

A New Way of Working

Written by Michael Greene, Director of Employment Services in Pasadena

It was fall 2008, Limerick Inc. owner Patricia Kelly had just managed another round of employee separation and morale issues. It seemed like no matter what she did, finding the right people for her sub-assembly jobs was going to be a challenge. Limerick had seen their sales increase and they had just been honored by the local chamber of commerce. All the while they struggled to find staff with consistent, quality work.

Limerick was founded in 1992 by Patricia Kelly and her daughter Joan Ortiz. Limerick grew from humble beginnings in small sub-leased space to one of the leading suppliers of breast pumps and lactation related medical equipment in the nation.

Patricia visited Villa for a potential new home for her adult daughter Karen, who has a developmental disability. During her visit Patricia had the opportunity to speak to Villa's Employment Services Program. Employment Services at Villa seeks to find opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities to work alongside their peers in the community. Through Employment Services, Villa provides paid employment and support to over 115 persons who now participate in the economy as productive citizens.

A light bulb went on for Patricia during a conversation about Limerick's challenges and successes with Employment Services Director Michael Greene. Why not try to assign some of the sub assembly work to Villa's clients? There was a succession of meetings and by February 2009, the first "Limerick crew" reported to work. The crew was a group of 3, each with different strengths and each with a gleam in their eye from the pride which comes from having a paid job.



Villa's Limerick Crew (l-r) Alfonso Craig, Michael Martinez (back) and Jonelle Pressley (front), with Job Coach Daniel Yen

The new crew was supervised by a Villa Job Coach who gave direction to their work and served as the main quality control person. At first the jobs included affixing labels to boxes, cutting 200-300 pieces of tubing to a specific length, putting stickers on the power supply. The clients quickly mastered the jobs with the help of adaptive technologies or ways to make a hard job easier, which increased their sense of pride and self-confidence.

As a result of the group's productivity, Limerick began to send increasingly more complex work for the clients to complete. The clients learned and mastered the "T" tube assembly, the "Y" tube assembly, the tote bag; they learned quality control and began testing the power supplies.

Today, as a result of the partnership with Villa, Limerick's bottom line has improved, employee turnover has dropped and
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Message from the CEO



This spring marks the beginning of a new budget process for our next fiscal year. What we know currently, is that the State will be cutting \$1.74 million from the Department of Developmental Services. What we do not know is how these cuts will impact Villa's programs. Advocacy efforts these past few months included meetings with legislators and encouraging families, staff and Villa friends to write letters to both the governor and their legislators. We will be sure to keep you posted on changes as they occur.

On a happier note, Villa continues celebrating our 50th Anniversary. We recently held Blue & White at Night and it was a huge success. It was great to see so many Villa friends dancing, bidding and enjoying the night. Thank you to everyone who helped plan the event and who participated.

Villa is also gearing up for our family Block Party celebration. It will take place on Villa Street, Saturday, July 16, 2011. This event will highlight our 50 years and serve as a reunion for families, clients, community members, staff and our neighbors. Everyone is welcomed! Stay tuned for more information.

We greatly appreciate your support in all capacities. It is with your assistance that we continue to speak for those that cannot speak for themselves.

Sincerely,

Kelly White, MA, LMFT
Chief Executive Officer



In February, Villa clients and staff participated in a rally outside the Van Nuys State Office Building protesting state budget cuts to developmental services.



Zenola Gibbons—Congratulations on 15 years at Villa.



Award recipients Angela Gilbert and Sergio Tropea

VILLA CELEBRATES OUR EMPLOYEES!

In December Villa's Board of Directors hosted our annual Employee Recognition Event. This is one way we give thanks to the 265 amazing staff that keep Villa Excellent! A HUGE Thank you to Villa's PERKS (Providing Employees with Recognition, Kudos and Support) Committee for planning the festivities.

