

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

## DOTTIE'S NOTES

I hope that you all saw the great article and photo in the Saturday, April 30th edition of the Star News about the Open House and Dedication of the Hjelte-Phillips Speech and Language Center. It was a spectacular success with over 90 people attending, including the Hjelte's two daughters from Northern California and Oregon, and Al Meymarian's daughter Debbie, and friend Jennifer Lewis. Many dignitaries attended and brought scrolls of recognition for Dr. George and Al, and for Villa. Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard and City Councilman Steve Haderlein, both made gracious speeches about Villa as an important service agency for the community.

Starla Affatati, M.S., CCC-SLP, founding Director of the Speech and Language Center, made a wonderfully moving speech about how important speech services are for many children with autism who have little or no ability to speak. She spoke about how she became a speech pathologist to help her own son. Starla gave an overview of all of the new sensory therapies that support speech. Villa is so very fortunate to have Starla on our staff. Thanks to donations, such as those from the Hjelte's and The Phillips estate, and Starla's leadership, the program has already grown to serving both Villa and the community, with four speech professionals. We expect that the program will continue to grow to help meet the community needs for not only children, but also adults and seniors. If you haven't seen the Center yet, please come for a tour.

As Villa continues to expand our programs to help meet the needs of the community, especially for children and youth, we require updated and additional classrooms and space for therapies, as well as administration facilities. As you may know, the Board of Directors has retained a consultant team, John Whaley and Carolyn Hom, of Whaley and Le Vay to conduct a planning study to determine if there is family, donor and community support for Villa to raise enough funds to renovate or build a new school and administration buildings on campus. Over the next two months, you may be contacted by John or Carolyn for an interview, a focus group, or you may receive a written survey. The results of the study will be presented to the Board at the annual retreat in September. We will update you as we go along.

Please join us at our final **Trust and Estate Planning for Your Special Needs Family Member** Seminar on June 15, 4:30-6:00pm at the Braun Center. A light dinner is included. The seminar will consist of a Panel Discussion and overview of the previous seminars. There will also be a question and answer time but we request that you send us your questions in advance. Please email Gioia Pastre, Vice President of Development and Public Relations, at [gpastre@villaesperanzaservices.org](mailto:gpastre@villaesperanzaservices.org) with your questions. We look forward to seeing you at our June events!

*Dottie Nelson*

## Upcoming Events

- June 15 Planned Giving Seminar, 4:30-6pm, Braun Center
- June 23 **Guardian Angels Celebration, 6pm, Twin Palms Restaurant**
- July 6 Villa Nights, Twin Palms Restaurant
- July 30 Launch of Angel Frames, ON Gallery
- Sept 12 Mijares 85th Anniversary Celebration, Mijares Restaurant
- Sept 26 Tournament of Hope, Via Verde Golf Course

## 8th Annual Guardian Angels Celebration

Twin Palms Restaurant, Old Town Pasadena

Thursday June 23, 2005

6:00 p.m.

Join us for a  
Magical Evening  
Celebrating Villa's Angels  
in our community  
who move  
"The Sun, the Moon and the Stars"

For More Information, please contact (626)449-2919 ext. 28

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 9 Children and Youth Programs: Minimum Day (Behavior Specialist, Kevin Bacheleder's band, Sun Engine, to perform at 1pm)
- 16 Vocational Program: Clients' Meeting, Braun Center, 12:30 -1:30pm
- 21 Children and Youth Programs: Last Day of School, Awards Ceremony, Braun Center, 10 - 12pm
- 23 **8th Annual Guardian Angels Celebration, Twin Palms Restaurant, 6pm**
- 27 **Board Meeting, Braun Center, 3:30pm (Open meeting)**



## CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS

We recently opened a second High School class in May, with a third classroom planned to open next September. We appreciate everyone who supported this endeavor, enabling our school to grow to such magnitude.

**Please join us on June 21 for our end of the school year Awards Ceremony. The Ceremony will take place in the Braun Center from 10:00am - 12:00pm.**

We would like to thank all the Children and Youth Program staff for their hard work and dedication they have shown all of our children this 2004-2005 school year; your hard work is greatly appreciated!

We welcome back Instructional Aide, Libni Ambrose, and congratulate her and her family on their beautiful new baby boy! Welcome to Lead High School Teacher Even Espenilla and Instructional Aides, Ishamel Noriega Dayan Arias. Farewell to Instructional Aides, Shayla McGruder and Areginae Toney; we wish you the best of luck.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Dimensions:

We have some fun field trips coming in June including a trip to Knott's Soak City, El Capitan Theater, Descanso Gardens and Santa Monica Beach. For more information, please contact us at ext. 50.

We welcome staff member Kia Walker. Farewell to staff member Merci Mwangi. Thank you for all your hard work.

### Residential:

We had a great time last month at the L.A. Zoo, Ability First's Sci-Fi Dance, and at Cure Autism Now's Walk Now Event. Many of our clients participated in the Walk and had a wonderful time. This month our clients will participate in another dance hosted by Ability First on June 17th. Special Olympics practices continue this month including Track and Field, Swimming, and Basketball.

Thank you to family members, Beth Montanio and Dennis Murphy, for donating a washer and dryer to the Dominion House; we really appreciate it! Kudos to Chester House live-in staff, Gretchen Miller, for a job well done.

