

2021 EDITION



EVERYCHILD[®]

FOUNDATION

WOMEN REINVENTING PHILANTHROPY[®] SINCE 2000

A NECESSARY AND URGENT PIVOT



Everychild Foundation's 2020 COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grants

In April of 2020, it became clear that Everychild Foundation's Grant Screening Board's ("GSB") process of vetting agencies for our annual \$1 million grant was becoming seriously challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our applicants were finding themselves in the overwhelmingly difficult two-fold position of struggling for available funding resources while also witnessing an ever-increasing need for their services. So as it became increasingly evident that COVID-19 would be devastating to non-profits, it also became clear that the GSB would need to follow a different direction in its granting procedure for 2020.

As a result, the Everychild Executive Board, along with our grant consultant, made the crucial decision to change course. Instead of giving a single \$1 million donation, we would select eight agencies from the pool of candidates to each receive a \$125,000 "Everychild Foundation 2020 COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant". These grants would be unrestricted and, therefore, could be used at each agency's discretion.

Dedicated to easing the suffering of children in the Greater Los Angeles area

This all-important decision was extremely well-received by the agencies and by the Everychild membership-at-large. Since disbursing the relief funds last spring, our Grant Monitoring Committee has received the following updates from each agency:

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

In March 2020, the Alliance, which protects the rights of impoverished, abused and neglected children and youth has converted to remote operations to ensure the safety of their clients, staff and community while continuing to help their clients access critical services. They used their grant to upgrade their decade-old phone system, engage a new IT Management Services team to upgrade all computer operations, and purchase 61 laptops for their employees. The infrastructure advancements allow them to reach even more foster children and youth.



PACIFIC CLINICS

Pacific Clinics has been able to continue to provide mental health services during the pandemic through video conferences and phone calls to low-income children and their families. Their grant dollars were used to provide 1,103 Virtual Therapy Engagement Boxes tailored to each child/family's individual needs. The VTE boxes were filled with computers/phones, earbuds, games, crafts, and activities. They also purchased psychological testing kits and \$25 gift cards for 512 families.



CASA OF LOS ANGELES (CASA/LA)

Despite COVID-19 and its challenges, CASA/LA has continued to serve more youth and recruit and train diverse volunteer child welfare advocates from across LA County. They applied their grant to expand their online training and recruiting, transitioning all their pre-service and in-service trainings to Zoom. With this new online format, they have seen a significant increase in their volunteer force. They also record these trainings and offer them to CASAs who might have missed sessions.



PEACE OVER VIOLENCE

After the initial shutdown, Peace Over Violence had to pivot quickly to provide free, trauma-informed intervention services for their clients experiencing childhood and domestic abuse. They used their grant to support staff salaries and benefits for the intervention, clinical, and prevention department staff. The dollars also helped insure staff well-being with extra hazard pay, monthly stipends for work-from-home expenses, online training, and the purchase of technology to offer online services.



HARBOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Since the pandemic, Harbor Community has kept all three of their health centers open and has been able to respond quickly and safely to a rapidly changing situation. Their grant was used to invest in additional sanitation equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE) to serve pediatric patients in-person safely, and to upgrade telehealth technology to conduct pediatric telehealth visits. They were also able to invest in new training and adjust their technology approaches.



UNITED FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN (UFC)

The pandemic threatened access to basic human needs for foster youth served by UFC. As a result, their grant was used to supply emergency aid in the form of grocery cards, rental assistance, enhanced case management, and virtual mental health sessions. They also provided laptops, tablets, and Wi-Fi hotspots. Additionally, UFC upgraded the internet capabilities in their Pathway apartment housing sites, enabling youth to connect to mental health, education, and employment support.



LA FAMILY HOUSING (LAFH)

Since the pandemic, LAFH has worked to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on people experiencing homelessness, especially youth and their families in the greater LA region. They used their grant to maintain operations and offer enhanced services to their families such as the provision of hot prepared meals, baskets of fresh produce and non-perishable items, soap, toys, games, hand sanitizer, and masks, as well as basic health assessments and COVID-19 testing.



