

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

NOTES FROM DOTTIE NELSON, CEO

It is never very quiet at Villa Esperanza Services, even during the summer months! This past summer was no exception and seemingly busier than usual because of final preparations for the CARF survey, the capital campaign planning study, multiple campus improvement projects, nearing completion of the last HUD home rehabilitation capital campaign project in Thousand Oaks, entering the final phase of the 18th annual Tournament of Hope golf tournament, and planning for the new school year! Whew! And that's not all that was going on!

Let me start with the CARF survey. CARF is the accrediting body for our vocational program but its mandate reaches throughout the organization looking at the Board and management leadership, the strategic plan, finances and policies. The surveyors were here for three days in September. Although CARF will make the final decision within the next six to eight weeks whether we will get a one or three year accreditation, the surveyors obviously greatly influence their decision. It was a positive survey and they indicated that they found no major problems, with only 7 or 8 recommendations which can be readily corrected. The surveyors did say in the exit interview that they were impressed with the involvement of Villa's Board of Directors, the strong management team, and the great work of the staff, specifically the vocational staff.

The capital campaign study report was presented by consultant John Whaley to the Board of Directors at their annual retreat at Mijares Mexican Restaurant on Saturday, September 17th. John and his assistant Carolyn Hom interviewed over 50 community supporters, Board members, families, and management. The focus of the interviews was to gauge community understanding for the need and support for building a new campus school and administration building. A preliminary drawing of the proposed campus and a draft narrative presenting the case for the project were included in the interviews.

The overall conclusions of the study were consistent with Board and management's analysis: 1) There were very high marks for the quality of Villa's programs and staff; 2) there was broad agreement that the campus is in need of capital improvement; 3) the respondents thought that Villa could raise about \$8 million; 4) the development department does a good job of annual fundraising but that more staff is needed to build up the department for a capital campaign; and, 5) Villa needs 1-

2 years of preparation time for a formal capital campaign.

Jim McDermott, Chairman of the Board, will appoint a small capital campaign planning committee that will develop a plan over the next few months. I will present the plan and its recommendations at a later issue.

Please schedule an appointment to tour the campus to see all the improvements with Gioia Pastre, Vice President of Development and Public Relations at 626-449-2919, ext 18. Over the summer the west playground was re-surfaced; the Occupational Therapy Room, soon to be clinic, was renovated and the curriculum lab will also become a computer lab. We now have nine classrooms, 55 students and a staff of 50 teachers, aides, administrators, and ancillary staff. We are bursting at the seams. A future issue will discuss our vision for the future which includes collaborations with partners in the community.

Our major HUD capital campaign project of the last eight years comes to a close with the imminent completion of the rehabilitation of Norgaard home in Thousand Oaks. We raised over \$4.5 million over six years to rehabilitate seven homes and one apartment project! Many thanks to the development department, our HUD consultant Susan Carr, Villa's Housing Board, the families' support, Kelly White and all the Villa staff who made these projects work! Also, a huge thanks for all the Board members over the years who took a chance on this long, expensive venture that ended up working and saving the residential program for Villa! A very special thank you to the former Board Chairmen since 1997: Katie Nack, Maryann McKinley, Tucker Grant, R-lene de Lang, Rita Milostan, and the current Chairman, Jim McDermott!

The annual Adult Client Awards Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 6th. There will be a families meeting with management prior to the dinner from 3:00-4:00 p.m. There is a lot going on so we hope that you will be able to meet with us and let us know your ideas and issues.

Thanks to all of you for your ongoing support!



:: August 22 – October 8 ::

Angel Frames Art Collection @ Zephyr Coffee House & Art Gallery

2419 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena
(between Altadena Dr. and Sierra Madre on the North side of the street)
Be sure to stop by to see the children's art work!

:: Saturday, October 8 ::

Fair Ladies Annual Sale benefiting Villa

at Villa Gardens – 842 E Villa St., Pasadena — 10 am – 2 pm

:: October 10th – October 15th ::

Hope Chest II Holiday Boutique

2412 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 — Special hours 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Come early and save!

:: Wednesday, October 19th ::

Villa Night at Twin Palms Restaurant

Twin Palms donates 15% of the evening to Villa

Upcoming Events

October 5th

Back to School Night 5:30 – 7:00 pm

October 8th

Fair Ladies Craft Sale 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

October 19th

Villa Night at Twin Palms

October 24th

Board of Directors Meeting 3:30 pm

November 6th

Adult Awards Night 4:00 – 6:00 pm

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS

Congratulations to Danielle Rodriguez who has been promoted to Lead teacher in Room 2.

Welcome to our new Teacher's Aides: Alice Allen, Robert Hernandez, Jace Ferguson, Rosa Altamirano, Mary Green, Arsenio Flores, Whitney Barrios, and Monica Vaughn.

Thanks to the Development Department for procuring the following grant funds for much needed improvements and new equipment. The playground has been resurfaced with new 6 ft fall rating soft vinyl surface thanks to grants from the Patron Saints Foundation and the Rose Hills Foundation.

High quality Listening Centers have been purchased for each classroom to help students with auditory training through a grant from the San Marino Community Church Foundation.

Large high quality tricycles have been purchased for use by all students with a grant from the National Charity League, San Marino Chapter.



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE CENTER:

The Hjelte-Phillips Speech & Language Center continues to expand services. Referrals are coming in from local school districts, and over the next few months Speech Director Starla Affatati and her staff, will focus on expanding the specialty programs.

ADULT & SENIOR PROGRAMS

DIMENSIONS:

Congratulations to our client Antoinette Cisneros for all of her hard work in our Dimensions program! We would like to welcome our new client Rebecca Rocha. We would also like to welcome Stella McMahon to our staff.

