



A Place for Belonging

Bishop
Grady
Villas

Diocese of Orlando

2008-2009
ANNUAL REPORT

Bishop Grady Villas

Bishop Grady Villas is the dream of Sister Elizabeth Marie Stoup, S.S.J., former principal of Morning Star School in Orlando and a lifelong advocate for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Located in St. Cloud, Florida, the mission of Bishop Grady Villas is to provide for life, a stable, secure, family-oriented, Christ-centered residential community for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Bishop Grady Villas supports the uniqueness, wholeness and dignity of each person through an environment of compassion and love. Trained and experienced professional staff members are on duty 24/7 to assist each individual in obtaining his or her potential for personal and spiritual growth and independence. Bishop Grady Villas serves people of all faiths and creeds.



Bishop Grady Villas' Prayer

Let us pray.

*Lord Jesus, as you walked on our earth
you were God-like in your compassion and mercy.*

Your hands were healing hands.

You made the lame whole and fed the hungry.

You brought comfort and peace to the mentally challenged.

*Dear Lord, we ask you to bless all who live in these homes
and to bless all those who work and support this place.*

*May these Villas be under the special care of the Blessed
Virgin Mary and her Spouse and the guardian angels.*

Amen.

Authored by Bishop Thomas J. Grady
Bishop of the Diocese of Orlando, deceased

*Bishop
Grady
Villas*



Photographs in annual report taken by Valeta Orlando, Teresa Peterson,
Jodi Peterman and staff of Bishop Grady Villas

*As we look back on this past year, we thank God
for so many gifts He had given us.*

We are thankful for the extraordinary achievements that the individuals we serve have been able to accomplish through the work of our dedicated staff; we are thankful that so many wonderful people have been drawn together to support us with their unique gifts, talents and treasure; and we are thankful to the Diocese of Orlando and the many parishes who continue to participate and contribute because they believe that our mission is important.

We are also thankful that as we go to press on this year's annual report, we announce that we now serve forty-eight beautiful people to help them develop and be the best they can be, bringing us to full capacity and creating the need, for the first time in our history, for initiating a waiting list for residency. We are also grateful that we have new opportunities to broaden our mission and serve individuals from the greater community to acquire jobs and develop vocational skills.

The greatest testament to how well we are fulfilling our mission as envisioned by Sister Elizabeth Marie Stoup, SSJ, comes from letters we receive from our families, such as this one from Hank and Gloria Pozzuoli, expressing their appreciation:

"As we enter our golden years we are comforted knowing that our son, Tony, now lives in a loving, caring, residence with other adults who are intellectually and developmentally disabled, with professional staff members assisting each resident in obtaining his or her potential for personal growth and independence. Bishop Grady Villas is the only resident program that we have ever been comfortable with knowing that our son is being cared for better than we could do as parents."

As you read through our annual report and see the many accomplishments of this past year, we invite you to pray that we will continue to be successful. We are very excited that we

reached the milestone of a full residential community at Bishop Grady Villas and we are blessed to have the opportunity to share all of these individuals' special gifts with their greater community. We are equally excited to know that our programs and services for individuals who reside in Osceola and Orange counties have grown out of our mission and allow us to serve even more individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities beyond the forty-eight individuals who reside at Bishop Grady Villas. To our staff, and family and friends whose tireless work has made it possible for our extraordinary success this past year, we wish to thank you for joining us on our journey. If you have not been part of our story, we invite you to partner in our mission by volunteering or sharing the gifts that you have been given with our community. We would be very happy to have you join us in our mission.

Sincerely,



Carol Brinati
2008/2009 Chairperson, Board of Directors



Kevin C. Johnson
Executive Director



Bishop Grady Villas' Program and Development Program Highlights

Residential Programs

During fiscal year 2009, Bishop Grady Villas' Residential Programs provided 24 hours, 365-day support to thirty-seven individuals; this included fifteen new residents who moved in during the fiscal year. In addition, ten individuals received Respite Services. Respite Services provide care and supervision to an individual when his or her primary caregiver is unable to perform these duties or a planned absence is scheduled for a period of thirty days or less. Our community will continue to grow as an additional eleven new individuals are scheduled to move by the end of October 2009. Bishop Grady Villas' Residential Programs are person-centered and customized to the individual. The supports we provide include supervision and training activities to assist the individuals we serve in acquiring, maintaining or improving skills related to activities of daily living. This includes personal health and hygiene skills such as bathing, oral hygiene, healthy eating and exercise; homemaking skills such as food preparation, vacuuming, ironing and laundry; socialization activities; companion activities that enable an individual to access the community and develop social roles, and social and adaptive skills that enable an individual to reside in the community.

The individuals we serve have demonstrated amazing strides in their growth during the past year. Some ways include regularly volunteering at a local assisted living facility and nursing home for the elderly, becoming involved in Special Olympics including acting as a public speaker and spokesperson or becoming involved in their local churches and completing community service. Although we often put our strongest emphasis on major accomplishments, it is truly the smaller accomplishments that occur throughout the year that inspire our team as well as our families. These may include learning to cook a first meal (that's not in the microwave), ironing one's own clothing, sending a first email, or learning how to better manage money. Our staff members are grateful to have the opportunity to know these individuals and share their accomplishments. They inspire us to keep reaching for our dreams.

Vocational Training Program

Bishop Grady Villas' Vocational Training Program provides ongoing educational activities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These activities are intended to support the individual to have meaningful, valued roles in the community. Areas of training include self-advocacy, social skills, and vocational development. These services are scheduled for six hours daily during weekdays. Many individuals who participate in our program are also actively seeking employment in the community. Some individuals are currently employed but attend the program part-time to enhance their skills in the areas in which they are most interested in. Our Vocational Training Instructor, Isabel Olvera is able to work closely with our employment specialist, Desiree Robles, to target areas that individuals would like to develop so that they can improve their ability to acquire the employment outcomes they would like to achieve. In addition, individuals who are working can receive targeted training to improve their opportunities to advance in their current employment.

Since the Vocational Training Program began, we have seen a noticeable increase in the skills and knowledge of the individuals who participate in the program. Developmental activities included effectively completing job applications, interviewing skills, workplace etiquette and managing relationships with supervisors, coworkers, and customers. In addition, we assisted individuals in developing money-management skills and understanding appropriate physical and emotional behavior and boundaries when relating to family, friends, children, acquaintances, and other individuals in the community. During fiscal year 2009, two individuals who participated in the Vocational Training Program reached an important milestone of gaining employment in the community. These services are crucial to assisting an individual in achieving his or her personal goals and developing independent living skills so that the individual can

participate more fully in the life of his or her community.



Employment Services

During the past fiscal year, Bishop Grady Villas provided Employment Services to twenty-seven individuals. This was made possible through a grant from The Able Trust, which allowed us to establish a new dedicated full-time Employment Specialist position. To sustain the program after the grant period, we contracted with the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities to provide Supported Employment Services, became a vendor through the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of Supported Employment and Employment Services, and finally, became an Employment Network through Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work. The services we provided included individuals who reside at Bishop Grady Villas as well as additional individuals from the greater community.

Bishop Grady Villas' Employment Services begin with a comprehensive person-centered process called "Discovery." This includes getting to know the individual by interviewing the individual, his or her family, and those who know the person best. After this process we observe the individual in various settings including in the home, out in the community, and other appropriate settings. By getting to know the individual we are able to identify the person's strengths and his or her interests for employment. In addition, we target potential barriers and identify additional supports that may be needed. These include examining available transportation, medication management, potential accommodations that may be necessary, and any areas in which a person may have difficulty in a work setting. After the Discovery process, we assist individuals in applying and interviewing with employers in the community or the development of a business plan for those who have a self-employment goal. Once an individual is given an offer of employment we act as a consultant for the employer to assist the employer in utilizing and training its new employee. In addition, many employers request additional on-the-job training support as a supplement to training provided to all employees. Finally, after an individual has stabilized in his or her job, our employment specialist continues to provide ongoing support to ensure that an individual remains successful in his or her job. This may include periods of increased support during times of transition, changes in responsibility or at opportunities for advancement.

During fiscal year 2009, twenty-seven individuals participated in Bishop Grady Villas Employment Services program. We assisted ten individuals in gaining employment and served an additional seven individuals in on-going support to remain successful in their current positions. By getting to know the individuals we serve we have been able to better serve employers by providing solutions to their staffing needs.

