



1736 Family Crisis Center Wins \$1M for *Everychild Foundation Emergency Shelter and Youth Program*



1736 staff and supporters at the Everychild Grant Hearing on October 15th, where they presented their proposal for the Everychild Foundation Emergency Shelter and Youth Program.

training, safe post-shelter housing arrangements, aftercare services, and outpatient services for at-risk community youth.

The Everychild Foundation makes one grant per year to a Los Angeles area non-profit agency benefitting children and youth, ages 0 to 24. The grant is funded by annual contributions from foundation members. This grant marks the fifteenth consecutive grant made by the Everychild Foundation, bringing its overall community contribution to over \$13.5 million.

The Everychild Foundation recently announced it will award 1736 Family Crisis Center (1736 FCC) with a \$1 million grant to implement the *Everychild Foundation Emergency Shelter and Youth Program*.

The grant will provide capital support to renovate a property 1736 FCC currently owns in Mar Vista. The site, once renovated, will create an optimal environment for the agency's 42-year-old Emergency Youth Shelter program, currently located in Hermosa Beach, that serves homeless and at-risk girls and boys, ages 10-17, in desperate need of safe shelter and care.

The facility, when complete, will become the program's permanent site and include: a residential shelter, 24-hour intake, 24-hour crisis/suicide hotline response, 24-hour walk-in/drop-in services, individual/group/family mental health therapy, case management, life skills

"This new emergency shelter and youth program will create a sanctuary for seriously at-risk children from all walks of life," says Jacqueline Caster, Founder and President of the Everychild Foundation. "The project will address the immediate problems of homeless youth by providing a safe, temporary refuge, encouraging family problem resolution through counseling, and helping youth decide on constructive courses of action for their future."

The renovated site will provide much-improved amenities including ADA ground floor access, additional bathrooms and counseling rooms, larger bedrooms, a teaching kitchen and outdoor
(Continued on the following page)

THE MISSION of the Everychild Foundation is to ease suffering of children in the Greater Los Angeles area whether due to disease, disability, abuse, neglect or poverty.

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recreational space. The new facility will also include a new 1,350 square foot Youth Empowerment Center in a connected structure that will offer crisis intervention services and educational, job training and life skills activities for residential and non-residential youth.

“Never in my thirty years as CEO at 1736 could I have imagined the current level of danger to homeless children, right here on our streets,” says Carol Adelfkoff, CEO and Executive Director of 1736 Family Crisis Center. “This project will rescue kids from depression, homelessness, suicide and hopelessness. Together with our community partners, we are driven and absolutely determined to rescue these at-risk children.”

This award is announced as the nation recognizes the needs of homeless children with National Homeless Youth Awareness Month in November 2014.

1736 FCC’s main mission is to help children, women, men, and families through crisis circumstances, including domestic violence, homelessness, abuse, neglect, poverty, substance use, post-traumatic stress disorder and distress, and to improve their prospects for long-term housing, safety, survival, financial stability, and success.



Shown above are members of the 2014 Grant Screening Board at the Grant Hearing on October 15, 2014. GSB members put in many hours of work reviewing documents and making site visits to select the two grant finalists.

Grant Updates

2013: The Children’s Clinic launched the “Everychild Bright Beginnings Initiative”, a pilot program to identify and address the effects of toxic stress and chronic exposure to violence on children and pregnant mothers. During the first half of this year, they have begun training the entire staff in trauma-informed care. They have also been fine tuning a screening tool to be used during patient visits, as well as developing the guidelines to be used by all clinic staff to manage patients participating in the EBBI program.

2012: Public Counsel and The Alliance for Children’s Rights created the nation’s first large-scale project to provide comprehensive legal and social services to adoptive and guardianship families. Called the “Everychild Families Forever Project,” the services include early outreach to Los Angeles families, assistance with completion of adoptions and guardianships, long-term follow up, and post-adoption/guardianship study. At this point, more than 1,073 adoptions and 1,904 guardianships have been completed. Of these, 1,642 families chose to have a comprehensive needs assessment so that Public Counsel and The Alliance for Children’s Rights could facilitate services and benefits.