WELLNEST

Wellnest provides emotional health and well-being support to its clients, but since the pandemic, was inundated with requests for extra support from the families who were struggling due to loss of employment, illness, COVID-positive family members, and other challenges. Their grant was applied to fund an emergency response effort for over 500 families to cover rent, groceries, utility bills, car payments, and other needs such as repairs to refrigerators and stoves.



Going forward in 2021, where the pandemic still remains a huge factor affecting the wellbeing and stability of our communities, we plan to make multiple relief grants once again. But it is our sincere hope that come 2022, we will resume our operations as usual, directing funding toward a single innovative, replicable project filling a critical unmet need of children in our county.

OUR WEBSITE GETS A NEW LOOK

The Everychild Foundation website has a dynamic new look thanks to the work of our Communications Committee headed by Robin Venturelli and our very talented IT expert, Hadley Kia. They have been working behind the scenes throughout the year to refresh, upgrade, and overhaul the website to bring you new features and update the existing content. A new members-only access section has been added, which includes an online members' directory with photos, event registration, and membership renewal forms, as well as a brand-new Events Calendar that will showcase all upcoming members-only activities. The homepage has a fresh, modern, and clean look, drawing people in to read the content and making it easier for members and visitors to navigate. It incorporates vivid video, photography and integration with social media, ensuring that new posts and announcements are automatically pushed through to Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

The Salon section, previously a continuous scroll, is now a clean page featuring images of each salon speaker and their presentation's title, allowing visitors to click on whichever topic they find interesting to learn more. Salons are tagged, sortable, and filtered by speaker and subject matter. The site's Policy and Activism section is now divided into four issue areas: foster care, homeless youth, infants and toddlers, and juvenile justice.

Information for grant applicants can now be updated easily to accommodate changing policies during these turbulent times. Up-to-the-minute news and announcements are on the homepage, and annual newsletters can be found on the dropdown News menu.

For the latest information on the progress of our grants, our Grant Monitoring Board now will have direct access to a section on the members'-only pages where they can provide the most up-to-date results on a more timely basis.

The updated website reflects twenty years EF's experience helping to ease children's suffering in the Los Angeles area, whether due to disease, disability, abuse, neglect, or poverty. It showcases the lasting effect that members of The Everychild Foundation have created and will now make this information more accessible to members, potential members, grant applicants, the media and anyone interested in learning more about our work.



PANDEMIC ENDANGERS CHILD WELFARE & JUVENILE JUSTICE

As the pandemic turns all of our lives upside down, there is particular concern of its ramifications on the most vulnerable in our society: children and youth.

On September 15, Everychild Foundation held a virtual discussion on COVID-19's immediate and long-term impact on Los Angeles' child welfare and juvenile justice systems as part of its Nancy Daly Salon series.

Guiding the discussion was Jorja Leap, Director of UCLA's Social Justice Research Partnership.

"The pandemic is disproportionately affecting families and children of color," Leap said. "In their communities, already marginalized and struggling, the pandemic has hit with full force."

Leap pointed to the lack of policy and leadership plaguing both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems and that after months into the pandemic, leaders are still in a reactive, not proactive mode.

Speaker Daniel Heimpel, President of Fostering Media Connections, added that there is still no clarity from the Los Angeles Unified School District nor the Los Angeles County Office of Education on what schools are doing to ensure student engagement and safety. Educators are mandated by the state to report abuse or neglect. However, with schools shut down, these reports are not happening, and children are left in the homes of their potential abusers.

According to Heimpel, LA County has seen a 40 percent reduction in child abuse calls along with a rise in numbers of minors reporting sexual assault.

"When this is over, there will be undetected abuse that will be uncovered," Heimpel said, adding, "I haven't seen the federal government, in particular the Department of Education, promulgate clear guidance. We are collectively flying by the seat of our pants, which just seems insane."

Heimpel also discussed the immediate effects of the pandemic on juvenile dependency courts, which have jurisdiction over 30,000 children in Los Angeles County. At its inception, COVID-19 wreaked incredible havoc on the system, creating a backlog of cases set for virtual hearings, as timelines for adoptions and for families to reunify with their children were pushed back with households still in limbo.