Bishop Grady Villas

Diocese of Orlando

Development Program

Thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors and many generous donors, Bishop Grady Villas' fundraising efforts last year were pivotal in helping us establish our Residents' Scholarship Fund and provide support for our programs and services. Our Fifth Annual Harvest Ball, held on October 4, 2008, raised more than \$170,000 toward the Residents' Scholarship Fund, and we also honored Sister Elizabeth Marie Stoup, SSJ, during our Harvest Ball's annual celebration of Thanksgiving. Last year we were also awarded a \$75,000 dollar-for-dollar matching grant from The Dr. P. Phillips Foundation, which helped our Board raise an additional \$75,000 to establish The Dr. P. Phillips Foundation Residents' Scholarship Fund. From these fundraising efforts last year, we were able to award partial scholarships totaling \$159,630 to nineteen residents in need of financial assistance for their services. We will continue to focus our fundraising efforts toward our Residents' Scholarship Fund with the ultimate goal of raising \$1 million to build the Scholarship Fund's reserves so we can continue to serve these special individuals.

Last year, we also launched our First Annual "Achieving Their Dreams" fundraising luncheon which was held at The Ballroom at Church Street in downtown Orlando on March 18, 2009 and raised more than \$83,000 in gifts and multi-year pledges for Bishop Grady Villas. More than 250 guests attended this first-time fundraising event to learn more about our mission.

A complete listing of all of our donors and volunteers is included in this annual report in recognition of their generosity, including those individuals who became Guardian's Circle Founding Members of our Bishop Grady Villas' Legacy Society. The many contributions of time, talent and treasure from each of these donors were critical to our success in fulfilling our mission last year.



RESIDENT PROFILES



"I really look forward to the Harvest Ball every year!"

Kel

Everybody says that I am a really nice guy. I like helping people and I don't like to see people be sad. I recently achieved one of my goals to volunteer at a nursing home. I work as a volunteer two days a week at the

Southern Oaks Nursing Home. I help out wherever they need me, and I love my volunteer job! They gave me an award because of my hard work.

I really like my church, the First United Methodist Church in St. Cloud. My mom says that she likes how much Bishop Grady has supported me and my relationship with God and how supportive they are as I become more involved in my church community. Because I like to help people so much, I volunteer to help my church with the Vacation Bible School. I like helping the teachers and the little kids. I was a group helper and got to help the kids with making crafts and passing out snacks.

I also really like to have people come to the Villas for tours because I like them to see my room and how beautiful it is here. The staff is so much fun to hang around with and I know they care about me. They have taught me safety rules so that my friends and I can walk to Wal-Mart to shop. They also help me take my medicines so that I stay healthy.

I am a member of the Harvest Ball Host Committee. I really like the Harvest Ball because I like to go dancing with my girlfriend and they have a lot of food that I like. I also like to play in the chime choir for everyone at the Harvest Ball.



"My goal is to someday find a job helping children."

Joyce

My name is Joyce and I am a happy person. I am one of the newer residents at Bishop Grady Villas. My journey to my new home is a true story of faith in God. My sister, Barbara, and I had been separated at a young age by the divorce of our

parents. Upon reaching adulthood, my sister spent the next twenty-seven years trying to find me; even looking for me after she relocated to Central Florida. For reasons she could not explain, my sister felt a spiritual need to attend the Annunciation Catholic Church in Altamonte Springs which was located twenty-eight miles from her home.

One day, my mother and I were in church and I was praying to one day find my sister. On that very day, I turned around to find that my sister was sitting in the pew right behind me! We both knew the moment our eyes met that we had found each other. From that day on, my sister and brother have been so important in my life; but, with both of them having fulltime jobs, I had many hours every day with little to do. I was living in an apartment all by myself without any friends and nothing to do. Barbara prayed for a better option for me and then remembered reading about Bishop Grady Villas in a church bulletin and immediately set the wheels in motion to getting me moved in.

"The staff is amazing! They treat Joyce and the other residents as individuals with dignity and respect. They give them the chance to make their own choices without telling them what to do. Joyce feels so much a part of everything that is going on at Bishop Grady Villas. I am so glad that my sister lives at the Villas," said Joyce's sister, Barbara.

I am very happy at Bishop Grady Villas. Now I spend my days in Adult Day Training learning how to use the computer, money management, making arts and crafts for Harvest Ball decorations, and working in the Dr. Phillips Plant Nursery. I even taught my sister-in-law how to grow tomatoes!



“Accomplish your dreams if you put your mind to it.”

Charles

Someone asked me what I would like people to know about me and I said that I would like to tell everyone about how I lost 105

pounds since moving to Bishop Grady Villas! When I lived at home with my parents, there was very little to do; I watched a lot of television and ate throughout the day while my parents were at work. I did not have any friends to hang out with so my days were very lonely.

Since moving to the Villas two years ago, I now have friends and there is always something going on. I regularly walk to the local gym, to my job at Home Depot, and to Papa John’s Pizza to get a Diet Coke or snack and talk to some friends that I have made there. In fact, I have built such a connection that Papa John’s Pizza generously donated to last year’s Harvest Ball as a direct result of their friendship with me.

Charles’ mom, Susan, also credits Bishop Grady Villas with helping to give Charles a full life, with more options than his family could provide him. “He has a focus in his life now other than food and he loves his job at Home Depot,” said Susan.

I am also very proud of the fact that I have learned to manage my own money and I love to learn new things. In fact, my next goal is to go to school to learn web design and to eventually get a job where I can put those skills to use.

I hope my story gives you hope: the hope that you can face challenges with your friends and accomplish your dreams if you put your mind to it.



“It’s important to me to help support Bishop Grady.”

Kevin

Before I came to live at Bishop Grady Villas, I lived in a group home. In my group home, we didn’t have all the wonderful things that we have here at the Villas. In

my group home, we always had to watch what the staff wanted to watch on TV or listen to on the radio. Here, I get to make these choices for myself! Here I can play the Wii when I want or choose to go places when I want. I feel safer, more independent and I get to meet lots of new people. I know the staff love me and care about me.

I am originally from Lake County, Florida and I have a lot of friends with local law enforcement there. I am really hoping that I can form new friendships with law enforcement officers in Osceola County because I would one day like to work for the police department or sheriff’s department.

My dad has worked with many assisted living facilities and he thinks that Bishop Grady Villas is one of the best places to live. “It is a blessing to have found some place so safe and secure for Kevin,” stated Kevin’s dad.

Last year I really liked the Harvest Ball and my favorite part was greeting people. I really like meeting new people. I also liked working on the Harvest Ball planning committee too because I could send emails and letters to all my friends asking them to attend or make donations to the silent auction.



“My dream is to eventually get my own house or apartment . . .

Laura

I am very excited about my first job! Since living at Bishop Grady Villas, I have been learning job skills so I could get a job but I got very

nervous when it was time to go for an interview so it took me a while to find work. When the Villas had an opening in the administrative office, the staff thought it might be a good job for me because I was already very familiar with the campus.

Even with a job that is on campus I needed to learn new skills to fulfill my job. The staff was very helpful in teaching me what I needed to know to be successful. All of my fears went away when I got my first paycheck! I was so excited to have earned my own money for the first time in my life. I am trying to put most of my money in a bank account because I want to save up to buy a laptop computer of my own. Each time I get paid, one of the resident advisors will help me go to the bank to deposit my money.

When I am not working, I like to read and watch movies with my friends. I also like that we have a book club so that we can talk about the books that we have read. I just finished reading *True Colors* and it was a really good book. I also am a spokesperson for Special Olympics. It’s called a Global Messenger. I go all over Florida to promote different sports to special people like me. I also participate in Special Olympics’ tennis, bowling and swimming.

... and maybe even have a hot tub!”



Russell’s dream job would be to work in a library someday.

Russell

I love books and libraries. I especially like collecting the different receipts that libraries have with many different colors. Some

libraries still use library cards. I opened my own library here at Bishop Grady Villas that I call the Bishop Wenski library. Right now I have the library in Dorsey Hall, but I would like to have my own bookshelves that I can organize. In my library I would have books, DVDs and CDs and I would like to let the people who live at Bishop Grady Villas and the staff check out books from my library. My dream is to give electronic receipts so that I will know what books have been checked out and when they need to be returned.

I also like to listen to classical music by composers like Tschakovsky and Wagner, watching movies and reading. I like watching machines and I look up videos and pictures of old engines on the internet. My favorite items to collect are old movie projector reels.

According to Russell’s parents, when he was born in South Africa there was little information about how to help children like Russell who have autism. His parents did the best they could; but, they did not find a lot of information or resources on raising children with autism until they moved to the United States. They still struggled, however, because by the time they moved here, Russell was an adult and most of the resources they found were focused on early intervention services for children with autism. Since finding Bishop Grady Villas, they feel that they have finally found a place that understands Russell, accepts him for who he is, and provides an environment that allows him to pursue his interests in a way that is not readily available anywhere else.



"I love Bishop Grady Villas and I wish that everyone like me . . .

