

# MONTE VISTA GROVE HOMES



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## Messenger

FALL 2013

**Monte Vista Grove Homes (MVGH)** is a not-for-profit, active, senior community located on 13.5 acres in Pasadena, California. The Synod of California founded MVGH in 1924, with a mission of serving qualified retirees of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Health Center (skilled nursing) and Hearth (assisted living) were later added to serve both MVGH residents and the wider community. Today, 89 years later, MVGH is a regional ministry of the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii with a mission of serving residents in all levels of care within the context of a supportive, caring, Christian community providing for their spiritual, physical, social and emotional needs.

### Monte Vista Grove Homes 2013 Board of Trustees

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## ‘Celebrate the Journey’

### Monte Vista Grove Homes 3rd Annual Gala

By: Franklin and Jean Woo

With the theme of *“Celebrate the Journey,”* the 2013 Monte Vista Grove Gala suggests that this retirement community of church workers is always on the move and a work in progress...



Friends of Monte Vista Grove Homes filled The Old Mill on a beautiful summer evening.

Monte Vista Grove Homes is a member of  
LeadingAge California  
(CCRC) - Certificate #252  
facilities by the State of California as a Continuing Care Retirement Community  
for the assisted living (RCFE #191222411) and skilled nursing (SNF #970000086)  
Monte Vista Grove Homes has been granted a Provisional Certificate of Authority

2889 San Pasqual Street  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
(626) 796-6135  
www.mvgh.org

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Held on July 27, the event took place during sunset at the beautiful, idyllic setting of the ancient Old Mill *El Molino Viejo*, replete with its rich multifaceted history in the San Gabriel Valley. The Gala was well attended by more than 150 friends, supporters, and trustees, along with many of their family members and invited guests. In fact, a third of the participants were Monte Vista Grove Homes residents and staff. Though the primary purpose of the Gala event was fundraising, the educational dimensions took center stage with Executive Director, Deborah Herbert presenting a succinct, overview of



Jim & Vicki Smallwood (honorees) from Lewis and Associates

the Grove's past, present and future commitment. Recognition awards were given to Wray and Jeanne Cornwell, La Canada Presbyterian Church and Lewis and Associates in appreciation of their service and commitment to the Grove. Resident Jim Symons acted as Master of Ceremonies with three residents giving memorable, yet humorous, vignettes of their respective journeys sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in lands afar: Rosemary Pierson (Brazil), Norman Thomas (Zimbabwe), and Roberta Woodberry (Pakistan). A special live auction was conducted by the emcee, as well



Rev. Dr. Chuck Osburn accepted the Spirit Award on behalf of La Canada Presbyterian Church

as the silent auction comprised of resident paintings and other local attractions. Delicious food, a generous wine assortment and lovely entertainment capped off the evening. All in all, Gala 2013 was a delightful, unforgettable event held in a charming setting with people of goodwill gathered in an atmosphere of community and service. Special appreciation and heartfelt thanks to all of our sponsors who helped to make this our most successful Gala ever.



Wray & Jeanne Cornwell (honorees) and family

Annual Giving

Our Need for 2013

Annually, our residents contribute over \$500,000 towards operations, representing a significant portion of the gap that exists between the Grove's revenues and its financial operating needs. In 2013, for example, we are projecting approximately \$1.5 million in programmatic costs and capital and technology needs over and above resident fees and contributions. The margin of difference is funded in large part through our Annual Giving Program, which is specifically designed to help the Grove fund both current and longer-term priorities.

For 2013, MVGH will work to close this gap through our Annual Giving Program which is specifically designed to address the following needs:

- Funding to improve the physical environment and enhance safety throughout our thirteen-acre campus through projects that include wireless nurse call bell system for the Hearth and the Health Center; new fire sprinkler system for the Health Center; double convection oven and quick chiller refrigerator system for dietary; electronic medical records system for the Health Center; and wall-mounted, flat panel televisions in the Hearth resident rooms.
- Funding to help "bridge the gap" between what MVGH residents are able to pay and the actual costs to maintain and operate the skilled nursing facility. Due to the impact of the economy and the sacrifices many of our residents made in terms of income and savings to serve the church, a growing number today require our financial support. There are presently four residents in the Health Center whose resources are depleted who require our financial assistance.
- Funding to grow the Quality of Life Endowment. Currently, this fund helps provide necessary and important income to the Grove to help cover the costs of residents in skilled nursing whose resources are depleted. We are committed to raising funds every year to ensure that this fund grows and the income produced from its corpus likewise grows to be able to benefit those residents who need our assistance.