Jacqueline Caster, Founder and President of Everychild, discussed the effects on the juvenile justice system. Caster, who has been involved with its reform over the past decade, noted the increasing numbers of infected youth and staff in LA's juvenile halls and camps. And despite the national trend to try to depopulate incarceration facilities for adults, there has been little success for youth across the country at the local levels.



Dr. Jorja Leap,
Director of UCLA's
Social Justice Research
Partnership



Daniel Heimpel,
President of Fostering
Media Connections

THE GRAND OPENING OF THE EVERYCHILD FOUNDATION HEALING CENTER



Richstone Family Center, our 2016 grantee, received funding for the construction of the new facility in order to meet the growing need for their services and to launch an integrated program of child abuse treatment and prevention services for victims and families. Serving Los Angeles' South Bay and surrounding areas, the agency handles neighborhoods with some of the County's highest rates of child fatalities due to caregiver abuse.

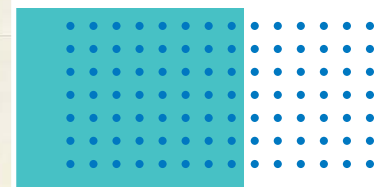
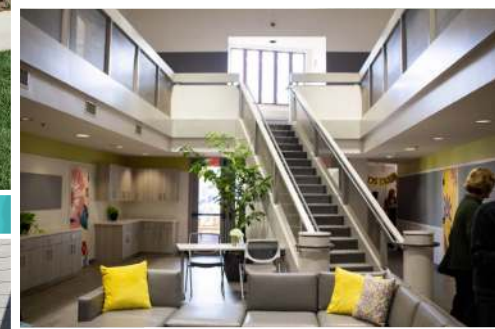
Immediately after receiving our grant, Richstone jumpstarted its new and expanded programming -- working creatively around the construction project. Because of this early program implementation, the organization surpassed its projected goals by the end of the grant period. It provided services to 1,344 children in therapy and groups, 140% of its projected numbers, and to over 3,700 adults, 693% of its goal.

In February of last year, the 5,700-square-foot Everychild Foundation Healing Center opened. In attendance at the event were key community leaders including the Hawthorne Police Chief who spoke eloquently about the critical need for the new facility and its services.

In the final quarter of the grant period, 90% of clients demonstrated progress as a result of treatment, 88% of families were not reported or re-reported for child abuse after receiving services, and 91% of class participants learned new coping techniques and wellness strategies.



Left to right: Cindy Troop, Lisa Finkelstein, Sharon Gam, Michele Lynch, Candis Duke, Jacqueline Caster, Mark Ridley-Thomas, Anne Youngblood, Wendy Kirshner, Nancy Stark, Lisa Cleri Reale



For one family, Richstone was life changing. Nadja, a 41-year-old single mother, was initially referred to the center because she had left an abusive relationship and suffered from anxiety. Her 15-year-old daughter also struggled with symptoms of PTSD from witnessing the violence at home as well as from another separate incident. With the help of Richstone's therapy services, they were able to work through their challenges. Both mother and daughter showed a decrease in symptoms related to the domestic violence incidents and other life stressors. The mother also reports a healthier relationship with herself and members of her family.

While leaving one of their sessions, the daughter asked her mother, **"Can you imagine how different our lives would be if we hadn't found Richstone?"**



THANK YOU

to the **2020 Everychild Foundation** membership who made our most recent grants possible.

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RECENT GRANTEE UPDATES

Los Angeles-area agencies aiding the most vulnerable have stepped up during the pandemic, and Everychild's prior grantees have certainly been among those on the front lines. Here are updates from some of the most recent recipients of our funding:



Homeboy Industries (HBI), who received our grant in 2019 to purchase and renovate its new “Youth Re-Entry Center: A Home for Everychild”, was able to close on the property mid-year thanks to Everychild providing a large down payment. They are pleased to report that they have selected a contractor and that the renovation has proceeded with few delays. Existing staff have been re-located to two temporary locations during this time. Even though construction is not yet complete, the organization was still able to move forward with the programming component of our grant, and the Youth Services Team has been very busy planning procedures, processes and programming.