Victoria

At the age of 25, I am getting the chance to experience life away from my family for the first time! I have

watched my brother and cousins grow up and go away to college and I have wanted to spread my wings in the same way. Now that I live at Bishop Grady Villas, I get to do that, too. In fact, sometimes I am having such a good time at the Villas that I prefer to be with my friends here rather than go home for a visit with my family.

My social time is spent hanging around in my house with my friends, watching movies, listening to music and learning how to cook. I love to shop for clothes, stay up late to watch movies, eat at Taco Bell, and I like to collect Tinker Bell items. I also enjoy going to the gym regularly and participating in Special Olympics. My mother is so happy that I am here and she says she likes that I am getting the chance to have lots of friends and to do stuff that I have never done before. This makes her feel good to see me getting a more normal life like what other young adults my age get to do.

I spend my days in Adult Day Training and I am learning to make good life choices just as others my own age are doing. In the past, I have volunteered at a local high school helping exceptional student education teachers by helping to push students' wheelchairs so that the teachers could take the children to the library. I really liked helping the kids and the teachers and would like to do other things to help people. Maybe I can work with children in a school one day.

. . . could find a great place to live and enjoy life like I do!"



"My goal is to get a job at Sea World."

Sara

My name is Sara, but my friends call me GG! I have lived at Bishop Grady Villas for about three years now and I like it a lot. The staff is so nice and I have so many friends

to do things with. I was so bored at home. When I first moved here, I used to call my mom every day to talk to her. Now my mom calls me and sometimes I am too busy to talk to her. My mom thinks that's good because it means I now have a life of my own.

Sometimes it's hard for me to talk; but I can talk a lot better since I have moved to the Villas. I have improved because I am surrounded by so many friends and I like talking to them so it makes my voice stronger when I use it more. My mom said that she can tell that my body has gotten a lot stronger too and it is because I do a lot of walking around the campus and I go to more places because there are always interesting activities going on.

I like music and dancing. I even dance in the circle in front of Dorsey Hall, when I think no one is looking! I like country music. Shania Twain is my favorite. I am also learning how to cook. Right now I can cook macaroni and cheese and hot dogs but next I want to learn to make chocolate chip cookies.

I like to go to places like Checkers to eat and to the movies, but sometimes I just like to ride in the van when they go to take people to work or pick them up. That way I get to spend more time with my friends and with the resident advisors. The resident advisors help me out so much. They work hard to help all of us.



“The Harvest Ball is a lot of fun and . . .

Caitlin

My name is Caitlin and my dream to work at Disney’s Magic Kingdom has finally come true! I was working at Albertson’s; but, my hours

were cut back, so I decided to apply for a job at Disney. My job coach helped me to get the job of my dreams at the Magic Kingdom where I work in housekeeping and bussing tables. I love my new job at Disney!

Another goal I have is to learn to cook by myself. I have learned how to cook my favorite thing to eat, shrimp alfredo with pasta! The next thing I want to learn how to cook will probably be another pasta dish because I like pasta a lot! I would also really like to learn to make pizza because I love it so much I should be Italian!

People tell me that I am a fashion queen and a dancing queen! I like to dance to all kinds of music like hip hop and heavy metal. My favorite song right now is a song by Sheryl Crow and Kid Rock called “The Picture.” It is a good song to dance to.

*... I can’t wait to go again!
I love to dance all night
with my friends!”*



“I also want to get a model of the space shuttle for my room.”

Brian

I want to tell you all about the things I like doing at Bishop Grady Villas. I like working in the woodshop and making crafts from the woodworking kits that

Lowe’s and The Home Depot donated for us. I want to make a car next so I can put it on a shelf in my room.

I like going to Adult Day Training classes and I work really hard on my math skills. The resident advisors take me shopping so I can learn how to compare prices. This helps me know what to buy and what is a good deal. I want to do a good job so I can get a job at Wal-Mart.

I also like to go to church, work on puzzles, and take walks to the lakefront. Most nights we walk to the lakefront unless it is raining. I like watching *The Price is Right* and I can sometimes guess the right price! My favorite foods are clam chowder, beef stroganoff and Ultimate Nachos from Bennigan’s. I like to go to Bennigan’s with my family.

I hope that we can go to the Kennedy Space Center soon. They have new things to see. I have seen the old stuff but I want to see the new stuff soon.



"Bishop Grady Villas is where I belong . . ."

Jack

I love everything about Bishop Grady Villas! My favorite is that it is clean and very beautiful, and so much better than where I lived before! I like to clean my room every day and make my bed every morning. I like washing my own dishes after breakfast. I also like making my friend, Raymond, coffee in the morning. We both like strong black coffee. He lives in my house and we are good friends.

The staff is very good to me and they teach me so many new things like learning how to use computers so that I can email my friends and family. I didn't know how to use the computer before I moved here and now I use it every day to email my friends and family. I also like watching YouTube videos of my favorite actress, Carol Burnett.

At Adult Day Training classes, I am also learning about money management, math, and developing job skills. I would like to get a housekeeping job at a Disney hotel because I like to work with people and I am good at cleaning.

I have lots of freedom here at Bishop Grady Villas. I have the freedom to go anywhere in the community I want such as the library, shopping, swimming, church, bowling and Special Olympics. The food is also really good and there are a lot of good choices. I am also learning how to bake and cook the foods that I like.

... They understand me very well here. I love it here."



"I would like to live at Bishop Grady Villas forever."

Raymond

My name is Raymond and my birthday is February 3rd. I love getting presents for my birthday and I love getting presents for Christmas, too. I also love the decorations at Christmas time. I know it is important to both give and receive so I also like to buy turkey dinners for underprivileged families during the holidays. I like to buy gifts for these families, too, so that they can have a nice Christmas like I have. I also give some of my money to the Salvation Army. I show a lot of love and compassion to my friends, too.

I get my money by working at the Osceola ARC Opportunity Center workshop. I love my job very much and want to keep working there every day. I don't like to make changes if I don't have to. When I get home from work I like to relax and put the TV on. I also like to listen to music, especially Joni James. She is my favorite. I can sing from my heart and my favorite song to sing is "My Cheating Heart." I can also impersonate The Godfather. It makes me happy to entertain people!

In my spare time I like to participate in Special Olympics' bowling and swimming and I like to cook. I also like to eat shrimp scampi but it isn't ever as good as my mom used to make it. She was a very good cook.



“This opportunity also fulfilled one of my goals to become a public speaker . . .

Jose

I work in the Magic Kingdom at the Columbia Harbour House Restaurant. I started out working as a counter person and have since been promoted to work in the kitchen. I also got a pay raise when I got promoted! My first job as a counter

person was important because I had to read the tickets, call out the numbers and make sure that I told guests to have a “magical day.” I like working in the kitchen the best. I get to cook clam chowder, chicken nuggets and French fries. My managers at Disney think that I am the ideal cast member because I do such a great job.

I was able to get a promotion because of what I learned at Bishop Grady Villas. My Adult Day Training teacher, Isabel, is the best teacher in the whole wide world! Isabel teaches me important job skills that helped me succeed in my job, and my job coach, Desi, visited my managers regularly to ask them if I was doing a good job. My managers noticed that I was working hard and promoted me.

When I am not working I like to hang around with my friends in my house. I also like to practice my tennis for Special Olympics. At the state games I got the gold medal in tennis!

In 2008, I was recognized by Disney as part of its CastABLE Leadership Team for 2008. Desi Robles, our employment specialist, and I were asked to make a presentation to Disney’s Human Resources Department as well as to a panel of Disney’s CastABLE Disability awareness members including executives and cast members. This was a great opportunity for Bishop Grady Villas to expose Disney to the benefits of hiring individuals like me with disabilities.

. . . and earned me the respect and admiration of my Disney cast members.”



“When I am not busy with all those things, I like to watch TV . . .

Tony

My name is Tony and I have lived at Bishop Grady for almost a full year. I like living here a lot because I have friends and I am learning to be independent. I like to play Uno with Brian and Tommy. I also like

to play basketball with Robert. We also ride bikes, go to Wal-Mart and go to the movies.

All my life I have wanted to work for Disney World and that dream has now come true! I was recently accepted for a job at Disney washing dishes! Bishop Grady Villas’ staff helped me get this job. In my Adult Day Training classes, I worked hard so that I could learn new job skills like how to count money and how to work with others. I got the interview at Disney because I have experience washing dishes in the kitchen at Bishop Grady. They won’t interview you at Disney unless you have six months experience first and I had been practicing in our kitchen. I am so happy to have my new job at Disney!

When I first moved here I would call my mom and dad every day because I missed them. Now that I am settled in I can go several days before I call home again. Sometimes, my parents even have to call me to get to talk to me. I have so much more to do here that I forget to call them. I am involved with my church, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, where I carry the Cross and help with collections. I am also involved in Special Olympics’ swimming, bowling and basketball.

