



A promotional banner for Falcon Theatre's '2-Play Laugh Pack'. The banner has a yellow and orange gradient background. On the left, it says 'Falcon Theatre Cultivating Comedy in the Community!'. In the center, '2-Play Laugh Pack' is written in large, bold, white letters. On the right, it says 'www.FalconTheatre.com'. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text 'Weeknight Special! The perfect gift for the laugh-lover in your life!' in white.

Powered by [Max Banner Ads](#)

- [Home](#)
- [Community Watercooler](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Events](#)
- [MyDailyFind](#)
- [About](#)
  - [Publisher/Editor](#)
  - [Contact Us](#)
  - [The Scoop](#)
  - [Contributors](#)
  - [Advertise with Us](#)

Search MyDailyFind...

- [Arts & Culture](#)
  - [Gallery](#)
    - [Gallery Listings](#)
  - [Literary Corner](#)
    - [Literary Activities](#)
    - [Literary Acts](#)
  - [Music](#)
  - [Theater](#)
    - [Theater Listings](#)
- [Family](#)
  - [Activities](#)
  - [Ask Deborah](#)
  - [Kids' Book Corner](#)
    - [Book Events](#)
  - [parenting sucks](#)
  - [The Parenting Coach](#)
- [Features](#)
  - [Down in the Valley](#)
  - [First Hand](#)
  - [Green Tripping](#)
  - [In My Next Life](#)

- [My Celeb Finds](#)
- [My Four-Legged Finds](#)
- [My Valley Leaders](#)
- [My Weekly Deal Finds](#)
- [Profiles](#)
- [Food](#)
  - [Cooking Classes/Supper Clubs](#)
  - [Food Trucks](#)
  - [Markets](#)
  - [Recipes](#)
  - [Restaurants](#)
    - [Coupons](#)
  - [Sweets](#)
  - [Tasty Tidbits](#)
  - [The Weekend Cocktail](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
  - [Fashion & Beauty](#)
    - [Body Talk](#)
  - [Fitness](#)
  - [Home & Garden](#)
  - [Shopping](#)
- [News](#)
  - [Briefs](#)
  - [Real Estate](#)
  - [Stories](#)
- [Recreation & Tourism](#)
  - [Local Fun](#)
  - [Road Trip](#)
  - [Travel](#)
- [Schools](#)
  - [College Prep](#)
  - [School News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Tech](#)

[Home](#) / [News](#), [Stories](#) / It Takes a Village in the San Fernando Valley

# It Takes a Village in the San Fernando Valley

July 15, 2009 by [Karen](#)  
Filed under [News](#), [Stories](#)

 [Print](#)  [Email](#)

[2 Comments](#)



BY TARICE L.S. GRAY

There is an old African proverb that claims: It takes a whole village to raise a child.

The idea of raising a child proposes that a child should be nurtured, taught, and groomed to be a well adjusted person. In the long run, the village expects that child to be an excellent addition to the community.

But that takes work, and parents don't always have the time and tools to get the job done.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are approximately 200,000 residents under the age of 16 in the San Fernando Valley. Unfortunately, the recession has made child rearing even more challenging. That's where the villagers step in.



Jennifer "Jenny" Smith,  
president Family Promise Board  
of Directors

One such organization that helps is [Family Promise](#). It's new to the San Fernando Valley, but has a national legacy that spans over two decades. A faith-based venture that brings congregations together in support of families in need, they set up day care facilities, tutoring, and temporary housing for families who are looking for a way to bounce back.

Jennifer "Jenny" Smith, President of the Family Promise Board of Directors, believes the organization can bring stability to families. "We hope that we can bring some love to families, so that they don't feel like they're forgotten or pushed aside by the rest of society," says Smith.

Family Promise creates temporary living quarters in churches and temples, give the family meals and offers the parents tools to look for employment and housing, all the while helping to nurture the children.

Society as a whole isn't always accommodating to those with a child, needy or not. Although homelessness is an extreme case, managing a play-dates while working 60 hours a week, and enduring a commute that seems eternal, can make the average parent feel as if they too are swimming up stream. Again that's where

the villagers step in.

Places like [Temple Beth Hillel](#) in Valley Village and [ONEgeneration](#) in Van Nuys offer village support to whomever needs it. Rabbi Sarah Hronsky of Temple Beth Hillel believes in the commitment to the proverb ‘it takes a village.’

“Personally the more folks are around is often helpful for families because of where we are in our economic climate,” said Rabbi Hronsky.

Although the recession continues to take a toll on the general community, Temple Beth Hillel remains dedicated to a number of programs and services for children, ranging from religious activities to Boy Scouts. The Temple doesn’t believe in placing borders on its village. Their outreach goes beyond religion, culture and crosses geographical boundaries.



At One Generation young and old play side by side.

According to Rabbi Hronsky, the youth group was instrumental in reaching out to Darfur. Older children at the Temple made videos for kids in the war torn region.

“It couldn’t be a simpler thing,” explained Hronsky, “but they’re learning that there are others out there who have less than them.” The group also reached out to bomb victims in Israel. That compassion is a trait villagers value.

Like Temple Beth Hillel, ONEgeneration in Van Nuys is constructing an inclusive village of its own. The inter-generational organization offers senior services, child care and programs for at-risk teens.

Development Officer Bria Verdugo-Uy witnessed the benefits of a inter-generational nurturing environment personally. Her son attended the center when he was not quite two years old. He participated with the kids and seniors who share their day constructing arts and crafts together, getting together for nature walks and even baking.

