



# EVERYCHILD

## FOUNDATION

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## \$1 Million Grant Goes to Mar Vista Family Center

### Innovative Program Brings Hope to Gang-Infested Area

The Mar Vista Family Center is the recipient of Everychild Foundation's 2008 grant. The \$1 million grant is the last major funding needed by the agency to expand its existing facilities with a new building. The new structure will be named the Everychild Youth Center.

The Mar Vista Family Center serves a low-income, densely populated, gang-ridden urban neighborhood adjacent to the only federal housing project in West Los Angeles. Demand for Mar Vista's programs far outstrips its available space. The new building will allow Mar Vista to clear its 300-child waiting list by increasing its program capacity by 50%, from 650 to approximately 1,000.



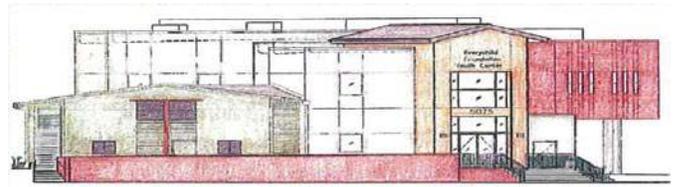
Mar Vista's Lucia Diaz speaks at the Everychild Annual Luncheon

A true "grass roots" agency, Mar Vista recruits and trains each child's family and neighbors to help fight the neighborhood's devastating social problems. Integral to the Mar Vista self-empowerment philosophy is "By Youth for Youth," a youth-led basket of prevention/intervention programs – including mental health counseling – that will be housed in the new Youth Center, .

Through "By Youth for Youth" Mar Vista teaches troubled kids how to imagine a different life for themselves, and then gives them the tools to reach their vision. The programs, all youth-led, focus on developing leadership skills and confidence for at-risk peers ages 13-21. Participants then go on to lead activities, such as tutoring and preteen mentoring for younger groups ages 5-12. The new Youth Center will allow program expansion of college prep tutoring and family retreats, computer training and use, job training and placement, financial literacy tutoring, summer camp and community events.

The completed Youth Center will be a two-story, 11,500 square-foot building. It will house a classroom, counseling rooms, a computer lab, multi-media room, library, health and fitness room, game and recreation room, multi-purpose for performing and fine arts, a central plaza for performing arts groups, small meeting spaces, and a large multi-purpose for community meetings and activities.

Mar Vista Family Center was founded in 1977 as a community pre-school seeking to engage parents as partners in their children's education and social development. It has served more than 1,000 families since its inception. The cornerstone of the agency's philosophy is personal responsibility and empowerment through education and leadership training. Community involvement is deeply imbedded



The Youth Center will be the anchor for the entire Mar Vista complex



Gleeful members of the Grant Screening Board Team present executive director Lucia Diaz with a check for \$1 million for the Mar Vista Family Center. Pictured left to right: Ronnie Avedon, Marcia Antopol, Lynn Jacobson, Jacqueline Caster, Alison Whalen, Vicki Baker, Kristie Hubbard.



Ground-breaking for the Mar Vista Family Center

in the agency, from its parent-participating pre-school through its youth programs and beyond. Executive Director Lucia Diaz exemplifies the agency's philosophy in every way: as a working mother in a low-wage job, she brought her daughter to Mar Vista's preschool. Mrs. Diaz worked her way up to become head of the agency. Today, she is a leader in community empowerment and a driving force in reducing gang activity in the area through training and education.

# \$5.5 Million in Grants; 150,000 Children Served

## Everychild Luncheon Celebrates Eight Years of Success

Everychild Foundation members, grantees past and present, and friends gathered at the annual luncheon on March 6 to celebrate eight years of successful philanthropy and the 2008 grant awarded to Mar Vista Community Center. The \$1 million Mar Vista grant marks the second consecutive year the Foundation has awarded a grant of this size.

Everychild President and Founder Jacqueline Caster spoke of the positive impact the grants have made on the children of Los Angeles County. "We have now given away more than \$5.5 million to eight different projects since we began in Year 2000," she said. "And, more importantly, we have directly served almost 150,000 children so far."

