



# the INNER VOICE

November 2004  
Villa Family & Staff Newsletter

Providing Love, Care and Hope for Individuals with Disabilities and their Families

## NOTES FROM DOTTIE NELSON, CEO

We are all relieved that the two-day, very intensive CARF accreditation survey of our Vocational programs is now completed. I want to commend all Villa staff, primarily the Vocational teams in Pasadena and Thousand Oaks, under the leadership of Misty Stiles and Robert Efford, for their great amount of preparation for the site visit. Although we are confident that we will be re-accredited, the official determination will arrive in a month or so. Also, many thanks to all the families and Board members who supported this effort, attended the reception and met with the surveyors.

We are also grateful for the strong support of our families who attended the Annual Client Awards Dinner held on Sunday, October 17, 2004. The families' meeting prior to the dinner was well attended and everyone seems to agree that Villa's staff does a wonderful job with their family members. The primary area that we can improve in is in more direct and on-going communication with client families.

The dinner at Skandia Hall was another full house of around 200 people. Congratulations to all the client recipients of the special awards; and, to all clients who received recognition certificates. Every one was a winner and their enthusiasm is heartwarming for all of us to witness at these events. The clients also received a blue rain poncho with Villa's logo on it. They were very timely as the next day it rained and there were ponchos visible all up and down Villa Street!

Saturday, October 16th was a staff and their families' appreciation day at Calamigos Ranch resort (donated by Calamigos). Although our numbers were depleted because of the cold and overcast weather, the hardy among us managed to play baseball,

basketball, horseshoes and paddle the boats around the pond. The picnic games were a lot of fun and the sun even came out (temporarily) for them. I took photographs of the staff in the egg toss, water balloon toss and three-legged race that I will pass around for everyone's amusement. The BBQ of ribs and chicken was great and many of us ended the day with a hayride. We hope that this will become an annual event.

The Board of Directors is starting a capital campaign committee to begin planning for the current and future needs of Villa. As many of you know, our housing several years ago was in severe crisis, so the Board and management developed a comprehensive housing plan. Starting in 1997 we purchased and/or transformed our community care facilities into HUD-sponsored homes. The plan has been a great success, even as it was a long and expensive effort. The final HUD project, the Warwick/Norgaard home will be completed in early 2005.

Now we need to turn our attention to the main campus to update and renovate completely the school and administration buildings that are all over 50 years old, obsolete and in deteriorating condition. The Board of Directors has initiated a Capital Campaign Steering Committee under the leadership of Jim McDermott and Tucker Grant. The committee will start the planning process which will include hiring a consultant to conduct a feasibility study and an architect to start possible designs for a new Villa. More on the capital campaign will follow in the coming months.

Dottie Nelson  
CEO, Villa Esperanza Services



## the INNER VOICE

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### Help Villa Esperanza save paper!

Have our newsletter sent to your email address each month. Contact [mshelton@villaesperanzaservices.org](mailto:mshelton@villaesperanzaservices.org) to get on the email list.

## Need Holiday Gift Ideas?

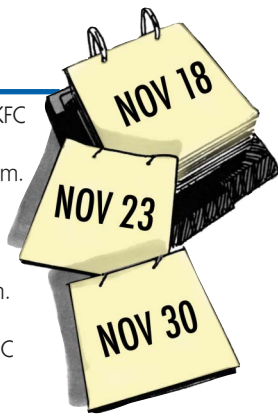


### VILLA ESPERANZA SERVICES APRONS, JACKETS AND CHAIRS!

Show your support for Villa while cooking up your holiday dinners, staying warm this winter, or while sitting on the beach next summer! For a mere \$15 you can own or give a gift of a beautiful Villa apron, Villa jacket or a fabulous Villa beach chair! Act now as supplies are limited. Please call Anna in the Development Dept at (626) 449-2919, ext. 62 for further details.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

<b>5th</b>	ADHC Front Porch Picnic with KFC 12:00-1:15 p.m.
<b>12th</b>	ADHC Talent Show 1:15-2:30 p.m.
<b>18th</b>	Vocational consumer meeting, 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the Braun Center
<b>23rd</b>	Parent Coffee Meeting 7:00 p.m.
<b>25th-26th</b>	Thanksgiving Holiday
<b>30th</b>	November B-Days Party at ADHC with guest DJ "SOS"



Welcome to **Kelly Gregory**, who, as we expand, will be wearing many hats in Vocational, Administration and ILS Programs. Farewell to **Sandra Mendibles**, our Warwick Residential Administrator. She will be missed.

