



the INNER VOICE

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December 2005

Villa Family & Staff Newsletter

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

NOTES FROM DOTTIE NELSON, CEO

Season's Greetings from all of us at Villa Esperanza Services!

As you may know, Villa is a festive place in December! The clients enjoy a number of celebrations including the open houses at their residences; the staff has gatherings in their programs in Pasadena and the West Region; the Board has its annual holiday party at Mijares Mexican Restaurant; and then the families generously contribute towards staff gift certificates that are distributed at another party!

We are not only celebrating the holidays but also the three-year CARF accreditation for our vocational programs. CARF is the accreditation agency that we have to "pass" every three years in order to be a provider of vocational services. Congratulations to all the staff and management who made this possible: Kelly White, Chief Operating Officer (COO), who provided the leadership, along with her team, Michelle De Los Santos, Vice President of Special Projects, and Robert Efford, Director of the West Region, who has been promoted to Director of Vocational Services for Villa in Pasadena and the West Region. They were ably supported by Donna Gonzalez, Case Coordinator in Pasadena, and Sheila Roberts, Case Coordinator in the West Region. A special thank you to our CARF consultant, Fred Dominguez, whose expertise was critical in helping us be successful.

We are pleased to announce the start of a new, innovative and creative program, the Adult Day Care Center of Dimensions, Villa's adult day program. The Villa Esperanza Adult Day Health Care Center (ADHC) is being transitioned into the Adult Day Care Center (ADC) at Westminster Presbyterian Church on North Lake Avenue. The ADC is a Regional Center funded day program that serves individuals with disabilities who have a higher level of need for services than the Dimensions program offers, but do not need constant medical supervision as those who participate in an ADHC. The ADC will have

nursing services four hours each day, and participants will have access to nutritional, physical and other therapies. A nutritional lunch and snacks will be available. The ADC will have a special dementia component; and will be an "integrated" program that includes non-developmentally disabled adults and seniors, primarily those with Alzheimer's disease. Congratulations to Michelle Hussen, Director of Dimensions Program, and also the Director of the new ADC.

One more set of congratulations! Villa's Board of Directors voted in two new client members of the Board at the November Board meeting. We welcome Kathryn Trimble of Pasadena and Damon Sickman of the West Region. They replace two long-time Board members, Stephanie Taylor who moved to New York and Brian Koster whose work hours conflict with the Board meeting times. We wish Stephanie and Brian all the best and thank them for their years of service on behalf of all of Villa's clients.

On another note, this is the last issue of the monthly Inner Voice newsletter. It will be replaced with the resurrected, quarterly newsletter, the Villa Voice (VV). The VV will include articles on Villa's strategic planning and capital campaign plans, as well as other timely topics in the field of developmental disabilities. Please look for the VV in 2006.

Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to read the Inner Voice. We hope the Villa Voice will be of interest to you too. Please feel free to call or email me with suggestions of what you would like to see in the new Villa Voice. My direct telephone number is 626-744-5323; my email is Nelconsult@aol.com

Thank you also for all your support for Villa!
Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year!

Wish List

- Children's Program:** art supplies and books on tape (PreK- 1st Grade)
- Care Management:** socks, scarves, gloves, grocery vouchers, non-perishable food items, smoke detectors, flash lights, batteries, night lights and safety equipment for clients.
- Residential:** treadmill, exercise equipment, dining room set with table and chairs
- West Region:** new landscape truck, new lawn mowers
- Speech and Language Center:** Games, toys, mini-trampoline, large puzzle floor mats, therapy materials, testing materials.
- Administration:** printer stand with shelves.



Upcoming Events

Children's Holiday Program:
Friday, December 16th at 10 am

Children's Program Winter Break:
December 19th through January 3rd

Dimensions Christmas Party:
December 16th from 11:30 to 2:30 pm

Villa Night at Twin Palms:
Wednesday, January 25, 2006

Villa Esperanza Guild Day at the Races:
Saturday, February 25, 2006

The Shakespeare League presents ANNIE:
Friday, March 24th – Sunday, March 26th

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS

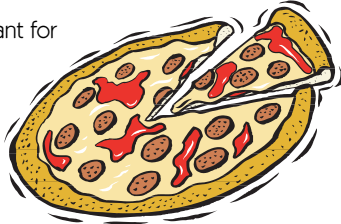
This year's Holiday Program will be held on Friday, December 16th at 10am in the Braun Center.

