

## One Step Closer to Ending Homelessness

Three months after losing his housing, Willie Brown, a U.S. Army Veteran contacted the VA to seek assistance in finding housing. With a referral in hand, Willie arrived at the Century Villages at Cabrillo (CVC) campus in October of 2011 and became part of the U.S. Vets Veterans in Progress (VIP) program. A short 4 weeks later, Willie was informed of the need to take full custody of his infant son, Jayden. However, since VIP is not equipped to accommodate children, Willie had to make do with watching his son during the day and having his daughter provide care for Jayden at night.

This arrangement impacted his ability to fulfill his commitment to the VIP program and led to a referral to the Long Beach Multiservice Center (MSC) and, eventually into a placement with Catholic Charities' Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence, also here at CVC. With the support from Catholic Charities for his family in place, Willie was able to attend the Adult

Life classes at the Oasis Community Center (OCC), enroll Jayden in childcare at the "Playhouse" at the MSC, and obtain assistance in navigating the CalWORKs system as a single father. Working in conjunction with Catholic Charities and PATH Ventures, another service provider here at CVC, Willie was accepted into PATH Ventures TLC transitional housing program where he currently resides, awaiting availability of permanent housing, either on-site or in the community. Now that his living situation and child care is a bit more stable, Willie is employed part time in the construction industry while continuing to seek more permanent employment. He has also received a program certificate from the OCC for successful completion of Parenting, Personal Enrichment, Career Planning and Financial Literacy classes.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Vets, Century Villages at Cabrillo, the Long Beach



Multiservice Center, Catholic Charities, PATH Ventures, and Oasis Community Center are all one step closer to achieving their common goal of ending homelessness by reuniting this family and providing them with housing. Willie and his family now have a brighter future ahead of them thanks to this multi-agency collaboration.

## A New Day at the Villages at Cabrillo



Dating back to the early days of the Villages at Cabrillo, the community's nonprofit service providers have played a crucial role in shaping the character and operations of the campus. In 2001, the Executive Director ("ED") group, comprised of the executive or site directors for each campus agency, came into existence to serve as an advocacy, policy and operations group. Over the ensuing years, US VETS stepped up to serve in a leadership capacity for the grassroots group, helping to convene and

structure the group's activities. The ED group had a hand in many critical activities such as establishing campus policies (i.e. the sobriety policy), persuading Long Beach Transit to provide transportation to and from the campus, providing feedback on proposed developments, reconciling conflicts between programs, and providing input into new service providers contemplated

for introduction to the campus, among others. This group deserves recognition for what has become a truly special community.

Over the years, the Villages at Cabrillo campus has grown increasingly complex. In the 15 years since inception, the campus community has grown to include more than 1,000 residents on any given night and features a collaboration of more than a dozen different nonprofit and government agencies,

all focused on combating homelessness across a diverse population. Naturally, this evolution required an increasingly significant investment of resources, both human and financial. In recognition of this need, Century Villages at Cabrillo (CVC), the nonprofit owner, manager, and developer of the campus, assumed property management responsibilities from its long-time property manager and development partner, Cantwell Anderson, in February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

With a "changing of the guard" came uncertainty and confusion amongst the many players at the Villages at Cabrillo. In an effort to clarify the players, motivations, and common interests, CVC engaged the California Conference on Equality and Justice to lead a series of facilitated discussions amongst CVC and the Executive Director group. During the latter half of 2011, Rene Castro and Patrice Marshall facilitated four of these meetings in order to help strengthen the Villages at Cabrillo collaboration.

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The group's initial objectives were to (1) assess the community's strengths and needs, (2) establish a plan and timeline for moving forward with CVC's social impact project, (3) re-examine the plans for future campus development, (4) discuss other policies and plans that impact our community, and (5) review policies and procedures that were written by the Executive Director's group over a decade ago.

To assist in the policies and procedures review, the ED group appointed an Ad Hoc committee that was comprised of Greg McCormack (US VETS), Tammie Kyle (CCD), Vanessa Romain (Catholic Charities), and Brian D'Andrea and Kim Crawford (CVC). The Ad Hoc convened and began to imagine what a new agreement amongst the EDs might look like. Over the course of four meetings, the Ad Hoc committee hammered out a draft collaborative agreement. The Villages at Cabrillo Collaborative Agreement (VACCA) memorializes the group's collective aspirations, defines the purpose of the collaborative, establishes the core functions of the collaborative, and clearly identifies the roles, responsibilities and expectations of being a Villages at Cabrillo collaborative member. In January 2012, this agreement was brought before the larger ED group for discussion and feedback. CVC is very pleased that the agreement was warmly received. Following the comment period that ended in late January, the VACCA was ratified at the February Executive Director, or Villages at Cabrillo Collaborative, meeting.