. . . or listen to music in my room. My favorite things to listen to are songs by the Beach Boys.”



"I love my job and hope to make a long career at Albertson's."

Brian

I have two homes, one here at Bishop Grady Villas and one with my folks who live in Winter Garden. Everyone tells me that I am a gentleman. I

am a nice guy and I like to help everyone when I can. I also like to keep an eye on things at Bishop Grady Villas. I am not a resident advisor; it is just that I like everyone to get along so I try to help out. When people are upset or not getting along together, I sometimes ask them if they will walk outside and talk to me. I usually put my arm around them and look them in the eyes and start talking to them, and they usually calm down after that. I also like to help people by delivering their mail to them, lifting heavy boxes or doing the dishes in the kitchen. I am really helpful with the heavy stuff because I am really strong.

I get to help people at my job at Albertson's where I bag groceries. I have been working there for four years and I give the best customer service. Customers remember me and some have even given me a kiss on the cheek. I recently got my pin for working at Albertson's for four years. I am so proud of that pin and I was like, "I did a great job! This is MY life!"

I love all sports, but I love golf the best. Last year I wrote a letter to Tiger Woods to tell him how much I liked him and he sent me an autographed picture which I donated to the Harvest Ball for the silent auction. The person who bought Tiger Woods' autographed picture gave it back to me. I didn't expect that but it made me happy!



"My dream job would be to work in an office somewhere."

Beth

I was one of the very first residents at Bishop Grady Villas!

Since I have been living here, I got a job at McDonald's and I have been there for four years now. I am able to take the bus by myself to go to work and I am very independent. I work with very nice people and I have made many friends there, too.

I wasn't always so independent and dependable. When I first came to Bishop Grady Villas, I didn't have any job skills or the courage to find and keep a job, so I started working with Lori Brothers in the administrative office. I would help out by answering the phone, making copies and other clerical duties. This helped me to learn new job skills and it gave me work experience so that I could take the next step to get my own job outside of the Villas.

One of my favorite memories here at Bishop Grady Villas is the time we had a talent show. I really liked the talent show because I sang the song, "You Light Up My Life". I liked being able to sing for my friends and our parents and my guardian.

I love all kinds of music but I like 80's music the most. I have a lot of CD's and I like to spend evenings sitting in one of the rocking chairs on the porch listening to music with my friends. It is fun when we all sing or dance together when we are hanging out. These are good times at Bishop Grady Villas!



“Someday, I would like to get a job at Goodwill or work with horses.”

Lori

I really like living at Bishop Grady Villas because it is fun and I get to be independent. I like to be with my best friends, Karen, Krystn, Clare, and Nanette.

I love to read so I like it when we go to the library. I always check out a lot of books because I read so much. I am a fast reader and I get the big books from the library and sometimes I can read one each day. I prefer historical fiction or romances. I have quite a collection of books in my room such as “Lord of the Rings” and several Alexandre Dumas books.

I like that Bishop Grady Villas supports me in my faith. I celebrate Passover and Hanukkah. I play the dreidel and light candles during Hanukkah. My friend, Russell, likes lighting the candles and saying my prayers with me.

Besides going to the library, I also like participating in Special Olympics, shopping for low-calorie snacks and diet cokes, playing bowling on the Wii, and going to Sonny’s Bar-BQ to eat smoked turkey. I also like growing sunflowers in The Dr. Phillips garden.



“I also love to dance the Meringue and hope that I can ...”

David

Hi there! I am one of the newest residents at Bishop Grady Villas! I am from Manhattan, New York, and my parents are from the

Dominican Republic. So, that means that I grew up listening to Spanish music and eating Dominican food! I was very excited about moving to Bishop Grady Villas because I wanted to be independent and have my own apartment. When I came here for the first time, I was very happy and impressed. This place is beautiful, and it is a dream come true for me.

I am a lot of fun and I have a great laugh! I like staying up late with Jose and Robert, my housemates. They are great friends and fun to be with. When I first moved here I felt shy but I am not shy anymore!

I go to Adult Day Training during the day and I really like learning new skills in my classes. I like my teacher, Isabel, she is fun and we speak Spanish sometimes! I want to get a job soon. My father taught me how to hang sheet rock, how to put in bathtubs, how to install tile, and how to polish floors. I liked doing those things and so I would like to work at The Home Depot. I also like to keep my house very clean. I am always mopping or washing dishes and I do a very good job at it. Maybe I can get a job cleaning as well.

I have learned some new things since moving here. I have learned to plant flowers and work in the Dr. Phillips Nursery greenhouse. I especially like the sunflowers. I have learned to cook vegetable pizza and will soon be learning how to make rice. I love to go swimming at the St. Cloud pool, to the movie theater and to church.

... do that at the Harvest Ball!”



"We have a good life at Bishop Grady Villas!"

Robert

I am Robert and I am one cool guy! I love Bishop Grady Villas, Jesus and America!! We really have a good life here! I love it here because it is so nice!

I am just like any other guy my age. I like to hang out with the other guys in my villa. I love sports and I am really good at them too, especially basketball. I like to participate in as many sports in Special Olympics that I can, bowling, swimming, golf, basketball. I love them all. I like to hang out with Jose and go to eat subs, listen to rap music, and play the Wii. I wish we had a pool table and flat screen TVs in all the houses because they are cool.

I go to Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church every Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. I really like it and I like the music. My favorite song is "Immaculate Mary" and I can play it on my guitar.

All of this activity keeps me very busy and very hungry. I love to eat here and I love all kinds of foods. My favorites are pizza, spaghetti with mushrooms, cheesecake, spinach and corn on the cob. Every day I tell the chef that I love the food because Bishop Grady has the best food ever!



"I want to work as a receptionist and I am working on my ..."

Clare

I like to have fun and fool around! I don't like to cook too much but I can cook soup and spaghetti. I always make soup with my friend, Joyce, because it is more fun that way and we can share the soup. I like to go to Wal-Mart so I can get my hair done and buy the supplies I need as well as snacks (butter caramel popcorn is my favorite).

I like to go to Adult Day Training classes; but, I think the math is too easy for me sometimes. I always like to learn something new. I am really good at working the Sudoku puzzles, too. I also want to go to college to learn to sing and dance. I am currently playing in the Villas' bell choir and we practice every week in Dorsey Hall. I look forward to play the bells during the Harvest Ball. Maybe one day I can have other music lessons here at the Villas, too.

I enjoy going to activities such as bowling, swimming, going to Magic Kingdom, and watching movies. There's always a lot going on at the Villas! I am working with Desi, our employment specialist, to get a job.

"... computer and typing skills so that I can get the job!"



*"I enjoy my friends
at the Villas . . ."*

Greg

I am the greatest bowler at Bishop Grady Villas! I am also one of the hardest workers, too! I want a job so badly! I need to work because I hate not working. I hope to get a job gathering shopping carts,

stocking shelves or greeting people at Wal-Mart, Publix or another store.

Someday, I would also like to be a resident advisor here at the Villas. If I were a resident advisor, I would show people all around. I would show them the garden and tell them about how our flowers and plants grow. I would show them the woodshop and the things we like to make in the woodshop. I would show them my room and all my Special Olympics' trophies and medals.

Since moving to Bishop Grady Villas, I have learned relaxation exercises which help me deal with stress. I have learned how to take deep breaths and count to ten when I am getting stressed out. I have also learned that these exercises will help me when I find a job so I don't get stressed out while I am working.

*... I like to go to the library,
watch movies, and I like
going out to eat at restaurants
around the Villas."*



*"I want to continue working at
SeaWorld. Someday . . ."*

Karen

My name is Karen and I work at SeaWorld. My job is at a buffet style restaurant and I carry food trays on a cart and take them to the kitchen. Right now one of

the resident advisors drives me to work and picks me up but soon I am going to be trained so that I can take the city bus to work on my own. I am excited about that!

I was diagnosed with diabetes when I was six years old. Right now I am 41 years old. I check my blood six times a day because I am on insulin. My pump is on me twenty-four hours a day. My insulin is in my pump and I push certain buttons if my sugar is too high or if it is too low. If my blood sugar gets sky high then I know I need to walk around or ride my bike or drink water to help it go down. I count my carbohydrates every day and I keep a form in my purse and carry it with me where ever I go.

Susan, our nurse, helps me if I need help. I recently got a new machine and I am getting used to how it works. Susan says that I am like a machine about watching my blood sugar because I am so good at monitoring it; but, she is always there to help me if I need her.

*... I would like to live on
my own with a friend."*



"I got a job working at Bishop Grady Villas so now . . ."