Winter Break: December 19th through January 3rd.

Thank you to Thomas Corona for his flexibility and good work!

Special thanks to Eagle Scout Michael McGreal for all his hard work on the new Villa Campus Store. Thanks to Michael, the campus store has been painted and has a new stove and refrigerator. Thanks to Michael's mom for all her support and creativity! The Villa Campus Store will be opening in January!

Thank You to Twin Palms restaurant for hosting a pizza party for two of our classrooms. The students had a great time taking a tour of the restaurant, learning how to use the soda machine and making their own pizza. Everyone had a great time!



The Children's Program is pleased to welcome new aides Victor De La Torre and Alexander Bautista and Room 1 Assistant teacher Renee Rivera. Welcome to the team!

Farewell to Patrick England and Jessica Maldonado. Thank you for your good work!

HJELTE-PHILLIPS SPEECH AND LANGUAGE CENTER:

We're growing! The Speech Center staff is currently setting up the new Speech Annex located in the lower level apartment building next door to the Hjelte-Phillips Speech and Language Center. The additional space will allow us to provide therapy in a quieter and larger environment, which will assist the speech staff tremendously with our clients who have sensory integration difficulties and need to have space for movement breaks and who need to decrease auditory stimuli. Kudos to the entire staff for their great work this year!

ADULT & SENIOR PROGRAMS

DIMENSIONS:

We have lots of fun planned for December! Activities include Christmas shopping, a trip to the Los Angeles Zoo and a trip to Downtown Disney. The Dimensions and Vocational Clients Christmas party will be held on December 16th from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Congratulations to Antoinette Cisneros who will be graduating to the Vocational program! Kudos to Miguel Lambrinos who worked so hard and did such a great job, that he is going back to the Vocational program.

Farewell to Hector Quitzon. We appreciate all that you did for Villa's clients. Good luck with your new endeavor. You will be missed!

RESIDENTIAL:

Everyone had a great time at the November 4th Harvest Party. A Big Thank You to all the parents for organizing this event! Thank you to Ability First for inviting the ladies of Chester House to the December 11th Christmas party. The ladies of Chester House are also participating in the "Get Fit, Not Fat" program at Ability First. Kudos to the Pasadena Senior Center for hosting the December 1st Holiday Dinner and Dance. A good time was had by all.



Congratulations to Clyde Acabal, residential counselor, who has been promoted to Administrator of the Murphy/Allen Houses. Good Luck to client Michael Green who has recently moved out of the Dominion House.

Congratulations to our clients Jerome Hemmingway and James Knowles, who received medals at the Special Olympics in soccer.

VOCATIONAL:

The Pasadena vocational clients are looking forward to the December 16th Christmas party with Dimensions.

Congratulations to the entire Vocational staff for the 3 year CARF accreditation!

WEST REGION:

Congratulations to all staff for a remarkable year of growth and service to our clients. May 2006 be even more productive!

Everyone in the West Region is looking forward to the annual Christmas party for clients, staff and families to celebrate. The Christmas party will be held on December 11th at the Norgaard House.

Welcome to staff member Roy Amelcua as supervisor of our City of Westlake contract and welcome back to Phil Barrows on our Las Virgenes Water District landscape crew.

CARE MANAGEMENT:

Thank you to our community partners: the Salvation Army staff and volunteers for delivering meals on Thanksgiving Day to 90 CMOC clients; and, Star Home Health Resources, Inc. for helping to give flu Shots to our clients, staff and volunteers.