CVC would like to thank its collaborative partners for the energy, honesty, and robust discussion that occurred over the past 6 months. And on behalf of the entire Collaborative, we'd like to thank Rene Castro and Patrice Marshall for their outstanding efforts. With the new VACCA in place, the Villages at Cabrillo is positioned to continue its growth and improve on the delivery of its mission.

## CCD Awarded \$100,000 Grant

In May 2011, Comprehensive Child Development (CCD) applied for a \$100,000 grant from the State Department of Education to replace the aging, inefficient HVAC system in its building. To facilitate this application, Century Villages at Cabrillo partnered with CCD and agreed to share in the costs and ongoing responsibility for the system. In September 2011, CCD was awarded the \$100,000 grant for a desperately needed project that will improve indoor air quality for our campus' children.

# Clinical Director Says Goodbye to the Villages at Cabrillo

After working for the past 9 years as the Clinical Director for U.S.VETS—Long Beach, Bill Wallace said goodbye to the Veterans, staff and his many friends at Villages at Cabrillo. Bill has moved with his family to St. Louis, Missouri to open the U.S.VETS—St. Louis site that will serve homeless and at risk veterans and their families. Bill grew up in St. Louis and is happy to return home surrounded by his family and many friends, however, it was very hard for him to leave the Villages at Cabrillo after working with Veterans in Southern California since 1998. Bill worked at the Culver City Vet Center, for the West Los Angeles VA and at the U.S.VETS Westside Residence Hall site before joining U.S.VETS—Long Beach in 2003. "The partnerships, experience and most of all the friendships I developed these past years mean the world to me and I will miss everyone very much," says Bill. He went on to say that he does take comfort in knowing that he is still with U.S.VETS and that he will come back to the Villages to visit often.

After a career in Hollywood as an actor, Bill joined the Army Reserves when he was a bit older and experiencing a lull in his career pursuits. Bill was born in Germany when his father was stationed there with the Army and he knew he always wanted to join, so at the age of 31 he went to Fort Leonard Wood

for Basic Training and Fort Benjamin Harrison for his AIT Training. From there Bill joined the 306th PSYOP Company in Los Alamitos. Bill spent 8 years with his unit and had numerous deployments to Fort Bragg and training exercises at Camp Pendleton. Bill was also activated for service in Panama, during the L.A. Riots and a near year long deployment to Bosnia in 1995 and 1996 as part of the first wave of NATO ground troops sent there to enforce a fragile peace to the Bosnian War. That experience changed Bill's life and when he returned and was discharging from the Army he enrolled at Antioch University to pursue his Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology and concentrated on working with Veterans.



Bill still loves acting and Hollywood, but now, by sitting in a movie theater and supporting his oldest daughter Emily who is pursuing a career in improvisational comedy. Bill also loves athletics, having been a soccer goalie for the University of Virginia and current Galaxy coach Bruce Arena. He loves his St. Louis Blues Hockey team and St. Louis Cardinals. Bill's return to St. Louis with his wife Jane and twin daughters Eva and Ellie was just in time for the Cardinals' dramatic run to the 2011 World Series. "It is great to be home, but I miss everyone at the Villages and look forward to seeing you all soon."

Over the past 6 months, CVC's maintenance team lead by George Guerrero and Kevin Bradshaw worked closely with CCD to secure qualified bids, engage a contractor, and install a new HVAC system. Construction began in late 2011 during the holidays to minimize impacts on the children and was concluded in early 2012. The system is now fully installed and operational. The new system features a series of 7 smaller systems to provide climate control of various classrooms and workspaces in CCD's facility. The high efficiency system will also generate power savings for CCD. CVC's partnership with CCD leveraged the expertise and strengths of both organizations: CCD's ability to raise funds for an important cause and CVC's expertise in building management and contracting. CVC would like to extend its appreciation to



Tammie Kyle and Maria Almeida for their exemplary efforts in securing this necessary grant funding. CVC would also like to thank all of CCD's on-site staff, in particular, Latanya White and Jannet Phillip for their accommodation and cooperation with CVC staff throughout the project.



## Free Tax Filing Through U.S. Vets

There is no need to be a veteran for this free tax service. U.S. Vets is offering free tax filing for both federal and state taxes for those who financially qualify. Any household that made under \$58,000 in 2011 may qualify for this service. After scheduling an appointment all you need to bring is your social security card, W-2 forms for all jobs worked in 2011, all 1099 forms for other income, all 1098 forms for educational expenses, a copy of your 2010 tax returns, and a picture ID.

