



EVERYCHILD FOUNDATION

NEWS

Everychild Grants Surpass \$1.2 Million in First 2½ Years 2003 Grant Awarded to Violence Intervention Program

On November 13, 2002, Everychild member votes were tallied, and our newest grant recipient was selected, culminating an outreach, screening and evaluation process that began in January 2002. This year's \$600,000 grant was awarded to Violence Intervention Program (VIP) – an agency that has become a national and international model for assessing and treating children impacted by violence.

VIP is the third Everychild grant recipient, joining QueensCare (\$230,000 in 2001 to fund a mobile dental clinic serving impoverished children) and the Wonder of Reading (\$385,000 in 2002 to build and stock 15 elementary school libraries in low-income neighborhoods), thus bringing our total grants made to more than \$1.2 million in just 2½ years since Everychild's inception.

The VIP grant will renovate a 70 year-old building – scheduled for completion in the fall of 2003 – and will enable the agency to help 1000 children annually, approximately 350 more children per year than previously.

The latest grant was officially presented on March 7, 2003, at the annual Everychild Foundation

luncheon at the Regency Club. In addition to the grant presentation, highlights of the afternoon included updates on prior Everychild grant projects.



Additionally, Everychild was given a special commendation from the Los Angeles Unified School District Board, presented by its Board Member Marlene Canter, who is also an Everychild member. The luncheon was entirely underwritten by generous sponsors.

The new VIP center, to be renamed the Everychild Foundation Center for the Vulnerable Child, will be directed by its internationally-known founder, Dr. Astrid Heger. The new funds will allow VIP to expand diagnosis, treatment, long-term counseling, mentoring and tutoring services for

children who have been physically and sexually abused, improve the therapeutic environment, and enhance coordination among multi-disciplinary child services, including legal advocacy. VIP is the only 24-hour comprehensive child abuse program in Los Angeles County.

The VIP project was selected over the other grant finalist, Stone Soup, which provides after school programs for low-income non-LAUSD public elementary schools in Los Angeles County. Stone Soup had asked Everychild to fund the start-up costs to implement their program at roughly 15 more schools.

But luckily for Stone Soup, Gregory Mitchell, Everychild Advisory Board Member (President and CEO of California National Bank) asked the Grant Screening Committee to call him immediately after the ballots were counted. When the committee did, he announced that the bank will fund the establishment of at least six more Stone Soup programs, promote the programs to its customers, and provide large numbers of volunteer tutors from its employee ranks. Needless to say, this was a win-win situation for everyone involved!

NEWS

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The goal of the Everychild Foundation is to maximize the size of our annual grant by keeping our 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 numerous wonderful friends and supporters listed below:

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AND... the many generous members of the Family Day and Salon Committees

2002 Grant Award Update: 15 New Libraries for LAUSD Schools

After an exhaustive nine-month grant selection process, the Everychild Foundation grant for 2002 was awarded to the Wonder of Reading, an organization that builds libraries in low-income elementary schools in Los Angeles. Over the next four years, the Foundation's \$385,000 grant will be used to build 15 libraries, stock them with new books, and train library volunteers. \$10,000 of the Everychild grant will be used to prepare a "how-to" manual, enabling the Wonder of Reading to share its process and results with charitable entities interested in replicating the program in other cities.

years. Once a library is in place, the district will not take it away. The more libraries we can build now, the better. This is one reason the Everychild Foundation grant is so meaningful."

The Wonder of Reading calls its program "the three R's: renovate, restock, and read." The group renovates a school's library to make it more useful to young students, expanding the space to include story steps for group reading and workstations for tutoring; it also provides funds to restock the school's collection of books and train volunteers to read one-on-one with students.

the event, welcoming Everychild members and Wonder of Reading staff to their brand-new library: spacious, state of the art, and filled with hundreds and hundreds of new books. It was tremendously moving to see our own grant dollars at work to make a difference for so many children.

