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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Villa Esperanza Services  
Announces Six New Members to The Board of Directors**

*Local leaders join Villa Esperanza Services Board of Directors*

**PASADENA, CALIF – Monday, July 24, 2006** – (Front row, L to R) Damon Sickman of Westlake Village; Kathryn Trimble of Pasadena; (Back row, L to R) Wendy Petry, of Pasadena; Marybeth Rehman-Dittu, of La Canada; Maryann McKinley of Bakersfield and Robert Kricena of Beverly Hills gathered for their first Villa Esperanza Services Board Meeting on Monday, July 24, 2006, at Villa's main office in Pasadena. Villa Esperanza Services is in its 45<sup>th</sup> year serving people with developmental disabilities.

Villa Esperanza Services is pleased to announce the addition of six new members to their Board of Directors. Damon Sickman participates in Villa's Group Supported Employment program in the Conejo Valley. Kathryn Trimble has been part of the Villa family for over 10 years participating in the residential, Dimensions Day Program and Vocational Programs. Wendy Petry is a Police Administrator with the Pasadena Police Department for five years, working the Communications Section for the last two years. Marybeth Rehman-Dittu is the Senior Vice President of BILA, a clothing company in the Los Angeles area. Maryann McKinley rejoins Villa's Board of Directors. She served as Board Chairman from 1998 to 1999. Maryann is a former executive with Wells Fargo Bank. Robert Kricena is Regional Manager, Private Client Services with Wells Fargo Bank.

"Each of these leaders brings expertise and passion to Villa," says Jim McDermott, Chairman of the Board. "Villa continues to attract board members interested in developmental disabilities such as autism. In our school alone, 50% of the students have a diagnosis of autism and 85% of all the students we serve are non-verbal. The issue is of growing concern to our board. We welcome our new members and look forward to a year of great success and impact in the community."

This year Villa Esperanza Services celebrates 45 years of commitment to the community. Villa was founded in 1961 by a group of mothers who believed their developmentally disabled children deserved quality care and education. Today, Villa provides a range of programs that serve a diverse disabled population of over 1050 individuals in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, including children, and adults with special needs associated with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities, and vulnerable at-risk adults and seniors. For more information please call (626) 449-2919, Ext. 62. [www.villaesperanzaservices.org](http://www.villaesperanzaservices.org)