Raymond

My name is Raymond and I am a pretty agreeable guy! I am kind of

quiet and I like to spend time alone listening to my music. I really like listening to hard rock, especially groups like Pink Floyd and KISS. I have a lot of their CD's and also a lot of CD's from the 80's. Sometimes I build my LEGO sets while I am listening to my music. I have lots of LEGO sets and it is fun to build them.

If I am not listening to music, I like watching movies or watching TV with my housemates. Sometimes we watch *The Andy Griffith Show*, *Cops*, or *Law and Order*. Recently, we got to watch the Harlem Globetrotters play basketball.

I really like living at Bishop Grady Villas. I like that I have my own room and my own bathroom because I am a quiet guy and I like spending time alone.

... I get a paycheck and work doing dishes and helping out in the kitchen."



"My dream job would be to work in an office some day."

Jessica

My name is Jessica. I am learning to be healthy at Bishop Grady Villas. I worry about my health sometimes but everyone here helps me with it by listening to me when I am concerned and also helping me

to practice good habits so that I can relax more. I try to make good decisions when I go shopping for snacks to keep in my cupboard. The resident advisors help me shop and make sure I make good, healthy choices. I buy bottled water because drinking more water is good for you and sometimes I forget to drink enough. I also like getting pretzels because they are a healthy choice, too.

I don't like to eat a lot of sugar, unless it is my birthday! Then I like to eat birthday cake but not the whole cake because I share it with my family and friends.

Exercising also helps me to be healthy. I like to work out at the gym when I am off of work at my job at SeaWorld. I walk on the treadmill, use the elliptical machine and the weights when I am at the gym.

I really like living here because everyone at Bishop Grady Villas is so friendly. When I am not working at SeaWorld, I like to go to movies with my friends and shopping for clothes at the mall. I also like to use the computer to email my family who live in Tennessee.



“My dream job would be to work at Sea World. I also . . .

Vicki

My name is Vicki and I have been at Bishop Grady Villas since it first opened. I really like it here. This year I got my first job working in the kitchen as a

dishwasher here at Bishop Grady Villas. I like it a lot and I know my job is important. I am learning that it is important to go to your job even when other people are doing fun things. Sometimes that is hard to do!

I also like my job because now I have more money. I really like it when I can go to the bank and get money out of my account or when I can write a check. I like to go to the ATM before I go shopping. I also use my money to pay to have cable TV in my room and buy the things I need like snacks.

I have also learned that it is good to put my money in the bank to save it. I know that the bank keeps my money safe.

When I am not working, I like to watch movies, color in my coloring books, and ride my bike. I also enjoy using the computer to send emails.

. . . want to live in my own apartment some day.”



“Last year I attended the Harvest Ball and . . .

Claudia

Hi! My name is Claudia. I came to Bishop Grady Villas for a visit when my parents went on their first

vacation without me. I liked it so much that I did not want to go back home with them! I still like it so much that when my mom and dad want me to go home for a visit, they sometimes have to call the resident advisors to encourage me to go home for a visit. I always look forward to coming back because I have so many friends at the Villas.

I just started a Weight Watchers program. I go to Weight Watchers every Monday and Tuesday and I count my points four times a day. I get stars on Tuesdays when I have lost weight. I have lost 21 pounds since I started! I am really good at counting my points. The resident advisors help me to make sure I am staying on the program and Chef Dan helps by cooking healthy foods for me to eat.

Swimming is a great exercise that also helps me lose weight. My favorites are the breast stroke and the back stroke. I went to the World Games for Special Olympics last year and won a gold medal in swimming! My parents were there and cheered for me.

I just had my review where I work at Publix and I did a good job so they gave me a raise! I love my job coach, Desi, who helps me do my best.

. . . had a great time! I am looking forward to going to the Harvest Ball this year.”



"I am so happy here. What can I say? Bishop Grady Villas ..."

Sarah

I would like to tell you what it is like to live at Bishop Grady Villas. It is like having a big huge family. This is my family now.

Everyone here is my friend but I like to call them my brothers and sisters because we get along together. We laugh, we play and hang out together. I like being with a lot of people that care about me. Bishop Grady Villas is what God created, a holy family that is caring, kind and generous. We like to protect each other because we love each other. Here I have a lot of friends to talk to when I am feeling down and they help me by listening to me.

I have changed a lot and learned a lot of things since moving here. I am trying to be a lot more independent, more like an adult and I love who I am. I have learned that I could be on my own and how to be patient and to have good behavior. I want people to see that I am a grown woman and I want to get out there and experience the whole world.

I recently got my dream job working at a Disney hotel resort as a housekeeper! Before getting my dream job, I worked at Publix for almost twelve years as a bagger.

*... is my hope and dreams,
I enjoy my life!"*



"Ana works at night and she is very special to me. She is ..."

Jaime

My name is Jaime and I came to live at Bishop Grady Villas on January 2, 2009. Before my father passed away he found out about Bishop Grady Villas from Sister Elizabeth and he told me

that he found a good place for me to live. I am glad to say that I am very happy here. It is sometimes hard because I get homesick but everyone here treats me so nice that I forget all about it.

Before I moved here I fell and hurt myself and had to use a cane. I kept using the cane even though I was better and didn't need it because I was afraid that I would fall again. Susan, our nurse, knew I didn't need the cane and she knew I was just afraid to walk without it so she asked if she could "babysit" my cane. She started out just keeping it for a little while and then she started to keep it all day during the day and I only used it at night. She even joked with me that she was going to put a diaper on it since she was babysitting it. Susan is funny and I am glad that she works here.

Now I don't use my cane at all but I know that it is in the nurse's office if I ever need it again. My mom is so proud of me because I am so much more independent since I don't walk with my cane any more. The resident advisors say I look a lot younger now that I don't walk around with my cane all the time!

What I like most about living here is that whenever I do not feel well, the staff takes care of me.

*... always checking that
I am doing okay."*



"I am hoping to learn new skills so I can get a job one day . . ."

Craig

My name is Craig and I have not been at Bishop Grady Villas for very long. My sister found out about Bishop Grady Villas when she was searching for places for me to live. This place is far better

than any other place in the area because it has resident advisors here at all times that can help me when I need it and to make sure that I am safe. I get my own bedroom and bathroom so I can have privacy. Where I lived before I had privacy but there were no other activities planned and no one to watch over me. A lot of group homes don't have private rooms so I can be alone when I want to be.

It is a lot better here than where I lived before because I don't have to cook for myself unless I want to and there are many activities that I can go to if I want. Recently a group of us went to an old car show and I liked that a lot because I like cars, motorcycles and monster trucks. One of the resident advisors also took me out to play with a remote control monster truck. It was fun and I would like to have a truck like that, too. One day I would like to go to a Monster Truck Rally.

I also go to classes where I am learning about money management and how to use the computer. Recently, I sent my very first email. In the class we are learning how to shop and to add up the cost of what we are buying so that we know how much we can buy.

... but I will wait and see what happens."



"A staff member at the Villas saw how good . . ."

Chad

My name is Chad and most evenings you can find me on one of the porches listening to music with my friends or in my room watching movies. I love to sing

songs from the 80's with my friends. I also love watching movies and I have a giant movie collection. Most of my movies are VHS tapes and I didn't want any DVD's until my dad told me that VHS tapes aren't exactly going to be easy to find anymore. So I have to start adding DVD's to my collection now. I prefer the VHS tapes because they start playing as soon as you push the play button and DVD's take a little while to start. I am an impatient person sometimes and don't like to wait for it to start playing. DVD's don't have to rewind like VHS tapes so they aren't all bad and maybe I will get used to them soon.

Because I love movies so much I am hoping to start my own video rental business. Kevin said that I may be able to do that here at Bishop Grady Villas because of how I like movies and how I am so good at math. I almost always get my math problems right when I am in adult day training classes and I often help other residents with their math, too. I like to say that I am the assistant math teacher here at the Villas.

I like to paint and one of my paintings recently won an award in a competition. I am very excited because my painting is now in a calendar. It was the picture for the month of July. My painting is a picture of a windmill and I called the painting "Still" because everything looked so still in my painting.

... my painting was and helped me to submit it for the contest."



"I would like to get a job in the community . . .

Tommy

My name is Tommy but my friends call me T-bone! I am a lot of fun and I like to tell jokes and goof around with my housemates. First of all, I like to goof around with

my best buddy, Brian. We are like brothers because we have known each other for a very long time because we went to school together at Morning Star.

We are always teasing and joking in our house. Brian tells me that I am the craziest person.

Bishop Grady Villas is a great place to hang around with your friends. It is also fun to go and do things with your friends. I like everything that we get to do but mostly I just like to hang out, go to Quiznos, Wal-Mart, bowling with Special Olympics and stuff. Quiznos is my favorite place to go.