We welcome staff members, Fernando Saazar, Susana Salazar, and Mila Carpio.

### Vocational:

The Family/Caregiver Advocacy Booklet is now available at the Vocational Office. Please Call Donna, Case Manager at ext. 24 for your free copy.

### West Region:

We want to thank Vocational Case Coordinator, Sheila Roberts for her continued dedication to excellence in our program!

Congratulations to client, Vicky Gilly, for her new position as a scanner at a law office. Congratulations also to client, Mark Grabowsky, for his promotion to Assistant Manager of the Seafood Department at Ralph's!

We welcome back Independent Living Instructor, Zach Summerfield to our program and new Job Coach, Michael Cahn. We also welcome new client Cody Gardinier to our Vocational Program, and Mindy Goode, Allen Teachman, Anan Frias and Julia Dow to our Independent Living Skills Program!

Finally, we would like to say farewell to Job Coach Sarah Bruno. Her dedicated service to our Independent Living Skills and Vocational Programs will not be forgotten. Sarah has accepted a position as a Special Aide in the School District and will be pursuing her master's degree in Education. We wish her good luck in all her future endeavors.

### Care Management:

May marked Older Americans Month and a Health Fair was held to celebrate this event including free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings. Donna McGregor and Chris Landrum

also attended the 5th Annual South Pasadena Health Fair.

The event was a success and we hope to return again soon!

We would like to thank two of our CMOC clients for their generous donations to our program. Your support is greatly appreciated.

### ADHC:

As usual, we have some very fun activities this month at ADHC. Can you juggle or yo-yo? June 6th is Yo-Yo Day where the best will compete for a prize and June 14th is Juggling Day. We will have a Pepsi-Cola Tasting Party on the 16th at 1pm and a Father's Day Celebration on the 17th also at 1pm. There will be a picnic on the 24th at St. Elizabeth Church at 10am and our monthly Birthday Celebration with Live Entertainment on the 30th at 1pm. Join us for all these events! For information about these activities and more, please contact Linda Berri, Program Director (626) 398-4435.

### Volunteer:

Summer Volunteering Opportunities are available at our Children and Youth Programs and ADHC!

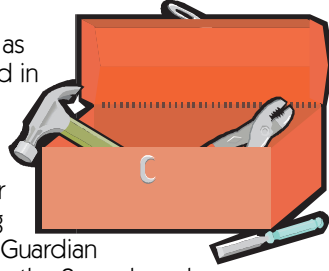
If you are interested in volunteering in our programs at Villa or have an idea for a project, please contact the Development Office at (626) 449-2919 ext 62 or email us at:

[info@villaesperanzaservices.org](mailto:info@villaesperanzaservices.org)

### Other News:

Join us for the launch of "Angel Frames: A collection of very Special Art" on Saturday July 30 at ON Gallery in South Pasadena. Our students of the Children and Youth Programs created beautiful art pieces during the school year with the assistance of professional artists and their art will be showcased for everyone to see! Look for your invitation in the mail. For more information about this event, please contact, Michelle Cox at ext. 28.

We look forward to working with volunteers from **Rebuilding Together** as they do monthly repairs on campus and in our group homes. Thanks to everyone who donated to the **Civitan Special Friends Club's Bowl-A-Thon**. Thanks also to the **Pasadena Kiwanis Club** for their generous donation of two flashing stop signs produced by the Children's Guardian Foundation. These signs will be used by the Speech and Language Center at the crosswalks when bringing children to and from the school to the Center.



## DID YOU KNOW...?

Villa has partnered with Twin Palms restaurant for **Villa Nights**. Four evenings out of the year will be designated as **Villa Nights**; Villa will receive 15% of the entire evening's revenue, food and drinks included. Join us for the launch of **Villa Nights** on Wednesday, July 6th at Twin Palms in Old Town Pasadena.

Twin Palms will also donate 15% of the final bill back to Villa anytime you book a party with them; just be sure to mention that you are there because of Villa! The party must be for 15 or more people and it has to be booked through Twin Palms' catering department. For more information, please contact Michelle Cox at ext.28.

We look forward to seeing you at a **Villa Night**.

## BIRTHDAY WISHES:

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 01 Aracely Martinez    | 17 Ismael Noriega |
| 03 Segundino Gotladera | 17 Jose Rubio     |
| 06 Louis Uranga        | 18 Brooke Barrett |
| 07 Christopher Bowman  | 19 Mark Cornejo   |
| 07 Joseph Gaisie       | 20 Prossy Bulyaba |
| 09 Raymond Arranaga    | 25 Mona Sheahan   |
| 16 Anita Paredes       | 26 Greg Dowdy     |



## WISH LIST:

### Children & Youth Program:

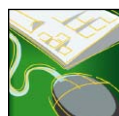
computers, paint brushes, soccer balls, footballs, and basketballs.

**Dimensions:** hand blender, art supplies, storage boxes

**Residential:** treadmill

**Care Management:**

copy machine, laser printer, fax machine, scanner, and grocery vouchers



Donate Online and Make a Difference at Villa! [www.villaesperanzaservices.org/donate\\_form.asp](http://www.villaesperanzaservices.org/donate_form.asp)

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