15 YEARS

Zenola Gibbons

10 YEARS

Claudia Cortez
Noemi Kalfayan

5 YEARS

Nora Akbar
Maria Amador
Roy Amezcua
Marites Beltran
Darlene Benavidez
Victor De la Torre
Nelly Garcia
Donna Gonzalez
Carmen Kvisler
Ushaben Martin
Enrique Martinez
Daniel Nalbandian
Maria Ramirez
Valerie Sanchez
Susan Snowden
Juan Tario
Daniel Vicent
Marvin Untalan
Andrea Williams

3 YEARS

Deserie Areola
Stephanie Balderrama
Berenice Baltazar
Monica Corona
Mary Diaz
Raquel Garcia
Melanie Gingerich
Michael Greene
Guadalupe Herrera
Danielle Hernandez
Lucretia Jackson

Terri Reed
Luis Reinoso
Michael Rivas
Oscar Rodriguez
Claro Salomon
Adriana Senda
Angelica Sierra
Tracy Stellern
Randy Thompson
Sergio Tropea
Julia Tsang
Henrietta Tundayag
Marietta Warren
Nicole Wright

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sergio Tropea

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Angela Gilbert

RISING STARS AWARDS

Todd Blackham
Tamara Cortez
Geronimo De Los Santos
Evangeline Goulas
Jennifer Salcedo
Julia Tsang
Daniel Yen

"ABOVE AND BEYOND" THE CALL OF DUTY AWARDS

Roy Amezcua
Vivencia Andrizzi
Tanika Brody
Karen Cayaba
Mark Carrillo
Claudia Cortez

Saul De La Rosa
Mary Diaz
Jeff Dunton
Diana Gamble
Raquel Garcia
Olivia Gibson
Cheyenne Gonzales
Ali Haitham
Cassandra Helland
Julie Martinez
Lourdes Mendez
Maria Peraza
Theresa Perkins
Irene Racius
Rachel Rodriguez
Christina Sanchez
Juliette Sanchez
Maria (Lala) Sangalang
Mahesh Seneviratne
Joseph Umbro
Marvin Untalan
Sandra Valenzuela
Nicole Wright

PERKS COMMITTEE

Claudia Cortez
Cheryl Franco
Angela Gilbert
Donna Gonzales
Michelle Hussen
Damion Lee
Stacey Marquez
Sherna Pinnock
Terri Reed
Kathy Rojas
Montrey Taylor
Sergio Tropea
Andrea Williams
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DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN

Villa Board Members, families, clients and staff enjoyed meeting Dr. Temple Grandin during her visit to Villa in January.



PROGRAM UPDATE

The Board of Directors voted to close Villa's Care Management and Outreach Collaboration Program (CMOC) due to funding and budget challenges. We are happy to report that the two CMOC employees, Director Terri Reed and Cheryl Franco, were placed in other key positions within Villa's School and Residential programs. Thank you both for your hard work.

SCHOOL



ENCORE!—Last December Villa’s School did something different for their holiday program. All the classrooms worked together on one production—*How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. The Braun Center was packed with audience members sporting huge smiles for the cast and crew! We say “Encore!”

PICTURE THIS—Villa’s School students captured photographs of life as they see it. The amazing prints were framed and showcased at the Mark & Brian Fine Arts Building downtown as part of the Los Angeles Art Walk. The art project, along with the digital cameras, were made possible by the Green Foundation and the Rowe and Gayle Giesen Trust. A special thank you to Villa Board Member, Paulette Geragos for making this happen and to Villa’s Young Professionals for helping promote the event.



ST. PATRICK’S DAY DANCE—Students from the San Marino chapter of the National Charity League hosted a St. Patrick’s Day dance on March 17th for our students. The Skandia Hall location was festively decorated with shamrocks and balloons. The young women from NCL and our students created a sea of green on the dance floor. In addition to dancing, activities included crafts and eating lots of yummy green treats. Many thanks to NCL for all their efforts!



Jackie Stone, a long time Villa client, with Mayor Bill Bogaard at Pasadena’s State of the City. The event was held at the Arc Light Cinema where Jackie is employed. Mayor Bogaard made mention of this in his speech and asked Jackie to stand to be acknowledged by the audience.

