



Everychild Grants Top \$1.8 Million Since 2001 with Over 30,000 Children Served 2004 Grant to Build Learning Center for Troubled Teens

On November 12, 2003, the Everychild Foundation selected Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services in Eagle Rock to receive its Year 2004 grant of \$630,000. This brings Everychild's total grants to more than \$1.8 million, with over 30,000 children served since the Foundation's first grant in 2001.

Optimist provides deeply troubled teens with a comprehensive array of social and educational services designed to give them the tools they need to succeed as adults. This latest grant award culminated nine months of review by the Grant Screening Committee, presentations by two finalists at the annual Grant Hearing, and a final vote of the foundation's membership. Fortunately, for the second straight year there was also good news for the runner-up, who received a sizeable grant courtesy of an Everychild member (see related story inside).

The Optimist grant will be used to build the new state-of-the-art Everychild Foundation Youth Learning Center at the Optimist Youth Home near downtown Los Angeles. The grant helps fund construction of a larger school building with space to integrate education and therapy, enabling

Optimist to increase the highly successful services it provides to troubled youths in its specialized high school. In addition, it will allow the agency to



Everychild Foundation Youth Learning Center (artist's rendering)

increase the number of students served from 400 to 550. Construction has already begun on the Everychild Foundation Youth Learning Center, and the opening is scheduled for 2005.

All of the children at Optimist High School are troubled teens; half have been placed there by the juvenile courts, and the rest are considered incorrigible by their public schools. Many have experienced incarcerated parents, physical and sexual abuse, truancy, drug abuse, gang membership and

multiple failed foster home placements.

Optimist's students achieve more than double the average gain in academic progress per child per year. In addition, Optimist's success with this potentially violent group of children is reflected in the very low number of physical incidents requiring staff intervention over the last three years – fewer than six a year, compared with over 25 per month in comparable institutions over the same period. Finally, the vast majority of Optimist graduates remain crime-free after their placement with Optimist is over, the best record of any local agency. The agency's leadership in the field and its remarkable results promise that this project will become a national prototype for turning around the lives of brutalized and neglected children.

Optimist is the fourth Everychild grant recipient, joining the Violence Intervention Program (\$600,000 in 2003 to renovate its facilities and assist an additional 350 children each year), the Wonder of Reading (\$385,000 in 2002 to build and stock 15 elementary school libraries), and QueensCare (\$230,000 in 2001 to fund a mobile dental clinic).

NEWS

EVERYCHILD
FOUNDATION

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ISSUE 2 • MAY 2004

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Everychild Advisory Board member Dana Perryman stands out as one of the strongest educational advocates for children in Los Angeles. She attributes her dedication to the poor counseling she and her female peers received as high school students. Although they were enrolled in college preparatory classes, girls were discouraged from pursuing higher education; Perryman immediately realized that schools were in desperate need of "someone who would guide kids in the right direction."

Perryman received her Bachelor's degree from Cal State Los Angeles in Social Sciences, immediately followed by a Master's degree in Education from Pepperdine University. After working as Assistant Principal at various high schools, she then spent four years as Principal of John Muir Middle School. Now Principal of Westchester High School, a public school for students in grades 9-12, Perryman is devoted to the educational and psychosocial development of children. Currently, 90% of students at Westchester High apply to college; for the past eight years, almost 95% of these students have been accepted.

Ms. Perryman was invited to join the Everychild Advisory Board as an expert in the field of children's education. Strongly committed to the mission of the Foundation, she worked to secure contributions of school supplies for underprivileged middle school students for the 2003 Everychild Family Day community service project. Reflecting on her efforts in behalf of children, Perryman says, "I like giving back. Somebody has to. I can give back by being on the board of Everychild." And we are lucky to have her.



A Message from Jacqueline Caster

Three and half years and more than \$1.8 million in grants! The Everychild handprint is already everywhere across Los Angeles: Mobile Dental Clinic, numerous Wonder of Reading libraries, the Everychild Foundation Center for the Vulnerable Child at the Violence Intervention Program, and now the Optimist Youth Homes' new Everychild Foundation Youth Learning Center. The landscape for children in our community has clearly been positively impacted due to our efforts. At last count, we have directly touched the lives of over 30,000 local youngsters in need in various ways since our inception.