HBI continues to hold in-person and online programming including art, mental health, mediation, writing, and life skills. Learning Works, the project's education partner, raised funds to deliver every student a Chromebook and, in some cases, a T-mobile device in order to access virtual experiences. Our funding is also supporting a portion of the Youth Services staff including a Case Manager, Navigator, and Youth Employment Counselor. HBI reported that after a rigorous search, they found an ideal candidate for the counselor position whose term started in November of 2020 and is already an integral part of the team.



Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services (Didi Hirsch), our 2018 grantee, has witnessed a dramatic spike in need. Its Suicide Crisis line and Disaster Distress Helpline continue to take calls 24/7 as more Angelenos become overwhelmed. In a report sent to us in December 2020, they cited a survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that found one in four young people, aged 18 to 24, had seriously considered suicide in the past 30 days. Between January and December 2020, Didi Hirsch's staff handling its call/chat Crisis Line responded to 15,903 individuals aged 24 and younger in Los Angeles who were contemplating suicide or worried about a friend. Thanks to the technology that the Everychild grant helped support, they were able to meet this demand as their Suicide Prevention Center counselors are now able to answer chats and crisis lines remotely from home.

They have also trained 2,367 middle/high school and college students/teachers/parents in Los Angeles to recognize and respond to warning signs of suicide. For teens, a key demographic served by the Everychild grant, they launched an online Teen Survivors After Suicide (SAS) group where teens are able to share and form connections with one another. Lastly, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline recently selected the Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention Center to be one of three pilot centers across the county to launch their first ever text services.



Baby2Baby has also seen the need for its services soar since the pandemic. As the first recipient of Everychild's Special Recognition Grant in 2019, the agency was able to leverage its \$100,000 Everychild grant to expand programming throughout Los Angeles County. They hired a fourth courier and expanded deliveries to 7 days per week. They also formed new partnerships with agencies and organizations across the County. One great example is the Los Angeles County Department of Education (LACOE) that represents 80 school districts and over 2 million students and whose first request of Baby2Baby was one million diapers. They also assisted LAUSD families living in poverty -- by distributing diapers, hygiene items, baby food, blankets and more at 63 Grab & Go Food Centers across the city.

When the agency can supply critical items such as diapers and formula, families are then able to apply their other limited funds toward food and shelter. Baby2Baby shared that their foster care program has grown to serve all 23 DCFS offices in Los Angeles with essential items. Baby2Baby reported that Everychild Foundation's support has made such an impact on their growth this year that they have been able to change the lives of hundreds of thousands of children living in poverty.

Overall, these three organizations' responses to the pandemic demonstrate their commitment to communities in need. With a surge in the number of people struggling and circumstances worsening, our grantees continue to adapt in the face of these hurdles.

GETTING TO KNOW TWO NEW EVERYCHILD MEMBERS:

Kirith Prady & Jocelyn Tetel

It's always nice to learn about what has inspired some of our newest members to join our foundation.



JOCELYN TETEL

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT EVERYCHILD?

I was introduced to Jackie Caster by Vicki Unger several years ago when I learned about the Everychild Foundation. At that time, I was on several other Boards and was not in a position to become philanthropically involved with another group. I work at the Skirball Cultural Center, and it was our friendship that brought the Everychild's annual awards lunch to our facility. Jackie had been so kind to include me in a few of the Everychild events over the years, and I was impressed.

WHAT DREW YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER?

I was impressed with the philanthropic model and structure of Everychild and the significant impact it has had on the lives of children in Los Angeles. Much of my own volunteer work, along with what I do at the Skirball, has been to improve the lives of children who are at risk. When my mother passed away, I inherited a little money and decided the most meaningful thing I could do to honor her was to become more philanthropic. That is when I joined Everychild.



TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina, and attended the University of New Hampshire. I moved to L.A. 35 years ago when I was in the insurance industry – a career I had for 14 years. Inspired by volunteer work I was doing, I decided to transition my career into non-profit fundraising and was fortunate to land at the Skirball where I have been Vice President of Advancement for the past 23 years. It is an intense job and career, which I find very meaningful.

I am a founding member and on the Board of 'Extraordinary Families,' which is a foster family and adoption agency that has been serving children and families for nearly 30 years. It fits right in with the goals of Everychild. I am also on the Board of WRRAP – Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project – a grassroots organization which serves low-income women. I am truly a non-profit fundraiser at heart.

KIRITH PRADY

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT EVERYCHILD?

I first learned about Everychild many years ago while at an event with Jackie, and upon hearing the concept, was impressed. However, I was busy with children and life and didn't pursue it at the time. As my children got older, I wanted to get into philanthropy, so I began to explore the opportunities. I was particularly interested in groups that worked with children here in Los Angeles. I wanted to stay local. I did a great deal of research and studied several non-profits, but my investigations always seemed to lead to Everychild. I was pleased with the charities that Everychild Foundation supported, as they were in line with my desire to help Los Angeles's children. There is so much need here.



WHAT ELSE DREW YOU TO EVERYCHILD?

It is a genius idea and so powerful. It has made a real impact in the lives of Los Angeles's children. It is such a waste to have galas when so much money is spent with very little return. I like the idea of almost no overhead. It seemed like the right fit for me. I was interested in grant research, so I joined the Grant Screening Board. I am eager to work with that group.

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I am a SoCal native, and I live in Toluca Lake. I spent my teen years roaming the Hollywood Hills. I have a degree in Psychology from USC. I have two children; one is studying medicine in Portland, and the other is in the 8th grade at Buckley School. I am currently working on endowing a chair in my father's name at Children's Hospital in the Rheumatology Department. My Dad is a pediatrician who has retired from Children's. He always said that Rheumatology was overlooked at the hospital, and he wished that the department had better resources. So, I am working to raise funds to improve that situation.

I AM FASCINATED BY YOUR UNUSUAL NAME; WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND?

My mother was reading James Michener's 'The Source' when I was born, and she liked a character named Kerith. So, she decided to give me that name, but it was misspelled on my birth certificate. And I have been Kirith ever since.



EF'S GRANT CONSULTANT REFLECTS ON COVID-19 AND EVERYCHILD'S RESPONSE

In early January 2020, Lisa Cleri Reale, Everychild's grant consultant, said she was looking forward to a smooth grant process to award the foundation's yearly \$1 million grant. As EF's consultant since 2008, Lisa has been instrumental in developing the tools needed to make EF's grantmaking process so successful over the years.

But by February 2020, the COVID-19 epidemic presented challenges no one had ever imagined, including to EF's grantmaking efforts. After conversations with various members, Lisa and President Jacqueline Caster soon realized that awarding a \$1 million grant to one agency for a large project or capital undertaking was not what was needed at a time when so many nonprofits were struggling to survive.

The question was, how could Everychild best help nonprofits who were seeing increased demand for their services and were facing funding challenges at the same time?

Lisa was involved in every step of EF's decision-making process as she applied her immense experience and knowledge about grantmaking and non-profits to help Everychild identify what needed to change. After immediate internal discussions, EF's Executive Board met via Zoom and made a powerful decision. Everychild would immediately change direction and divide the yearly \$1 million grant into eight emergency relief grants awarded to some of the non-profits that were already being vetted by the Grant Screening Board.

"The changes in the 2020 grant year required a very nimble and quick response," explained Lisa. "That Everychild was able to shift gears so quickly is a perfect example of the efficiency of the EF model. The founder/president, the rest of the board, committee chairs, and the consultant all came together as partners to ensure that the foundation's mission of serving children was activated most effectively, especially given circumstances as extraordinary as these."

The response by our membership has been heartfelt and grateful. Here are just a few of the many positive comments the Executive Board received:

"I'm so impressed with the board's leadership and willingness to change the Everychild model during these crazy and unprecedented times. I'm behind you all the way!"