A date to come for an open house in the West Region for clients, staff, family and new potential referrals! Keep posted for further info!

### Care Management Outreach Collaboration (CMOC)

This year CMOC will once again work in collaboration with the Salvation Army to deliver almost 200 hot Thanksgiving meals to those in need. We have been partnering with the Salvation Army for the past 5 years to deliver these Thanksgiving Day meals to homebound seniors and individuals with disabilities.

**Johnnie Wall**, Vice President of Care Management and Community Relations, and her CMOC team are still working to coordinate flu shot clinics for Villa clients and staff in November. We will keep you informed for an exact date.

**Chris Landrum** attended a housing meeting sponsored by the City of Pasadena where they outlined a 10 year strategic plan focused on ending homelessness in Pasadena. We'll keep you posted on progress as the plan unfolds. **Donna McGregor** and **Shelby Chan** represented Villa at the 6th annual County of Los Angeles Health Fair. They provided on-site I & R services in addition to educating the community about Villa's programs and services.

We are happy to have **Keisha Brown**, BSW, from our ADHC joining our care management team on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She will continue to work at ADHC and provide needed client coordination and referral between the two programs.

### Adult Day Health Care (ADHC)

We welcome **Karin Moore**, program aide, **Donice Gilbertson**, social worker, and **Rocki Warford**, LVN to our staff. We also welcome new clients **Diane Ferguson**, **Marlene Woods** and **Bettybelle Graves**.

Also, **Andy Garcia**, program aide, is currently taking a 6 week course to become an Activity Coordinator. We wish him good luck with his studies.

### Volunteer All-Stars!

Villa's programs and events would not run as smoothly as they do without the help of our volunteers. We would like to thank **Graham Keller**, son of our Executive Assistant/Office Manager Nicola Keller, member of Bonita High School's Kiwanis Key Club in La Verne for volunteering at our recently completed Tournament of Hope. Graham will also be studying autism for his senior project, so you may be seeing him around VES very soon. Many thanks, Graham!

We were also grateful for the generous help from members of the **Pasadena Kiwanis Club** and students from **LaSalle High School** who volunteered at our recent Adult Awards Night. Their hard work was appreciated by all who attended.

### Other News

Our Development Department would like to welcome **Anna Cho**, Development Associate (ext. 62), and **Michelle Cox**, Director of Special Events (ext. 28), to the team. We would also like to congratulate **Miki Shelton** (ext. 35), Grants Administrator, who has been promoted to Assistant Director of Development.

Special congratulations to **Kelly White**, COO, on being elected President of Pasadena Civitan Club for a second term!

## DID YOU KNOW...?

You can donate your car, truck or van to Villa. It is tax-deductible and the vehicles donated help provide the necessary transportation to our clients. For more information, please call Miki Shelton at (626) 449-2919, ext. 62.

### OOPS!!!

Last month, ADHC Director **Glen Alley** was incorrectly introduced as Glen Allen. Our heartfelt apologies, Glen!

