

VINE VILLAGE

Napa, California

Fall/Winter 2008

news

35 YEARS!!!

And Still Going Strong!

Yes, it's true! Vine Village opened its doors to its first residents in May of 1973, and here we are, 35 years later!

Vine Village has been steered by Executive Director, Michael Kerson's continuous vision and management, and our Associate Director, Saanen Kerson, was born and raised here. So we do have a Track Record. It's one of continuous financial concern, but ultimately Survival. And our residents and day clients thrive here. We're proud to be celebrating 35 years of continuous service to this special group of people.

NAPA VALLEY VINTNERS GRANT \$40,000 TO VINE VILLAGE!!!!

The Napa Valley Vintners annual community fundraiser - *Auction Napa Valley* - once again included Vine Village as one of the prestigious recipients. This year The Napa Valley Vintners raised \$7,000,000 for charitable work in Napa County, through their Auction Napa Valley (formerly known as the Napa Valley Wine Auction). Vine Village is thrilled and honored to be chosen as one of the recipients. The money will go a long way toward helping us keep up our high quality program through the year.

U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson & State Senator Pat Wiggins Honor Vine Village



US Representative Mike Thompson presents his Congressional Record Statement to Debbie Kerson and Saanen Kerson



State Senator Pat Wiggins presents her framed Proclamation to Saanen Kerson & Mike Kerson

Both U.S. Congressman, Mike Thompson, and State Senator, Pat Wiggins, attended the Vine Village Celebration this year, and each presented Vine Village with beautiful framed proclamations honoring Vine Village's 35 years of service to the community. Mike Thompson also read his Congressional Statement on the House floor. WOW! We feel so honored and blessed to have this level of recognition. In addition, each offered themselves as an auction lot - Mike Thompson and his wife offered a home-cooked dinner party - and then they doubled their donation. Pat Wiggins' lot was a personal tour through the Capitol to see our state lawmakers at work. Both lots generated heavy bidding, and we are so grateful for them!

The complete wording for both documents are presented in an insert to this newsletter.

THE OUTDOOR GUY

By Tucker Crosby



What a beautiful year in the garden. Although the April Fool's Day freeze set our vineyard tonnage back, we had a beautiful crop for Sterling Vineyards. We harvested our garlic for the Farmer's Market in late May, and it sold out by mid-April. We are planting more this year. With the help of my new apprentice, Joe Hall,

we have put away twenty pounds of sundried tomatoes to sell in restaurants this winter. I smoke them with hickory chips to find yet another reason to be busy by the BBQ. Two of our artists from the Art Program, Michael V. and Juliette M., were a great help in the planting and consumption of our melons, corn, shallots, and squash this year. Great to have their help and great to have yours, too! Come see us.

Holiday Greetings to Friends and Family of Vine Village



Dear Family and Friends of Vine Village:

Today as I was looking out the window at our beautiful valley I was reflecting on this year and our many blessings. I thought of the harvest here in Napa and what it means to each of us, whether or not we are in the wine business. It's a metaphor for our life beyond the cliché of sowing and reaping and it reflects our attitudes to ourselves and others.

Marianne Moore said, "A heart that gives, gathers", and we at Vine Village have been blessed again this year to have had a successful auction and celebration in July, and to have been chosen again to receive funds from Auction Napa Valley to help support our program. Without these two events and the gifts we receive as a result of our year-end fundraising push, it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to continue to serve our residents and members of the community in the ways we have in the past.

We are incredibly grateful to our donors who share our vision for Vine Village and who contribute to keep it alive.

Thank you for all you've done in the past and thank you for what you do now and always.

May your hearts be full of the blessings of the harvest season, and may your holidays bring you peace and joy and love.

Warm Regards,

Vine Village Board President



Executive Director, Mike Kerson and several residents and day program clients helped kick off the auction

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CELEBRATION

This year's Vine Village Celebration was held on July 25 at Chardonnay Golf Club. It was a gala event in a lovely location, and all celebrants had a wonderful time.

Thanks to our Committee for all their dedication and hard work! And thanks to all who came and supported Vine Village at the event!



Clients and staff all enjoyed the Summer's End Barbecue Picnic held on a sunny day this September



FAMILY CLUB RAISES \$10,000!

Once again, Sophie Freeman and the Family Club raised \$10,000 for Vine Village. The annual picnic was tremendous fun as usual, featuring a wonderful barbecue. Way to Go, Family Club!!!



Santa Cruz Vacation

Each year, the Vine Village Residential Program plans a summer vacation for the residents. This year we went to the Santa Cruz Boardwalk. Everyone had a wonderful, thrilling time.

Creative Thinking to Help Vine Village: AUSTIN & CARLA'S WEDDING GIFT REGISTRY EARNS \$\$\$ for VINE VILLAGE

When Austin Bowker and Carla Mink-Valenza decided to marry, they did what most young couples do: they set up an online gift registry. These popular websites allow well-wishers to see what the new couple want, with links to purchase online. Very handy for everyone.

But Austin & Carla did more than just think of themselves: they included Vine Village, with the stated wish that people donate to Vine Village in their name! People did. Vine Village benefitted greatly, and we are so grateful for this thoughtful young couple!

YOU CAN HELP!

Holidays, birthdays, graduations, as well as the passing of loved ones or the loved ones of our friends, are opportunities to show we care.