"Soon," she continued, "that number of children will almost double with the opening of Orthopaedic Hospital's new universally accessible playground where over 128,000 children are anticipated to visit annually. We should all be proud of this achievement."

Three past recipients of the Everychild Foundation grant provided updates on their projects at the luncheon. Heart of Los Angeles has started construction, Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital opened its park in February 2008, and Hillside's has completed three years of its unique residential program for foster children who have aged-out of the system.



Los Angeles City Councilmembers Bill Rosendahl and Wendy Gruel speak at the luncheon. Mar Vista is in Mr. Rosendahl's district. Both praised Everychild for its efforts to improve the lives of children in the Los Angeles area.



Members enjoy socializing at the Annual Luncheon held at the Regency Club in Westwood.



Mar Vista staff and clients are in a celebratory mood as they see their dream of a new center becoming a reality.



Member Deborah Deutsch helps organize packages brought by Everychild members for the Mar Vista Family Center. Gifts included educational supplies and sports items.

## Grant Consultant to Take on New Challenge



**Profile**  
Marcia Antopol  
Advisory Board Member

Marcia Antopol, grant consultant to Everychild since its inception, will step down in November to become Executive Director of the Fineshriber Family Foundation, a new local foundation now ready to make substantial grants serving children and families.

She will be missed. With Marcia's help, a new search is underway for a replacement and two outstanding candidates who are interested in the position have already been identified.

Marcia is a Founding Member of Everychild and became the foundation's paid grant consultant during the first funding cycle in 2000. She is also a member of the Advisory Board.

"This is the only foundation I've worked for in which I was able to be an equal donor," she says. "The power of our combined gift still feels tremendous to me. And, of course, I plan to remain an Everychild member and Advisory Board member."

A grant maker with 26 years experience, Marcia spent 12 of those years helping visionary philanthropists design unique grant making strategies, which made her involvement with Everychild a perfect match. She knew what Everychild could expect as a new foundation with an original idea.

"Prior to becoming a grant maker, I was a nonprofit agency executive for ten years," Marcia explains, "so I've seen the impact of grants from both sides."

As the foundation's consultant, Marcia helped Everychild focus on organizing and developing grant making strategies to keep the foundation democratic, transparent, and responsive to the critically important needs of children.

"I wanted to bring Jackie's vision into reality," she says. "The Everychild leaders have succeeded in reaching these goals beyond what we could have imagined in the beginning."

Marcia says she found her work with Everychild satisfying and challenging.

"The members have kept me energized for all eight years I've worked with Everychild. I never before encountered any grants committee with members this dedicated and smart. I learned so much from them. It was a real pleasure."

# How the Grant Process Works

Each fall, Everychild members vote to determine the year's grant recipient. The choice is made between proposals from two agencies that have been through a screening process renowned for its thoroughness and professionalism. The Grant Screening Board is at the heart of the process. But it does not operate alone. It is supported at the front end by the Grant Outreach Committee (GOC), which identifies potential grant recipients from a pool of agencies who have expressed interest in applying for the Everychild grant. Once the grant has been awarded, the Grant Monitoring Committee (GMC) does the important work of overseeing the administration of the grant. The GMC begins its work just before the grant agreement is complete and continues for three years.

## Grant Outreach Committee: It All Starts Here

The GOC's job is to identify potential grant applicants and undertake an initial screening of agencies seeking Everychild Foundation's annual grant. Typically, agencies come to the attention of Everychild either by recommendation of Everychild's grant consultant or by individual Everychild members.

Working together, GOC members and our grant consultant conduct preliminary research to determine if the suggested agencies meet the foundation's eligibility requirements. These requirements include: non-profit 501C(3) status; a history of providing services that meet the mission of Everychild; a strong administration, fund-raising and management capacity; and a board that is developed and robust enough to meet the demands of administering a \$1 million grant.

In November, between 40 and 60 eligible agencies receive an invitation to submit an application for the Everychild grant; typically, the committee receives an acceptance from roughly half. Agencies whose projects meet the eligibility requirements receive the format for a five-page Letter of Inquiry (LOI) which should provide a compelling story of its mission and the need and uniqueness of its proposed project. The GOC provides each agency with hands-on guidance through this process to insure that their authentic voices come through clearly. In mid-February, the final LOIs are delivered to Everychild and distributed to the Grant Screening Board, which commences its screening process.

