



# the INNER VOICE

December 2004  
Villa Family & Staff Newsletter

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

## SPECIAL HOLIDAY MESSAGE: RITA MILOSTAN, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to thank Villa's clients, their families, and staff, under the leadership of Dottie Nelson, CEO and Kelly White, COO, and the management team for a great 2004!

It is an understatement to say that it has been an amazingly productive year at Villa! And although Dottie has kept you informed through this column, it is impressive to see all of our wide-ranging accomplishments listed together: the sale of the Hope Chest, HUD renovation of the Murphy house, preparing for CARF accreditation for the vocational programs, starting the Speech and Language Center and the high school, expanding other programs such as independent living services and community landscaping programs in the west region, developing an agency-wide accountability system, looking at a capital campaign to build a new school and administration building, and the completion of the 2004-2007 strategic plan!

(Whew!)

In 2005, we will continue to implement the strategic plan, including the start of capital campaign; the construction of the last HUD project, the Warwick/Norgaard home in Thousand Oaks; and, working towards becoming a "Center of Excellence!"

We at Villa have much in which to be thankful! Again, we are grateful for your support and we look forward to an exciting 2005!

Happy Holidays!



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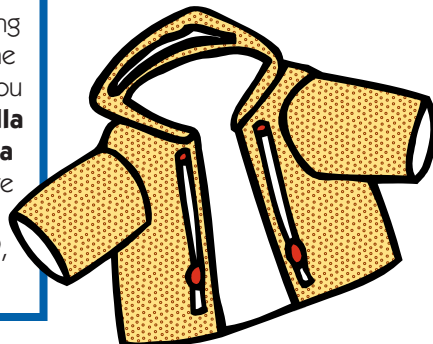
2116 East Villa Street  
Pasadena, California 91107

### 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.

## VILLA ESPERANZA SERVICES APRONS, JACKETS AND CHAIRS!

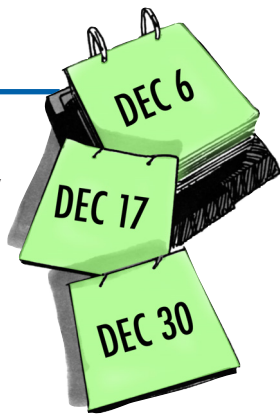
Show your support for Villa while cooking up your holiday dinners, staying warm this winter, or while sitting on the beach next summer! For a mere \$15 you can own or give a gift of a beautiful **Villa apron**, **Villa jacket** or a fabulous **Villa beach chair**! Act now as supplies are limited. Please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



## Need Holiday Gift Ideas?

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

<b>1st-3rd</b>	ADHC Cookie Cutter Week 11:00 a.m.
<b>2nd</b>	Annual Holiday Dinner Dance, Wynn and Chester House, 6-10 p.m.
<b>6th</b>	Annual Board Holiday Party at Mijares Mexican Restaurant, 5-7 p.m.
<b>8th</b>	"How to Stay Safe at Work" consumer meeting, Braun Ctr, 12 p.m.
<b>8th</b>	ADHC John Lennon Remembrance Day, 11:00 a.m.
<b>10th</b>	West Region Christmas Party, West Region offices, 12 p.m.
<b>14th</b>	ADHC Polar Express Party with children from Westminster Church, 11:00 a.m.
<b>17th</b>	Children's Holiday Program, Braun Center, 10:00 a.m.
<b>18th</b>	Dimensions Holiday Party, 11:00 a.m.
<b>20th-23rd</b>	Christmas Movies Festival at ADHC, 1:00 p.m.
<b>29th</b>	Top of 2004 Contest at ADHC, 1:00 p.m.
<b>30th</b>	December B-Days Party at ADHC with guest DJ "SOS"



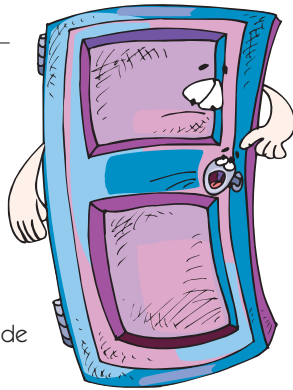
## CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS

The results are in! Winners of the Halloween Door Contest are: Best Use of Children's Art — Room 4; Cutest Door — Preschool; Most Creative Door—Room 6; Scariest Door — Room 1. Each Door Prize winner received a classroom party.

Special thanks to Starla Affatati and Brooke Barrett, VES Speech & Language Pathologists for their wonderful presentations during the month of October. Excellent job!

Farewell and good luck to instructional aide **Rashad Lee** and **Hector Murillo**, Activities Coordinator. They will be missed.

Don't miss our Children's Holiday Program on December 17th at 10:00 a.m. in the Braun Center!



## ADULT PROGRAMS

### News from Dimensions

Many thanks to the Dimensions staff, who provide an atmosphere where interactions between staff and consumers take place with a high degree of respect, caring and patience. Your respect for each other, as a team, is exemplary.

