

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel was honored by The Village Family Services earlier this year for her outstanding commitment to community-based, mental health organizations. During a visit to TVFS new offices, Councilwoman Greuel was presented with a plaque recognizing her service and responsiveness to the needs of families in District 2.



The Village Family Services

**WE'VE MOVED!
PLEASE NOTE OUR
NEW LOCATION**

The Village Family Services
6736 Laurel Canyon Blvd.
Suite 200
North Hollywood, CA 91606
818-755-8786
818-755-8789 Fax
www.thevillagefs.org

Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:30 am to 8:00 pm
Saturday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm



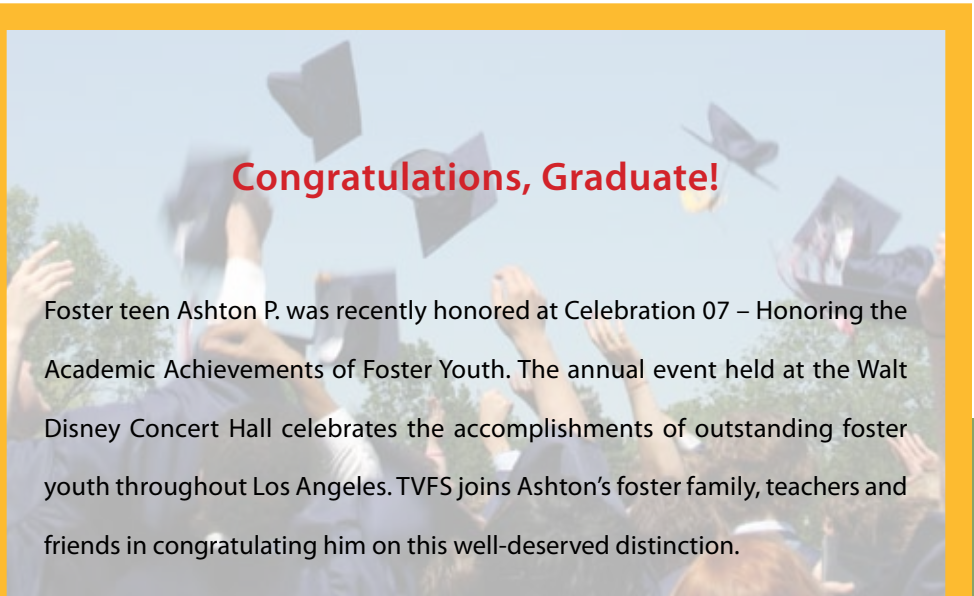
New Programs Launched For Parents And Teens

Two new programs are now available for TVFS clients. Parenting Journey is a 12-week program for parents who are at risk of losing, or have lost, their children to foster care. The program is also available to all parents facing the ordinary yet daunting task of raising children. Participants engage in highly structured activities and discussions that are designed to help parents who were not adequately parented themselves as children. The Parent Journey is based on the premise that a parent cannot give from an empty vessel, or understand what it means to be nurturing if they have not experienced it. As participants reflect on their own upbringing, they are able to draw conclusions about how to be a good parent.

Project: HYPE! (Helping Young People Excel) uses mentoring, nutrition, music and dance to teach teens and adolescents vital lessons about positive living and healthy choices. Students will track their diet and exercise, learn how to maintain healthy eating habits, and explore creative expression through dance and music. The program has been effective in building self-esteem, improving coping and social skills, and encouraging young people to make responsible choices.

Congratulations, Graduate!

Foster teen Ashton P. was recently honored at Celebration 07 – Honoring the Academic Achievements of Foster Youth. The annual event held at the Walt Disney Concert Hall celebrates the accomplishments of outstanding foster youth throughout Los Angeles. TVFS joins Ashton's foster family, teachers and friends in congratulating him on this well-deserved distinction.



Views from the Village

News from The Village Family Services

Fall 2007

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of The Village Family Services. Over the past ten years, the agency has experienced tremendous growth in programs, services and staff. We are gratified by the confidence the community places in our agency and are inspired by the thousands of children and families we have been honored to serve.

Our significant growth has also required more space; and in 2006, the agency moved to new offices in North Hollywood. We are now located in a bright, spacious facility with plenty of room for our expanding staff and clients.

The foundation community has responded to several of our funding proposals, allowing us to expand programs and reach more children and families in need. The agency is also now a Wraparound Services provider, as a result of a contract awarded by the Department of Children and Family Services.

As always, the successes of our clients are how we measure progress. We continue to be humbled by the remarkable strides our clients make in overcoming tremendous challenges and rebuilding their lives. It is our privilege to be a part of the process.

We extend a special thanks to our incredible staff; as well as to our Board of Directors for their guidance, support and encouragement. We hope you enjoy this issue.



Irma Seilicovich, L.M.F.T.
Co-Founder



Hugo Villa, L.M.F.T.
Co-Founder

Holiday Toy Drive Is Underway!

At The Village Family Services, we want every child to experience the joy of the holiday season. Please join us in making this year's celebration the best ever for our children and families.

Donations of toys and gift certificates are now being collected for distribution to our children and families during the 2007 holiday season. Please consider participating by donating unwrapped toys for children (ages 0-17) and gift certificates (e.g., Target, Toys-R-Us, Costco, etc.), or making a tax-deductible donation. Drop off items at our office anytime during office hours; or call us and we will arrange a pick-up.



Our Mission

The mission of The Village Family Services is to protect children from abuse, preserve families and build a stronger and safer community for all.