Please consider joining us in supporting those servants of the church who have been faithful to their call to Christian ministry throughout their lives. Monte Vista Grove Homes is a unique place because of its people, which includes its residents, staff, volunteers, donors and friends. We are proud of our ministry and would be grateful for your gift of any size to support our work. Thank you for your consideration of The Grove as an organization to support each year with your philanthropic resources. Please know that we treasure your help.

For more information please contact:  
Meagan McClellan  
Philanthropy Associate  
(626) 796-6135, ext. 417  
or mmcclellan@mvgh.org



Annual Campaign Update

as of July 31, 2013

2013 Annual Giving Goal:  
\$400,000

Progress:  
\$275,541

Percent of Goal reached:  
68.89%

Remaining:  
\$124,459

**DONATE TODAY!**  
Log on to [www.mvgh.org](http://www.mvgh.org) to donate

100% Participation Program

	Residents	Staff	Trustees
Total number of household/giving units	75	88	19
Number Pledged	73 (97%)	48 (54%)	15 (79%)

**Philanthropy:** altruistic concern for human welfare & advancement.  
(Greek: philanthropia: love for mankind)



# CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

Total Members: 35

The Cornerstone Society for Estate Giving  
\$5,000+ Estate Giving Intention

(Cornerstone Society was launched in 2011)

Anonymous (4)  
James Ackland  
John & Helen Baatz  
Larry & Judy Ballenger  
Jane Carruthers  
William & Polly Craig  
Gary & Marily Demarest  
Mae Douglas  
Mark & Agnes Duntley  
Marjorie Dye  
Tom & Carol Erickson

Art & Carolyn French  
Ralph & Mary Hamburger  
Frances Hard  
Bill & Deborah Herbert  
Peter Hintzoglou  
Laura K. Jacobsen  
Robert Koch  
Dawn Malcolm  
Doris Schoon  
Bill & Joan Stackhouse  
Eileen Wise



*Cornerstone Society members are persons who have provided  
Monte Vista Grove Homes in their will or estate plans.*

## Cornerstone Society Members

PLEASE JOIN US!

What: Recognition Dinner and Time of Fellowship

When: Wednesday October 23, 2013 6pm

Where: **Café Bizou**  
91 North Raymond Avenue  
Pasadena, California  
(valet parking & shuttle service from MVGH)

**The Cornerstone Society member is someone who has provided  
Monte Vista Grove Homes in his/her will or estate plan.**

Please contact Meagan McClellan if interested in becoming a member  
or if you have already included MVGH in your estate and not yet advised us.  
mmcclellan@mvgh.org or 626-796-6135 ext. 417

## A Very Special Thanks to...

### Sponsorships:

Penelope Moss– Penelope's Café in  
La Canada for being our Dessert Sponsor  
Gentle Transitions for being our party  
favor sponsor.  
Mr. & Mrs. William Herbert for being our  
Wine Sponsors.  
Accurate Business Results a health care  
division of Mueller Prost PC

### Silent & Live Auction Donations:

Casa del Rey  
Arthur Murray  
A Noise Within  
Pasadena Playhouse  
Green Street Restaurant  
Los Gringos Locos  
Nicole Quijada  
Petersen Automotive Museum  
Heritage Square Museum  
Sharp Seating Company  
Mr. & Mrs. John Baatz  
Davey Locker  
Pacific Palms  
Sena on Myrtle  
Nikki C's  
Ford Theatres  
The Langham  
Rose Bowl Aquatics  
Santa Anita Race Track  
Scott McClellan

### Resident Artwork Donations:

Jean Woo  
Dee Jarvis  
Marilyn Symons  
Joan Stackhouse  
Sherman Fung  
Tom Erickson

### Special Contributions:

The Well Pennies– Bryan and Sarah  
Vanderpool for donating the entertainment  
The Old Mill  
Mr. Robert Koch  
Cynthia Brooks Catering



Kim Houser, Controller and Deborah Herbert, Executive Director





# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

You’ve heard the saying that “behind every good man is a good woman.” But have you heard, “behind every good Executive Director is an amazing team?” It’s true! I couldn’t possibly provide housing and services to 184 individuals in three levels of accommodations while serving 736 meals a day on my own! I am blessed to work with some of the finest individuals who share a deep commitment to MVGH and its residents.

