

# LOCAL

sgvtribune.com GET THE LATEST UPDATES AND NEWS

## LEROY HAYNES CENTER

# Facility adds to services

### Office closer to central La Verne

By J.D. Velasco Staff Writer

LA VERNE — For more than six decades, the LeRoy Haynes Center has been offering a helping hand to troubled youth from its 21-acre campus in the La Verne foothills.

What began as one man's mission to help 10 troubled boys now encompasses 18 buildings, six residential cottages and a K-12 school.

But as the center's mental health services have grown in both size and scope over the years, officials there have found themselves in need of a little more elbow room. And they have decided to bring the center a little closer to the La Verne community.

Earlier this month, the center opened, for the first time, a facility outside of its Baseline Road campus.

The addition consists of 5,000 square feet of office space occupying the entire second floor of a building near Sentinel Drive and Damien Avenue. The offices are home to about 20 staff members, mainly therapists and those involved in administration.

Tisha Langley, director of mental health for the center, said the growth is largely because of the center's status as one of Los Angeles County's "preferred providers" of mental health services.

It provides some of those services through contracts with the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Probation and the Department of Children and Family Services. During 2009 and 2010, the center served several hundred children through its counseling, education and on-campus housing programs.

While the LeRoy Haynes campus on Baseline has served the organization well, it is somewhat isolated from the rest of La Verne,



Keith Birmingham Staff Photographer

Tisha Langley at the new 5,000-square-foot LeRoy Haynes Center in La Verne on Thursday.

**"LeRoys has obviously always been in La Verne. I think the agency wanted to stay in La Verne. It allows us to open up."**

TISHA LANGLEY, director of mental health for the center

being hemmed in by the mountains to the north and the 210 Freeway to the south.

The new office is not only closer to the center of town, but it's also located along Foothill Boulevard, a major thoroughfare, and is adjacent to a freeway exit. Langley said the organization could have chosen from any number of locations for its new facility, but decided on one that would provide more of a connection to the local community.

"LeRoys has obviously always been in La Verne. I think the agency wanted to stay in La Verne," Langley said. "It allows us to open up."

Though the facility is only being used as office space at the moment, Langley, called it a "big move" and said there is even more in store.

"I think the plan ultimately is to have it certified by the county to open up mental health services to the surrounding community," Langley said.

La Verne Mayor Don Kendrick has often worked with LeRoy Haynes in the past and said the new center will help to fill a real need often ignored.

"One of the big requirements, I think, that goes on, not just in La Verne, but everywhere, is the issue of mental health," Kendrick said. "One of the things we do not do a good job on is addressing this issue."

Kendrick said he believes the expansion of LeRoy Haynes will ultimately have a positive impact not just on La Verne, but also surrounding cities.

"Any time that you can help people that are less fortunate than you, it's a good thing. It makes this a better community," he said.

justin.velasco@sgvn.com  
626-962-8811, ext. 2718