Our Goals

- Provide loving, stable family environments for children in out-of-home care.
- Provide mental health services to children and teens in foster care.
- Provide greater access to resources for low-income parents with limited parenting skills.
- Increase community awareness of detrimental family issues.
- Reduce domestic violence and ensure greater family safety.

Board of Directors

Cesar Biggeri | President
Diego Edber, Esq. | Secretary
Leticia Lara, L.C.S.W. | Treasurer
Mary Lou Perelmutter, L.M.F.T.
Michael Espinoza, PhD
Irma Seilicovich, L.M.F.T.
Hugo C. Villa, L.M.F.T.

Grant Funds New Therapist Position For Indigent Children

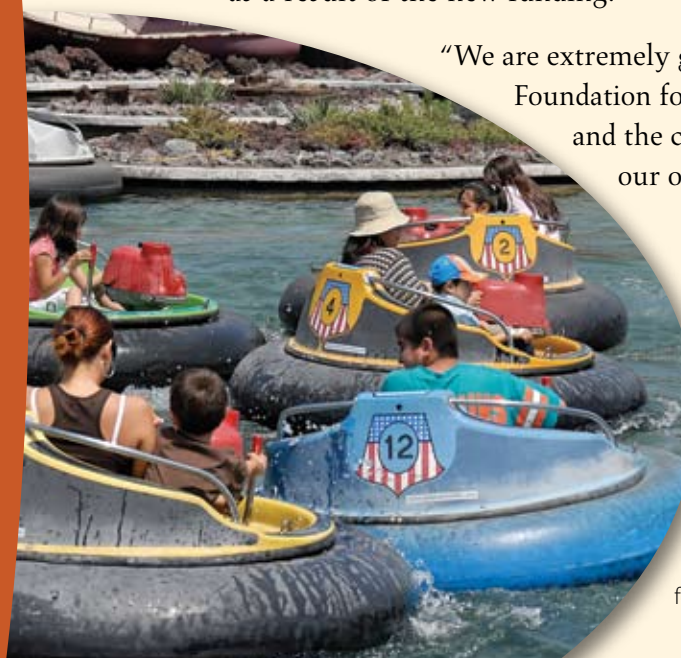
The Village Family Services was awarded a \$45,000 grant from the Robert Ellis Simon Foundation in December 2006. The grant is being used to fund a new postgraduate clinical therapist position.

Utilizing an evidence-based treatment program called Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), the therapist works primarily with children who have been victimized by abuse and neglect, and are indigent, uninsured or uninsurable.

“The increase of uninsured children and families in our Service Planning Area is alarming and resources to address this crisis are very limited,” stated Hugo Villa, Executive Director. “This grant allows us to help to children who are in desperate need of mental health services but are without access to care.”

Approximately 30 children will receive services over the course of the year, as a result of the new funding.

“We are extremely grateful to the Simon Foundation for its financial assistance and the confidence it has placed in our organization,” Hugo said.



Children and families from all TVFS programs had a wonderful day at this year's summer event. Many thanks to Bob Fately, Fately Photography, for his generous donation of time and wonderful photography for TVFS events.

Parsons Foundation Grant Supports Indigent Children

Responding to the growing crisis in care among indigent children, the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation recently awarded The Village Family Services a \$25,000 grant to help cover costs associated with providing mental health services to children and teens who have no access to care. The grant is the agency's first from Parsons Foundation, one of Southern California's leading philanthropic institutions.

The grant will allow TVFS to provide individual and family counseling, case management, and intervention services to approximately 30 children and teens. Treatment will include the use of Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) – an intervention designed to help individuals overcome the trauma of child sexual or physical abuse, and family or community violence. The Village Family Services is one of only a few Los Angeles-area clinics with trained TF-CBT therapists.

Harvard Westlake School Donates Computers For Foster Families

Thanks to a generous donation from North Hollywood-based Harvard Westlake School, 60 of the agency's mental health and foster family clients now have computers in their homes.

"This is an extraordinary gift for families that would never be able to afford a computer for their home," stated Irma Seilicovich. "This helps level the playing field for their children, giving them access to information and resources for school, and the opportunity to build computer skills."

TVFS is deeply grateful to Harvard Westlake for its donation, and especially to Angela Loyd, Computer Services Coordinator at the school.

Grant Opens Door For New Therapy Program

The Village Family Services received a \$9,000 grant in December from The John Gogian Family Foundation. The funding was provided for the purchase and installation of equipment required for a specialized program called Parent-Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT).

PCIT is an evidence-based treatment program that helps build positive parent-child relationships and interactions, while teaching parents effective discipline and child management skills. The treatment program helps parents of children with behavioral problems, and is an intervention for families at-risk for child abuse and domestic violence. PCIT utilizes therapy rooms that are outfitted with a video camera and sound equipment that allows a therapist to be in contact with the parent via earphones and microphones.

While interacting with their child, the parent receives feedback and direction from the observing therapist through the earphone. By following the directions, parents learn new skills and observe how these produce changes in their child's behavior. Interactions between the parent and child are also recorded for review with parents following each session.

"Several families have already begun utilizing PCIT"

In the meantime, several families have already begun utilizing PCIT.

The Village Family Services extends sincere thanks to The John Gogian Family Foundation for its help in bringing this innovative program to our families.



Grant Provides Program Funding For Foster Youth

The Henry L. Guenther Foundation recently gave TVFS a \$10,000 grant to help expand its current foster care services to include an Independent Living Program (ILP) for Transition-Age Youth. The program provides life skills training, intensive case management, and peer support groups for teens (ages 15-18) who will "age out" of the foster care system in 1-3 years.