





Message from Villa Leadership

Dear Friends & Family of Villa of Hope,

We all know and care about someone who struggles with behavioral health needs. They are our family members, our friends, our neighbors, our colleagues, and more. With your support, it's been our shared Mission to help those we care about since 1942.

The Sanctuary Model teaches us to look at life through the "S.E.L.F." Model – giving attention to Safety, Emotions, Loss, and Future. You can "hear" these concepts in the feedback provided recently by individuals receiving services from the Villa:

"They are truly focused on my health – both mental and physical. I feel like I can talk about anything I'm going through and instead of judgment or shame, they work to help me."

"I am learning coping skills, how to better myself and improve myself, and I'm learning that it's okay to seek help because we all need help."

"Working with my care manager helped me move from community supported living to an apartment of my own and now I am working on employment."

In this annual report, we introduce you to Bella and her family. Bella receives services from the Villa of Hope Health Home/Care Management program. Her story is a true life example of the impact of the Villa and the way we partner with individuals and families through the Sanctuary S.E.L.F. Model.

At a broader level, Villa of Hope continues to recognize our past in residential treatment programs for teens on our campus while we grow into our future in programs which contribute most directly toward achieving our 2030 Vision to disrupt the trajectory of poor health outcomes and early death in those who have experienced trauma or have vulnerabilities in basic needs of life. These "core pillar programs" of our present and future include Villa of Hope School, Work Force Development, a full continuum of mental health and substance use disorder treatment programs, and Health Homes/Care Management.

Over 80 years ago, the Sisters of St. Joseph packed up over 100 kids and rode the bus out to their new home on Dewey Avenue. They made the same promise we make today to our adult clients, our youth and families, "We will take care of you." We may have evolved in what we do and how we do it, but deep down we live the values the Villa was founded upon and continue to bring Hope to life every day. We appreciate your support of the transformative journeys happening at Villa of Hope!



David Krusch, MD Board Chair



Carrie Carl xcsw-R

It takes a Villa – Bella's journey

Bella has just turned 18, and has a genuine, friendly nature, an openness and honesty about her, and a radiant smile. She has got it together.

From her vantage point of success now, she is able to look back - analytically - at the path that brought her here. Bella recalls a time when her life would ebb and flow; when she would begin to feel better, more stable ... but. "Then I would begin to self-sabotage and blow everything up again," she says. "It was a cycle. Breaking of trust, then rebuilding. Then breaking again."

Trouble began when Bella was 12. Her mental health posed challenges, and at 12 she had her first suicide attempt. When she was 16, she had fallen into conversation with a man online, who presented himself as a teenager, but was not. He was "grooming"

Often taking place online, sexual grooming is calculated behavior used to establish an emotional connection with a vulnerable person, usually a minor under the age of consent. The perpetrator's goal is to gain access to the child.

Bella would participate in these conversations, but would then shut down and not communicate with him or her family for days at a time. She would launch into a period of depression, then snap out of it. Then she would have a period of stability; but then would be lured back. (This individual an adult male - was eventually arrested and imprisoned for his crimes.)

At one of her high points when things were going very well - school and grades, putting on a happy face for all those around her, having a part-time job - she felt overwhelming frustration and abruptly attempted to take her own life, for the second time.

She was hospitalized after this for 14 days in an acute setting, and then discharged, against



4 loving sisters; Malina, Everly, Bella and Olivia.

the better judgment of her parents. She was then hospitalized again out-of-town, and was frustrated when her "treatment" was meeting very infrequently with a psychiatrist.

Her incredibly supportive family, consisting of her Dad and her Mom, and her three sisters, were often the target of her anger.

"I was angry at the world," she says, and reflects incredulously that she was at the out-of-town facility for two months. As her discharge was drawing nearer, her psychiatrist began recommending to Bella that she not return home; instead, the recommendation was foster care or a group home until she turned 18. The prospect created mounting anxiety for her.

But when a child feels lost, the Villa gets to work. When the family begins to lose its hold and its hope, the Villa steps in. It was during this time that Bella and her family began to work closely with Aileen DeLeon, Care Manager with the Villa's Children's Care Management team.

Aileen had a very different view of Bella's future, advocating energetically for reuniting the family. She worked with the social worker, vouched for the family and the child, and

insisted healing would occur by bringing Bella home! And, in unison, the family, the patient and the Villa made it happen.

