

## The Dimensions of Giving

Written by Alex Paschal, Villa's Volunteer & Special Events Coordinator

When asked if he volunteers, Carl Norgaard's face lit up as he proudly said that he "helps the Food Bank." Carl started attending Villa's Dimensions Adult Day Program and, like many retired adults, found volunteering gives him the chance to give back and feel the rewards of helping other people while supporting his peers.

Dimensions serves adults with developmental disabilities. Dimensions staff are always striving to offer fresh new opportunities to help our participants grow. The staff teach living skills including how to bank, grocery shop, and utilize public transportation. The participants also enjoy art programs at the Armory Center for the Arts and exercise using yoga, dance or weights.

What many people don't realize is that our Dimensions participants are giving back to the community even more than they receive. They volunteer at the Pasadena Senior Center, Foothill Unity Food Bank, Union Station Homeless Services, and Pasadena Park Recreation as well as helping out with Villa's mailings, school lunches and Campus Store. Thirty participants give over 15,000 hours each year.

"Villa's crew is truly the action behind neighbors helping neighbors" said Albert Rodriguez, Foothill Unity Food Bank Food Services Manager. Dimensions participants help stock the



Dimensions participants (l to r, standing) Maria Avila, Sharon Kuppermann, Delia Velasco, Gabriela Velasco, (l to r, seated) Maria Elena Velasco and Margie Hill while volunteering at the campus store.

food pantry and assemble bags for low-income families. They helped supply a month worth of food to 112 families in only one shift!

Dimensions Skill Instructor, Linda Bustos said that volunteering offers the adults the chance "to work as a team and many of them have become more independent because of the opportunities they have had volunteering in the community." They feel wanted, needed and

appreciated. That team effort shines through while watching how the Dimensions participants each take a role at the Senior Center cleaning after the lunch hour. Jacinto is a pro at washing the countertops and tables, Bill and Dennis take on the dishes while Lisa waits patiently to dry them and put them away. The camaraderie is apparent. They know that they are helping other people in need and are proud of the work they are doing.

Dimensions Program Director, Michelle Hussen says, "when the clients are able to use their gifts and skills to help other people, they gain a fresh sense of independence and responsibility, which often brings increased self-confidence and greater feeling of empowerment, satisfaction, and happiness. Through the work itself, they are also given the opportunity to learn new skills, attitudes, and behaviors that will enable them

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# Message from the CEO



This time of year we are reminded of the many things we are thankful for in our lives. Villa wishes to thank you, our families and friends, for your contributions to our successes. We are thankful for all the hard work by Board Members, staff and others that help ensure that Villa maintains a strong position during these challenging times.

Villa is thankful for the opportunities to advocate for the rights and needs of individuals with disabilities. We continue with our goal of promoting positive change at the local and state legislative levels. Our Advocacy Taskforce is striving to educate and motivate the community to get more involved.

We recently formed a Human Services Forum of CEOs and Board Members from 15 local nonprofits. The group came together on July 29th to share strategies on navigating budget cuts and other issues while continuing to provide quality services. Thanks to Larry Wilson, editor of the Pasadena Star News, who facilitated and then covered the story in the paper.

Enrollment has grown in our School, Dimensions Program and Adult Day Program. We are thankful Villa is here as a resource for families.

As we close out this year, we look forward to the many holiday festivities that will take place here at Villa. The clients and staff enjoy a number of celebrations including open houses, shows, holiday feasts, along with volunteering and creating baskets for needy families.

We wish you all the best for 2010 and thank you for all you do for our very special children, adults and seniors.

Happy Holidays,

Kelly White  
Chief Executive Officer



Thanks for giving!



Winner Michael Conkey proudly displays his award with presenter Damion Lee.



Mike Hale, recipient of the Betty De Santis Residential Award, with Betty at his side.