The employee turnover rate in for-profit, senior communities is estimated at 70 percent; that means two out of three workers leave their jobs in the course of a year. At Monte Vista Grove, like many other not-for-profit communities, our turnover rate is only 4.3%. The average length of employment for a MVGH employee is just over seven years. This stability plays an important part in providing consistent quality and affordable housing and services.

Why do employees tend to make Monte Vista Grove a long-term career choice? One factor is our high standards. Good employees want to work in an environment that reflects their personal and professional standards. Other incentives include:

- Competitive pay and benefit package
- Clean, attractive working conditions
- Recognition for exemplary performance
- Opportunities for continuing education, training and advancement
- Being included in problem solving and planning

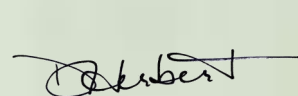
- Work/Life balance is a priority
- Common call to service
- Fun and camaraderie

Perhaps the #1 reason that I hear from employees when I ask why they have worked at MVGH for 10 or more years is, “the residents!” Our long-term employees see MVGH residents as an extension of their family. The mutual love and respect between residents and staff is PRICELESS!

I am a real-life example of what MVGH offers to its employees. In November, I will celebrate 18 years of employment. Despite the fact that MVGH is considered a mid-size community, I have been promoted through six different positions, some creatively designed to fit a current need of the organization. I received all my training on the job or through education provided for by MVGH.

Most Monte Vista Grove employees would agree with me that their employment is much more than just a job... it is a calling of the highest form.

In His service,

  
Deborah Herbert  
Executive Director



**OUR “PAL”** A pal is defined by Webster’s Dictionary as a close friend, an amigo, a buddy, a chum, a compadre, a confidant, a crony, a musketeer. “Pal” French, beloved Sheltie of Carolyn and Art French, was all that and more to them and to the Grove community. Pal resided at the Grove even before he moved in with Art and Carolyn. He was adopted from the humane society in 1998 by John Wareham, who later decided to let Pal live with the Frenchs, who had taken care of Pal while John was away and had fallen in love with him. Pal, who had been quite timid when he was first adopted, soon went everywhere with Art and Carolyn. He frequented the Commons

while they picked up the mail and often sat by Carolyn while she was on phone duty. He ate doggy biscuits in the Admin. Building while Art signed checks, visited the residents of the Health Center, and toured the Grove grounds on his daily walks. Pal was viciously attacked on two separate occasions outside the Grove, but he recovered beautifully due to the loving care he received from his family and the attention showered on him by his friends, the MVGH residents and staff. He was a pal to all of us. Several residents, when finding out that Pal had passed away, quoted Will Rogers, who said, “If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.” We’ll sure miss you, Pal.....enough said.



## Monte Vista Grove Homes

Celebrates 89 Years

# FOUNDERS’ DAY

Saturday, October 5, 2013

9 am to 1 pm

BBQ begins at 10am

JOIN US FOR SHOPPING INCLUDING CLOTHES, FURNITURE, PLANTS, HOUSE-HOLD ITEMS, BOOKS, KIDS ACTIVITIES, BBQ INCLUDING HOT-DOGS, CHILI, CORN ON THE COB, BAKED GOODS AND LOTS OF FUN!!

Admission is Free  
Lunch is \$6.00  
Kids 5 and under eat free  
89 year-olds eat free (with ID)

2889 San Pasqual Street  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
626.796.6135

# Monte Vista MUSINGS

Exploring how faith meets culture in the 21st Century

**Guest Speaker: Rev. Joseph Kang**

***KOREAN UNITY—Seeking for One Flag in Place of the Two***

Where: Marwick Place at Monte Vista Grove  
2889 San Pasqual Street  
Pasadena, California 91107

When: Monday, October 28, 2013  
5:30-6pm: Refreshments  
6-7pm: Program

Complimentary event including wine and appetizers

## Have your event at MVGH!

Have your next event in our multi-purpose hall, Marwick Place.

- Catering services available
- Great for meetings, parties, church retreats, family reunions, etc.

For more information contact Meagan McClellan at (626) 796-6135 ext. 417 or [mmcclellan@mvgh.org](mailto:mmcclellan@mvgh.org)



# Special Events

## CONVOCATION SCHEDULE

September to December Convocations  
Marwick Place each Thursday at 4 PM (unless otherwise noted)— Schedule subject to change,  
please call (626) 796-6135 for current week’s program.