Since July, the Wonder of Reading has opened four more new libraries funded by the Everychild Foundation. On May 30th, 2003, an Everychild-sponsored library (99th Street Elementary) will become the 100th library opened by the Wonder of Reading. Everychild Founder



With no funds for libraries or librarians in the LAUSD budget, well-stocked, well-staffed libraries are only possible with the outside help of an organization like the Wonder of Reading.

The \$385,000 grant to the Wonder of Reading from Everychild is the largest the charity has ever received. Wonder of Reading Founder, Christopher Forman, said of receiving the grant, "Because of the increasing population, schools that can today dedicate room to a Wonder of Reading library may be unable to do so in future

To be eligible for the program, each school has to identify existing space to be renovated for its Wonder of Reading library. In addition, the school must also raise funds to cover a portion of the construction costs, to demonstrate the school community's commitment to the new library.

The first library built from Everychild Foundation funds opened on July 12, 2002, at South Park Elementary School. The entire student body of nearly 1000 children turned out for

Jacqueline Caster described the need these new school libraries will fill: "Children who don't have a library in their school are at a distinct disadvantage and have a handicap from the very beginning. We hope to change that."

Other Everychild-sponsored libraries scheduled to open this calendar year are Belvedere Elementary (June 30th) and Nestle Elementary (November 14th).

The Annual Family Day Picnic: Teaching Children the Joy of Giving Back

One of the highlights of the Everychild Foundation year is the Fall Family Day picnic. The idea for an annual family day grew out of a concern among members that our children have opportunities to learn more about helping others in need by participating in giving themselves. Soon the Family Day committee was formed, and this very special day began to take shape.

At the inaugural Family Day picnic at the home of Member Shelly Curtis Litvack and her husband, Frank Litvack, in September, 2001, members' children stuffed 650 backpacks donated by Guess?, Inc. with school supplies – workbooks, glue, scissors, pencils, pads and paper – for kindergartners at four different LAUSD elementary schools. As 8-year-old Olivia Esse commented, "It felt good to help another child to have her very own set of crayons for the first time."

For the 2002 Family Day, held at the home of Member Lisa Feintech's family in Malibu, the committee teamed up with "Shoes That Fit," a national organization that works with local communities to provide new shoes for the children of low-income families. Two hundred pairs of new shoes were donated by AVIA Shoes, and members' children contributed socks and decorated shoe bags for students at Castle Heights Elementary School. Each shoe bag was tagged for a specific child, whose feet had been measured beforehand to ensure a good fit. For

many of these children, this would be the first pair of new shoes they'd ever had.

Special thanks to the Litvack family, whose garage served as a storage unit for the various backpacks, school supplies, shoes, and socks until all were distributed. Additionally, a big thank you also goes to Kymberly Marciano for organizing the painting of a huge and beautiful mural by our children to be donated to Castle Heights Elementary.



Because the Everychild Foundation is not an event-oriented organization, Family Day also provides a welcome opportunity for members and their families to spend a few leisurely hours together getting better acquainted. According to Terry Hyman Hamermesh and Michelle Richman, who spearheaded the Family Day committee, "the creativity, enterprise, and hard work of the committee and the generosity of many Everychild members and supporters allows these events to be produced each year without spending a dollar of Everychild membership dues."

Other committee members over the last two years have included: Jackie Caster, Debbie Colbert, Tobey Cotsen, Anna Eigler, Carole Gaba, Deborah Goodman, Laurel Kuppin, Shelly Litvack, Kymberly Marciano, Sheilah McKinnon, Linda Rubin, Frankie Sholem, Elisabeth Tarvin, and Tara Winans.

2001 Grant Award Update: Mobile Dental Clinic

In March, 2001, the dream of the Everychild Foundation became a reality when our first grant was awarded to QueensCare, a public charity that provides health care to low income and uninsured working families in Los Angeles County. The \$230,000 grant from Everychild allowed QueensCare to build a mobile dental clinic, which today brings free dental services to second and third graders in public elementary schools in the poorest neighborhoods of Los Angeles.