When I am not goofing around and hanging out with the guys I go to classes. I learn a lot there like how to do my times tables and fitness. I do my exercises in the class and I have learned to drink three to four glasses of water every day to be healthy. We also go to the library and stuff like that.

... working at a restaurant."



"This is a good place for people to live. I would like it . . .

Nanette

Hi, my name is Nanette. I am one of the newer residents that moved here last year. I like living at Bishop Grady Villas

because I am learning to be much more independent. It makes me feel excited to be independent. My favorite thing to do is to go places. It doesn't matter where I go; I just like to go whenever there is a trip. If I am not going somewhere, I like to play basketball. I like playing by myself or with the other girls. I feel kind of shy around the guys so I don't play basketball much with them.

Monday through Friday I go to Adult Day Training classes and learn the skills I need to get a job. I am working hard with my job coach, Desi, to accomplish my career goals.

I really enjoy working in the Dr. Phillips greenhouse because I learn how to take care of plants, flowers and how to grow vegetables. Last month we picked green beans and tomatoes from our garden and we ate them at lunch and supper time.

I always pray to God for more people to come to meet us so they can continue to support us. I have given a lot of speeches when people have come to visit the Villas. It is very hard for me to do that but I like doing it. It gives me the advantage of learning to talk to people and it is good for me to do that. I would like more people to come and see Bishop Grady. I would also like volunteers to come and show or teach us something new, something we didn't know before.

... if there were more houses so more people could live here like I can."



"My goal for this year is to get a job."

Krystn

My name is Krystn and I am a great bowler! I have been in Special Olympics' bowling for a very long time. Before I lived here I was in a Special Olympics' bowling league in

Altamonte Springs. I have seven trophies, two gold medals, and two silver medals. Next year I am going to try gymnastics too because Jessica showed me how to do it and it looks interesting.

I also know how to tap dance. I was in a tap dancing show at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church and some of the other residents came to see me perform. I would like to go to tap dancing lessons again so that I can learn more and be in more shows. If you ask me, I will show you some tap dancing steps.

I am getting services so I can get a job at a place like Goodwill. I want to work at a thrift shop and sort clothes and look for the ones that are torn or have holes in them and to test the toys and make sure they work. I would also like to work at Dairy Queen. They said they may hire me if there is an opening.



"I like being an aunt and I can't wait to see them."

Carla

My name is Carla and I speak three languages! Before I moved to Bishop Grady Villas, I could only speak Spanish and Dutch. I learned to speak English here but I

did not have special classes. I just taught myself by listening to everyone talk around me. Desi, Gladys and Isabel speak Spanish too so they could help me some but mostly I just listened and learned.

I never learned to speak English when I lived in Puerto Rico. I worked in a nursing home there and I was really good at my job. All of the older people liked me a lot and gave me many gifts because they liked me. One day I would like to work in a nursing home again.

I have many brothers and sisters and many nieces and nephews. My brother and his wife just had four babies, three boys and one girl.



“Sometimes I even like to bowl on the Wii inside of Dorsey Hall.”

Cindy

My name is Cindy and I have lived here at Bishop Grady Villas since the second day that it opened. I really like living here because I get to make my own choices. I was watching

TV and saw a program about coloring hair and decided that I, too, wanted to color my hair. The staff at Bishop Grady Villas helped to make that happen. I like my new hair color and want to color my hair again when it needs it.

My mother lives nearby and she likes that I call Bishop Grady Villas “my home” and I call her house, “her home.” This shows that I am becoming more independent. I am also learning to use the computer in Adult Day Training classes. Isabel says that I will soon be ready to have my own laptop computer and I am hoping to get one for Christmas or my birthday.

I am a hard worker and I really enjoy helping people during meal times. I like to refill everyone’s drinks and clear their plates for them. I also like to help with clean-up, even when it is not my turn.

When I am not in Adult Day Training classes or helping out I like to participate in Special Olympics bowling, swimming, softball and track and field.



“My life is so full now. I am never lonely or bored anymore!”

Karen

Before I moved here, I lived in an Alzheimer’s Unit with my mother. I didn’t really have any friends there and was always excited for my cousins to come visit. But,

God answered my cousin’s prayers when she found out about Bishop Grady; she moved quickly to make the Villas my new home. Today, I am thriving in the loving and caring environment of the Villas!

Because I am blind, Lighthouse of Central Florida helped me to transition to live at Bishop Grady Villas. They helped me to start using my cane again and tagged things in my house so I can find them.

When I first moved here everyone including all the residents wanted to help me get familiar with my new surroundings. But, I had to teach them that I could do a lot of things on my own. They learned how to help me but not to do it for me. Since then, I have learned to do even more things and have shocked my friends and family because I am getting more and more independent. I learned how to use the microwave; I clean my own room and I do my own chores in my house. I also help in The Dr. Phillips Plant Nursery. I even ride bicycles with everyone!

Isabel is helping me in the Adult Day Training classes to prepare for getting a job. I have a special calculator that talks so that I can do the math problems. I have also been working hard to improve my reading of Braille. Isabel found out how to get Braille books from the library so I can have books to read. I have so many friends now that I live in the Villas. I get to go to so many places and I have so many activities I can do on campus.



"My dream job would be to work at ..."

Alex

I am a patriotic person. I like to start every day with a prayer and pledge out in the courtyard area in front of Dorsey Hall and I like it when other people join me. I

love to say the prayer before our meal times, too. Every morning I also make a list of what I plan to do each day and I like to stay on task. All the activities here have helped me to have many things to write on my list and keep me busy.

When I am not in Adult Day Training classes with Isabel, I like to play the Wii, drink orange soda and go shopping. In the evenings I like to sit in the common area of my villa and watch *Deal or No Deal*. It is one of my favorite TV shows. I am really good at guessing the answers on the game show!

I am looking forward to going to pool parties and to dances with my new friends here at the Villas. Maybe we can even go to an Atlanta Braves game because that is my favorite team! My goal is to learn new job skills so that I can start working.

... Epcot's American Adventure Pavilion as the person that leads the Pledge of Allegiance before each of the shows!"



"I swim like a fish when I get in the water so ..."

Dena

I am new at Bishop Grady Villas and I am really looking forward to making new friends. I am really nice with people so I think they will like me. My mom taught me to be

nice all the time and I think it is important to remember so that I can make and keep my friends.

I think my housemates will like me because I am a neat freak and I love to clean. I am really good with respecting my roommates and I don't get mad at people and I don't ask to borrow people's stuff.

I like to do arts and crafts: painting, drawing, coloring, and scrapbooking are my favorites. I also read and listen to music, too. My favorite musical artist is Hannah Montana. I have two of her CD's. I like Billy Ray Cyrus, too and I didn't know he had a daughter until I went to his concert. That is when I learned that his daughter, Miley Cyrus, is Hannah Montana's real name! Now I like to listen to her songs, too. I hope to one day see her in concert.

I plan to start going to Adult Day Training classes soon because I want to get my own job. I also want to start exercising and participating in Special Olympics again, especially bowling and swimming.

... I know I will be really good at that!"



"I love Special Olympics and am in many sports: golf, bowling . . .

Susan

I was born in Maryland and my mom and I just recently moved to Florida. I used to have a job back home. I worked at a

restaurant called the New Bridge Café and I rolled silverware. I would like to get a job here in Florida where I could roll silverware too. I would also be good at cooking because I like to cook everything. My favorite food to cook is chicken parmigiana.

I am an artist. I like to paint, draw and color. I was once the artist of the month and sold my paintings and drawings. I was even in the newspaper! I like to draw pictures of butterflies, flowers, and hearts. When I paint, I like to paint pictures of people.

I just moved into Bishop Grady Villas so I have not decorated my room yet. My room needs some colors so I will decorate my room with my art stuff. I will be painting some new pictures to hang on the walls in my room. I will also hang up my ribbons and medals from Special Olympics.

. . . baseball, and horseback riding. I have four medals from golf!"



"I even made myself a belt that has places . . .

Gavin

My name is Gavin and my favorite thing to do is to make wallets. I make wallets out of lots of different materials. I can make them out of leather, fabric and even duct tape.

Sometimes I even sell my wallets. Maybe one day I can have my own business selling my wallets.

Just before I moved here my mom and I went shopping for some new supplies for my wallet making. We bought me a sewing machine that my mom found on Craigslist for \$40. It is an old fashion machine and it is very good because it is heavy duty for sewing on leather. I also got a sewing kit with scissors and pins in it.

I taught myself how to make all my wallets. My favorite ones are the leather ones. I have lots of tools that I got from Stanly Leather. I have a hammer and stamps so that I can stamp designs in the leather.

