



VILLA ESPERANZA SERVICES

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

January 24, 2025

Senator Henry Stern
5016 Parkway Calabasas, Unit 222
Calabasas, CA 91302

Dear Senator Stern,

On behalf of everyone at Villa Esperanza Services, we would like to express our gratitude for your dedication to improving the lives of Californians. Villa recognizes you as a key decision-maker in our state's government, and we deeply appreciate your efforts and accomplishments in supporting your community. From here in Pasadena, we are excited about the positive impact your leadership can have, particularly in advancing services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), and we look forward to building upon a potential partnership.

Villa is a Pasadena-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing hope and essential services to individuals with I/DD. Our doors first opened in 1961, when a group of Pasadena mothers, with children diagnosed with Down Syndrome, were determined to provide their children with supportive and well-rounded education. Over the past 60+ years, Villa has blossomed into a 9 program-part organization, serving over 650 individuals in the San Gabriel, San Fernando, and Conejo Valleys. The scope of our programs reaches all ages and nearly 30 kinds of I/DD – with resources ranging from community-based services, educational support, and therapy services.

Today, over 400,000 Californians have been diagnosed with a I/DD. The role our organization plays in providing resources for a portion of these individuals has been successful in reaching over 85 local businesses and organizations partners, contracts with 20 school districts and providing over 7,000 hours of specialized therapy per year. Government officials like yourself, have the power to help Villa, and all those we serve, have a voice in state matters and build upon community support. Thus, we hope this letter serves not only as a sincere congratulations on your office position, but a warm hello from your local I/DD support community.

Much like you, Villa is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of those we serve. One way we have been able to work towards that goal is through our capital campaign project. Villa's Hope Moves Forward capital campaign started in 2012 to expand and modernize our campus to better match the quality of services we offer. Phase 1 of the project created the Villa School, which opened its new classrooms in 2018. Now, the construction of Phase 2A, the addition of a new Occupational Therapy Clinic, 3 additional classrooms for inclusive learning, and a new gymnasium for physical education and therapeutic activities is nearly complete.

As Villa's CEO, I would like to personally invite you and guests to the grand opening event of our Phase 2A, taking place on Thursday, February 13 at 2116 E. Villa Street. Pasadena, CA. 91107. We would be honored to welcome you to this new, and important new part of Villa's makeup and foster a connection with you, as we look forward to supporting you and your efforts while in office. Your attendance and involvement in supporting this project would mean a great deal to our community, and hopefully help enhance your understanding of the local I/DD community in Los Angeles and California as a whole.

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Once again, from all of us here at Villa Esperanza Services, congratulations on your recent achievement. We are grateful for your attention to this letter and your consideration of attending our grand opening event. For further details or questions, you may have regarding our organization, please contact me, Kelly White, at KWhite@VillaES.org or 626-449-2919 ext. 112. Thank you and we look forward to connecting with you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly White".

Kelly White MA, LMFT
Villa Esperanza Services
Chief Executive Officer

