





## VICTOR VALLEY ARTS and EDUCATION CENTER (VVAEC) ORGANIZATION PROFILE AND MISSION STATEMENT

Victor Valley Arts and Education Center (VVAEC) was formed in February, 2013 and incorporated on May 28, 2013 as a California Public Service Nonprofit Corporation. We are a tax-exempt, 501c (3) nonprofit charitable corporation. We are also proud to be an affiliate of the High Desert Community Foundation.

*Our MISSION is to enrich the lives of the Victor Valley community by advancing access to the performing arts and educational opportunities that advance artistic pursuits.*

The Victor Valley is identifiable as a large region in the California Mojave High Desert, northeast of Los Angeles, going towards Las Vegas. It is part of San Bernardino County, one of the largest counties in the United States in terms of land mass. Large segments of the Victor Valley, particularly the High Desert, have very high poverty rates (approx. 28%), a low percentage of college graduates and the area is generally considered very under-represented when it comes to arts and culture. Hinkley, the town featured in the movie “Erin Brockovich,” is in this part of the Mojave.

Our organization is managed by a board of directors and has an advisory committee, as well as volunteers.

VVAEC will fulfill its mission through a variety of arts programming and community outreach programs.

- The corporation shall present and produce concerts, lectures, film series, theater performances, and festivals that may include television, radio, web and other broadcasts.
- We will incorporate educational pursuits dealing with literacy, music lessons, clubs, and school media training programs by students and parents.

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- Our long-range plan is to build the first-ever dedicated, state-of-the art **performing arts complex** in one of the four adjoining cities of the High Desert (Apple Valley, Victorville, Adelanto, or Hesperia).

**DOCUMENTATION:** Our Articles of Incorporation, IRS 501c3 tax designation, IRS 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 - 990 tax forms are available upon request. Our 501c3 tax designation is attached. Please visit our website at [www.vicartsed.org](http://www.vicartsed.org) for more information and a list of our board members.



VVAEC: EIN # 38-3909997

# ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

## *EACH ONE / TEACH ONE*

Can there be anything more important than the ability to read?  
We think not.

Living as a **literate** person is probably second only to having employment, food and shelter. And in order to successfully have those things, one's ability to read and comprehend what you read is critical. Being illiterate (not being able to read, or not being able to read and comprehend at a proficient level) can have a negative impact on a person's life...all their life.

Victor Valley Arts and Education Center has begun a pilot program that will bring our tutors into your existing facility – a housing complex, recreation center or senior citizens' center... to offer adults a chance to enter the world of literacy by learning to read or to improve their reading and comprehension skills.

The program is managed by our **Executive Director Davida S. James**.

Following is a brief summary of Davida's qualifications:

### **EDUCATION**

- B.A., English – UCLA
- Penn State Dickinson School of Law
- Certification: California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) Lifetime certification required to teach in California public schools

### **POSITIONS HELD**

- Arts Management Professional (20 years)
- UCLA Undergraduate Admissions Staffer
- High School Teacher (Los Angeles High School)
- Trained Literacy Tutor
- University Public Relations Director
- Newspaper Columnist
- Novelist
- Award-winning Short Story Author

## STRUCTURE FOR LITERACY PROGRAM

- Our tutors will do the training at your establishment.
- We will assess the learners who express an interest in the literacy program to determine their skill level.
- Respecting each learner's privacy, we will determine which learners would prefer one-on-one tutoring sessions and which are okay with group classes.
- Our well-trained tutors will be matched with an adult learner.
- We will ask for a three-month commitment on the part of tutors and learners for each session as the learners progress in skills. The sessions will continue until there is a mutual agreement between the tutor and the adult learner that the learner has reached his or her goal.
- Materials for the classes will be provided – free – by VVAEC.
- Tutors and Learners will be asked to sign an agreement as to their expected conduct and commitment to the literacy program.
- PARTNERSHIPS: We welcome the opportunity to partner with other nonprofits.
- We are recruiting volunteer tutors to work with our adult learners.
- **OUR GOAL:** *We want to help the adult learner achieve their goal.* That might be to learn to read so they can then read a bedtime story to their child or grandchild, help a child with homework, learn to read their Bible, understand a recipe or to read a mystery novel. Our goal is to help them achieve their reading goals.

**Victor Valley Arts and Education Center is a 501c3 nonprofit. We welcome your contributions to help us fulfill our mission in the arts and providing this literacy program. Our goal is for the program to be free to the adult learner. But training and materials cost money. We welcome both private and corporate contributions through our website or by check.**



# PROGRAMMING and OUTREACH

## LOVE LETTERS and MUSICAL NOTES

Victor Valley Arts and Education Center (VVAEC) was awarded a **\$10,000 arts grant** in October, 2013 through its affiliation with the High Desert Community Foundation. The grant was made possible by The Community Foundation serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Of the 34 applications, VVAEC was the newest arts organization of the six that were awarded grants.

The grant guidelines were for an arts project to embrace and advance the diverse way that we experience the arts by reaching low-income and/or ethnically diverse populations that have been traditionally underserved by nonprofit arts organizations.

The grant that VVAEC successfully wrote was to produce the award-winning two-person play “Love Letters” by A.R. Gurney. Residents at some facilities were trained as the actors in the plays. VVAEC also had the play translated into Spanish. Due to difficulties with casting the Spanish-language actors, the Spanish performance did not take place. We hope to present it another time.

The project was called “Love Letters and Musical Notes.” VVAEC is partnered with **Paul Starks of “Parade of Pianos”** to engage some of the low-income music students for whom the nonprofit Parade of Pianos provides scholarships.

“Love Letters” is comprised of letters exchanged over a lifetime between two people who grew up together, went their separate ways, but continued to share confidences. **In addition to “Love Letters” we also presented “Steel Magnolias” for the women from “A Better Way Domestic Violence Shelter.”**

### We presented the plays during the month of May, 2014 at:

- Village Oaks Apartments (Victorville) – low-income housing complex
- Hesperia Senior Living Complex – low income senior housing
- Victorville Senior Citizens Club
- Adelanto Senior Citizens Center
- City of Victorville Activities Community Center
  - (for the women from A Better Way Domestic Violence Shelter)

The major outcome of these presentations was that in our survey results we found that there were people in the audience who had never seen a play before. So it was clear to us that we were meeting our goal of reaching an underserved population. Additionally, at the Hesperia Senior Living Complex we had people using sign language for hearing-impaired attendees.

## PERFORMANCE AT “THE ASPEN” at APPLE VALLEY DEL WEBB

VVAEC was engaged by this private upscale senior living community to perform “Love Letters” for their members in July, 2014.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2015:

- Our nonprofit made a food donation to Hesperia Senior Living Housing this year.
- VVAEC began developing our Adult Literacy Program “Each One/Teach One.” Our pilot program is scheduled to begin in June, 2015 at Hesperia Senior Living Housing, a low-income housing complex for senior citizens in the city of Hesperia.