- Sept. 19 – Piano Concert with Katharine Starbird
- Sept. 26 –The Rev. Karen Berns on C. S. Lewis
- Oct. 3 – Call for Details
- Oct. 10 – NEW ZEALAND EMERGING CHURCH with Jim and Marilyn Symons,  
Norman and Jenny Orange from New Zealand
- Oct. 17 at 2:30 PM -TOWN MEETING, Debbie Herbert and staff
- Oct. 24 – Dean Demory on “Norman Rockwell, the man and his paintings”
- Oct. 31 – Call for Details
- Nov. 7 – Health care delivery changes affecting seniors, Tom Wentz
- Nov. 14 – “Global Mission”, Rev. Pamela Tankersley, Past Moderator of the Presbyterian Church  
in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Nov. 21 – The Los Angeles Children’s Chorus directed by Anne Tomlinson
- Nov. 28 – THANKSGIVING
- Dec. 5 – Ramona Convent Choir Concert
- Dec. 12 – MVGH Resident/Staff Christmas Party
- Dec. 19 – Christmas Carol sing-along with Larry and Judy Ballenger

MONTE VISTA GROVE HOMES IS NOW ON



FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE, INSTAGRAM & PINTEREST  
PLEASE FIND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND “LIKE” US & FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM & PINTEREST TO STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH OUR CURRENT EVENTS &  
PHOTOS

### The Grove Store

*The purpose of the Hearth and Health Center Auxiliary is to enhance the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the residents of the Health Center (Skilled Nursing Facility) and the Hearth (Residential Care Facility). Receipts from the store help fund projects for the needs of the residents in the Health Center and the Hearth that are not included in the MVGH budget.*

**The Grove Store is open on the  
1st Saturday of the month 9 am - 12 pm  
and  
3rd Wednesday of the month 1 pm - 4 pm  
(September - May)**

Quality heirloom items including silver, crystal, china, small appliances, as well as seasonal and specialty items. Hundreds of books including religion, fiction, poetry, biography, history, politics, mysteries, children’s, and beautiful coffee table books. Excellent women’s clothing and shoes neatly displayed and ready to wear.

**Location: unit A9– Boutique/Books and unit C57– Clothing/Odd ‘n Ends,  
both near the front of campus.**

Park on San Pasqual and walk in through Exit B or Driveway C.

If you would like to donate items to The Grove Store,  
call Bev Grant at 626.577.2959 to arrange a convenient delivery time.

# SAFE-T PROGRAM



This year, the staff of Monte Vista Grove Homes is focused on promoting Ergonomics and Safety. In order to get the staff more involved in this initiative, new t-shirts were designed to promote the theme. To draw awareness to the Grove’s Safety program, the navy shirts were dubbed “Safe -T’s” which was imprinted in bright orange on the front, and Nancy Mandic, Director of Resident Services, came up with a fun phrase for the back of the shirts—“Orange You Glad We’re Safe.” All staff are encouraged to wear the shirts on the 3rd Friday of each month. Activities are scheduled to increase awareness of working safely. In February, Barbara Stevens, Staff Accountant, handed out tangerines from the garden of Eden Conora, Director of Nursing, to everyone wearing a shirt. In March, orange Jelly Belly jellybeans were distributed to those who completed a quiz about ergonomics, and the staff took a photograph in

their new shirts. In April, more jellybeans were handed out to t-shirts wearers, and the staff was given a Word Search Puzzle with words related to Ergonomics. Additionally, during staff’s quarterly luncheon, Ron, the Physical Therapist in the Health Center gave the staff some pointers on Ergonomic Safety. He used “Office Ergonomics” as a demo. Many of the staff in various departments had questions, so Ron has been presenting additional ergonomic sessions for Maintenance/Landscaping, Housekeeping and Dietary.



### CONTRIBUTORS:

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# Over 105 of Years of Employment



**Ed Cortez**—an employee of MVGH for over 22 years. Ed has been with MVGH since 1991 and now serves as Director of Environmental Services. Ed was born in Tijuana, Mexico, and moved to Pasadena at age 6 with his mother, 3 brothers, and 2 sisters. Ed graduated from Pasadena High School in 1985, took a job at Villa Gardens as dining room supervisor while taking evening courses at Glendale College, where he obtained a Certificate in Hotel and Restaurant Management. He was hired by MVGH to the only position available, as a housekeeper in the Health Center. Within two weeks, he was aware that this was not what he wanted to do as a career, and after a conversation with his supervisor was given the opportunity to transfer to the Maintenance Department. While he had neither experience nor knowledge in maintenance, he proceeded to take evening classes at Glendale and Citrus Colleges in plumbing, electricity, and carpentry, receiving certificates and training in these needed skills. Ed married Carmen in 1992. They are now the proud and loving parents of their daughter who graduated from San Marino High School as an accomplished dancer. She currently is earning an undergraduate degree at Cal Poly Pomona. They are very active members of Saint Andrews Catholic Church here in Pasadena, worshipping regularly and participating in many volunteer activities. As the MVGH Director of Environmental Services, Ed is responsible for the oversight of the maintenance, landscaping, and housekeeping services as well as work done by outside contractors. He ensures that all of the facilities and equipment are kept attractive and in good working order. When you speak with Ed, you can't help but be aware of his love for the staff and residents of MVGH.