Dimensions will be busy as usual this month, with many activities planned, including a trip to Descanso Gardens and the Arboretum.

Save the date for the big Holiday Party on the 17th at 11 a.m. Don't miss this fabulous event!

Farewell to clients **Wes Scheer**, who graduated from Dimensions and is now working at Foothill Vocational Opportunities, and **Jesus Juarez**, who is now attending our Adult Day Health Care Center.

### Residential Program News

We are starting a parent/family support group for the Independent Living Apartments in Pasadena. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and talk with other parents. If you are interested in participating, please call **Barbara Thorn-Otto** at (818) 954-8530.

We extend a warm welcome to new Murphy House live-in staff member **Edwin Salonga**.



Also, please join us for our Holiday Dinner Dance, held at the Wynn and Chester Houses, on December 2nd from 6-10 p.m. This is a great opportunity to spread holiday cheer with residential staff, clients, other parents and family members.

### News from the Vocational Program

Vocational is sponsoring a **12 Days Before Christmas!** drawing to launch us into the holiday season, beginning December 8th and running through the 23rd. See Misty Stiles for details!

The next consumer meeting is scheduled for December 8th from 12 — 1 p.m. The topic is "How to Stay Safe at Work."

### West Region News

Thanks to new staff member **Kelly Gregory** for her contribution to the rapidly expanding ILS program! Thanks also goes to new ILS staff member **Zach Summerfield**. Zach came to us from the local teen center and is here to help us serve a younger population who seek to live independently.

Congrats to **Michael Richardson**, who just completed the ARF (adult residential facilities) certification! Michael will serve as our new residential administrator in the West Region.

We're also excited for board member **Brian Koster**, who has graduated out of group supported employment and is ready for an individual placement. Brian wants to work in a movie theater!

### Care Management Outreach Collaboration (CMOC)

'Tis the season for giving. Donations are greatly needed this month to provide food, clothing, shelter and care baskets for those who are less fortunate. We are seeking **grocery vouchers** (Ralphs and Food-4-Less are preferred), **clothing, light-weight blankets, scarves, warm foot accessories** (such as socks or slippers) and **canned food items** — and, of course, **cash donations** are always welcome.

### Adult Day Health Care (ADHC)

Like a good party? Then ADHC is the place to be this December! Check out the Dates to Remember for details and join us for a celebration this month.

Congratulations to **Andy Garcia** for successfully completing his Activity Coordination class. Great job, Andy!

We also welcome new participants **Louis Mazariego** and **Zennie Drake** to the program.

### Volunteer All-Stars!

Villa's programs and events would not run as smoothly as they do without the help of our volunteers. Many thanks to **Kenny Donahue**, who, for his Eagle Scout Project, created a **new library** for Villa's Children & Youth Programs.

If you have an idea for a project, or would like to volunteer at Villa, please contact Anna Cho at (626) 449-2919 ext. 62.



### Other News

#### The Philotochos Society of St. Anthony

**Greek Orthodox Church** is holding their annual Holiday Benefit Luncheon on Saturday, December 11th at 11:00 a.m. Over 500 people attend this holiday fundraising event, and a portion of the proceeds go to support Villa's programs. Many thanks to **Irene Albeck**, **mother of gardening crew member, Greg Albeck**, for nominating Villa to be a recipient of this fundraiser! Villa plans to fill a table of supporters—if you'd like to attend, please contact Gioia Pastre at ext. 18.



## DID YOU KNOW...?

Donating personal property instead of cash can yield broad tax benefits. If you are donating an appreciated asset, such as **stocks**, you receive not only the tax deduction, but may also avoid long-term capital gains. If you would like to discuss this holiday giving option, please contact Gioia Pastre at ext. 18 for more information.

### Staff December Birthday Wishes:

<b>01</b> Carissa Coursey	<b>26</b> Tiffany Mayfield
<b>02</b> Elizabeth Phillips	<b>27</b> Joyce Duran
<b>05</b> Agnis Bryden	<b>30</b> Kelly Gregory
<b>09</b> Stella McMahon	<b>30</b> Shanna Sterling
<b>12</b> Jason Turner	<b>31</b> Anna Cho
<b>20</b> Shenee Brunston	<b>31</b> Natascha Hopkins
<b>20</b> Cheyenne Gonzalez	<b>31</b> Ruth Mitchell
<b>21</b> Diana Weise	



### Wish List

**Children's Program:** Toys for Santa to give children; Arts and Crafts supplies.

**Residential:** Wynn House needs new living room furniture.

**Dimensions:** magazines; latch hooks; colored pencils; tempera paint, all colors; paint brushes.

**ADHC:** Fabric of all designs and colors for quilting group; clay and pieces of wood for art class; and plants and soil for the front garden.

**Braun Center:** Sets of matching dishes and placements, pitchers, and serving platters or large bowls.