*Grant Outreach Committee Members: Kristie Hubbard, Chair, Cynthia Alexander, Therese Funk, Nancy McCabe, Susan Purcell*

## Grant Screening Board: A Close Look, Serious Number Crunching and Site Visits

The GSB's role begins with a list of potential grantees in January and ends with a joyous telephone call to one of them in November. In between many hours are spent in meetings, in smaller groups examining financial reports and proposal details, and on the road to informative site visits.



*GSB members hold seven formal meetings, culminating in a final vote.*

The GSB is comprised of 21 volunteers from the Everychild membership, plus six members of the Everychild Executive Board, and a non-voting professional grant consultant. Seven formal meetings are held in a light and spacious conference room generously provided by RAND in Santa Monica. The GSB chair and vice chair oversee the entire process, keeping a close eye on issues such as the ethics policy, grant eligibility criteria, and board training.

The GSB's first step is to review letters of inquiry (LOI's) from interested agencies, forwarded after complete review by the Grant Outreach Committee. Following discussion, a vote is taken on every LOI, determining whether to proceed and review more documents from the agency. A team of four to five GSB members is then assigned to each agency, working with them until the end of the grant selection process. Agencies submit a packet of information including recent annual reports, audited financial statements, and strategic plan, among others. Each and every document submitted is examined line by line, looking for clues that will show strength of the agency's proposal, raise questions, or create a roadblock.

Once the review is complete, the teams make a presentation about their agency at a meeting of the full GSB, providing a recommendation on whether

to proceed further and visit the agency in person. The GSB votes again, further winnowing the number of candidates.

Site visits to selected agencies by the full GSB are considered crucial to the process, literally bringing the agency and its proposal to life. At the site visits, usually scheduled in May, GSB members meet agency leaders and their clients face-to-face, tour facilities and see programs in action. Based on the site visits and information from document research, two grant finalists are selected by the GSB in mid-June. According to its members this is the hardest step the committee must take because of the high caliber of agencies and the great need for programs and services to help children in Los Angeles County.

The final two agencies have the summer to prepare a full proposal, first reviewed by their teams and then summarized and mailed to each Everychild member. The grant hearing for the entire Everychild membership is held in October, followed by a final mail-in vote.



*Everychild members Rosa Sinnott and Suzanne Kayne listen as Mar Vista staff and board members answer questions at the fall grant hearing.*

The GSB's last meeting each year is an exciting culmination of the committee's work. Votes are counted and the crucial call is made to the new grantee. There are usually tears of joy that day from both the GSB team and the new grantee. More importantly, children in need in our community will get the benefit of the dollars contributed to Everychild and the hard work of the Grant Screening Board.

*Grant Screening Board members: Hilary Nelson Jacobs, Chair, Vicki Baker, Vice Chair, Susan Adler, Kristine Breese, Jacqueline Caster, Sandra Devereaux, Kay Faguet, Karin Fielding, Karen Heilman, Kristie Hubbard, Lynn Jacobson, Mary James, Virginia Johannessen, Carol Leif, Zina Markevicius, Penny Mee-pos, Celeste Pinto McLain, Betsy Newman, Marlene Rapkin, Sue Rosenblum, Tawny Sanders, Mindy Stein, Susan Stockel, Toni Stone, Cynthia Troop, Vicki Unger, Cathleen Young. (article continues on last page)*

# YMO is moving

## Hillside's Project Makes Strides for Aging Out Foster Youth

Hillside's innovative Youth Moving On (YMO) program continues to serve one of the most disadvantaged populations in Los Angeles County: youth aging out of foster care. With the 2005 Everychild grant, the Pasadena-based residential and community treatment program purchased an apartment building in Pasadena, with 25 percent of the units set aside for program participants. Rental income from the other market-rate units supports the costs of the program.

The YMO project is attempting to prevent aging out foster youth from becoming homeless or incarcerated due to lack of education and necessary every day skills. So far, the program of providing transitional living, support services and life skills training has served 45 emancipated foster youth.