2011: Centinela Youth Services launched the “Everychild Restorative Justice Center” (ERJC), a regional center located adjacent to the Inglewood Courthouse, to meet the needs of judges seeking alternatives to the juvenile justice system. As of the end of the second quarter of this year, more than 808 teens had been referred to Tier I, which includes status offenses such as curfew violations, fighting, truancy, and bullying. An additional 178 youth have entered the program for Tier II, which includes more serious first and second time misdemeanor offenses. The program is already being replicated by the LA Police Department with guidance from the Everychild Foundation.



Family Provides Loving Home to Four Adopted Children with Help from the Everychild Families Forever Project

Mr. and Mrs. Garcia* didn't expect to become the caregivers to four children. However, after Mrs. Garcia met them at the domestic violence shelter where she worked, she couldn't turn away.

When the children entered foster care, their birth mother asked the Garcias to be their foster parents. They agreed. When they decided to adopt the children three years later, the *Everychild Families Forever Project* was there to help.

This project, a collaboration between Public Counsel and The Alliance for Children's Rights, is the nation's first large-scale undertaking to provide comprehensive legal and social services to adoptive and guardianship families. With help from the Everychild Foundation's 2012 \$1 million grant, Los Angeles area families, like the Garcias, are able to get the support they need to facilitate successful adoptions.

As a first step, project staff conducted an in-depth assessment for the Garcias and discovered that the children were not receiving the appropriate services or benefits necessary to address their special needs and emotional trauma.

Due to the complexity of the case, the project offered the

family in-house legal representation. Public Counsel staff attorneys Rachel Stein and Mayra Lira worked to assure that the children and the Garcias themselves received the comprehensive services necessary to meet their needs in the areas of education, benefits and mental health advocacy.

The legal team determined that, although all of the children had severe mental health issues, only one child was receiving the appropriate rate in Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) payments. Stein and Lira spent weeks reviewing medical records and preparing requests for a higher AAP rate for the other children. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) ultimately granted these requests, assigning each child the specialized rate and awarding the family \$39,000 in retroactive benefits.

Additionally, Stein resolved an issue with Medical coverage, and Lira attended multiple Individualized Education Plan meetings with the Garcias to help them obtain special education services for the children.

"Because of the *Everychild Families Forever Project*, Public Counsel has given the Garcias a stable foundation so they can provide these children with the loving home they deserve," said Stein.

The project has provided the same comprehensive needs assessments to over 1,600 families thus far. The project has also increased its adoption rates and surpassed its goal in placing children in guardianships.

To learn more about The Alliance for Children's Rights visit <http://kids-alliance.org> and to learn more about Public Counsel visit: <http://www.publiccounsel.org>.

**Please note that the name of the family has been changed to protect their privacy.*

Thanks to Each 2014 Everychild Member for Making This Year's \$1 Million Grant Possible!

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Everychild Foundation News

Jacqueline Caster Recognized for her Advocacy for Children

Congratulations to Everychild Founder and President, Jacqueline Caster, who received two prestigious awards in 2014, both named for her mentor, the late Nancy Daly. Daly was one of Los Angeles' most respected advocates for children, and also a member of Everychild.



Photo above: Everychild Founder and President, Jacqueline Caster, at the 2014 United Friends of the Children gala in Los Angeles.

Ms. Caster received the Nancy Daly Advocacy Award presented at the Lewis Hine Awards for Service to Children and Youth in New York City in February. The award comes from the National Child Labor Committee and is named after Lewis Hine, a photographer who documented early 20th century exploitation of child labor.

In June, the United Friends of the Children, a Los Angeles-based non-profit focusing on the transition of foster children to adulthood, awarded Ms. Caster its humanitarian award named after Nancy Daly, who founded UFC. The award was presented at the organization's Brass Ring Awards gala in June.

This year's grant marks Everychild's 15th consecutive grant, bringing its overall community contribution to over \$13.5 million!

Welcome to Everychild's New 2014 Members

2014 has been a banner year for new Everychild members. Thirty-three women have chosen to join Everychild and begin making a difference for children in need in Los Angeles. Welcome!

