Katy Nameth** at (310) 206-7128.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### DOCTORS THAT POWER THE PROGRAM!

Under the supervision of **Leonard Apt, MD**, the Preschool Vision Screening (PSVS) program greatly depends on retired optometrists and volunteers like **Drs. Jule Lamm** and **Louis Rosenberg** to keep our screenings moving forward. The program, which was modified in 2005 to include a certified optometrist at every school screening, has made a significant impact in Los Angeles area, screening over 400 children at 11 different screenings this school year alone. "Having an optometrist at each screening to check for the presence of strabismus and to determine the presence of abnormal refractive errors has allowed the Affiliates to offer a more comprehensive vision screening to many children who could otherwise not afford an eye exam," noted **Cherie Hubbell**, Affiliates Co-Chair. The distance and near vision screening tests are administered by a trained lay person volunteer. If the child does not pass these screening tests, the retired optometrist will re-administer them.



*Dr. Louis Rosenberg (right) conducts a screening evaluation of a local preschooler while Dr. Apt assists.*



*Dr. Jule Lamm (right) and program volunteers (L-R) Robyn Travis, Jennifer Peng and Roxanna Radu greet a student at a Head Start preschool screening in Santa Monica last May.*

Vision problems affect 1 in 20 preschoolers; however most children do not realize they are not seeing properly. The Affiliates provides vision screening to various community locations to identify young children who have refractive errors or eye muscle problems.

"The contributions of Drs. Lamm and Rosenberg to this program are invaluable. The Affiliates board and countless preschool teachers and parents thank these two men for graciously volunteering their time and talents to fill these roles in the PSVS program" said Cherie. "Their presence at the vision screenings boosts the credibility level of the screening results and further allows the Affiliates to serve the Los Angeles community."

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- Brentwood Library, Brentwood
- Grant Preschool, Head Start, Santa Monica
- Edison Preschool, Head Start, Santa Monica
- Muir Preschool, Head Start, Santa Monica
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Preschool, Canoga Park
- Palisades Presbyterian Preschool, Pacific Palisades
- Pine Street Preschool, Head Start, Santa Monica
- Saint Bernadine's of Sienna Children's Center, Woodland Hills
- Temple Ramat Zion Preschool, Northridge
- Washington West Preschool, Head Start, Santa Monica
- Westwood Hills Preschool, Los Angeles

If you are interested in becoming a screening volunteer or scheduling a screening for a local preschool, contact Katy Nameth at (310) 206-7128 or affiliates@jsei.ucla.edu.

## CELEBRATING MOM IN MAY!

The JSEI Affiliates celebrated both Healthy Vision Month and Mothers this past May by hosting their **fourth annual Make Surgery Bearable Ice Cream Social** on Monday, May 7, 2007. Over one hundred individuals visited the tables at Café Med and on the JSEI Terrace to sponsor a Dr. Teddy MD in honor of their mother, grandmother or someone special, and received a free ice cream in exchange. Over one hundred additional donors responded by mail, making this our most profitable campaign yet!

The highlight of the afternoon was a visit from **Kiara Quercia**, a seventeen year-old patient of JSEI's Chief of Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, **Dr. Arthur Rosenbaum**. Kiara, who suffered from a form of strabismus, has undergone eight eye surgeries since the age of six-months and credits Dr. Rosenbaum with saving her sight. "I remember receiving my Dr. Teddy before my surgeries and have kept each of the bears over the years. When I received the notice about today's Make Surgery Bearable sponsorship drive, I told my mom we needed to come by and sponsor a bear in honor of Dr. Rosenbaum who has made such a positive impact in my life."

Dr. Teddy stands 10 inches tall and wears green surgical scrubs to help familiarize children with how their doctor will appear the morning of their surgery. The bear's hang tag is inscribed with the donor's name so the child receiving the gift knows someone special is thinking of them. If you would like to sponsor a bear in honor of a loved one or learn more about the Affiliates Make Surgery Bearable program, please visit our web site at [www.jseiassociates.com](http://www.jseiassociates.com) or contact us at (310) 825-4148.



*(From Left - Back Row) Ice Cream Social volunteers Kimberly Eremic, Sandra Allen, Jill Stuart, Maude Feil, Tracey Tatkin and Ruth Straatsma set up the table for the day's events at UCLA's Café Med.*



*Pediatric patient Kiara Quercia poses with her first of many Dr. Teddies received over the years.*



*JSEI Affiliates Board Members and Program Volunteers (left to right) Mashid Katiraei, Sheryll Mangahas, Cherie Hubbell, Marcia Lloyd and Reina Perez sold over 100 sponsorships throughout the day.*

**Dr. Teddy can be sponsored year round and makes a perfect gift for holidays, birthdays, anniversaries or special celebrations. Contact us at (310) 825-4148 or visit our website at [www.jseiassociates.com](http://www.jseiassociates.com) for a sponsorship form.**