The project commanded the Foundation's attention when we learned that 52 million hours of school time are missed every year in this country because of dental problems. Los Angeles Unified School District administrators told the Los Angeles Times last year that dental defects – swollen jaws, painful abscesses, and rotted baby teeth – are the number one problem that school nurses deal with every day. Children with untreated dental problems have higher school absentee rates; and when they do attend, these children are often unable to concentrate because of the pain and discomfort.

To address this neglected epidemic, the Everychild Foundation grant enabled QueensCare to purchase a 48-foot trailer and transform it into a working dental office with three dental chairs, x-ray and sterilization equipment, and a handicap access ramp. The mobile clinic – the first of its kind in the city of Los Angeles – is staffed by fourth year dental students from the University of Southern California, and all the dental care is free.

The mobile dental clinic first went into service in May, 2001, at Union Elementary

School on South Burlington Avenue. Dental screenings were done there on 693 second and third graders, a critical age for cavities and tooth decay in emerging permanent teeth and first molars. A staggering 65% of these students had never been to a dentist, and 55% of these children had advanced tooth decay. By November, 2001, the dentists had completed 136 root canals, 523 fillings, 164 crowns, and 161 tooth extractions, in addition to routine hygiene and sealants.

Because so much work was required, the mobile dental clinic stayed at Union Elementary for six months before moving on in December, 2001, to Rosemont Elementary School, where 450 second and third graders had access to free dental care. In 2002, the dental clinic moved on to Hobart and Magnolia Elementary Schools. In its first 18 months of operation, the Everychild mobile dental clinic treated well over 2,000 low-income children and provided dental education to several thousand more.

After realizing the huge need our project is addressing, USC has provided a second dental clinic that is already working in tandem with the Everychild mobile clinic, enabling their dentists to see twice as many children with very little increase in overhead costs. QueensCare has plans in the works to purchase and staff at least two more mobile dental clinics, with the goal of visiting 16 other elementary schools in their primary service area every two years to serve new second and third graders. They hope to have these clinics operational within the next 18 months.



EVERYCHILD CALENDAR

May 8th

Salon with Dr. Bradley Stein, RAND - Children Witnessing Gang Violence

May 30th

6th Everychild Wonder of Reading Library Opening (the Wonder of Reading's 100th library!) – 99th Street Elementary

June 20th

7th Everychild Wonder of Reading Library Opening – Belvedere Elementary

September/October

Annual Family Day (date to be determined)

October 14th

Grant Hearing 8:30 a.m. – Santa Monica

November 1st

2003 Member Dues Must be Received

November 14th

8th Everychild Wonder of Reading Library Opening – Nestle Elementary

THE GRANT TEAM

Throughout the year a committee of dedicated women work diligently with the assistance of our grant consultant, Marcia Antopol, to screen the various grant candidates and narrow the pool to the final two, which are presented to the entire membership for vote. Special thanks to Eve Jaffe, who has chaired this committee the past two years, and to Members Kristen Abraham, Cynthia Alexander, Wendy Block, Jackie Caster, Debra Colbert, Judy Cousin, Laura Donnelley-Morton, Tracy Esse, Lisa Feintech, Therese Funk, Kristi Hubbard, Laurel Kuppin, Gail Schenbaum Lawton, Ellie Lederman, Carol Leif, Suzanne Martin, Nancy McCabe, Sheila McKinnon, Sherri Saget, Susan Smidt, Denise McCain Tharnstrom, and Tara Winans.

Also tremendous thanks to Laura Donnelley-Morton, MSIA, and Good Works Foundation for providing the beautiful facility for our grant hearing each year.

The work of our Grant Monitoring Committee this past year is also greatly appreciated. They monitor compliance of grantees with our grant agreements and make on-site inspections. Members are: Linda Rubin (Chair), Kristen Abraham, Debra Colbert, Ann Eigler, and Tawny Sanders.