Often we struggle to think of an appropriate tribute to send. Have you considered sending a donation to Vine Village, in lieu of a gift? It's a personal way to honor your friends' own generosity, and helps Vine Village provide services that bring dignity and well-being to the lives of our valued residents.

Call our office and we'll be happy to send a card notifying your loved one of your gift to Vine Village made in their honor. As always, thank you for all you do for Vine Village.

Here's another idea: **Call Cheryl at 707-255-4006** with your credit card number and make a monthly pledge, which we will charge to your credit card each month. In this way you can make a very affordable contribution to Vine Village, and Vine Village will know we can count on it each month.

ART PROGRAM NEWS

By Catalina Arabia

The Art Program continues to thrive. This is our 11th year, and we keep on creating. Many wonderful things have happened this year.

We are so happy with our new computer (the one we used was 10 years old!), and High Speed Internet connection. Now, we are connected to the world!

On Wednesdays, we are very lucky to have Diego Garcia, who is a drama teacher and a musician, come and share an hour with us, playing the piano and working with the clients. One day, we did the whole "Grease" movie, the songs, the different dances, and everybody had a lot of fun.

Our Holiday Sale was a big success. All the clients love this chance to show the public what they are doing, and when they can make a sale, it makes their day!

We are giving the clients our love, care, and tools for being creative and having fun at the same time. We are proud to be part of the Vine Village family.

If you want to be included in our mailing list you can call me at 255-4116 or email me at catalinaarabia@live.com



Sheila Pressey proudly displays her creations at the Holiday Sale



LIFE INSURANCE:

A simple but important way to help Vine Village

At some time in our lives, most of us buy life insurance, to protect our loved ones in case, God forbid, something should happen to us. As time goes by, our dependents often grow up, become self-sufficient, and no longer need this protection. If your life insurance needs have changed in this way, why not consider adding Vine Village as a beneficiary of your existing policy? Or open a new one just for Vine Village.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like more information about using insurance to help Vine Village, don't hesitate to call us.

VINE VILLAGE FIXIT WISHLIST

Ranch/Grounds:

- Repave the driveway
- New wheel-drive lawn and brush mower
- Fencing for fire-prevention grazing animals
- Vineyard: Replant older, underproducing areas

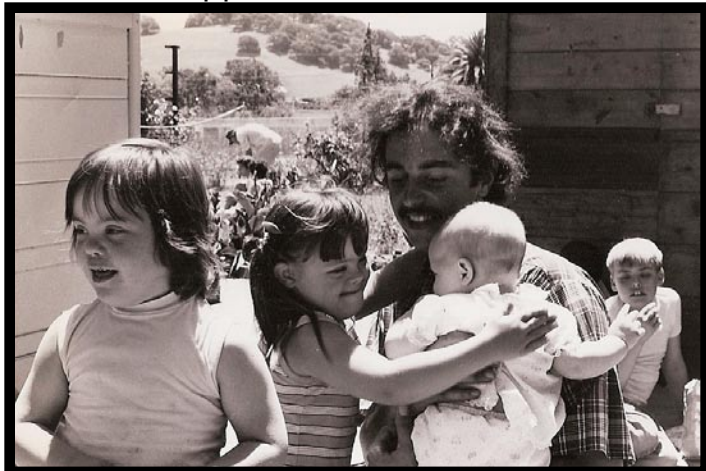
Art Program:

- Digital Camera
- Video Camera
- Vacuum
- Outdoor Exercise Par-Course
- DVD player

Houses:

- Staff room beds - new frames & mattresses
- Vacuum (women's house)
- New couch set (pref. leather) for Men's House \$1500
- New double oven for women's house \$900

A lot can happen in 35 Years...

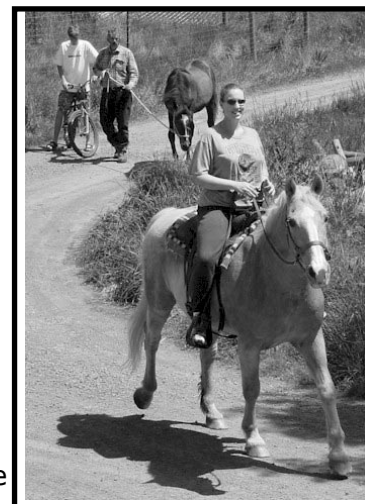


Vine Village Executive Director, Mike Kerson, and our current Associate Director, Saanen Kerson, "on the job" with a group of visiting school kids in 1975



R.I.P Silver 1975 - 2008

Silver Streak the horse was born at Vine Village in 1975. He spent his youth with Vine Village's other horses: Cheyenne, Dapples, April and Flicka, Barbara & Dorothy the Drafts, and Twila's Miss Red. When Vine Village's horse pastures turned into vineyards, Silver moved next door to Mike & Nancy Kerson's, where he stayed for the rest of his life, passing away this fall at the ripe old age of 33. It is always sad to say Good-Bye, but Silver certainly led as good a life as a horse could hope to live. Rest in Peace, good buddy...



YES! I want to help Vine Village!

_____ Enclosed is my check for

\$ _____

_____ Please sign me up for a regular

monthly contribution of \$ _____

Credit Card Number:

Expiration: _____

Signature:

Everyone here at
Vine Village wishes you a
Wonderful Holiday Season
and a
Happy New Year

Vine Village, Inc.
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Vine Village, Inc. is a 501c3 Non-Profit Charitable
Organization.

Our Federal Tax ID is 23-7296716

Keep up with Vine Village
through the year:

www.vinevillage.org