Among its programs, YMO provides incentives for youth to attend school or a certified vocational program to increase their chances of earning a living wage. Currently, YMO funds all educational needs, including tuition, books, supplies, tutoring and even parking permits. In addition, YMO has made major strides in helping these youth learn the mechanics of budgeting and saving money by creating a tracking system that encourages them to save and keep track of the money they earn.

The Hillside's YOM model is gaining nationwide recognition. A group from Milwaukee, Wisconsin recently visited the site in hope of replicating the model.



# it's time to *play!*

Led by the delightful antics of Fan the Dragon, a beaming group of more than 50 children – some with disabilities and some able-bodied – streamed into the Everychild Foundation Universally Accessible Playground at Orthopaedic Hospital for the first time on February 29. Their joyful march through the park's gates marked the official opening of the park. The hospital was the recipient Everychild's 2006 grant of \$925,000.



At the opening ceremony, Los Angeles Councilmember Jan Perry gave high praise to Orthopaedic Hospital, the women of the Everychild Foundation, Shane's Inspiration – the playground's designers – and all the generous donors who made it possible for the playground to be built on the hospital campus.

"It's an island of safety and peace," Ms. Perry said of the playground located in one of the city's poorest neighborhoods with few parks. "The best part is that it is open to the public, so everybody from this area can benefit."

Everychild President Jacqueline Caster offered warm congratulations to Orthopaedic Hospital for having the initial vision for the playground, and for their determination and perseverance to see it through to reality.

To the refrain of "It's Time to Play!" delighted children of all abilities were seen rolling down the little hill where their motion triggers musical notes, flying through the air on the high back, supportive swings, twirling of the blue dish they lay on, and dashing through the water of the misting dragon. With children from the hospital, their siblings and the surrounding community enjoying the facilities, the playground will be the most used universally accessible playground in the nation, if not the world.

## Everychild Grant History 2001 – 2008



**01** QueensCare  
Purchase and equipping of the first mobile dental clinic to serve 30 low-income elementary schools in LAUSD



**03** Violence Intervention Program  
Renovation and expansion of existing building to create a permanent center for psychological care of physically and sexually abused children



**02** Wonder of Reading  
Renovation and restocking of 15 elementary school libraries as well as the training of instructional reading volunteers



**04** Optimist Youth Homes  
Construction of learning center for at-risk probation youth

# HOLA is ready to go!

## Precedent-Setting Partnership a First for Los Angeles

The renovation and expansion of the Lafayette Park Community Center is officially underway. The 2007 Everychild Foundation grant recipient, Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA), and the City of Los Angeles Department of

Recreation and Parks formalized their precedent-setting partnership last year and construction began in late March.

The refurbished Community Center will be the home of the Everychild Learning Center when construction is completed in early 2009. HOLA empowers inner city youth to advance their lives and revitalize their communities through



enrichment, personal development and leadership programs.

At the official ground-breaking ceremony on March 24, Los Angeles City Council Member Herb Wesson commended the Everychild Foundation, saying, "We could not succeed if it weren't for organizations like the Everychild Foundation."

"The only way we're going to turn this city around," he continued, "is when you have private people partnering with public and private agencies, coming together to provide our youth a better path, the right path."



In addition to the expansion and renovation of the existing Community Center, a portion of the \$1 million grant will be used to expand HOLA's existing programs in academic enrichment, computer literacy, job training, fine arts and sports. The expansion will provide an additional 900 spaces for the neighborhood's disadvantaged children.



The LAOH playground provides an "island of safety and peace"



### Everychild Grant History 2001 – 2008



05 Hillsides  
Transitional housing for foster youth who have aged-out of the foster care system



07 Heart of Los Angeles Youth  
Renovation of Lafayette Park Community Center to increase and modernize class space and create a new computer center for free after-school, vocational and inter-session programming in Rampart District



06 Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital  
Construction of universally accessible playground at an orthopaedic pediatric outpatient clinic



08 Mar Vista Family Center  
Construction of Youth Center to house By Youth For Youth, a youth-led leadership and mentoring program in high-risk Mar Vista neighborhood



## A Message from Jacqueline Caster

when we witness our dollars being put to work so efficiently and effectively. Heartfelt thanks to each and every one of our members. As they say, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and you have just proved it.