Senator Kuehl Speaks on Domestic Abuse

Each year, the Everychild Foundation offers several evening salons featuring speakers who educate our members about the needs of local children. Everychild members Tracy Esse, Randi Fett, Mona Andrews, and Jennifer Kurtz were instrumental in organizing this series of educational events.



On October 17, 2001, the Everychild Foundation hosted its first evening salon at the home of Member Sheila Kitt McKinnon, featuring State Senator Sheila Kuehl, an Everychild Foundation Advisory Board Member. Senator Kuehl, a leading expert on children and domestic abuse and author of numerous bills addressing this issue, discussed the impact of domestic abuse on children and ways that private foundations can help.

Senator Kuehl highlighted the epidemic of abuse in Los Angeles among young teenage girls by their boyfriends.

Many girls mistakenly view anger and violence as proof that their boyfriends care about them and are reluctant to talk about this abuse with their families. In addition, due to the lack of guidance counselors in the Los Angeles public schools, these abused girls have nowhere to turn for help.

According to Senator Kuehl, local theatre groups have developed an effective tool for reaching many of these young women. These troupes of performers visit local high schools to present live performances focusing on the dynamics in abusive relationships.

These presentations provide many girls with a new perspective on the abuse in their own relationships and a safe way to begin a dialogue with adults and peers about the problems of abuse.

Senator Kuehl also explained that young children in particular have difficulty communicating their feelings about experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse. For many children, art therapy has proved to be an effective tool to express their reactions to abuse and begin to heal.

The Everychild Foundation, with Senator Kuehl's help, is investigating potential grant recipients in both of these areas.

Superintendent Roy Romer Talks to Everychild Members

In January, 2002, Roy Romer, Superintendent of Schools for the Los Angeles Unified School District, spoke to Foundation members at the home of member Frankie Sholem and her husband, Barry.

Romer, the former governor of Colorado and previous Democratic National Committee Chairman, said that the schools have had successes at the elementary level since he began his job in Los Angeles in July, 2000. Last year, first graders jumped one-third in test scores after a rigorous phonics-based reading program was used.



However, middle and high school students have made no such progress. Among his plans to address this problem: a full-time "coach" for every 30 teachers; a

system to catch children who are falling behind, by testing their skills every six weeks; and a crash course to bring illiterate high school students up to their grade level. Some \$30 million of the district's budget is earmarked for the secondary literacy programs, Romer said.

Another significant change Romer has proposed is to push teachers of science and other "content" courses to include some language instruction. "We have the challenge of teaching science teachers that instilling science is partly learning to read and write," Romer said. He also talked of a "cultural shift" to look at learning failures as the institution's fault, not the child's fault. "You need

to believe all children can learn," he said.

Merle Price, the current deputy superintendent of instructional services in the Los Angeles school district and husband of Everychild Advisory Board Member Shirley Price, told the audience at the salon that Romer has brought the most "profound educational thinkers here. LAUSD has never before had this caliber of input and thinking."



Screening of Oscar-nominated Documentary, "Children Underground"

In April, 2002, Everychild members were given the opportunity to view the Oscar-nominated documentary "Children Underground", produced by Member Sheila Kitt McKinnon, at a private screening at Pacific Theatre's new ArcLight Cinemas in Hollywood. Pacific generously donated the use of the theater. Due to the strong interest of our membership, a second screening was held in July at the home of Member Stefania Magidson and her husband, Mark.

This powerful film documents the lives of a group of Romanian street children living in the subway stations of Bucharest. After the screenings, members were able to talk with McKinnon about her experiences making the film and about the desperate plight of homeless children worldwide.

An Evening with Nancy Daly Riordan

On the evening of January 28th, 2003, Nancy Daly Riordan, Everychild Advisory Board member, addressed members of the Everychild Foundation and their guests at a salon at the home of Dana and Edward Slatkin. Nancy, who is a longtime children's advocate and founder of the United Friends of the Children and the Children's Action Network, discussed ways in which Everychild could have an important impact with grants in the area of foster care and adoption.