On September 16th, 70 clients and staff went to the L.A. County Fair, special thanks to Johnnie Wall for coordinating this event and getting free transportation and admission for all to attend from L.A. County Supervisor Michael Antonovich's office!

On Monday, October 31st, we will be having a Halloween party from 11 am-2 pm. We also have trips planned to Descanso Gardens and the movies.



RESIDENTIAL:

Welcome to Michael Gesen, our new consumer in the Dominion House. We also welcome new residential staff: Sandra Ruiz, Johnny Martinez, and Genester Barnes. Kudos to Villa's Live-in Staff (Cora Ramirez, Nora Akabar, Carmen Kviser, Dino Gotladera and Jimmy Manibo) for all of their hard work.

The Brown House ladies went on a fun trip to San Diego. About 25 of our residents will be going deep sea fishing on October 24th sponsored by the nonprofit Specialized Anglers. We hope everyone catches something, preferably a fish!

VOCATIONAL:

Thanks to all of the staff and clients for their hard work in preparing for our CARF visit.

Welcome to Martin Covarrubias, our new Job Coach.

WEST REGION:

Thank you to all of the Vocational Staff for their exceptional preparation for our CARF visit in the West Region and especially to Sheila Roberts, our vocational case manager. Congratulations to Water District Supervisor, Donna Alvarez, for leadership resulting in the extension of our contract into 2006! Congratulations to our Independent Placement client Sean Bruner for his new job at Albertsons!



Welcome Chris Lloyd to the Independent Living Skills Program and Enrique Martinez as our new Beach Crew Supervisor.

On September 17th, the clients enjoyed a great day of deep sea fishing courtesy of Specialized Anglers, a non-profit which charters a boat every fall

and provides each client with a free t-shirt, lunch, and all of the equipment.

We will be having a Renovated Norgaard House Party and a post-CARF party! Details for both to follow.

CARE MANAGEMENT:

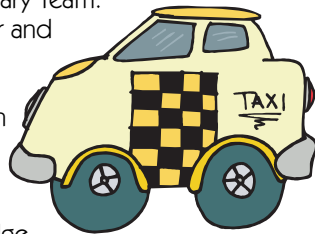
Welcome to Mary Sanchez Bonilla, our new CMOC Director.

Thanks to Cheryl Franco, who presented an overview of case management at the East San Gabriel Valley Multidisciplinary Team and to Chris Landrum and Cheryl for making case presentations to the San Gabriel Valley Multidisciplinary Team.

Special thanks to Donna McGregor and Cheryl Franco for their outstanding outreach efforts at the South Pasadena Senior Center and ongoing coordination of the transportation (TAXI) voucher program.

Welcome CMOC Student Interns: Ara Avedissian, BSW-Cal State Northridge, Helen Kim, MSW-Cal State Long Beach, and Maria Del Carmen Romero, BSW Cal State Northridge. We would also like to welcome Carol Braff, our West Region Office Volunteer who works on Fridays for four hours.

Other events and seminars attended by CMOC staff are: the APS Network/Outreach Luncheon, the NCOA Job Fair, and other staff training events.



ADHC:

We are in the process of transitioning our ADHC into an ADC (Adult Day Care) program with the continued emphasis on serving our seniors in an integrated setting. Some of the current ADHC staff will stay in the new ADC and some are taking positions in other Villa programs. A number of clients will remain and transition into the new ADC, too. We wish the clients and staff who have moved to other ADHC programs the best and thank them for their 5 years of participation in Villa's ADHC. Michelle Hussen, our Dimensions Program Director, will also direct this new ADC.

A special thank you from the ADHC staff to all the families and the participants: we appreciate the affection and kindness shown to us over the years.

VOLUNTEER:

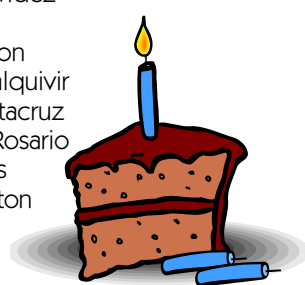
Please contact Joanna at jbaumgarten@villaesperanzaservices.org or (626) 449-2919 ext. 62 for information about volunteering in our programs or have an idea for a project.

OTHER NEWS:

Welcome to Larry Sallows, CPA, our new Controller and Mary Wey, our new Executive Assistant and Office Manager.

BIRTHDAY WISHES:

01 Dottie Nelson	14 Darlene Benavidez
03 Sandra Mendibles	14 Janell Lipkin
03 Vanessa Ramirez	16 Hector Quitzon
04 Elizabeth Trejo	17 Genny Guadalquivir
05 Thomas Corona	21 Margarita Santacruz
06 Andrea Jones	23 Antonio Del Rosario
08 Deserie Areola	23 Arsenio Flores
08 Monica Vaughn	25 La Ronda Saxton
09 Daniel Nalbandian	29 Javier Toyloy
11 Libni Ambrose	



WISH LIST:

Children & Youth Program:

27-inch TVs for classroom instruction

Dimensions:

Halloween arts & crafts, storage boxes, kitchen utensils, blender, hand mixer, microwave, exercise bike, power point projector, video player and software

Vocational:

2 new heavy duty vacuum cleaners

Care Management:

Grocery gift cards from Vons and Ralphs, cash donations, adult sweaters and socks (small, medium, and large sizes), scarves or shawls

West Region:

Donations for Villa work shirts and plants for the Norgaard house



Donate Online and Make a Difference at Villa! www.villaesperanzaservices.org/donate_form.asp

Help us save paper! This newsletter can be sent to your email address by contacting: acho@villaesperanzaservices.org