Warmest regards,  
Jacqueline Caster  
Founder and President

The past few months have been dizzying for all of us at Everychild. Not only did we present a \$1 million grant to The Mar Vista Family Center, making their long-held dream of expansion come true, but we also have already seen the project break ground. In addition, we dedicated the new Everychild Foundation Universally Accessible Playground and watched as it was immediately inundated with ecstatic children.

Construction has also commenced on our Heart of Los Angeles computer learning center project at Lafayette Park after a comprehensive, detailed agreement involving the City of Los Angeles was finalized. Additionally, we received special recognition at Los Angeles City Hall for all our efforts. We are genuinely making a difference in so many places and in so many different ways around the city.

Beyond this, Everychild is having an even broader impact as our giving model has now inspired the creation of seven other foundations, four of them here in our own metropolitan area, two in Santa Barbara County and one in Las Vegas. Millions of dollars are being directed to those in need as a result.

It is no wonder we are being replicated. The loyalty and dedication of our members, with 95 percent renewing each year, is a testament to the satisfaction we each receive

## Calendar

**September 14**  
Family Day

**October 15**  
Grant hearing for entire  
Everychild membership

**November 1**  
Deadline for 2008 member  
dues and ballots

**November 13**  
Grant recipient chosen

**December**  
Holiday Project

**March 2009**  
Annual Everychild Luncheon

## Supporting Everychild

The Everychild Foundation provides a unique opportunity to give back to the children of Los Angeles in an immediate, efficient way. We are a group of 225 pioneering women who:

- Share a passion for improving children’s lives in our community
- Are ready to commit \$5,000 annually to a project with tangible results
- Want to partner with other women to make a significant difference without a major time commitment.

Where does our money go? Each year, the Foundation makes a single grant in support of a project that will profoundly help local children facing disease, abuse, neglect, poverty, or disability. The grant recipient is chosen by a vote of the entire Foundation membership from a roster of carefully screened candidate projects. Grants are funded entirely from members’ dues.

Foundation funds are used to improve the lives of children. We have no large overhead, staff salaries, or rent. No fund-raising events or silent auctions are planned. We don’t solicit money from our friends or business contacts for auction items or dinner tickets.

We focus on projects where we can have maximum impact within a short time frame. We look for “dream projects,” where our money will enable a powerful idea to take hold and grow. We favor programs that encourage us to “act locally and think globally,” where funding a pilot project in Los Angeles can provide a springboard for wider use.

If you would like to support the Everychild Foundation, please complete and return the Commitment Form included with this newsletter. While the Foundation has now reached its full capacity of 225 members, we maintain a waiting list and admit new members as space becomes available. In addition, contributions from non-members are always welcome!

For any further information, please contact us:

**Tel 310.573.2153 | Fax 310.573.4207**

**E-mail: [info@everychildfoundation.org](mailto:info@everychildfoundation.org)**

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The goal of the Everychild Foundation is to maximize the size of our annual grant by keeping expenses as low as possible. Therefore, it is our policy to have all foundation activities – including our educational salons, Family Day and annual luncheon – completely underwritten. This aim has been realized through the efforts of many dedicated Everychild members, plus the incredible generosity of the wonderful friends and supporters listed below:

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\*Founding Member

**How the Grant Process Works** *(continued from page 3)*

**Grant Monitoring Committee: Oversight to Assure Success**

The Grant Monitoring Committee (GMC) is charged with oversight of all Everychild grants. Including this year's grant to Mar Vista Family Center, the committee currently conducts active oversight on four separate grants. The committee's work commences before completion of the grant agreement to make certain Everychild has adequate oversight authority. Monitoring continues for a period of three years following completion of the disbursement of project funds.



Members of the GMB visit the HOLA construction site.

During the term of the monitoring, Everychild requires quarterly reports on the progress of the project, as well as all financial documents and any other information that would be relevant to the grant to ensure that the grantee remains in compliance with its grant agreement obligations.