**Beatriz Hernandez**—an employee of MVGH for over 28 years. Head Housekeeper, Beatriz is also a native to Mexico, born and raised in the Guadalajara area of Jalisco, and maintaining close contacts with her parents, two sisters, and five brothers on both sides of the border. She first came to California in 1979 as a teenage bride, working part-time with a company that provided housekeeping services for MVGH. She went to night school to develop proficiency in English. She also pursued U.S. citizenship which she attained in 1993. She began full-time employment with MVGH in 1985, and when Housekeeping services were brought in-house in 1991, Beatriz assumed the role of Head Housekeeper. Her responsibilities include the Health Center, Hearth, all common areas, guest apartments and Independent Campus units upon request. She supervises the daily work of the Housekeeping Staff which consists of seven persons and lends support to events and activities. Beatriz lives nearby with one of her sisters and her daughter. She also has a daughter in college with a major in Communications. When asked what she enjoys most about her work here, she responds, "Everything!"



**Jose Espinoza**—an employee of MVGH for over 25 years. Facilities Manager, Jose was born and raised in the State of Jalisco, Mexico, in a farming community with three brothers and three sisters, with all members of this large family maintaining close relationships on both sides of the border on a regular basis. Jose first came to California in 1988 as a teenager joining one of his sisters in San Gabriel. He was employed by a company that provided landscaping services for MVGH. When MVGH brought the landscaping services in-house, Jose was one of the four men hired. He was later promoted to Head Gardener. Over the years, Jose has brought dramatic improvements in every aspect of landscaping at MVGH, including drought resistant plants and water conserving systems. Shortly after being hired by MVGH, Jose took formal training in English at La Puente High School and also began his pursuit of Citizenship in the United States. He accomplished this in 2000, and when he speaks of his citizenship he glows! Jose and his wife reside in La Puente and are the proud and grateful parents of three children, two boys and a girl. Prior to their marriage they were avid dancers, but in Jose's words, "After the children came into our lives, there has been less and less time for that." Part of the "less and less time" has been Jose's promotion to MVGH Facilities Manager in 2001, expanding his responsibilities to include facilities as well as landscaping. With the appointment, he immediately took a six-month course in air conditioning. He now supervises and manages seven people on a daily basis. When you ask Jose what he enjoys most about his work here, he expresses his appreciation for the residents and for having new challenges every day. In his words, "I like to learn something new every day."



**Yolanda Nestor**—an employee of MVGH for over 30 years. Kitchen Manager-Yolanda-will most likely be seen presiding at the cutting board over a delicious roast turkey or prime rib, but her responsibilities include the oversight of all the details that go into the preparation and presentation of MVGH meals. Yolanda was born and raised in Mexicali, Mexico, in a family of nine children, five boys and four girls. Their father was regularly employed in Salinas, California. Believing that there were much better opportunities for their family in California, her parents decided to make the move in 1972, and moved to Azusa. As the oldest of the children, Yolanda was not at all pleased with the move but family solidarity prevailed, and she began her schoolwork with special attention to learning English. Her first job, as a teenager, was here at MVGH in 1979 as a part-time housekeeper in the Health Center. After three years, she became a full-time waitress in the Dining Room. She continues to grow in her culinary and supervisory skills, having become an integral part of the Food Services Staff. She and her husband Jose became U.S. citizens in 1999 and reside nearby in Pasadena. They are parents of three adult sons and one daughter. Her parents and entire family reside in the Pasadena area so family solidarity continues to be a treasured part of her life.

The Health Center (Skilled Nursing) and the Hearth (Assisted Living) are open to both MVGH Residents and the community at large. For more information please call  
Eden Conora, R.N., Director of Nursing at  
(626) 792-2712 or email at [econora@mvgh.org](mailto:econora@mvgh.org)