

Fall 2015

Everychild Awards Its 2015 \$1 Million Grant to The Whole Child to Address Homelessness



Pictured above, members of The Whole Child and Everychild Foundation Grant Screening Board at the October grant hearing, held at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica, California.

The Everychild Foundation has awarded its 2015 \$1 million grant to The Whole Child (TWC) to fund the *Everychild Foundation Family Housing Program.* The funding will go toward helping hard-to-place families with children, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with adequate, safe and affordable housing.

The Everychild Family Housing Program anticipates serving 672 children ages zero to 18 (approximately 168 families) over a two-year period. The program is aimed at achieving stability and emotional well-being for these children and their families.

"Because a strong and nurturing family is essential to a child's healthy growth and development, TWC's commitment to children through this program extends to the parents as well," says Charlene Dimas-Peinado, Chief Executive Officer. "The Everychild Family Housing Program will provide counseling, mental health and health care services, intensive case management and

assistance connecting to other needed resources to help both the children and parents in the family."

Through its new Family Housing Program, TWC will assist families in securing housing and provide help with move-in expenses. At the same time, TWC case managers will assess each family's situation and develop an individualized service plan designed to achieve long-term stability.

"The Everychild Foundation has a deep and growing concern about the emotional

impact on children living in traumatic environments," says Jacqueline Caster, Founder and President of the Everychild Foundation. "The Whole Child's mission, to give children of all ages the skills, support and security they need to build emotionally healthy lives fits with our mission to assist Los Angeles' most vulnerable citizens."

The program will target hard-to-place families – often headed by young, single females with several children – who are at the greatest risk of homelessness. Focus will be on the children in these families who can suffer from lifelong mental and physical health issues, exposure to violence and an increased probability of being placed in foster care.

The Family Housing program is based on the nationally acknowledged Housing First model.

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.

The model focuses on securing permanent housing, coupled with intensive support services, rather than placement in a short-term shelter. Homelessness in the TWC service area of Whittier and its surrounding communities has increased dramatically in the past few years, as indicated in the recent 2015 Homeless Count conducted by Los Angeles Housing Services Authority. The Everychild grant has the ability to significantly reduce child and family homelessness in the Greater Whittier area by the end of 2018.

The Everychild Foundation Grant Screening Board (GSB) is a committee of 22 women, trained by professional grant consultant, Lisa Cleri Reale and Associates. It spends an entire year vetting candidates and narrowing the choice down to two highly qualified finalists.

"It's a tremendous amount of work, but well worth the effort," says Sue Rosenblum, 2015 Grant Screening Board Chair. "This year's GSB has worked tirelessly throughout the entire review and selection process, and I am so proud to collaborate with such a dedicated and hardworking group of women. We were all impressed by both finalists, for their professionalism and dedication to the children and families they serve."

For more information on The Whole Child, go to: https://www.thewholechild.info/

Runner-Up: Foothill Family Services Zero to Five Comprehensive Care Center

As we announce the results of our grant vote each year, it has become an Everychild tradition for us to do all we can to help the runner-up project become a reality too. Foothill Family Service's proposed Zero to Five Comprehensive Care Center is a one-stop service center for children ages zero to five with psychological and developmental needs (including autism) and their families. It targets the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, which is severely underserved.

The proposed project will serve an estimated 500 current and new clients in the first year of operations alone. In addition to Year One Staffing costs, funds will support the design and build-out of a therapeutic playground, facility reconfiguration, purchase of two customized vans, as well as teaching toys/supplies, and community outreach. If you are personally interested or think you know of individuals or foundations who would like to help, please email the Foothill development team at:

Lara Lund, Director of Foundation Grants LLund@foothillfamily.org



Shown above are members of the 2015 Grant Screening Board at the Grant Hearing on October 14, 2015. GSB members put in many hours of work reviewing documents and making site visits to select the two grant finalists.

Members of the 2015 Grant Screening Board

Chair: Sue Rosenblum Vice Chair: Nancy Belinsky Dara Barker Judy Beckman Susan Brauneiss Jacqueline Caster Morgan Conver Mary deKernion Candis Duke Natalie Fair Elizabeth Friedman Priscilla Halper Anessa Karney Michelle Katz Wendy Kirshner Laurie Levit Diane Liebenson Michele Lynch Deborah Zurek Olliff Ande Rosenblum Linda Rubin Nadya Scott Aparna Sule



Robert Jones, shown above with his wife, Dalilia and son, Bobby.

Paying It Forward: How A 'Push Start' from SBCC Thrive LA and Everychild Offers Opportunities for the Future

When a member of Everychild makes a commitment, it is reassuring to know our support makes a difference in the lives of *real* people and has a tangible, 'pay it forward' effect. Take Robert Jones, a Youth Support Specialist at SBCC Thrive LA* and member of the Urban Teacher Fellowship (UTF), for example.