In addition to free tax preparation you may also qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) which can return up to \$5,751 for the 2011 tax year. Congress originally approved the tax credit legislation in 1975 in part to offset the burden of

social security taxes and to provide an incentive to work. In order to qualify you must have earned less than \$49,078 in 2011, be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident, and have a valid social security number. There are other qualifiers involved such as marital status, household income, and number of dependents; visit [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc) to see if you are eligible for the EITC.



Get your taxes filed for free at the U.S. Vets Career Center located on site at 2001 River behind the property office. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Jeffery Bradley at 562-388-8023.

## Changing Spirits, Changing Lives



American Indian Changing Spirits, or more commonly, Changing Spirits, is one of the many on-site programs providing supportive services here at Century Villages. Occupying buildings 31-1 and 31-2 in the southeast corner of our campus, Changing Spirits is a community based 180-day Residential Recovery Program providing services to American Indian men who are overcoming alcohol and/or drug addiction.

Residents of the Changing Spirits Alcohol and Drug Residential Recovery Program participate in a wide array of services designed to support recovery. These services include: alcohol and drug education,

one on one counseling, 12-Step Groups, relapse prevention groups, anger management, resident council, recreation and social activities, required physical fitness programs, and community garden and cultural activities both on campus and across the broader Southern California community. With its focus on the history and culture of the American Indian, Changing Spirits provides a unique service and is representative of the kind of supportive services which call Century Villages home. Changing Spirits has helped hundreds of their residents fully recover back to a life before drug and/or alcohol abuse. For further information, contact Darrell Woods, Agency Director, at (562) 388-8118 or email Darrell at [dwoods@bhs-inc.org](mailto:dwoods@bhs-inc.org). You can also visit them at their website: [americanindianchangingspirits.org](http://americanindianchangingspirits.org)

## Oasis Community Center

The Oasis Community Center (OCC) is a great resource open to all residents and is located right here on the Century Villages at Cabrillo campus! The OCC offers life skills classes for adults and teens, an After School Program for school aged children, and an internet connected computer lab all free of charge.

The OCC opened on the CVC campus in 2008 and is continuing to grow and change with addition of new staff members, more classes, and new management. This campus-wide resource center was originally conceptualized, funded, and designed through California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) in collaboration with Catholic Charities. In the recent months the original funding has subsided and CVC has agreed to assume financial and programming responsibility of the OCC with continued support from CSULB, Catholic Charities, Long Beach Community Action Partnership, the Ahmanson Foundation as well as other private contributors. It is our goal to continue to enhance and expand the valuable services offered to our residents at the OCC so you can expect to see more physical improvements, new



classes, and special events coming out of the OCC in the coming months.

Stay in touch with special events and classes being offered at the OCC in the calendar of events section of this newsletter or pick up a monthly copy of the OCC calendar in the property office or at the OCC. As an added service, the OCC provides space for community-wide programming where outside agencies can meet with residents. Stop by to learn about classes, special events, group trips to family-friendly attractions such as the Long Beach Aquarium, Melodrama Theater, local museums, and more! The OCC is located in the northwestern end of the campus in the Bethune School area next to the KABOOM playground at 2045 San Gabriel, Long Beach, CA 90810. Come by and visit!

## Meet Our Staff

### Kevin Bradshaw

Maintenance Supervisor and Resident Assistant



Kevin was born and raised in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to a Navy veteran father and is the oldest of 8 siblings. During his high school years, he and his wood shop teacher quickly

discovered his knack and enjoyment for wood working. At the age of 17, with an entrepreneurial spirit and craftsman skills in hand, Kevin decided to move to Venice Beach, California to surf the "wicked" waves of the California coast and to start his own business utilizing his newly found craftsman talents. It was the 70's and waterbeds were the craze, and Kevin determined that his business model should take advantage of this new fad. Kevin designed a custom-made waterbed that could convert to a standard bed. Business was doing well, however, he eventually decided to sell his business and join the U.S. Coast Guard.

Kevin served his first 3 years as a Gunner's Mate on the U.S.C.G.C. Sherman, patrolling Alaskan waters, regulating the U.S. Fisheries Department and occasionally performing Search and Recovery (SAR) missions. In 1983, he re-enlisting for another 4 years and changed his MO to serve as an MP with Tracend, a military training center in Petaluma, CA. His military experience brought him discipline, on-the-job training and an outstanding work ethic. His naturally inquisitive nature, enjoyment for working with others and craftsman talents, lead him into the construction industry, where he stayed for many years until coming to Century Villages.