The interaction had an incredible impact.

Verdugo-Uy said, “We went to dinner one night and [my son] was sitting in his high chair and this elderly woman came in with a walker, and he actually turned around to her and said ‘hi’. Her face just lit up,

because she was so amazed that this little baby basically was saying ‘hello’ to her when everyone else just turned away.”

ONEgeneration, while establishing its village, is likewise developing a mindset that everyone within the village, local and beyond, is to be respected. It seems to be working. In 2004, ONEgeneration participated in a national study conducted by Dr. Steven Zarit at Penn State University. The preliminary results revealed children exposed to inter-generational care are less likely to show bias against older people.

Judy Hamilton-Cantu, Senior Director of ONEgeneration, believes in the benefits of multi-generational, multi-cultural care. She said the children who were exposed to that, “were able to wait longer for things. Because they somehow picked up some patience working with a population that doesn’t do things as quickly.”

One thing these village focused organizations understand is child rearing doesn’t happen quickly. It is a process. One to which Family Promise, Temple Beth Hillel, and ONEgeneration are committed.

Despite only having seven of thirteen needed congregations on board, Smith is optimistic that the [Family Promise](#) San Fernando Valley chapter will be in full operation this fall.

In the meantime, [Temple Beth Hillel](#) and [ONEgeneration](#) are maintaining their focus on the family throughout the summer, offering day camps, and other programs that will surely help produce a new generation of valuable villagers.

*Tarice L.S. Gray is a freelance writer/editor and former NPR journalist. She’s also an active member of the Writers’ Guild of America, West. Tarice’s blog site is Gray Current. Keep up with what’s current - [www.graycurrent.com](http://www.graycurrent.com)*

#### Share this:

Tags: [Family Promises](#), [Tarice L.S. Gray](#), [OneGeneration](#), [Temple Beth Hillel](#)



#### Comments

#### 2 Responses to “It Takes a Village in the San Fernando Valley”



1. *Wilma* says:  
[July 19, 2009 at 12:22 am](#)

It is great to know that there are such altruistic organizations focused on helping the members of our Valley Society who need it the most.

Thank you, Karen, for publishing this piece: It is informative as well as inspiring!

[Reply](#)



2. [Jenny Smith](#) says:

[July 29, 2009 at 8:36 am](#)

Tarice, thank you, again, for taking notice of Family Promise of East San Fernando Valley, and for including us in your article on My Daily Find about how it takes a village to raise a child. Truly, raising children is a journey, and too often we forget that we're all in it together as a society. Your article helps raise awareness and (I hope) reminds the community that action is an important part of the process.

One slight correction to your article is that we do not set up day care facilities. As part of our organizational plan, we will have a Day Center facility, which will serve as the day home for the families who are guests in our network. There they will work with a social worker/case manager, who will help the families come up with a plan to get back on track. However, we do hope to partner with day care facilities in our area to be able to provide day care to the families who need it.

Family Promise of East San Fernando Valley has received support and encouragement from faith and social organizations in the cities of Burbank, Glendale, Valley Village and Eagle Rock, but only by widespread community support can we succeed in addressing the basic needs of families around us. For more information about Family Promise of East San Fernando Valley, please visit us on the web at: <http://www.FamilyPromiseESFV.org>.

Thanks,  
Jenny Smith  
President, Board of Directors  
Family Promise of East San Fernando Valley

[Reply](#)

### Speak Your Mind

**Tell us what you're thinking...**

**and oh, if you want a pic to show with your comment, go get a [gravatar!](#)**

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website



Submit Comment

- **Don't Miss a Beat**



Subscribe to **MyDailyFind.com** for a daily newsletter about latest and greatest around town. It's free.

Enter your email address

- **FOX GOOD LA DAY “MARIA SURFS THE WEB”  
FEATURED MY DAILY FIND AS “THE PLACE TO GO TO  
FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE SAN FERNANDO  
VALLEY.”**

**Voomerang**  
GO OUT MORE... FOR LESS!

**SAVE**  
50-90% ON FOOD,  
SHOPS, AND MORE!

**EXTRA 15% OFF**  
PROMO CODE: MYDAILYFIND

*Pat Sajala*

Powered by [Max Banner Ads](#)



familyFINDS!  
www.familyfinds.com

LOCAL  
DEALS  
FOR YOU  
& YOUR FAMILY

SAVE  
UP TO  
70%

FIND YOUR  
DEAL NOW ▶

Powered by [Max Banner Ads](#)



*The Bistro Garden*

The Perfect Place for...  
**Sunday Brunch**  
(complimentary Mimosa)

**Prix Fixe  
Lunch & Dinner  
menus**

**Happy Hour  
Private Parties**

12950 Ventura Blvd.  
Studio City 91604  
818.501.0202  
[www.bistrogarden.com](http://www.bistrogarden.com)

Powered by [Max Banner Ads](#)



Powered by [Max Banner Ads](#)



Powered by [Max Banner Ads](#)



Powered by [Max Banner Ads](#)



Powered by [Max Banner Ads](#)



•



Powered by [Max Banner Ads](#)

•



Powered by [Max Banner Ads](#)

•



Powered by [Max Banner Ads](#)

## • Archives

Copyright © 2009 MyDailyFind · All Rights Reserved · [Sitemap](#) · [Advertise With Us](#) · Site Designed by [Juscott Media](#)