DIMENSIONS

The Show Must Go On! And it did without a hitch. Dimensions participant, Jacinto, wrote and starred in ‘Jack’s Puppet Show.’ Auditions were held for the 3 character show with Kathy as Lamb Chop, Margie as Hush Puppy and Jacinto as Doug the Italian Pizza Chef. Liza directed each Act and their peers assisted with setting up the stage and making the props used in the show. Clients and staff enjoyed the original piece. We look forward to the sequel. A special thank you to staff members Jose Torres who brought all of the PA equipment, Caitlin Wise



who assisted the clients with their lines and Helen Dersjant who helped put it all together.



Love was the theme for the art work created by Villa’s Dimensions clients. Six pieces were chosen to hang at Pasadena City Hall in partnership with the Accessibility and Disability Commission. The art will be on display for six months.

ADP

Over 20 ADP clients campaigned to be on the Client Advocacy Board. Each client gave a speech to win votes. The board holds meetings at the beginning of each month and works closely with staff to execute ideas. Congratulations to the elected Board—President: Melba, Vice President: Doug, Secretary: Tasha, Members of the Board: Jesus, Virginia, David T.

ADP held their first annual Winter Olympic games in January. Thank you to La Salle High School volunteers for helping run the events. In February, the group held a Valentine's Day Sock Hop. They also participate weekly in yoga. Sounds like they are having fun!



Newly elected Client Advocacy Board President Melba with Vice President Doug after the first advocacy meeting.



Volunteer Elisa with David T. working on their balance with a "tree" position.

WEST REGION

Villa continues to increase support for people in their employment. Thank you to Big Lots in Santa Paula and The Plug Nickel restaurant in Westlake Village for recently hiring Villa clients. We also have two new work crews at the State of California's Channel Islands Air National Guard Station and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Thousand Oaks.

Villa's Integrated Work Program (IWP) in Westlake Village teaches skills to adults through volunteering in the community. Some of our community partners include YMCA Conejo Valley, Meals on Wheels Westlake and TO, Peter Strauss Park, The Samaritan Center in Simi Valley, Oak Park Recreational Facility, "Local Tree Gleaning," Special Kids Day—Zonta, Food Drive for Manna and much more!



ALL IN THE FAMILY

Nancy Keatinge (center), her husband Stanley Felderman, and their two daughters Sara and Kate, made a special trip to Villa to tour and meet some of our students and adults. The trip was in memory of Nancy's mom, Betty Keatinge who was an advocate, donor and true Villa friend. After the tour with Gioia Pastre (right) the family presented a generous check from Betty's estate along with a donation from Sara and Kate who saved up to support their grandmother's tradition. Nancy and Stanley matched their daughters gift making this a true family tradition!

A New Way of Working

(Continued from cover)



(l-r) Jonelle Pressley and Alfonso Craig hard at work assembling pump equipment.

morale has increased. Productivity has increased and Villa's Limerick crew now handles most of the sub assembly process.

With an eye towards the future, Limerick looks to expand its productions and Villa clients are at the forefront of those plans.

Villa's Employment Program has offices in Pasadena and Westlake Village. If you are interested in learning how Villa's employment services can work for you please contact Michael Greene, Director of Employment Services in Pasadena at 626/449-2919, ext. 161 or Charles Bloomquist, Director of West Region at 805/446-1939, ext. 14.

IN MEMORIAM

This past year we said good-bye to many dear Villa Clients Jimmy Ewers, Paul Nolan, Mark Schardt, Cindy Villalobos, and Jacqueline Wilson. They will forever remain in our hearts. Our thoughts continue to be with their families.

A Day at the Races



Guild President, Marie with husband Louis Jones



Villa Board President Wendy Petry with her mom at the races.



Guild Members greating guests as the arrive (l-r) Cynthia Lewis, Barbara Jameson, Guild President Marie Jones, Marty Digges, Georgene Neely, Judi Moore, Debbie Hart and Sally Irving



Villa's Young Professionals (l-r) Alison Voors, Beth Conway, Vanessa Voors and Kathleen Pastre



Alyce Williamson and David Cunningham enjoying the Day at the Races.