Supported by a major grant from the Everychild Foundation in 2009, SBCC Thrive LA has developed a comprehensive set of skill-building, academic, and character-development initiatives; all of which focus on re-engaging potentially disconnected youth in career focused, peer-supported learning and development.

Robert was born and raised in the South Bay of Los Angeles and, as a youth, constantly moved between rental houses, shelters, family and friends and, at one point, an abandoned motorhome. "I did the minimum requirement to stay in school, only because I always enjoyed learning," says Robert. "I knew I wanted to do something special for my family, community, and for all those who helped us out through the years, but I had no direction or avenue to do so."

A turning point came when he joined the SBCC Urban Teacher Fellowship (UTF), where he gained what he calls "more than just a set of classes and career counseling, but an academic roadmap and a family environment to help me succeed."

Robert is now five courses away from college graduation, and once he graduates, plans to enter a teacher credential program through Cal State Dominguez. He would like to stay in the field of special education and teach history at a local high school. His goal is to eventually start teaching at his alma mater, Banning High School, where his grandfather and mother also attended.

Robert recalls vividly what it's like to be a kid struggling to find his way. "Life's not easy," he says, "so it's always important to utilize and grow a support system, so you don't have that feeling of having to succeed alone. It's okay to reach out when you need a hand."

"...Work funded by child-centered organizations gives kids an opportunity for their future and teaches the value of giving back."

He credits his success to SBCC Thrive, UTF and the Everychild Foundation. He thinks it's imperative for organizations like Everychild to focus on children, because it is the most vital time to have a positive impact.

"Groups like Everychild are responsible for positively impacting so many youth and in turn, their families and future," comments Robert. "Everychild gave us opportunities that we may not have had without the 'push start.' It's childhood when somebody decides who they can be. For kids that don't have many resources, the work funded by child-centered organizations gives them an opportunity for their future and teaches the value of giving back, by setting an initial example. This, in turn, creates an ever-growing web of people *paying it forward*. Everychild and SBCC helped me and, in turn, I would like to return that hospitality and extend the investment by helping those around me."

For more information about SBCC Thrive LA http://www.sbccthrivela.org

*Formerly called South Bay Center for Counseling

Thanks to Each 2015 Everychild Member for Making This Year's \$1 Million Grant Possible!

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*** We are sad to report that longtime Member, Roberta Deutsch, passed away recently. She will be greatly missed by our membership and by the great many lives she touched in the community with her generosity.

** Founding Member (since 2000)

* Member of 10 Years or More

2015 Everychild Foundation Leadership

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Grant Consultant

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* Indicates Founding Member (since (since 2000)

** Member of 10 Years or More

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Jacqueline Caster Appointed to LA County Probation Commission

Newly elected Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl (Everychild Advisory Board member) has appointed our Founder and President, Jacqueline Caster to the Los Angeles County Probation Commission as one of her three representatives for the Third Supervisory District. Jacqueline joins Daniel Seaver, as well as longstanding Commissioner, Jo Kaplan, who is also an Everychild Advisory Board Member.

The Probation Commissioners perform inspections of the juvenile detention halls and camps and hold regular public meetings to review the findings as well as other issues that impact the youth while in the care of the County justice system.

Grant Updates

2014: 1736 Family Crisis Center will launch "The Everychild Foundation Emergency Shelter and Youth Program" to serve homeless and at-risk girls and boys, ages 10-17, in desperate need of safe shelter and care. The one-year disbursement of grant funds is in its final quarter, facilitating the on-budget and on-time renovation and new construction of the shelter home and program site in Mar Vista, with construction to be completed and occupancy anticipated for early 2016. The dedication is scheduled for February 29th. Details to follow.

2013: The Children's Clinic ("TCC") launched the "Everychild Bright Beginnings Initiative ('EBBI'),", a proven 'trauma-informed care' pilot program to reduce abuse and neglect and create nurturing home environments during pregnancy and the first three years of life. In the second year of its Everychild Foundation grant, TCC has completed training of all TCC staff in trauma-induced care, who work identifying and addressing toxic stress and chronic exposure to violence on infants, toddlers and pregnant mothers. TCC has completed a survey at their largest clinic site regarding patents' experiences with trauma-informed care, with between 85% and 100% favorable rankings on topics by EBBI patients. TCC's survey and efforts to track medium to high-risk EBBI patients continues.

2012: Public Counsel and The Alliance for Children's Rights, through our grant, 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, completion of adoptions and guardianships, long-term follow up and post- adoption/guardianship study. The grant period has concluded and a final report will be submitted to Everychild Foundation at the end of 2015.

2011: Centinela Youth Services ("CYS") launched the "Everychild Restorative Justice Center" (ERJC) to meet the needs of judges seeking alternatives to incarceration. CYS will complete its four-year grant period this December. At the end of the 2nd quarter of 2015, over 1,016 teens have been referred to date for Tier 1, which includes status offenses such as curfew violations, fighting, truancy, and bullying.