But as remarkable as that figure is, there are also thousands of other children who have been indirectly served by the manifold spin-off effects of Everychild as described throughout this newsletter. Our extremely thorough grant review process has attracted additional funds to the projects we select from other prestigious foundations who credit Everychild's pre-screening efforts. Additionally, many of our own members have assisted our grantees and grant finalists by additional donations of volunteer hours or funds as a result of learning about them through Everychild. And we are now inspiring the formation of other new non-profit organizations based upon our model of streamlined giving. And on and on it goes...

A tremendous thank you to everyone who has helped to make Everychild the newest and most dynamic philanthropic catalyst in the community. And to anyone just learning about our work, please join us and help us as we continue to reinvent women's philanthropy! Our ranks are steadily growing with each year, and 2004 looks to be the best yet!

Warmest Regards,
Jacqueline Caster
Founder & President



EVERYCHILD CALENDAR

June 3

Salon with Jonathan Fielding, Director of Public Health for Los Angeles County, at the home of Liz Craig

August 27

10th Everychild Wonder of Reading Library Opening – Cabrillo Avenue Elementary, San Pedro

October 3

Fourth Annual Family Day

October 12

Grant Hearing – Santa Monica

October 15

11th Everychild Wonder of Reading Library Opening – Vernon City Elementary, Vernon

November 1

2004 Member Dues and Ballots Must Be Received

November 4

12th Everychild Wonder of Reading Library Opening – Monte Vista Elementary, Highland Park

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 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 fundraising 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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2003 Grant Update: Center for the Vulnerable Child Opens at VIP

On October 16, 2003, Everychild members gathered at the Violence Intervention Program for the dedication of the Everychild Foundation Center for the Vulnerable Child, a new facility made possible by our \$600,000 grant to VIP last March. With our funds, VIP was able to complete the renovation of a 70 year-old building to house their family advocacy programs, transforming it into a warm, welcoming sanctuary for children who have suffered terrible physical, sexual and emotional abuse. As VIP founder Dr. Astrid Heppenstall Heger remarked, "Our families are used to getting leftovers – you made it possible for them to have a place that equals or exceeds centers built in affluent communities."



Everychild members gather at the Violence Intervention Program for the dedication of the new center.

Originally established in 1984, VIP's Center for the Vulnerable Child has been recognized locally, nationally, and abroad for its pioneering work in the field of child abuse. Today, it is the largest child abuse center in California and the only 24-hour comprehensive child abuse program in Los Angeles. Working closely with law enforcement, social services and the legal system, VIP ensures that abused and neglected children don't fall through the cracks, but receive the evaluation and treatment they need.

With the completion of the new Center, the Violence Intervention Program is now able to expand its diagnosis, treatment, long-term counseling, mentoring and tutoring services. At a meeting with the Everychild Grant Monitoring Committee in January, VIP reported that there has already been a 45% increase in its services to children since the new Center was dedicated in October, bringing the total number of children served to 1100 each year, or roughly 200 children at any given time.

In addition, this spring VIP is launching a new emergency assessment program for very young children in the Los Angeles County foster care system. As Dr. Heger noted, children from birth to age five are the most vulnerable to death in foster care. Using \$1 million in grant funding from First 5 LA (Los Angeles County Children and Families First Proposition 10 Commission), VIP's Community-Based Assessment and Treatment Center will perform over 600 new emergency foster care assessments per year. The Center will ensure that these youngest foster children are safe, physically and emotionally healthy, and ready to succeed in school. Moreover, the Center's assessment program will serve as a prototype for round-the-clock emergency assessment and response for all of Los Angeles County.

At a time when budget cuts across the state endanger so many important services for children, it is tremendously gratifying to tour the halls of the Everychild Foundation Center for the Vulnerable Child, speak with its compassionate, committed staff, and see our funding in action helping some of the children who need it most. As Dr. Heger commented, "Children are the future. We are grateful to you for making the commitment to children. As you know, nothing you do for children is ever wasted."