. . . for all my tools. I can wear it while I am working on new wallets."



"I also like to bowl with the Special Olympics."

Danette

Before I moved to Bishop Grady Villas I had worked at the Osceola ARC Opportunity Center for 21 years. I met

Raymond, who lives here, while working there and wanted to live at Bishop Grady Villas too. Since moving here I have made even more friends. Beth is from Philadelphia and that is only 20 miles from where I am from so every night we like to talk about cheese steaks, pretzels and Tasty Cake Pies. Tasty Cake Pies are my favorites! You can't buy them in Florida.

Now that I live at Bishop Grady Villas I can brush up on my sign language because some of the other residents know how to sign too. It is nice to have people that I can practice with. My favorite thing to do is arithmetic. I like it because I know my numbers very well. My next goal is to learn how to email my friends.

I also like to listen to music. My favorite singer is Daniel O'Donnell and I also love listening to the music of Lawrence Welk and Perry Como. I love to sing and I know so many songs. I would like to work on having a show at Bishop Grady Villas so we can all sing for each other.

When I am not with my friends, in Vocational Training classes, or listening to music then I like to watch old television shows like *The Beverly Hillbillies*, *The Golden Girls* or old game shows.



"I really like bunny rabbits and have started to ..."

Cecily

I just graduated from Morning Star School this spring and then I moved to Bishop Grady Villas. We do fun things at Bishop Grady Villas. I like going to church and I like it when the

pretty lady sings pretty songs about angels. I also like going to the library and I want to get my new library card soon.

I like my new room here at the Villas. It has lots of places for me to keep my stuff. I have shelves for my books and puzzles. I like to read books and put puzzles together. I have Disney books to put on my shelf. My favorites are *Beauty and the Beast*, *Peter Pan* and *The Prince of Egypt*. I have a place on the shelf to put a TV but I don't have that yet. My parents will be bringing it to me soon. The closet is big and all of my clothes and shoes go in there. I like getting new clothes for Christmas.

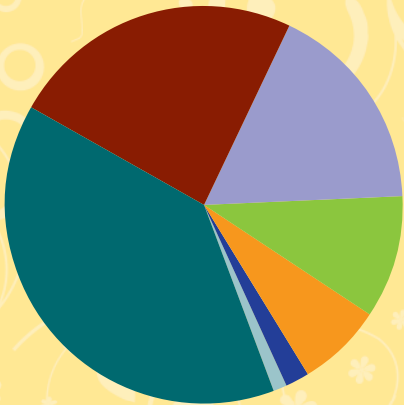
... decorate my room with them.








"I have bunnies on my lamp and on my shirt. I want to get more bunny things to decorate my room."

Bishop Grady Villas . . .

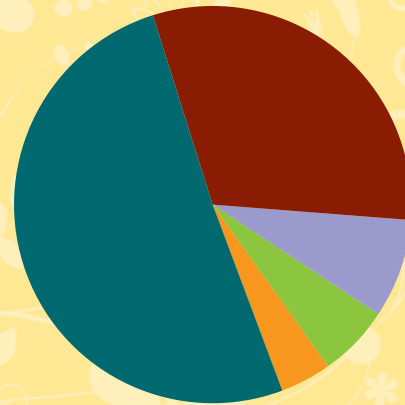
“A Place for Belonging”






SUPPORT AND REVENUE



	Fees for Program Services	39%
	Government Fees & Contracts	24%
	Fundraising	17%
	Investment Income	10%
	Foundation Grants	7%
	Cash Contributions	2%
	In-Kind Contributions	1%

EXPENSES



	Residential Programs	51%
	General & Administration	31%
	Fundraising	8%
	Adult Day Training	6%
	Supported Employment	4%

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Fees for Program Services	566,330
Government Fees & Contracts	345,412
Fundraising	254,476
Investment Income	147,745
Foundation Grants	96,669
Cash Contributions	41,678
In-Kind Contributions	9,626

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE 1,461,936

EXPENSES

Residential Programs	970,880
General and Administration	601,131
Fundraising	157,909
Adult Day Training	110,006
Supported Employment	74,550

TOTAL EXPENSES 1,914,476

To obtain a copy of Bishop Grady Villas' audited financial statement, please contact Kevin Johnson, Executive Director, at (407) 892-6078 or kjohnson@bishopgradyvillas.org.

Contributions to Bishop Grady Villas

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and organizations whose contributions are making a difference in the lives of the individuals we serve.

During this fiscal year, we initiated our Bishop Grady Villas' Legacy Society to give donors an opportunity to make five-year commitments to our mission. The individuals recognized below are *Founding Members*, making their commitment during the inaugural year of this giving program.

Bishop Grady Villas' Legacy Society Guardian's Circle - \$1,000 a year for five years

Henry M. and Sherry M. Abbott
Kathy and Tom Beattie
Carol Brinati and Randy Means
Barbara and Wayne Flammia and Loretta Ulrich
Manuel and Arelis Gonzalez
Christopher Gunty and the Gunty Family Fund
Kevin C. and Amanda Johnson
Eugene and Lila Klausman
Carolyn and John Lord
Anonymous
Richard and Marguerite Nelson
Charles and Conni Puckett
Jose and Pearl Ramirez
Anonymous
Linda and Kevin Shaughnessy

Annual Contributions received between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009

\$75,000 and above

The Dr. P. Phillips Foundation, Inc.

\$10,000 - \$24,999

The Able Trust
Kevin and Linda Shaughnessy

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Basilica of St. Paul
Carol Brinati and Randy Means
John and Carolyn Lord
The Chesley G. Magruder Foundation, Inc.
Anonymous
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Winter Haven
Sr. Elizabeth Marie Stoup, SSJ and the Sisters of St. Joseph

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Henry M. and Sherry M. Abbott
All Souls Catholic Church
Annunciation Catholic Church
Baker & Hostetler
Kathy and Tom Beattie
Joseph Bert and Certified Financial Group, Inc.
Borcheck & Gase
The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Inc.
David and Kathy Byrnes
CNL Bank
Robert and Maureen Cooper
Steve and Kristi Davis
Bill Demetree, Jr.
The William C. Demetree, Jr. Foundation
Dierickx Landscaping
Dr. Gina DiGiovanna
Diocese of Orlando
Divine Mercy Catholic Church
Senator Paula Dockery
Norman and Patricia Fesenmyer
Barbara and Wayne Flammia and Loretta Ulrich
The Florida Catholic
Freshpoint Red's Market
Manuel and Arelis Gonzalez
Christopher Gunty and the Gunty Family Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Hughes
John and Wendy Huhn
Delores Humbert
John C. Jennings, III and Jack Jennings and Sons Construction
Kevin and Amanda Johnson
Maureen Kane and Bishop Moore High School
Kelly Electric
Eugene and Lila Klausman
Knights of Columbus Council 6624
Knights of Columbus Council 14132
KPMG
Harriett Lake
Anonymous
Robert and Carol Metzger
Todd and Shelly Morgan and Comprehensive Energy Services, Inc.
Richard and Marguerite Nelson
Mark and Alice Patlovich
Charles and Conni Puckett
Queen of Peace Catholic Church
Jose and Pearl Ramirez
Mike Reilly and Shamrock Auto Body
Rotary Club of Kissimmee
Paul and Joanne SanGiovanni and Shutts and Bowen

Anonymous
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Community
St. James Cathedral
St. John Vianney Catholic Church
St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
St. Thomas Aquinas Church and School
Richard and Marlys Strube
United HealthCare
Walker & Company
Tom and Jean Wilkes

\$500 - \$999

Ascension Catholic Church
Sheridan and Kathy Becht
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community
Busch Entertainment Corp.
Church of Our Savior
Dorothy Compton
Anthony and Cheryl Cotter
Sam and Gail Crigler
Darden Restaurants Foundation
Mark Donlan and Debbie Donlan
Chris and Pauline Earl
Anne Fazio
Tom and Joyce Ferrara
Walt and Anita Gilmore
Kathryn Harding and Morning Star School
Holy Family Catholic Church
Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Community
Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Mims
Knights of Columbus Council 2112
Knights of Columbus Council 11189
Eira Lindberg
Dean and Betty Marvin
Brian McGratty
Michael Walter McNatt
Theresia Meijer
Ofilio and Gloria Morales and Orofacial & Dental Implant Surgery
Most Precious Blood Catholic Church
National Deaf Academy
Jennifer Patterson
David and Heidi Peckham
Henry and Gloria Pozzuoli
Jeffery Schenk
Jerry and Mary Senne
St. Ann Catholic Church, Haines City
Bill Stuef
William and Roberta Vose
Edward Wojcik