A focus of her talk was the fact that the foster care system is so flawed that every effort should be made to move children out of the system and into permanent adoptive homes. For children mired in the foster care system with no immediate prospects of adoption, tutoring and mentoring at their schools provides one of the most effective means of helping them to become more self-sufficient.

Another key issue is the fact that there are no comprehensive, coordinated programs in place to help these children become adopted. As several attendees noted, "Everychild has its work cut out for it." The Grant Screening Committee is currently examining several potential grants that could have an impact in this area.

Special Reminder!

Beverly Hills jeweler Judith Ripka will generously donate a portion of her sales proceeds this year from her 234 North Rodeo Drive boutique to Everychild Foundation. Check out her beautiful selections and help support local children in need!



Elisabeth Tarvin
Advisory Board Member



Elisabeth Tarvin was born and educated in England, graduating from the University of London. She has taught first grade at the Carlthorp School in Santa Monica for eighteen years. She has also given her time to Schools on Wheels, an organization that sends volunteers into shelters to teach and counsel homeless children. "My involvement in the lives of children reaches from the actual education and teaching," she says, "to counseling teenagers and 'at risk' children, and from tutoring in shelters to feeding young people in the streets."

In the hopes of encouraging and teaching children who "have" to give to children in need, Tarvin established a community service program at Carlthorp School. The children raise money and donate clothes and cans of food to Children Helping Poor and Homeless People, a Venice-based non-profit. She says she is thrilled by the positive support from the student body at her school. She and two other teachers ran in the Los Angeles Marathon last year, asking for food for the homeless in support of their run. They donated 2,000 cans of food for their efforts.

"I wholeheartedly support the incredible work of the Everychild Foundation and the impact it is making on the lives of children in need," she says of her service on our Advisory Board.

In recognition of her continuing contribution to children in our community, Elisabeth Tarvin was chosen by the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside as one of its Women of the Year. She was honored at its annual dinner on March 20, 2003.



A Message from Jacqueline Caster

Do you ever feel the need to perpetually pinch yourself because you are experiencing something so wonderful it couldn't possibly be reality? Well, that's how I've been feeling lately about Everychild Foundation. Here we stand with more than 130 members in just two and a half years since our first membership recruitment coffee in July 2000! As of this month, we have made grants totaling more than \$1.2 million and have helped literally thousands of Los Angeles area children in need.

What's more, in such a short time, we have created a unique and powerful network of women with diverse backgrounds and interests who are all united by a single desire to make our metropolitan area a better place for every child we can. And it's all happened in a very efficient manner without a single fund-raising event. Everychild has filled a niche for the busy woman who may have a lot on her plate but still has a huge desire to give. It is sincerely my hope that we have created a new prototype for women's giving that can be replicated by others.

One of the greatest joys (and true perks) of being a part of this organization has been getting to know such an amazing group of women. I have been so gratified to see how many women have so readily and enthusiastically embraced the mission of Everychild. Whether they have preferred to simply be a financial participant or have had a chance to be part of the grant-making process, Family Day or the evening salons, **the commitment demonstrated by each woman has been impressive and heartwarming.** But most rewarding of all has been watching the dentists in action at the state-of-the-art Everychild Mobile Dental Clinic, seeing the excited faces of the kindergartners who received the backpacks filled with school supplies from our first Family Day, and witnessing exuberant children checking out brand new books in our gorgeous Wonder of Reading libraries! And soon, the Everychild Foundation Center for the Vulnerable Child will be providing much needed counseling for abused children. All of this was just a dream two short years ago, and now - reality! A most heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped to make our dream come true. And to the rest of you just learning about Everychild, come join us as we continue to reinvent women's philanthropy!

Warmest Regards,
Jacqueline Caster
President

Joining the Everychild Foundation

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

- Share our 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 will your 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 your 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 join the Everychild Foundation, please complete and return the Commitment Form included with this newsletter. For any further questions please contact us:

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