## CELEBRATING EACH OTHER

Our Annual Adult Awards Dinner celebrating the achievements of ALL our adult clients was held on Sunday, November 8th at Villa's Adult Day Program site in Westminster Presbyterian Church's Morrison Hall. Each participant received a Certificate of Achievement with accolades from each program director. Additional awards were presented to the following individuals for their above and beyond efforts:

- Julia Stahl Residential Awards—Ronnie Reed, Michael Conkey
- Betty De Santis Residential Award—Mike Hale
- The Michael Canter Star Awards—Jonelle Pressley, Alden Marshall
- Elene Chaffee Loebbecke Employee of the Year Awards—Gregory Guerrero, Aaron Blackwell
- Dimensions Achievement Honorees—Suzanne Strothers, Katherine Gomez
- Dottie Nelson Outstanding Participant of the Year—David Brown
- Community Outreach Award—Ms. Lilla M. Wright

Congratulations to all our participants! Thank you to Kiwanis Club of Pasadena and the Pasadena City College Circle K group for volunteering.



Award winner Alden Marshall with his mother.



Ms. Lilla M. Wright with presenter Estela Magaña happily displaying her award.

## LEADERSHIP NEWS

We welcome Charles Bloomquist Villa's new Director of the West Region. Charles oversees all programs and operations for that region.

Congratulations to Villa's Gwendolyn Meier, SLP & Music Therapist, who was recently invited and accepted to serve on the District 7 Advisory Committee for the California Speech-Language Hearing Association (CSHA).

## FUN AT THE COUNTY FAIR



Participants from our Dimensions and Adult Day Program boarded a five star bus, thanks to Michael D. Antonovich, Los Angeles County Supervisor, Fifth District, and headed off to the Los Angeles County Fair. They had a fun day visiting the animals, tasting a variety of cuisines and enjoying the different rides.

## MAYOR'S ANNUAL DISABILITY BREAKFAST



Mayor Bill Bogaard and the Mayor's Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities held their 23rd Annual Awards Breakfast at Brookside Country Club. One of Villa's new employer's, Limerick, Inc. was awarded Employer of the Year.

Jackie Scott, Adaptive Recreation Specialist with the City of Pasadena, received the first ever Special Katie Nack Award in honor of former Pasadena Mayor, Villa Board President and mother Katie Nack. Daughter, Susie Nack, who is a Villa participant helped present this very special award.

## ADULT DAY PROGRAM



Our Adult Day Program on North Lake had a scream of a time during Halloween. The party included dancing, treats and creating Halloween crafts. The group is looking forward to a busy November including visiting the LA Zoo and LA Arboretum.

## SCHOOL NEWS



**PLAY BALL!** — This summer we held our very first Villa Middle and High School Baseball Game at Pasadena's Jefferson Park. Girl Scout, Paige Kunitake, a junior at San Marino High School, loves sports, so for her Girl Scout Gold Award Project she brought her passion to our students. Paige coached and practices were held throughout the summer ending with the "world series". The two teams, Go Getters and Terminators, decked out in donated jerseys took to the field showcasing their batting, running and ball handling to a crowd of more than 40 family members, staff and community members. Thank you Paige and all the Villa Staff for their hard work on pulling off this day at the ballpark.

**VILLA VOLUNTEERS** — Girl Scout Troop #983-1 Cheryl Iwamoto, Melody Bueno, Chelsea Cubas, Rebecca Bloom. All earned their Gold Awards by finishing projects in our Curriculum Lab, High School Classroom, and beautifying the area outside of the Speech & Language Center.



**A GOULISH GOOD TIME** — National Charity League (NCL), San Marino 10th grade Ticktockers hosted a Halloween School Dance on October 29th for Villa's Middle and High School students. NCL provided decorations, refreshments and playlists for the party. Villa students and NCL volunteers danced and enjoyed making new friends.

**A ROYAL VISIT** — The 2009 Tournament of Roses Queen and Court visited again this year. Villa students were all smiles as the queen and court visited each classroom, presenting roses and Halloween gifts.



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Villa participants (l to r) Robert Reyes, Tim Murphy, Carl Norgaard, Mario Juarez, William An, Timothy Brady and Villa skill instructor Linda Bustos after volunteering at the Food Bank.

to function better in society, including aiding in the search for paid employment if that is the direction they want to go.”

Watching the group of ladies in the Campus Store as they help students cash in their “Villa Bucks” truly warms your heart. They support our kids and help them make choices about how to spend their very hard-earned “money.” Our high school student, Cindy proudly came to the window holding her “dollar” and requesting chocolate. When she learned M&M’s or Whoppers were the choices, she started to get frustrated. Dimensions participant, Margie quickly offered “Hot Chee-tos instead?” The smile on Cindy’s face stretched from ear to ear....and so did Margie’s.