The GMC conducts up to two site visits per year. During these visits, the committee is able to experience the atmosphere and observe the functioning of the grantee, assess the status of the project to be sure it is consistent with the funding, and discuss questions with representatives of the grantee. Committee members find these visits to be inspiring because they see first-hand Everychild funds at work making an agency's dream become a reality.

*Grant Monitoring Committee: Cindy Troop, Chair, Lynda Barber, Carla Buck, Anna Eigler, Linda Finkelstein, Mary Hocking, Mary de Kernion, Judy Burns Fishman, Melanie Lundquist, Denise McCain-Tharnstrom, Betsy Newman, Rhona Rosenblatt, Linda Bernstein Rubin, Mindy Stein, Vickie Unger, Amber Valletta*

**Committee Updates**

**Public Policy Committee**

The Everychild Public Policy Committee is rapidly becoming known throughout Los Angeles County for its policy contributions in two distinct areas: work on behalf of infants and toddlers 0-3 and advocacy efforts on behalf of children in foster care, particularly those aging out of the system.

Committee members have been invited to join local children's advocacy networks in both fields and are actively working to increase awareness of the challenges facing these vulnerable populations. In addition, they are participating with other child policy advocates in efforts to find solutions which help these often forgotten children. Committee members have opportunities to attend conferences, meet with field experts, and host seminars with local and national 0-3 and foster care experts.

The focus on infants and toddlers is led by committee chair Denise McCain-Tharnstrom. She represents Everychild as part of a ground-breaking collaborative, The Zero to Three Public Private Partnership. Committee members Anne Youngblood and Therese Funk represent Everychild at meetings of the Early Identification and Intervention Collaborative which focuses on improving legislation, funding and screening of infants and toddlers at risk for mental, developmental and physical delays.

Leading committee efforts in the foster care arena is Everychild President Jacqueline Caster. She is personally involved in a local network of foster care advocates who are seeking systemic changes in the system. For two years, she has also been involved with a consortium of foster care advocates who have organized a job shadowing day for foster youth, and she and Barbara Moore have led lobbying efforts on behalf of Everychild members on a number of bills addressing aging out foster youth.

Over the next year, the Policy Committee will add an effort to research the circumstances and risks posed to infants and toddlers placed in foster care. Members Rhona Rosenblatt and Dara Reiner have offered to lead a workshop looking at these concerns.

**Salon Committee**

Everychild salons, led by Chair Amy Sommer, are designed to educate members and their spouses about important issues affecting Los Angeles County and its children. In November 2007, Everychild was honored to host a salon at the home of member Penny Meepos featuring philanthropist Richard Atlas, founder of the Atlas Family Foundation and Cindy Oser, a representative of Zero to Three. They discussed the need to help infants and toddlers to prevent suffering and get the greatest benefit from philanthropic giving. A salon was also held in May 2008 at the home of member Terry Hamermesh with physician and author Gary Rachelefsky, M.D., an expert on childhood asthma. He addressed what can be done about the serious rise in asthma to epidemic proportions among children.

**Family Day Committee**

Our project this year will be a kindergarten play area beautification at Loyola Village Elementary School in Westchester (Los Angeles Unified School District). We will be planting flowers, sprucing up hopscotch areas and performing a few other improvements for the garden area. More than half of the children at this school are "Title I" which means they qualify for free or reduced lunch fees. More details will follow soon.

**Holiday Committee**

With the goal of bringing seasonal cheer to the teens living at Hillside's Youth Moving On facility in Pasadena, committee members gathered at the home of member Mary de Kernion in early December to prepare holiday baskets. Hillside's Youth Moving On was the recipient of Everychild's 2005 grant. In all, 18 baskets were filled with snacks, sweaters, skin care items, toiletries, and various surprises, all donated by Everychild members. The beautiful containers and creative gift wrap were designed by committee member Mary Hocking. In late fall, look for information about the 2008 holiday event.

*Holiday Committee: Corinne Capioux, Jacqueline Caster\*, Kimberly Finkel, Laura Fox, Leslie Gifford, Mary Hocking, Mary de Kernion, Ellie Lederman, Carol Lott\*, Katie Sharer Mullen, Margaret Sharer, Michele Thibiant*