Judy Beckmen	Emily Mears
Karen Bedrosian Coyne	Susan Palmer
Robin Cottle	Shalane Respondek
Candis Duke	Nicole Robinov
Joy Fein	Ande Rosenblum
Linda Figel	Nalini Sri-Kumar
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Lany Lippman	Elizabeth Youngblood
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**Mark your calendar!
The Everychild Foundation's
15th Anniversary Celebration
April 23, 2015**





New Policy Chair: Dara Barker – Why Policy Matters

Dara Barker, who was recently named Chair of the Everychild Policy Committee, brings a valuable background to the role. She is an attorney representing children in both foster care and family law proceedings, and most recently, she spent the bulk of her time representing fost-adopt parents.

Helping families adopt through the foster care system is a particular passion, one she has personally experienced as a fost-adopt parent. According to Dara, she was drawn to Everychild because she loved the idea of 95% of the funds going to the chosen charity. No galas, no fundraisers, just the basic commitment of 200+ women to give a meaningful amount of money to a worthy children's charity.

Why is a Policy Committee important?

Policy is a basic premise that guides one's actions. It's the underlying principle used to create the specific rules that govern our everyday life. If we don't agree with a broad overarching policy, we will likely have a problem with the many, many laws that will flow from it. Everychild's mission is to ease the suffering of children, whether due to disease, disability, abuse, neglect or poverty. If we want to further this mission, we need to make sure that we like the policies of

decision makers who can impact that mission.

You hosted the Public Policy Advocacy Workshop earlier this year. Were there any important themes or outcomes from that event?

The most important takeaway from the workshop is that *anyone* can effect change through targeted advocacy. It turns out that there are experts who study this topic and have discovered that there is a real formula to it. If followed, advocacy is not so overwhelming. And, it really doesn't matter if the change sought is big or small. All that is needed is to chart a thoughtful and realistic path to get there. It's totally doable.

Do you have any advice on how Everychild members can make a difference?

Here are four things members can do to start mapping out their plan:

1. Get involved and gather information. It may sound obvious, but you can only make a difference if you understand the issue and all points of view around it - - especially the barriers and obstacles to the change you seek.
2. Develop *realistic* and measurable goals. If, for example, ending global hunger is your broad goal, break that down into realistic and measurable steps.
3. Identify the decision makers and learn about them. What are their interests? How can you or your group reach them?
4. Craft a message and a call to action. What do you want people to do and why?

Everychild members are a powerful and very bright bunch of women. If they have a passion and want to make a difference, they surely can.

Get Involved in Everychild

More than 95% of the funds given to the Everychild Foundation go directly to the grant recipient each year. How is this possible? It's because of our volunteers who donate their time working on committees that assure our organization is efficient and professional. If you are interested in becoming more involved, email us at info@everychildfoundation.org.

Nancy Daly Memorial Salon Series: California Congressman, Karen Bass, Working to Reform Foster Care

On Wednesday, September 3rd, Everychild Foundation members and friends gathered at the home of Leslie and Bill Elkus to hear Congressman Karen Bass, Co-Chair, Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, discuss the new national movement to reform our nation's broken foster care system.

"Every day, nearly a half-million children and youth depend on foster care in America – through no fault of their own," says Bass. "It is our responsibility to make sure that our children have every opportunity to become productive citizens. But unfortunately, a disproportionate number of foster care youth end up homeless and in the juvenile-justice system."

While Speaker of the California Assembly, Bass championed a bill that extended the foster care emancipation age to 21 – helping youth continue to be supported during crucial years of development. Now in the U.S. House of Representatives, she has introduced two foster care bills. The first was a congressional resolution recognizing May as National Foster Care Month to honor foster youth and foster parents. The second, H.R.2012, the Foster Care Mentoring Act, focused



Above: California Congressman, Karen Bass. on connecting foster care youth with responsible, caring adults.

Says Bass, "Our society is judged on how we treat the most vulnerable amongst us. We must provide a hand up to foster youth and celebrate their accomplishments, praise foster families, caregivers, and relatives for their selflessness to others, continue investing in life improving foster care services, and always assist children as they age out of the foster care system."

If you would like to support this effort, visit:
<http://bass.house.gov/resources/foster-care-resources>

Membership in the Everychild Foundation is open to all women interested in helping Los Angeles children in need. The annual contribution is \$5,000 and is tax-deductible. To join, send an email to info@everychildfoundation.org or call 310-573-2153. We will respond immediately.



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