

All the News Worth  
Chirping About from  
Villa Esperanza Services  
Winter 2016 Newsletter



Providing Love, Care  
and Hope for Individuals  
with Disabilities and  
their Families since 1961



James adding to his football binder at the Dimensions Day Program where he makes notes on all the teams and records player statistics from the LA Times.

## Gentleman James

Written by Margaret Morris

For the past 46 years, James Hubinger has been a part of our Villa family. He is regarded as a gentleman, a man of integrity and an overall great guy. He's kind, caring and friendly. James is respected and admired by those who know him including many lifelong friends and members of the Villa staff. He is not defined by his disabilities, but rather his ability to rise above them or perhaps just dismiss them. James is representative of thousands of individuals with Down syndrome and other intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) who transcend expectations on a daily basis.

When James was born in 1970, services for individuals with developmental disabilities were just starting to take hold. His parents had the foresight to seek early intervention services and enrolled him in Villa's Infant Center which was the first Special Needs infant facility in the state funded by the Regional Center system. Starting at the age of six months, the center provided the specialized care

and attention that would shape the foundation for his future. James progressed through Villa's preschool program until age seven when he attended Pasadena Public Schools and later, Cal State LA. During this time he was also part of Villa's TREE House (Transitional Residential Educational Experience) Program which promoted the development of basic skills to increase independence while providing weekend respite for families. During his school years, he developed proficiency as an athlete, participating in swimming, powerlifting and floor hockey through the Special Olympics program.

By the time James was 23, he was on a very typical track for a young man transitioning into adulthood. He moved out of his parent's home and started living full time in one of Villa's family style group homes. Through Villa's Employment Program, James worked at Target and in a variety of positions including Villa's gardening and food service crews. He was actively employed until two years ago when the effects of early onset Parkinsonism prevented him from continuing in the Employment Program, so he transferred into Villa's Dimensions Adult Day Program.

James' path may not seem remarkable except for the fact that individuals with I/DD of his generation were the first to



James greeting his life long friend, Carson, while on their way to a business meeting with Villa's CEO, Kelly White.

be recognized for their potential and their right to have the opportunities and support necessary to achieve their goals, live fulfilling lives and embrace a sense of belonging and acceptance.

Throughout his life, James has been surrounded by a wonderful circle of support. His parents raised him with love and respect, and a commitment to giving him every opportunity to live his life fully. They took advantage of emerging programs that fit their son's needs and supported his interests. As James faces new challenges that

come with aging, Villa continues to provide him with services to meet his current needs and fully utilize his capabilities.

One of his passions is sports. Every Sunday at his residential group home, James can be found devouring the sports section. He stays on top of his favorite team, the Cowboys, and tracks their competition. He has a binder at the Dimensions Day Program where he makes notes on all the teams and records player statistics. If you want to talk sports, James is your guy. As a result of Parkinsonism, he can only speak in whispers, but that does not stop him from being heard. Always true to himself, he lives his life without reservation. James is a success story and example to everyone here at Villa. He is a very special individual and just a great guy!



Tommy, James, Greg and Carson at Villa in the 1970's and with Villa today!

## Villa's Continuum of Care

The continuum of care that Villa Esperanza Services offers not only provides the basic needs of education, transition programs, employment, adult day programs, and residential housing, it also provides a community for its children and adults. It's a place where friendships can blossom and last a lifetime.

For information about all transition and adult programs please contact Aaron Kitzman, Vice President of Adult Programs, (626) 449-2919, ext. 164, or [AKitzman@VillaEsperanzaServices.org](mailto:AKitzman@VillaEsperanzaServices.org).

# Villa's on the Move

## Capital Campaign News

We are on the move and are pleased to provide an update on the progress of our hope *moves forward* Phase I Capital Campaign. This campaign was formally launched in September 2012 with a goal of rebuilding our School campus as well as purchasing and renovating a new space for our Dimensions Adult Day program. Dimensions has been in their new space since January 2016 and loving it. Temporary modular classrooms have been added to the main campus for our middle and high school classes, with our elementary classes moving into the school's main building. The demolition of the old classrooms is now in progress with construction of the 7 new classrooms and multipurpose room starting this spring.