2002 Grant Update: Nine WoR Libraries Now Serve Over 11,000 Children

In the two years since the Everychild Foundation awarded a \$385,000 grant to the Wonder of Reading to build 15 new libraries for LAUSD schools, our dollars have been used to renovate, restock, and train volunteers at elementary school libraries in some of the poorest neighborhoods in Los Angeles. Over the past year, four more Everychild-funded libraries have opened, including the Wonder of Reading's 100th library at the 99th Street Elementary School. The nine Everychild libraries opened to date are now serving over 11,000 children across our city.

However, our grant to the Wonder of Reading helps to produce more than just new libraries. In November, Wonder of Reading Executive Director Beth

Michelson outlined for the Everychild Grant Monitoring Committee some of the ways that Wonder of Reading libraries impact entire neighborhoods. Many libraries are becoming neighborhood community centers, offering adult literacy programs, pajama reading nights and other programs to enhance reading and school performance.

Wonder of Reading libraries have also helped draw the attention of LAUSD to the importance of funding for library services in the district. Two years ago, each LAUSD elementary school had a library aide for only three hours each day, and no librarian. Today, while there are still no librarians, the district has doubled its funding for library aides to six hours a day. Currently, LAUSD Library Services is performing a study of 15 Wonder of Reading libraries to assess the program's impact on students' performance in school.

In keeping with the Everychild philosophy to "act locally and think globally," our grant also funded the preparation of a manual, enabling the Wonder of Reading to share the success of its program with others. Work on the manual has now begun, with Wonder of Reading personnel putting together flow chart diagrams illustrating the library construction process. It is our intent that this manual provide a step-by-step process for school districts and charitable entities in other cities to use to renovate, restock and train volunteers for libraries in their own elementary schools. In this way, our grant can have an impact far beyond our own city limits.

Before the four-year grant to Wonder of Reading is complete, six more Everychild libraries will be built. If you haven't done so already, make a point of attending one of the upcoming library openings; they are truly joyous, uplifting events. See the Calendar in this newsletter for dates.

2001 Grant Update: QueensCare Mobile Dental Program Continues to Expand

The vision of the Everychild Foundation has always included the goal of funding programs where our dollars can produce an impact beyond the scope of our grant. The QueensCare Mobile Dental Program, recipient of the first Everychild grant in March, 2001, has proved to be just such a program, where an initial grant of \$230,000 from our Foundation has attracted significant program support from others.

The Everychild grant funded the purchase of a fully-equipped, 3-chair 48-foot mobile dental van to serve LAUSD inner city elementary schools. Since the van arrived at its first school in May, 2001, the program has treated over 3,100 second and third grade children at six elementary schools, providing comprehensive dental care and oral hygiene education. The dental care provided has included everything from basic preventive procedures such as exams, x-rays, cleaning, sealants and fluoride treatments, to restorative procedures including fillings, crowns, root canals and extractions. More than 25,000 procedures have been performed – astonishing in that the patients are only 7 to 9 years old.

The program is truly making an impact. Recently, the clinic was able to return to Union Avenue Elementary and revisit the fourth and fifth grade students who were treated 2½ years ago. The findings were positive, with no major problems identified – just a few cavities and a need for sealants. Many of these students are now practicing good hygiene, and even though they have not been to a dentist since the Mobile Dental Program treated them, they have healthier mouths. The second and third graders treated this time also had less decay due to the oral hygiene education.

Additionally, due to the clear need demonstrated with the thousands of procedures performed by the Everychild clinic, several other organizations in town have taken notice. Not only has USC added its own van to the program, but in February, QueensCare took delivery of a third van funded by the Ahmanson and Weingart Foundations. Within a few months, the Keck Foundation will add a fourth mobile clinic. This is truly an example of a project funded by Everychild being a springboard for wider use, one of our organization's most important dreams.

