Dearest Friends and Believers of our Learning and Loving Center,
For the past eighteen years my life has been so graced and enriched by everyone who is a part of this Center. Right next to the light switch in my office were my instructions for each day. They had been given to me by one of our Sisters who moved to heaven one year after we began the Center.

Go in search of your people
Love them
Learn from them
Plan with them
Serve them
Begin with what they know
Build on what they have
But of the best leaders
When their task is accomplished
The people will all remark
“We have done it ourselves”

Janus Yen

You are cherished gifts that I will keep in my heart always.
Thank you! Sr. Pat Davis
If things didn’t change we would never have butterflies!

Our Community of Presentation Sisters is welcoming Christa Hanson as our new Director. Christa is an Associate Member of our Community and has been active in our ministries, activities, and prayer and reflection groups for the past eighteen years. She brings her love of education as a teacher and principal and many special artistic and writing talents to the life of the Center. In our early history Christa gave of her time to our Advisory Council. She has always supported the events of the Center.

Delightful Highlights

March is always a month that needs more days than the calendar allows. Women’s History Month is so special. This year on March first each student was greeted by a member of the Student Leadership Team with a beautiful flower to celebrate International Women’s Day. This is a custom in some countries in the world.

Silvia Telleria from Bolivia who is part of the advanced writing class shared the following: In honor of the International Women’s Day, it is necessary to mention the importance of women in society. We must insist that women participate in all aspects of life, not only here but all over the world. Women are the gears that make the world go around. There are women leaders in all fields. The volunteer teachers in our Center are wonderful examples of leadership. They have inspired and stimulated me to continue my education. I received from them the confidence to take my citizenship test and successfully obtain my American citizenship.

One of our GED and computer students, Maria Lopez paid special tribute to her teachers as well: All of the teachers at Learning and Loving are inspirational women and are role models for us. They make a large space in their day once a week to help in the world of language, computer, GED and the other classes. Thanks for the effort you make in our memory and in our destiny. You support us helping us to build new roads for our improvement. I admire you. I am your number one fan!

Stella Acosta, the Director of our Language Lab, after reading the different thoughts of our students, shared some of her own and presented her reflection to each volunteer teacher: I have been working here for several years and I find myself inspired by the Volunteer Teachers work, love and devotion to our Center. I want to embrace their labor. The almost thirty volunteer teachers just love to promote education encouraging and preparing students for future life. Teaching is their joy and I see it on their faces. They look so happy interacting with their students. I appreciate the commitment, time and all the gifts they bring to the Center. Teachers, you are empowering women through education. Thank you for your excellent work. You encourage me to be better in the work I’m doing here.
Let’s hear from our Pre-school corner where there is never a dull moment.

Thanks to a supplemental grant from the Bella Vista Foundation, we were able to be part of the nation-wide Raising a Reader Program. Mothers sign up for the program, attend a parent workshop and every week they pick up a red bag of four books, two bilingual and two in English only. The little ones get to keep the books for a week and return them for a new bag. There has been so much enthusiasm on the part of the parents but nothing compared to the excitement of the children on the “new red bag day” each week. We sent fourteen five year olds on to kindergarten this year. One of their graduation gifts was a blue Raising a Reader bag that they can take to their neighborhood library to pick up new books. We were able to give each graduate a summer pre-k workbook to practice their skills. This year several new volunteers have started in our pre-school and what a blessing this is for our children. We all know that “by your children you will be taught.” It happened for us when Irene Rosales asked her mom, Angelica if she could bring the blender and the ingredients for a smoothie to pre-school and show her friends how to make a smoothie! Notice how cute she looks in her little apron teaching her friends and giving out samples.

Gratitude for 2012’s blooming and growing...

Thank you to Harriet Anderson and Virginia Rodrigues who for the past fourteen years directed our sewing and quilting classes. Continuing this class this year has been Trudie Hardy and Kathy Krause from South Valley Quilt Association.

Thank you to Peggy Thompson who taught the advanced writing class for the past six years and to Denise Byron our new teacher who like Peggy challenges her students to express themselves in their second language.

Thank you to the numerous workshop presenters touching on women’s health, self-esteem, engaging teenagers in service, preparing children for college, and parenting.

Thank you to the ongoing collaboration with St Louise Hospital, Sister Rachela, R.N. for her monthly visits to check blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose levels. Maria Elena Osvald who offers classes on diabetes and zumba. Thanks to Second Harvest Food Bank, Cal Fresh food card program, Al-Anon twice weekly sessions and to Evan Henrickson who gleans and delivers healthy snacks for our students.

Thank you to our students who form our Student Leadership Group, students who teach the zumba classes, knitting and craft classes, To all the students who take their turns cleaning the Center each Friday, to Nobemi Quintero who leads the new folkloric dance group. Blessings and gratitude to Sandra Curran and Chuck Smith who have served on the Board of Trustees for several terms bringing wisdom and direction to the group. So many people in collaboration with our wonderful Staff, Volunteers, Board of Trustees and Special Event Committee plant, nurture, water and enjoy the colorful blooms that make our Loving and Learning Education Center a beautiful place.
### THE SEED

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**Congratulations to GED graduates!**

**Celebrating our own Folklorico Group**

Environmental Benefits Statement
Since 2000 The Learning & Loving Education Center has saved the following resources by using recycled paper and printing in a green-certified facility for the production and printing of this edition of the Seed and other projects.

- 4 fully grown trees
- 1,835 gallons of water
- 3,000,000 BTU's of energy
- 203 pounds of solid waste
- 400 pounds of greenhouse gases

Printed on FSC certified recycled paper with soy-based inks.

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