### Staff November Birthday Wishes:

<b>03</b> Lamar Harris	<b>09</b> Rosa Garcia	<b>24</b> Kimera Burton
<b>03</b> Johnnie Wall	<b>12</b> Michelle Richardson	<b>25</b> Clyde Acabal
<b>04</b> Rebecca Rolfe	<b>15</b> Elizabeth Williams	<b>25</b> Zenola Gibbons
<b>05</b> Melinda Tudor	<b>17</b> David Miller	<b>27</b> Jenny Barnett
<b>06</b> Kevin Bachelder	<b>21</b> Ronyell Taylor	<b>28</b> Gioia Pastre
<b>07</b> Johnnie Turnure	<b>22</b> Stacey Steward	



### Wish List

**Children's Program:** Small tricycles for preschool; computers for rooms 1, 3, and the high school. **Residential:** Chester House needs a phone; Dominion House needs a gray area rug for the living room. **Dimensions:** Large storage boxes; a large CD/radio player; and, due to popularity, a second karaoke machine with CD's. **ADHC:** Blender and mixer for the kitchen, new table cloths, and plants and soil for the front garden. **Braun Center:** Sets of matching dishes and placements, pitchers, and serving platters or large bowls.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Our annual Adult Awards Night was held October 17th, 2004. All our clients were honored, but there were a few special awards presented at the event: **Dimensions Achievement Awards** went to **Gloria Constantinides** and **Michael Esposito**; the **Elene Chaffee Loebbecke Employee of the Year Award** went to **Robert Sorenson** and **Brian Stone**; **The Michael Canter Star Award** was presented to **Mike Bierman** and **James Knowles**; the **Betty DeSantis Residential Award** went to **Steve Weiner**; and the **Julia Stahl Residential Award** was presented to **Earl Brown** and **Patty Powers**. Congratulations to all our clients on their hard work and great achievements!

## CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS

Children & Youth Programs would like to congratulate **Thomas Corona**, who has been promoted to Instructional Aide II, **Libni Ambrose**, promoted to Activities Coordinator, and **Desiree Martinez**, promoted to Lead Teacher of the High School class.

We welcome **Jason Turner**, who is the lead teacher in room 6, and our new Instructional Aides: **Bernice Baltazar**, **Donna Gordon**,

**Hector Murillo**, **Areginae Tolley** and **Gabriela Villanueva**.

The next parent coffee meeting will be held on November 23rd at 7 p.m. Join us to get the latest information on the Children's Program.

Farewell and good luck to **Melissa Kraushaar**, preschool aide, and **Rachel Moreno**, Activities Coordinator. They will truly be missed.



## ADULT PROGRAMS

### News from Dimensions

Dimensions' **Red Wagon Catering** will reach new heights when they cater 230 lunches for the Mayor's Committee Meeting for the City of Pasadena on Nov. 19th. Kudos to the entire Red Wagon team for doing such a great job representing Villa out in the community!

Dimensions will be busy as usual this month, with many activities planned, including a special trip to the El Capitan Theatre to see the film Ladder 49.

We welcome new clients, **Steve Hjelte**, **Kerry Goodman**, **Virginia Meyers** and **Maria Zaninovich**. And congratulations to **Claudia Cortez**, who was promoted to Lead Staff and Case Coordinator for Dimensions!

Save the date! **December 17th** is the date for Dimensions' Annual Christmas Party, co-hosted by the Vocational Program. Mark your calendars now for this not-to-be missed event!



### Residential Program News

October was a busy month for our residential clients. Dominion and Wagner Houses spent a fantastic day at Disneyland/California Adventure. The Pasadena Special Olympics Floor Hockey got into full swing last month as well. In the past our clients have been medal winners, so let's hope they compete well again this year. Go Villa!

Congratulations to staff member **Judith Mwazo**, who completed her Pharmacy Technician Training.

### News from the Vocational Program

Congratulations to Job Coach **Alex Mendoza** on his 3 year anniversary here at Villa.

Mark your calendars, the next Vocational Family/caregiver meeting will be held on December 16th, from 3:00-5:30 p.m. Plan to attend this informative meeting.

### West Region News

Congratulations to client **Stephanie Hughes** on her new job placement at the 99 Cent Only store in Simi Valley. We wish her continued success in the program. Thanks to Vocational Coordinator **Sheila Roberts** and Office Coordinator Michelle Richardson for their hard work in preparation for CARE.