\$250 - \$499

Thomas Ackert
Eileen Barry
David and Lynn Berelsman
Marilyn Blanchette, CFRE
Frank Bonnewitz
Van and Philomena Bonnewitz
Susan and Robert Brinati
Don and Sandra Clark
Ellie and Angelo Cocomazzi
Corpus Christi Catholic Church
Mark and Cindy Crider
David and Anne Dore
Bishop Norbert Dorsey
Larry and Terri Goff
Marcella Grady
Doug Huhn
Mary Margaret Jenior
Stuart and Cristina Kirscht
Dorothy Lambert
Lisa Mayo
Thomas Moran
Susan and Gene Parker
Jeanne D'Agostino Rodriguez
Marcus Sayago
Deborah Shearer
Pat Spencer
Lee and Beverly Tavel
Anne Tucker
Buddy Varn and WellCare
Bill and Lisa Warren
Rob and Risa Wight
Steven Yoakum

\$100 - \$249

B. George Allmaras
Alice Amidon
Henry Barrieau
Bradylee Bayshore
Fr. Karl N. Bergin
Nikki Biamonte
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Bieda
Barbara Blake
Anthony and Jo Borges
Robert Breske
Mr. and Mrs. Lou Bruno
Rebecca A. Burris
Mike and Bronna Cacciatore
Rosemary Campbell
K. Michael Carlock
Collin and Joanna Clark
Phil and Jo Cooper
Jacob and Jackie Dipietre
Sr. Mary Divilly and the Sisters of Divine
Mercy Catholic Church
Frank and Terri Dombrowski
John Donlan
Robert Fazio
Mary Freydl
Frank and Betsy Fulmer
Zack Fulmer

Marina Geys
Arthur Hall, M.D.
Scott and Dawn Haun
Heart of Florida United Way
Ron and Ella Indelicato
Lee Jensen
Tim and Catherine Kelley
Lawrence and Patricia Kelly
Lee and Catherine Kissick
Margo Klein
Judy Kler
Knights of Columbus Council 5150
Gerald and Darlene Lany
Gayley J. Lauteria
Peter and Cathy Lindberg
Brent and Liz Long
Brian J. Moran
Blair and Diane Murphy
Janice Nenstiel
Marciann Pagan
Katie Porta
Randy and Leslie Rex
Mary B. Rumberger
Susan and Peter Schalow
George and Lisa Schott
Ray Scullian
Robert and Rosalee Serros
Vincenzo Servedio and Kay Anna Pierce
Connie Shields
Olga Skokan
St. Augustine Catholic Church
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Jo O. Thacker
Richard and Ellen Wendel
Patrick and Dawn Werner
David Willis

\$1 - \$99

Eugenie Amalfitano
Marcia Anderson
Elizabeth and Mary Alice Aumente
Shirley Balogh
Michelle Benoit
Karen Berger and Perfect Occasions
Party Supply
John and Pamela Bishop
John and Beth Brinati
Rudy and Julia Brinati
Lori Brothers
Beverly H. Brown
Alyson D. Burch
Daniel and Courtney Byrnes
Debra Casey-Wood
Lee and Carla Chotas
Mary Clark
Millie Erichsen
Jennifer Flammia
Kathryn Groeger
Vicki Hill
Erika Hodges
Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

Rosalee Jacobsen
Sheryl Keech
C.D. Lewis, Jr.
Kimberly Lum
Mr. and Mrs. Louis C. Magill
Ellen Mersch
Eugene and Marie Missavage
Kirby and Linda Moncrief
Maria-Elena and James Morris
Sarah Newcomer
Sandi O'Brien
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lee Oswald
Robert and Leona Phillips
Francisco and Ena Rivas
Florence D'Agostino Ross
Casey Schroder
David and Caroline Schumacher
Shawn and Elizabeth Seaver
Christine Shields
Robin Simmons
Mary St. Pierre
Tatiana Stankay
Jeff and Sandy Strobel
Carl and Mary Townsend
Sandra Woodworth
Gregory and Maureen Wright

Volunteers and Volunteer Work Groups

Volunteers are integral to the programs and services provided by Bishop Grady Villas. A special thanks to the following individuals and groups who helped us throughout the year.

RoseMarie Lombardo-Aldred
Tracy Allen
Eileen Barry
Sheridan and Kathy Becht
Fr. Karl Bergin
Best Buddies
Bishop Moore High School Students
Carol Brinati and Randy Means
Pauline Brochu
Lou Bruno
David and Kathy Byrnes
Hettie Caples
Rev. Monsignor Patrick Caverly
Karen Collier
Mark and Cindy Crider
Penney Cutter
Steve and Kristi Davis
Julianne Dodge
Gabriel Dominguez
Ann Dutton
Pauline and Chris Earl
Nancy Faulk
Bob Fazio

(continued next page...)

Volunteers and Volunteer Work Groups Continued

Chris Ford
Give Kids the World Friends
Fr. Miguel Gonzalez
Christopher Gunty
Kathryn Harding
Debbie Harris
Dr. John Huhn
Ronald Indelicato
Lynn Ingersoll
Jack Jensen
Amanda Johnson
Maureen Kane
Cathy and Tim Kelley
Margo and David Klein
Leadership Osceola
Leadership Osceola Legends
Walt Leddy
Carolyn and John Lord
Fr. John McCormick
Diane Morton
Debbie and Kelley Mossburg
Euclide Nemorin
Tanner Ochel
Osceola County Master Gardeners
Osceola Teen Leadership
Joan O'Sullivan
Parrot Heads of Central Florida
Alice and Mark Patlovich
Anna Perez
Georgina Peticari
Jodi Peterman
Teresa Peterson
David and Kathy Pierson
Amy Powers
Gloria and Hank Pozzouli
Jeanne D'Agostino Rodriguez
Jim Sander
Paul SanGiovanni
Casey Schroder
Caroline Schumacher
Mary Senne
Kevin and Linda Shaughnessy
Christine Shields
Connie Shields
Olga Skokan
St. John Vianney Youth Group
Gillian Starks
Sister Elizabeth Maries Stoup, SSJ
Patsy and Bruce Trimble
University of Central Florida
- Catholic Campus Ministries
Dara Vandevour
Bridget Wagner
Fr. Richard Walsh
Mairead Walsh
Sandy Webb
Rob and Risa Wight
Tom and Jean Wilkes

Ways to Get Involved with Bishop Grady Villas

Conduct a **WISH LIST DRIVE** for supplies and materials needed by residents.

Become a **VOLUNTEER** or conduct a **WORK PARTY** with your co-workers or members of your service club.

Find out how your company can become a **CORPORATE PARTNER** with Bishop Grady Villas by providing employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities.

Join our **HARVEST BALL HOST COMMITTEE** to help us with our signature gala event.

Attend one of our scheduled "**A PLACE FOR BELONGING**" one-hour informational lunch and tours to learn how we are helping adults who have intellectual and developmental disabilities become more independent and active members of the community.

Sign up to become a **TABLE CAPTAIN** at our Second Annual "Achieving Their Dreams" fundraising luncheon which will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at The Ballroom at Church Street in downtown Orlando.

Leave your **LEGACY** by making a gift in your will to Bishop Grady Villas. We hope you'll tell us when you have named Bishop Grady Villas in your will.

Contact Thurston Marvin to learn more at (407) 892-6078 ext. 202 or by email at tmartin@bishopgradyvillas.org or visit our website at www.bishopgradyvillas.org to see more information.

Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Bishop Grady Villas' Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

Carol Brinati, Chairperson, Diocese of Orlando
Steve Davis, Vice-Chairman, Davis Grennan
Sheridan Becht, Treasurer, Orlando Utilities Commission
Paul SanGiovanni, Secretary, Shutts & Bowen

Board Members:

Eileen Barry
Father Karl Bergin, Divine Mercy Catholic Church
Lou Bruno, Proctor & Gamble
Kathy Byrnes
Dr. John Huhn, Florida Otolaryngology Group, P.A.
Amy Powers, Davis Grennan
Jeanne D'Agostino Rodriguez
Mary Senne, University of Central Florida
Kevin Shaughnessy, Baker & Hostetler, LLP
Sister Elizabeth Marie Stoup, S.S.J.
Jean Wilkes

Executive Director:

Kevin C. Johnson

*Bishop Grady Villas is pleased to
welcome the following new individuals
to our community:*

**Ashley,
Mark
&
Robert**

*Bishop
Grady
Villas*



Diocese of Orlando

401 Bishop Grady Villas
St. Cloud, FL 34769
Phone: (407) 892-6078
Fax: (407) 892-3081
www.bishopgradyvillas.org

Bishop Grady Villas is licensed by the State of Florida as an Assisted Living Facility, license #AL 10398, Certificate #23995, effective 12/26/2007.