-Elizabeth Friedman

"This is a brilliant and inspired move! Of course, I'd expect no less from the amazing women of Everychild. I am honored and blessed to be a part of our work together."

-Advisory Board Member, Rev. Patricia Farris

"I applaud the decision to give 8 grants this year in order to help at this time of crisis. It is a sign of a great organization to be flexible when conditions warrant it."

-Nadya Scott

"The year 2021 will be different too. 'As Los Angeles continues to struggle with COVID-19,' Lisa says, 'The grant process will be abbreviated once again this year. We hope to return to the normal process in 2022, but we will have to continue to monitor the situation and see.' 'Whatever happens,' she said, 'the Everychild Foundation is ready as we have a workable process in place.'"

LISA CLERI REALE
Everychild's Grant Consultant



2020: A VIGOROUS YEAR FOR THE GRANT OUTREACH COMMITTEE



As 2020 proved to be a year of unusual need for non-profits across Los Angeles County, we also changed our protocols for 2021 accordingly to grant 4 awards of \$250,000 each for operating support. As a result the Everychild Foundation Grant Outreach Committee (“GOC”) received over seventy grant requests this year, more than double the typical amount. The robust committee consists of nine dynamic women who graciously handled the great influx of applications.

The committee (whose members are required to have already served on the Grant Screening Board) is chaired by Ande Rosenblum, with members Vicki Baker, Carla Buck, Debbie Charlton, Natalie Edmonds, Debra Granfield, Mary James, Penny Meepos, Ellen Simmons, and Aparna Sule. Their focus is on contacting agencies that have initially been determined eligible to apply for an EF grant and have expressed interest in doing so. Committee follow-up includes working with the agency’s representatives as they prepare their Letters of Inquiry, the first step in our grant application process and confirming they still meet all eligibility criteria.

The requests include assistance with a wide range of issues, including but not limited to:

- **healthcare**
- **mental health**
- **housing/homelessness**
- **education/college access**
- **foster care**
- **art/music programs**
- **abuse/violence**

So far, the applicants vetted have proven to be very nimble in their responses so far to the pandemic, offering meals, laptops or tablets, Wi-Fi/hotspots, rental support, housing, telehealth, online learning, mental and emotional support, and even financial support to the children and families they serve. The next step for the GOC is to present their recommendations to the Grant Screening Board, who will ultimately select 8 candidates for presentation to the membership-at-large who will then chose the final four recipients.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jacqueline Caster
Founder and President

This past year, Everychild began its third decade and, needless to say, it was a year like no other. Instead of a focus on celebrating our 20th milestone anniversary, our attention immediately turned to how we could help during the COVID-19 pandemic. We knew right away that agencies serving children and families would be overwhelmed with extraordinary need as jobs were lost, schools were closed, people became sick, essential care workers began to burn out and people became depressed and agitated by being homebound and deprived of normal social interaction. Add to this the backdrop of civic unrest and a very bitterly fought election, and we quickly grasped that it would not be business as usual for our foundation.

As we became aware that agencies which had started the year interested in seeking our annual \$1 million grant for a new project were adjusting their priorities to meet rapidly increasing demand for their various services such as housing, food, counseling, health care, child care and education, we made a shift instead to award 8 COVID-19 Emergency Relief grants this year.

Thank you to our incredible members who overwhelmingly and enthusiastically applauded this decision. It showed that, as we move forward, our organization has reached a level of maturity where we understand the importance of being nimble and able to pivot when the need arises.

This year, the pandemic will still play a large role in the well-being and stability of our communities. Accordingly, we plan to make multiple relief grants once again, with the membership-at-large selecting the ultimate grantees. But it is our sincere hope that come 2022 as we surpass \$20 million in grants, we will be back to following our original model of directing funding toward a single new innovative, replicable project. And, of course, we will finally have another chance to celebrate a fabulous milestone.

Thank you one and all for pushing us closer to that mark and, in the meantime, finding a way where we can best fulfill our mission of easing the suffering of Los Angeles-area children in ways that meet the circumstances at hand.

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