With the help of matching funds from the State, a second center was opened in South Los Angeles. In addition to diverting cases from court, the ERJC is now the first and only program in the state to divert youth from arrest. When services are completed, the arrest is never filed on their record. The State is closely watching the evolving innovations of the ERJC and awarded a second grant to expand program reach.

A Big Thank You

To Rosa and Bob Sinnott, for hosting the Everychild Foundation's 15th Anniversary Celebration in April. Over 100 Everychild Members, friends and grantees gathered to celebrate the occasion.



15 Years of Serving Children and Counting...

Fifteen years ago, we set upon an idealistic path – to ease suffering of <u>every child</u> in metropolitan Los Angeles, whether due to disease, disability, abuse neglect or poverty. We would do so by placing our focus on the goal, not the method.

There would be no fundraising events; rather, each year participants would simply contribute dues that we would pool. This would allow us to direct our full attention toward selecting a single, innovative, replicable, annual children's project to receive our funds.

While, of course, we did not literally expect to impact the life of every Los Angeles area child, in fifteen years, we have managed to directly improve the prospects of at least 1 million youth, with countless more indirectly served, plus many others even beyond Southern California.



With over \$13 million in targeted grants made, at least 12 similar grant-making groups whose creation we've inspired, and the replication of so many of the projects we have funded, our impact has become truly exponential. On top of this, our Public Policy Committee has played a role in the passage of important local and state legislation and policies serving various groups of children in need.

It has been an incredible honor to join with our Members in this important work and also to form friendships with so many amazing women in the process. A particular salute goes out to our Founding Members and our large number of other longtime Members - many of over a decade. Without their willingness to jump on board and take a chance on something new, years back, we would not be where we are today.

Of course, an enormous thank you goes out to ALL our dedicated Members, committed Advisory Board, outstanding grantee partners and our two wonderful consultants over the years - Marcia Antopol (from 2000-2008) and Lisa Cleri Reale (2008-present). We also greatly appreciate the wonderful families of each of our Members who have consistently supported and cheered our efforts. Together, we have evolved into the "Everychild Community."

So as I reflect here 15 years since we began, watching us grow from a small group of passionate individuals to, now, this very special community that has changed so many young lives, why not continue on that idealistic path to reach EVERY CHILD in Los Angeles? Given the unanticipated exponential impact we have had to date, who's to say it can't be done?

Jacqueline Caster

Founder and President, Everychild Foundation

Important Upcoming Dates

Dec. 15, 2015 – Giving Youth a Fresh Start: How Diversion Programs are Disrupting LA's Cradle to Prison Pipeline – Cohosted by the CA Endowment, Everychild Foundation, CA
Community Foundation, CA Wellness Foundation and So. Cal.
Grantmakers – 9:00-11:30 a.m., LA84 Foundation

Jan. Date TBA - 'Bingo for Old Bags'

Feb. 23, 2016 – Everychild Children's Policy Symposium 8:30-12:00 p.m., RAND Corporation

Feb. 29, 2016 - Dedication of the 1736 Family Crisis Center 'Everychild Foundation Emergency Shelter'

Mar. 15, 2016 – Everychild 16th Annual Luncheon

11:30-1:30 p.m., The Skirball Cultural Center

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



Photo: Members of the Actors' Gang gather in the home of Founder and President of The Everychild Foundation, Jacqueline Caster and her husband, Andrew Caster. Pictured from left to right: Simon Hanna, Managing Director, The Actors' Gang; Sabra Williams, Director of the Prison Project, The Actors' Gang; Andrew Caster; Jeanette Horn, Director of Education, The Actors' Gang; Jacqueline Caster, Founder and President of The Everychild Foundation; Donna Jo Thorndale, Program Manager, The Actors' Gang; and Tim Robbins, Artistic Director, The Actors' Gang.

Everychild Salon: Tim Robbins, The Importance of Bringing Arts to LA Kids

Tim Robbins - actor, director, producer, writer, musician and activist – joined friends and members of the Everychild Foundation for an evening salon at the home of Jacqueline and Andrew Caster on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 to discuss 'The Importance of Bringing Arts to Los Angeles Kids.' "The arts offer youth a connection and hope, which together work to keep young minds stimulated," says Tim, the Artistic Director of The Actors' Gang. "There is so much work that needs to be done. We will not let our children's minds remain uninspired." The

Actors' Gang objectives are to provide theatre to under-served youth; to engage students in a professional theatre environment to help cultivate fundamental life skills; and to increase attendance and involvement in Performing Arts and to further advocate for arts in education. The organization also conducts classes and workshops with inmates in prisons and Juvenile Re-Entry programs.

If you would like to support this effort, visit: http://www.theactorsgang.com/education

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.



Women Reinventing Philanthropy®

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