The special people Villa serves are faced with challenges each day and Villa is here to provide them with the resources and support they need to be successful. What is most amazing is that in the process of overcoming their obstacles, they are finding ways to help others.



Carl Norgaard



Lisa Lui

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



Villa’s Young Professionals held their first mixer in September and more than 40 people attended with proceeds from the evening supporting Villa.

The next event is scheduled for December 6th at 4:00 p.m. The group will help decorate our adult residential homes for the holidays. Save the date and join us. Contact Vanessa Voors at 626/449-2919, ext. 168 to RSVP.

## GIVING THROUGH YOUR IRA — TAX FREE

Thanks to a two-year extension, you have the opportunity to make a gift to Villa Esperanza Services through your IRA (Individual Retirement Account). You must be over 70 ½ years old and the contribution must be transferred directly from the IRA to Villa. This would appeal to those of you who take mandatory withdrawals but don’t need the income; a gift directly to the charity reduces your reportable income. It is also good for donors who do not itemize deductions on their income taxes but want to make a charitable gift. The new deadline is December 31, 2009. Consult your IRA plan administrator or your financial advisor. For further information, please contact Gioia Pastre, Vice President of Development, at (626) 449-2919, ext. 118.

# Thanks FORE Giving!

**T**hank you to all those who participated in our 22nd Annual Tournament of Hope. We raised \$140,000. The event, sponsored by Wells Fargo, was held at Glendora Country Club and Jorge Jarrin, "Captain Jorge" of KABC's Talk Radio and the Los Angeles Dodgers was the evening's MC. Awards were presented to Richard Byrd, Senior Executive Vice President of Bank of the West, for his commitment to Villa, and to Robert Loebbecke for his volunteer dedication to Villa and the golf tournament. Thank you!



Brij Lal with award winner Rich Byrd.



(l to r) Mark Ziegler, John Foran, Chuck Adams, Perry Colligan, Kevin Mansfield and Bill Waller.



Award winner Robert Loebbecke with Rita Milostan.



Diane and Rick Tucci with R-lene Mijares de Lang and Scott Cebula.



Auction Committee and Villa's Golf Ball Drop Officials Sheri McCanless, Liz Huston and Janice Grimes.



Sisters Kathy Hess and Margaret Morris.

## SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Rita C. Milostan, Wells Fargo Private Bank  
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Kathy Palmer, Martin Werbelow, LLP  
Charles S. Tapert, StoneTapert  
Tracy Thomas, Community Volunteer  
Diane Tucci, Community Volunteer  
Kathy Waller, Community Volunteer

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS



Men's Closest to the Pin — Mike Giordano  
Women's Closest to the Pin — Elizabeth Barajas  
Straightest Drive — John Westlake  
Putting Contest — Wes Stone (pictured above)



1ST PLACE MEN'S — Greg Forgatch, Matt Harwich, Mitch Lehman, Larry Pastre



2ND PLACE MEN'S — Bob Roszkos, Bob Meeks, Dick Goodspeed, Ryan Dietz



1ST PLACE WOMEN'S — Anne Owen-Lara, Patty Acuna, Linda Reich, Audrey Sandoval



1ST PLACE MIXED FOURSOME — Jim Stone, Kenneth Jackson, Cynthia Davis, Wes Stone

# Thank You, Danke Schön, Grazie, Salut  — We can't say it enough!



## CAPITAL GROUP

Villa's Hjelte-Phillips Speech & Language Center has been awarded a \$5000 grant from the Capital Group Companies. The funds will go to support services to help improve communication skills for children with developmental disabilities.

## CIBA

The CIBA Foundation is deeply committed to enriching and strengthening the lives of disabled children and others in need. They provided a \$10,000 grant for the purchase of two Smart Boards. A Smart Board is a large, touch-sensitive, interactive whiteboard which is connected to a digital projector and computer. Smart Boards are very beneficial to children with developmental disabilities and particular those with autism, many of whom are visual learners.