Due to increasing costs of construction we recently increased our Phase I fundraising goal from \$9M to \$11M. We wish to acknowledge and thank Wells Fargo Bank for their generosity. They stepped forward early on in the campaign with a significant \$1M gift and this December added an additional \$100,000 in support of the campaign. We are grateful to Wells for their commitment.

It is with immense excitement and gratitude that we share that close Villa friends have awarded Villa with a transformational gift, bringing our total raised close to \$10M! Their generosity and vision of our new campus is inspiring. This project would not be possible without the help of ALL of our donors! Each of you is significant to the fruition of this venture, thank you.

If you are interested in supporting our new campus, please contact Gioia Pastre, Vice President of Development and Public Relations at (626) 449-2919, ext. 118 or GPastre@VillaEsperanzaServices.org.



Phil, one of Villa's high school students, walking back to his new modular classroom from his speech session.



Demolition of the old buildings.



Rachel and her teacher, Ziad, in their new space practicing for the holiday performance.

### VILLA ESPERANZA SERVICES DIRECTORY

#### PASADENA

2060 E. Villa Street  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
www.VillaEsperanzaServices.org  
info@VillaEsperanzaServices.org

#### Main Number

626-449-2919

#### Villa Esperanza School

626-449-2919, ext. 119

#### Hjelte-Phillips

#### Speech & Language Center

626-449-2919, ext. 176

#### Occupational Therapy Clinic

626-449-2919, ext. 140

#### Community Integration Program (CIP)

626-398-4435, ext. 1

#### Employment Services

626-449-2919, ext. 161

#### Adult Residential Program

626-449-2919, ext. 113

#### Independent Living Skills (ILS)

626-398-4435, ext. 1

#### Dimensions Adult Day Program

1990 E. Walnut St.  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
626-346-9109, ext. 103

#### Adult Day Program (ADP)

1757 N. Lake Ave.  
Pasadena, Ca 91104  
626-398-4435, ext. 1

#### WEST REGION

Community Conscience  
Human Services Center  
80 E. Hillcrest Drive, Suite 206  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

#### Main Number

805-446-1939

#### Community Integration Program (CIP)

805-446-1939, ext. 112

#### Employment Services

805-446-1939, ext. 112

#### Independent Living Skills (ILS)

805-446-1939, ext. 107

#### 2016-2017

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jay Henneberry, Chairman  
Charles Adams III  
Richard D. Byrd  
Alexis Casillas  
Michael J. Cassanego  
Connie Ching  
Phil Davis  
Ann Erdman  
Richard Hirrel  
Vrajesh Lal  
Jim McDermott Jr.  
Debbie Meymarian  
Judith Moore  
Nancy Pierson  
Dr. Ricki Robinson  
Joseph Skeehan  
Lisa Sloan  
Jackie Stone  
Jeannie Vaughn  
William S. Waller  
Lloyd Wong  
Jeri Wright  
Patty Zuber

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kelly White, MA, LMFT



# VILLA ESPERANZA SERVICES

*Where Hope is Hard at Work for Individuals  
with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities*

2060 East Villa Street  
Pasadena, CA 91107

[www.VillaEsperanzaServices.org](http://www.VillaEsperanzaServices.org)



NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PASADENA, CA  
PERMIT NO. 1924

If you wish to receive the newsletter via email let us know at [info@VillaEsperanzaServices.org](mailto:info@VillaEsperanzaServices.org).



## Villa and Nature-Watch Celebrate 10 Year Partnership!

Nature-Watch President Harold Gordon and CEO Jeff Salzman (pictured 2nd and 3rd from the left) have created a mutually beneficial relationship with Villa by providing employment for Villa clients. "Villa's clients play an integral role in our business," shares Salzman. "They work hard, they do great work, and they are an absolute joy to work with." To commemorate the 10 year anniversary, Jeff, Harold, Villa clients, job coaches (current and former), management and executive team members joined together for a cake celebration. Thank you Nature-Watch!