

Chance, an elementary student at Villa's School, watches bubbles he has blown. The exercise improves visual tracking skills and eye-hand coordination.

# hope begins

It probably seemed like an impossible dream.



The current Villa School.

In 1961 a group of Pasadena mothers believed their special needs children deserved quality care and education. So they founded one of the first schools in Los Angeles County for children with Down syndrome, who were brought out of seclusion and into the light.

Through the years the school gained widespread community support and in 1966 the organization was named Villa Esperanza, meaning House of Hope. As the children grew, Villa established a continuum of care to include a speech and language center, occupational therapy clinic, behavioral services, adult residential, employment services, day programs and additional locations in Ventura County.

All along, Villa Esperanza Services has remained true to its mission of providing love, care and hope for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

### hope continues

A new day dawns at Villa Esperanza Services.



Brighton, a Villa high school student, uses a voice output device to communicate with a customer at the campus store. Barbi Martin is a speech/language pathology assistant.

For over 52 years, hope has been hard at work here, as more clients are being served, more programs initiated and more partnerships maintained than ever before in an inclusive, creative and happy atmosphere.

Yet the physical campus has not kept up with these remarkable strides. To sustain our position of leadership in the field of human services, the campus must be expanded and modernized so we can meet every need in spacious, innovative and welcoming surroundings that will stand the test of time. We also must find a property to purchase that will house our adult program that is currently offered in cramped, leased space.

And so we are embarking on a new type of partnership with individuals, corporations and foundations that have the courage to join us in dreaming big and doing more.

Samantha, a Villa middle school student, uses an iPad to complete her assignment during her speech and language session. Emily van den Bosch is a speech/language pathology aide.

Aracely and Kathy, clients in the adult Dimensions program, work on the kitchen crew that prepares lunches for Villa School students.

# hope transforms

By mid-morning Villa Esperanza is bustling with clients in outdated, cramped quarters.



Our new school for children, teens and young adults will be in boundless space, inside and out, built in phases to ensure that services are not interrupted. Enrollment capacity will increase to 120.

The Dimensions program for 70 adults will be in a dedicated building purchased and renovated by Villa to ensure that social activities, employment training and transition programs can be provided in an atmosphere conducive to highest expectations. A continuum of care will be available as clients age from high school to adulthood and into their senior years.

Melissa happily works on an assignment in a middle school class at Villa.





### The New VILLA ESPERANZA SERVICES Campus

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## hope moves forward

**Capital Campaign for Villa Esperanza Services** 



John, a member of Villa's custodial work crew, keeps administrative offices and residential units clean.

#### **A Phased Approach**

Imagine Villa Esperanza's vibrant new areas, with construction and renovation completed over the next several years. This way, regular programming will not be disrupted and clients will continue to thrive as the properties go through a remarkable transformation.

**Phase 1** will include seven classrooms for Villa's School, each designed for 12 students and equipped with an instruction support area and one-on-one study area. Beautifully landscaped gardens will serve as restful retreats for clients and staff. Children and teens will play and enjoy free time in new outdoor recreational areas. And the new facility for the Dimensions Adult Day Program will be purchased and renovated.

During **Phase 2**, three more Villa School classrooms will increase enrollment by nearly 40 percent. Specialized quarters will be built for occupational, behavioral, speech and language therapies. A halfgymnasium will double as a multipurpose room to provide flexible space for sports and special activities, and a new lunchroom and kitchen will be in constant use. There will be ample meeting space for staff, clients and the community. Administrative offices will be located over a parking structure that will accommodate 75 vehicles. With the help of our donors, this phased approach will enable Villa to fulfill the vision everyone has imagined. Justin, a middle school student, enjoys time on the playground before classes begin at Villa's School.

### hope inspires

Even in the face of facility and logistical challenges, our clients, families, partners and others sing Villa's praises.



**Tracy and Dick Hirrel** Philanthropists

The renovation is sorely needed. Our first impression when we were introduced to Villa was, "How dismal, and how unfair to the staff and the clients."

Our contribution to this campaign is a reflection of how fortunate we are in this community; there are other members of this community who deserve better. It gives us great pleasure to help.



**Dr. Ricki Robinson** Pediatrician and National Autism Expert

The new campus is imperative to continue meeting the needs of clients, including an influx of children diagnosed with autism and in need of individualized attention.

Villa plays a vital role in the lives of many families and has been a lifesaver for children and families I have been involved with. Supporting organizations like Villa allows individuals to grow and become active members of their community



**Brij Lal** Owner, Wrapper USA

This project will allow Villa to increase efficiencies and focus more on what's important: the people who are served.

There is a huge need for the new campus to be built to the same quality as the programs that are delivered.

It takes time, effort and funds for a project like this to be completed. And when it is, I will feel exhilaration when I walk in!



**Norma Velvikis** Parent of Villa Student

When I walk into the new building, I will feel tremendous gratitude knowing how much Daniel will thrive in this new space.

From our first tour, even though the buildings were old and improvements were clearly needed, the professionalism, love and dedication of the staff really came through. They honor these very special children by treating them with dignity, respect and a positive attitude.



**R-lene Mijares de Lang** Owner, Mijares Mexican Restaurant

Villa is unique because of the clients they serve, the support they provide to families and strong community partnerships. It really does take a village, or in this case a Villa, to assist families caring for loved ones with developmental disabilities.

Villa has high integrity and ethics and a strongly managed budget. It's time to get ready for the next 50 years and lead future generations.



**Cynthia Kurtz** President and CEO, San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership

Pasadena strives to have the best businesses, government and nonprofits. Villa exemplifies that ideal with its history of leadership and excellent service to clients.

#### Jim McDermott

Owner, McDermott Consulting

Our existing facilities are like the old way of thinking about people with developmental disabilities: closed, dark, a maze of unnavigable rooms. Our new space will be functional and flexible to represent who we are today: open, soaring, light-filled and modern.



Miguel Lambrinos Villa Client

Speech therapy helps me talk more, and I have more friends. I learn to read new words I see in the grocery store, and I talk about work with my friends.



**Vanessa Manjarrez** Villa Volunteer and 2013 Rose Queen

Working with developmentally disabled adults has allowed me to see all their social, creative and mental abilities. They have taught me to look at clients' abilities rather than their disabilities and not underestimate anyone. They have also shared their loving, happy spirits, which I will never forget.

There is no greater feeling than knowing I can make clients smile.

Villa high school student Aaron practices counting money and making change with his oneon-one aide Paul Taimoor.

### hope empowers

As the sun sets on this busy day, everyone has the power to achieve.



Long-time friends Debbie, Kathryn and Susie live and work together at Villa. Susie's late mother, Katie Nack, was a passionate advocate for the developmentally disabled community. Our very special clientele and their families are preparing to reach for the stars in spacious and environmentally friendly surroundings.

Help empower them.

Please consider a generous gift to our Capital Campaign.

Villa Esperanza —Where hope is hard at work.



A loving legacy: Tommy, James, Greg and Carson have been best buddies and part of the Villa family for more than 30 years.

### hope moves forward

Capital Campaign

Villa Esperanza Services



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