Thank you to the entire Care Management staff and interns for the outreach efforts to ensure that the community is aware of the services available through the Care Management Outreach Collaboration. The CMOC staff and interns attended the following events: Cal State Northridge field placement orientation; the Los Angeles County Supervisors' Senior Health Fair at the Carson Senior Center; the APS Training on Elders Abuse; and, the East and West San Gabriel Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings.

OTHER NEWS:

Angel Frames: A Collection of Very Special Art is on display at Amadeus Spa through the end of December. Amadeus is located at 799 E. Green Street in Pasadena. Please stop by and see the great artwork created by the children of Villa Esperanza Services.



Twin Palms "Villa Nights" was a huge success! Thank you to all those that joined us for the evening on Wednesday, October 19th. It was great to see so many familiar faces. The evening raised \$1500 for Villa. Join us for our next "Villa Night" on Wednesday, January 25th.

Thank you to everyone who supported Villa by attending the December 10th "Villa at Vromans Shopping Day". Villa received a portion of all the sales that day. A special thank you to Vromans for supporting Villa!

We want to hear from you! Villa is considering offering a variety of community education events in the next several months. What do you think about this idea? Do you have any suggestions for topics that would be interesting or helpful? If so, please contact Michelle De Los Santos at (626) 449-6919 ext. 69. We always appreciate your support.

We are happy to report that Robert Efford has been promoted to Director of Villa's Vocational Services as well as the West Region. Sheila Roberts, in the West Region, and Donna Gonzales in Pasadena will continue to support Robert in the Vocational Programs.

In addition to Dimensions, Michelle Hussen is also the Director of the new Adult Day Care Center opening in December at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Lake Avenue in Pasadena.

It's official! Next year's Shakespeare League show will be ANNIE! The entire family will enjoy this production. Proceeds from the shows benefit Villa. Last year's proceeds helped purchase a new van for our programs to use. The Shakespeare League of Pasadena is a group of women committed to the community and to the theatre. Show dates are Friday, March 24th at 8:00 pm; Saturday March 25th at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm; and Sunday, March 26th at 2:00 pm.



Thank you to Anne Grant, Caring Hearts President and all the Caring Hearts volunteers for their hard work. This year's Caring Hearts holiday boutique raised \$6,326 bringing the total Hope Chest proceeds for the month to \$11,735!

Congratulations to the 2005 Adult Awards Night Winners!

- Julia Stahl Residential Award:
 - Debbie Nishiyama & Lucy Weaver**
- Betty De Santis Residential Award:
 - Carl Norgaard**
- The Michael Canter Star Awards:
 - Sandy Grant, Steven Shu and David Pisciotto**
- Ellen Chaffee Loebbecke Employee of the Year Award:
 - Keith Johns and Damon Sickman**
- Dimensions Achievement Awards:
 - Kerry Goodman and David Oberlander**
- Dottie Nelson Outstanding Participant of the Year:
 - Terry Pitts**
- Community Outreach Award:
 - Charles Lucas and Linda Lucas**

BIRTHDAY WISHES:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 03 Priscilla Garcia | 20 Sheneze Brunston |
| 04 Nancy Cabral | 20 Cheyenne Gonzalez |
| 06 Nurtaj Akbar | 21 Diana Weise |
| 09 Stella McMahan | 23 Fanny Paulino |
| 10 Susan Snowden | 27 Joyce Duran |
| 13 Kristine Panameno | 30 Kelly Gregory |
| 14 Rosie Trujillo | |



KATRINA ACT PROVIDES SPECIAL WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

Donations to non-profits, such as Villa Esperanza Services, made between August 28 and December 31, 2005 may qualify for special tax treatment under the new Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005.

Generally, for individuals, contributions to tax exempt charitable organizations are limited to 50 percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income. Under this new law, passed by Congress in September, taxpayers may deduct charitable contributions made between August 28 and December 31, 2005 up to 100 percent of their adjusted gross income less other deductible charitable contributions. Any excess contributions may be carried forward for five years. All charitable donations qualify and need not be related to hurricane relief. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.



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Help us save paper! Receive your newsletter via email by contacting: jbaumgarten@villaesperanzaservices.org