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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Dedicated Villa Esperanza Services Volunteer Honored**

*Longtime Villa Esperanza Services Hope Chest Volunteer honored  
at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Older Americans Recognition Day*

**BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF – Wednesday, May 17, 2006** – Faye Long, a longtime Villa Esperanza Services Hope Chest Volunteer, was one of the honorees at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Older Americans Recognition Day Awards Program held on Wednesday, May 17, 2006, at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills. The event, hosted by Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Commission on Aging and Area Agency on Aging celebrates Older Americans and their contributions to the community.

Faye Long has been a Hope Chest Thrift Shop volunteer for over 20 years. The thrift shop is run by the “Caring Hearts” volunteer group. Faye dedicates two full days a week at the shop which brings in about \$100,000 per year for the West Region of Villa Esperanza Services, a nonprofit organization that assists developmentally disabled adults and seniors.

“Faye is a wonderful lady who is very invested in the program and helping the clients out in the Hope Chest” says Robert Efford, Director of Villa Esperanza Services West Region. “She is liked by everyone and this is why we nominated her for this award.” In addition to making money, the Hope Chest provides community based employment for people with developmental disabilities. Participants are trained at the store and taught job skills in a retail environment. After learning these skills they have graduated to work in places such as Home Depot and PETsMart.

Faye has volunteered in many capacities while living in the Conjeo Valley. She was very involved in her children’s schools, serving as President of the PTA and a member of various boards within the school district. She worked many years as a volunteer of Los Robles Medical Center and presently volunteers her time at the gift shop at the Thousand Oaks Library.

Villa Esperanza Services offers additional programs in the West Region including independent living and Care Management Outreach Collaboration (CMOC) which connects frail elderly, vulnerable seniors and adults with developmental disabilities with public and private services to help maintain independence. Families are also provided with support and information. Villa Esperanza Services was founded in 1961 by a group of mothers who believed their developmentally disabled children deserved quality care and education. Today, Villa serves over 1050 individuals with disabilities and their families in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. For more information please call (626) 449-2919, Ext. 62.

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