Guild Member Barbara Jameson with Dorothy Hjelte Meyer collecting 2nd Chance Drawing tickets.

Villa Esperanza Guild held their 13th Annual "A Day of Thoroughbred Racing" at Santa Anita Park on Saturday, February 26th. Nearly 200 guests attended the event which raised over \$68,000 to support the Hjelte-Phillips Speech and Language Center and Residential and Independent Living programs.

Thank you to the Guild for all their hard work and to everyone who donated and attended. A special thank you to Tom and Mary Bristow of the UPS Store for donating the postage for the event and Ewing & Beland who donated the programs.

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

The **WEINGART FOUNDATION** awarded Villa a \$150,000 core operating grant over the next two years. This grant makes a significant impact on the continued success of our programs!

WELLS FARGO FOUNDATION recently awarded Villa with \$50,000 to assist with Villa's nine programs for children and adults with special needs.



CVS CAREMARK CHARITABLE TRUST granted Villa's Occupational Therapy Clinic with a \$50,000 grant. This gift makes it possible to expand our OT services and purchase additional equipment.

Villa's Hjelte Phillips Speech & Language Center recently received a \$20,000 grant from **THE PATRON SAINTS**. The funds will go to support services to help improve communication skills for children with developmental disabilities.

The **AUDREY & SYDNEY IRMAS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** and the **HARRY BRONSON & EDITY R. KNAPP FOUNDATION** donated \$6,000 each to Villa's school for the purchase of smart boards for two of the classrooms.

A \$5,500 grant was awarded to Villa's Speech & Language Center from the **PASADENA FOOTHILLS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS**.

MARA W. BREECH FOUNDATION awarded \$5,000 to our School for staff training.



The **FAIR LADIES** donated \$4,500 to Villa from sales generated at their annual Boutique and Craft Fair which was held last October.



SAN MARINO COMMUNITY CHURCH FOUNDATION awarded \$2,100 to Villa's School for the purchase of iPads. The iPads will be used as communication tools for our students through Villa's speech and language center.



SCRIPPS HOWARD FOUNDATION awarded our West Region Employment Services program with \$2,000 for job training and development.

Thank you to **KELLER WILLIAMS – THE PARSONS GROUP** for playing Santa to all our students last December. The group led a toy drive in our students honor.

Villa Esperanza Services is celebrating 50 years of changing lives of children and adults with special needs associated with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and other disabilities.

MAIN OFFICE

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

PROGRAM SITES:

Adult Day Program (ADP)

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

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

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

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
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Brown House
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Dominion/Morehart House
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Wagner House
Wynn House
In Thousand Oaks
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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 Esperanza Services

Call Casey Gregg, School Director for more information
(626) 449-2919, ext. 117

Angel Frames Art showing at Pasadena City Hall
February - July

School Awards Ceremony
Friday, June 23 • 10:00 - 12:00 a.m.
Villa's Braun Center

24th Annual Tournament of Hope
Monday, September 26
Angles National Golf Course, Sunland

For more information about our events, please call
Vanessa Voors at (626)449-2919, ext. 168
or send an email, VVoors@VillaEsperanzaServices.org.

**If you wish to receive the newsletter via email
let us know at info@VillaEsperanzaServices.org**



VILLA ESPERANZA SERVICES
50TH ANNIVERSARY
BLOCK PARTY

Family Fun • Games • Music • Food
Saturday, July 16, 2011 • 3-7 p.m.
2100 Block East Villa Street, Pasadena

P.S. *"We want to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude at the extraordinary effort that you and the Dimensions staff have shown towards Jeremy. Your expertise, compassion and wonderful sense of humor have been amazing. We appreciate all you have done and continue to do for Jeremy and all the clients in your care. You are what makes Villa such a special place."*

—Kathy & Tony Peyser written to Villa's Dimensions Director Michelle Hussen and staff