## FAIR LADIES

The Annual Fair Ladies Boutique was held in early October featuring hand crafted seasonal ornaments, clothing, accessories, food and gifts. The sale was held at the incredible craftsman home of one of the members and all proceeds benefit Villa. The Fair Ladies is

a volunteer service group that gather monthly to create wonderful gifts and treats that are then sold at their annual Boutique. Since 1995 this annual boutique has allowed the Fair Ladies to donate \$63,000 to Villa!

## LLUELLA MOREY MURPHY FOUNDATION

A \$5,000 grant has been awarded to our Occupational Therapy (OT) Clinic from the Lluella Morey Murphy Foundation. The grant will help provide OT equipment, toys and therapy materials for the clinic. Benefits of OT include improvement in coping skills, fine motor skills, play skills, self help skills, and socialization skills.



## THOUSAND OAKS-WESTLAKE VILLAGE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Thousand Oaks-Westlake Village Community Foundation, the charitable arm of the Thousand Oaks-Westlake Village Regional Chamber of Commerce, presented its first-ever grant to Villa in Westlake Village in the amount of \$2,400 for the purchase of new computers.

Villa Esperanza Services, providing Love, Care & Hope for individuals with disabilities in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

## MAIN OFFICE

Villa Esperanza Services  
2060 East Villa Street  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
Tel 626-449-2919  
Fax 626-449-2850  
info@VillaEsperanzaServices.org  
www.VillaEsperanzaServices.org

## ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SITES:

### Adult Day Program (ADP) & Care Management Outreach Collaboration (CMOC) Main Office

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1757 North Lake Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91104  
Tel 626-398-4435  
Fax 626-398-4707

### Care Management Outreach Collaboration (CMOC) Satellite Office & Independent Living Skills (ILS)

Under One Roof Human Services Center  
80 East Hillcrest Drive, Suite 103  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
Tel 877-446-4900  
Tel 805-446-4500

### Dimensions Adult Day Program

2031 East Villa Street  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
Tel 626-449-2919  
Fax 626-449-2850

### Employment Services & Integrated Work Program

756 Lakefield Road, Suite F  
Westlake Village, CA 91361  
Tel 805-446-1939  
Fax 805-446-1959

### Hjelte-Phillips Speech & Language Center

435 North Craig Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
Tel 626-795-8355  
Fax 626-792-1455

### School Campus & Occupational Therapy Clinic

2116 East Villa Street  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
Tel 626-449-2919  
Fax 626-395-0174

### Adult Residential Homes:

In Pasadena...  
Allen House  
Brown House  
Chester House  
Dominion/Morehart House  
Murphy House  
Stahl House  
Villa Apartments  
Wagner House  
Wynn House  
In Thousand Oaks..  
Norgaard House



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## Calendar of Events

### Monthly Tour of Villa

2nd Friday of Every Month

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Call today to reserve a space (626) 449-2919, ext. 128

### School Parent Association Monthly Meeting

3rd Monday of Every Month

12:30-1:30 p.m. at Villa

Call Casey Gregg, School Principal

(626) 449-2919, ext. 117

### Angel Frames Art Collection

On display November 2-November 30

Zephyr Coffee House & Art Gallery

2419 E. Colorado Blvd.

### School Holiday Program

Friday, December 18, at 10 a.m.

### School Winter Break

December 21, through January 4, 2010

### Dimensions and Adult Day Program

Holiday Parties & Show

December 18, 11:30-2:30 pm

### Villa Offices and All Day Programs

Holiday Closures

Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27

Friday, December 25

Friday, January 1, 2010

### Villa Esperanza Guild

12th Annual

“A Day of Thoroughbred Racing”

Saturday, February 27, 2010

at Santa Anita Racetrack

12:00-4:00 p.m.



Tim Murphy with Board Chair, Wendy Petry at Adult Awards Night.

For more information about our events, please call Vanessa Voors at (626)449-2919, ext. 168

or send an email, [VVvoors@VillaEsperanzaServices.org](mailto:VVvoors@VillaEsperanzaServices.org).

Villa's going green — if you wish to receive the newsletter via email let us know at [info@VillaEsperanzaServices.org](mailto:info@VillaEsperanzaServices.org)

**P.S.** *“When we were blessed with a Down syndrome child, Villa gave us Love when we needed it, Hope when we didn't have it and they are still Caring.” —Irene Albeck, Villa Parent*