Kevin first came to Century Villages as a client of our on-site Veterans Villages Recovery Center (VVRC) program. After graduating from the VVRC program in 2008, he decided to apply for a position in maintenance and was subsequently hired as our maintenance technician. However, he was quickly promoted twice since then and now serves as our Maintenance Supervisor. He also serves as the Resident Assistant (RA) for the Family Commons, our on-site 80 unit permanent housing apartment community.

In August 2011, Kevin married Renee Hunt. Today he enjoys attending and serving his church as a Deacon, dancing the "Chicago Step" with his new bride, and of course woodworking.

## Our Office is Moving! But Just Temporarily

Look for signs in mid-March as the Century Villages Property Management office will be temporarily relocating to the Sierra building while our current office space undergoes renovation. The Sierra building is located at 2112 W. Willard Street between the Family Commons and Cabrillo Plaza properties. We hope to be back up and running in the refurbished space by summertime!

## Look for Resident Survey in April!



We are collaborating with California State University, Long Beach's Center for Community Engagement and their professors and students to draft, deliver, collect, and interpret resident surveys for the entire CVC campus. We hope everyone engages and shares your thoughts and wisdom on what works, what doesn't, what needs additional attention, and how we can improve our community. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

We hope that the *Village Anchor* is a useful tool for telling your stories and communicating events and announcements that are of interest to you. If you have a suggestion for improving the newsletter or would like to submit a story, please call us at (562) 388-8065 or email [info@centuryvillages.org](mailto:info@centuryvillages.org).

### The Village Anchor Team

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

### Saturday, March 3, 2-4pm BOLIVIAN MUSIC CONCERT

On campus at the Oasis Center at 2045 San Gabriel. Free. Call 562-388-8080.

### Sunday, March 4, 4pm LONG BEACH JUNIOR BACH FESTIVAL SERIES 3

Seal Beach Center for Spiritual Living, 500 Marina Drive. Free. [www.longbeachcameratasingers.org](http://www.longbeachcameratasingers.org)

### Weekend of April 13-15 LONG BEACH GRAND PRIX

Races and activities throughout each day. Tickets start at \$70. [www.gplb.com](http://www.gplb.com)

### Saturday, April 28, 8am-4pm RTL B VOLUNTEER DAY

Free. on-site volunteer opportunity. Call 562-388-8107.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month, 4pm-10pm 2<sup>ND</sup> SATURDAY ART WALK

Downtown Long Beach East Village Arts District. [www.ArtWalkLB.com](http://www.ArtWalkLB.com). Free.

### Every Friday, 10am-4pm FARMERS MARKET

City Place Center Promenade N. and E. 4th Street. Free. [www.farmernet.com](http://www.farmernet.com)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of Every Month, Rain or Shine, 10am 30-MINUTE BEACH CLEANUP

Located at 1 Granada Ave. in the Belmont Shore area. Free Phone: 562-439-3316 [www.BeachCleanup.org](http://www.BeachCleanup.org)

### Every Monday, 9am-11am PARENTING CLASS

On campus at the Oasis Center at 2045 San Gabriel. Free. Call 562-388-8080.

### Every Tuesday, 9am-11am LIFE SKILLS CLASS

On campus at the Oasis Center at 2045 San Gabriel. Free. Call 562-388-8080.

### Every Tuesday, 1:30pm-2:30pm INTRO TO COMPUTERS

On campus at the Oasis Center at 2045 San Gabriel. Free. Call 562-388-8080.

### Every Wednesday, 9am-11am JOB SKILLS CLASS

On campus at the Oasis Center at 2045 San Gabriel. Free. Call 562-388-8080.

### Every Thursday, 9am-11am FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASS

On campus at the Oasis Center at 2045 San Gabriel. Free. Call 562-388-8080.

### Monday-Friday, 2:30pm-4:30pm AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

On campus at the Oasis Center at 2045 San Gabriel. Free. Call 562-388-8080.

## Alcoholics Anonymous & Cocaine Anonymous

### Villages at Cabrillo Self Help Meetings Schedule

ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT (AA) 6:30am-7:30am, 7 days a week in the Social Hall  
 WEDNESDAY NIGHT CAP (AA) 7:30pm-9pm, Wednesday night in the Social Hall  
 NEW LIFE (AA) 7:30pm-9pm, Friday night in the Social Hall  
 IT TAKES A VILLAGE (CA) 4:30pm-6pm, Saturday in the Social Hall

Everyone is welcome! This is an opportunity for men and women to share their experience and strength in the hope that they may help each other recover from alcoholism and other substances.