

making a difference

By Vicki Unger, Hill Section neighbor



Vicki Unger has been a resident of the Hill Section for almost 30 years, raised her 3 sons here with her husband of 36 years and has enjoyed a career in wealth management. Encouraging people to give away money during their lifetime has always been one of her core values. It was actually through one of her clients that Vicki was first introduced to the Everychild Foundation, which was then just a few years old. She was so impressed with Everychild that she soon began to talk about it not only with her friends, but also with her clients. Over the years, she has educated and referred many clients and friends to Everychild, including many from the South Bay. Right now, during this pandemic, might be the perfect time to consider joining.

Everychild Foundation is a Los Angeles 501(c)3 women's organization dedicated to easing suffering of children, whether due to disease, disability, abuse, neglect or poverty. The group funds the creation or expansion of innovative and replicable projects in Los Angeles County, addressing critical unmet needs of children.

The organization of over 200 members eschews costly, time-consuming fundraising events and focuses instead on results and leveraging resources.



Vicki with LA Family Housing CEO Stephanie Klasky-Gamer, 2020 Everychild grant recipient. LA Family Housing helps families transition out of homelessness and poverty through a continuum of housing enriched with supportive services

It does so by making a \$1 million targeted grant to a single project selected by vote of the entire membership each year. Funds are amassed from annual member contributions. Operating costs are kept at a minimum and the organization pays no rent and no salaries. Since its founding in July 2000, Everychild has made over \$20 million in grants, directly serving countless children.

In April of 2020, it became clear that Everychild's process of vetting agencies for their annual \$1 million grant was becoming seriously challenged by the COVID 19 pandemic. The grant 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 evident that COVID 19 would be devastating to non-profits, it also became clear that Everychild would need to follow a different direction in its granting procedure for 2020. As a result, Everychild made the crucial decision to change course. Instead of giving a single \$1 million donation, they 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. Among those eight recipients was Harbor Community Health Centers in San Pedro. Since the pandemic, Harbor Community has kept all three of their health centers open and was 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.

Former \$1 million dollar grantees from the South Bay include Richstone Family Center (2016), 1736 Family Crisis Center (2014), The Boys and Girls Clubs of Los Angeles Harbor (2010), and South Bay Community Development Center (2009).

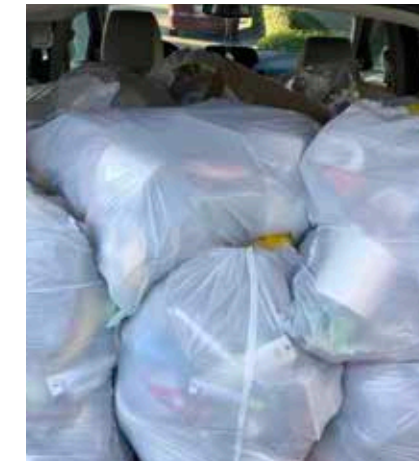
Everychild was founded by Jacqueline Caster, an attorney and urban planner, who has led the group since its inception. She understood that many talented, well-educated women were seeking and not finding enough opportunities to use their brains and skills for the greater good. The Everychild model fills that niche. Jacqueline and all the other members serve on a completely volunteer basis. Vicki joined the organization when it was in its founding years and has since functioned on the Advisory Board. Jacqueline summarizes Vicki's contribution as follows: "Vicki has been a tireless advocate for our foundation from its earliest years. Her professional and philanthropic background has allowed her to appreciate the immense impact that can result when women unite for a larger cause."

Everychild Foundation members have the opportunity to advocate for legislative and policy changes on behalf of children with a focus upon four issues: foster youth, juvenile justice, homeless youth and public investment in low-income infants and toddlers. In addition, members may attend educational salons (currently on zoom) with leading experts on various children's issues.

Everychild is open to new members. Just as it has had to pivot during the pandemic, perhaps it's time for you to pivot in your grantmaking and philanthropy and consider joining this incredible giving circle. The impact is huge on the grant recipients, and lifelong friendships have been made through collaborating with like-minded donors. For more information you can reach out directly to Vicki at vrsunger@gmail.com or contact Everychild at (310) 573-2153 • | E-mail: info@everychildfoundation.org www.everychildfoundation.org | Federal EIN # 31-1693985



Vicki and friends assembled a trunkload of personal hygiene kits for residents of LAFH's homeless shelters



Vicki with Jacqueline Caster, Founder and President of Everychild