Care Coordination at the Villa is an umbrella program under which services are provided for Adult Care Management and Children's Care Management. It has a commitment to individualized services; these community programs utilize a strengthbased, individualized care model to promote wellness, shown to lead to success for the child, the adult, and the family.

Aileen was crucial in Bella's transition. Bella had lost time and had lost friends and contacts during her darker period, and was ready to jump back into life. She was ready to be well. Because she had become isolated, Aileen stepped in, sometimes as her "friend for the day," taking her out in the community, to Tai Chi and other activities. She connected Bella with services and activities that were of interest to her, and others that were necessary for her continued stability. And she became a true friend.

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Bella on

"Without Aileen, I wouldn't have made it," says Bella. "This is the first time since I can remember, being so consistently stable."

Her mother expresses the same sentiment: "Without Aileen there's just no way she'd be where she is today. We originally met Aileen through a mutual friend who worked at the Villa, when Bella was having her initial difficulty. We said, 'Do you think the Villa has someone who could work with Bella and kind of set her straight?' And she mentioned there were lots of outstanding people in the department, but they had just the person. Aileen."

It was a great fit.

"Aileen put things into perspective for me so many times," Bella recalls. "I have a five-year-old sister, and I love all my sisters, but ... she's the baby. I knew my actions had been hurting her, and I felt so bad. I used to say, 'I love her so much I would die for her.' And one day, Aileen just said to me, 'Why don't you try and live for her?' And she was right. She made me stop, and think, and change my mindset."

Once Bella was stabilized with medication, therapy, and activities, her life snapped

into focus for her. The life she wanted to live. Her family has been heavily involved in community cheerleading, with the girls participating, and their mother coaching. Bella took on a volunteer coaching role, and eventually was given a head coaching position (unheard of for a 17-year-old) with the 4 & 5 year old team. Her group of girls took first place in 2024 in a local cheer competition!

Bella balanced her ambitious cheerleading schedule with a work schedule as a server at Don's Original, as well as successful graduation from high school in 2024.

Bella is also learning to drive. Driving is complex and stressful, so she is taking her time. With a goal of being more independent in the near future, she is determined.

Aileen has this to say about Bella's journey: "I had the great pleasure of working with Bella and her family. Bella has always had a bright light about her, it was just a matter of her finding that within herself. She was once in need of much support and guidance, which she was able to use to build herself up to who she was meant to be.

"She is able to attend MCC as a full-time student and work part-time to full-time

hours. Bella is a strong support herself within her family, is a wonderful role model to her younger sisters and the young girls she coaches in cheerleading. I am beyond proud of Bella for overcoming so much and flourishing into the beautiful young woman that she is!"

Long term? Bella would like to get her degree in business, as well as licenses in nutrition, wellness and massage therapy, with a goal of having her own small shop.

It takes a Villa. We are also proud of you beyond measure, Bella. True to our historical calling, and alongside your amazing family, we are honored to have helped to take care of you.

Left to right: Aileen DeLeon, Villa of Hope Care Manager, with Bella, Armanda holding Everly's hand, Santos, Malina and Olivia.



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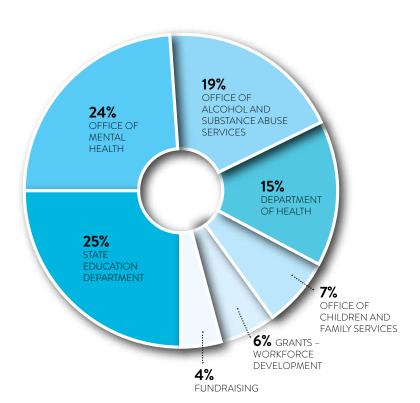
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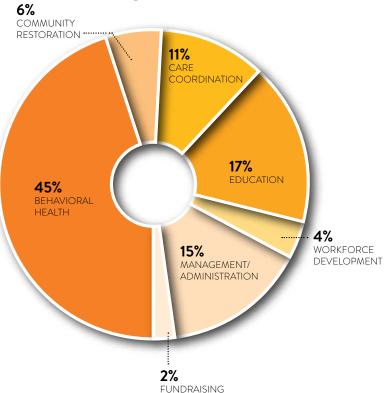
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