THE GRANT TEAM

Throughout each year, a committee of dedicated women works diligently with 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 2003 Grant Screening Committee Chair Denise McCain Tharnstrom and to Members Cynthia Alexander, Jackie Caster, Debra Colbert, Lisa Feintech, Therese Funk, Kristie Hubbard, Eve Jaffe, Carol Leif, Nancy McCabe, Sheilah McKinnon, Susan Purcell, Dana Slatkin and Alison Whalen for all their hard work to ensure that we make the best possible grant each year.

In addition, the essential work of our Grant Monitoring Committee this past year is greatly appreciated. Many thanks to Committee Chair Linda Rubin and Members Kristen Abraham, Debra Colbert, Ann Eigler, Laura Fox, Tawny Sanders and Toni Stone for monitoring our growing list of grantees to ensure their compliance with our grant agreements.

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

Third Annual Family Day Benefits Team Prime Time

On November 16, 2003, Everychild members and their families gathered at the home of member Wendy Block and her husband, Chuck, for the third annual Family Day. After months of planning by the Family Day Committee, Everychild families celebrated the beautiful November day with live music, food, fun, and sporting events. As is Everychild policy, the event was completely underwritten, and none of the costs came from membership dues.



Webster Middle School students wearing Team Prime Time sweatshirts provided by Everychild.

As in past years, the centerpiece of Family Day was an opportunity for members' children to participate in helping other children in our community. This year, Everychild families packed bookbags with school supplies for Team Prime Time, an after-school mentoring and enrichment program for at-risk children in local schools. Team Prime Time is committed to turning around the lives of low-income middle schoolers who are struggling academically. The program provides three key resources for these students: tutors, who provide academic assistance in a one-on-one setting; counselors, who serve as positive role-models; and adult supervision while parents are at work.

Through generous donations in support of Family Day, the Everychild community was able to fulfill Team Prime Time's entire academic and athletic supply wish list and help their program to expand its reach. The program will be admitting ten new children – what Founder/Director Peter Straus calls "The Everychild Ten." Additionally, due to the generosity of the Smidt, Goldsmith, and Marciano families, Team Prime Time received, respectively, new sports equipment, classroom computers, and Guess sweatshirts.

Thanks to all the members of this year's Family Day Committee for creating this very special day: Julie Cohen, Debbie Colbert, Anne Eigler, Gina Goldsmith, Debbie Goodman, Debra Haggis, Terry Hamermesh, Kymberly Marciano, Sheilah McKinnon, Michelle Richman, Linda Rubin, and Susan Smidt. With their hard work, the tremendous hospitality of the Block family and the generosity of our membership, the Everychild Family Day was once again a great success!

Everychild Members Linda Rubin, Terri Hamermesh, and Debra Colbert with Team Prime Time student Mysti Dyse.



Everychild Impact Felt Beyond Annual Grants

Everychild's capacity to help local children does not end with its annual grant. Many of the charities that have competed for a grant in our screening process have received valuable exposure to other philanthropists in the community. Moreover, the Everychild Foundation has already begun to establish itself as the group with the most thorough grant review process in town. Some of the projects we have funded have attracted grants from other prestigious foundations because, as their directors have acknowledged, "if a project can get through the Everychild process, it must be worthwhile." (See articles updating our prior grants.)

For two years now, our grant selection runners-up have received substantial funding through their connection to Everychild. This year, the Dermalogica Foundation – whose president, Jane Wurwand, is a founding member of Everychild – donated \$150,000 to runner-up Mar Vista Family Center to help fund the building project they had proposed to Everychild for after-school programs for low-income children.

Last year, Advisory Board Member Gregory Mitchell, CEO of California National Bank, made a three-year commitment of at least \$60,000 per year from the Bank to last year's runner up, Stone Soup. The Bank has also given Stone Soup valuable exposure by placing their fliers and donation envelopes in Bank branches, as well

Everychild projects
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as securing public service announcements and radio slots on numerous popular radio stations. Stone Soup says that they truly appreciate working with "people from a large corporation who not only have faces but very big hearts."

Additionally, many Everychild members have made contributions to our grant finalists as a result of learning about their work through Everychild. Two new Wonder of Reading libraries have been funded by the families of members Maria Bell and Cindy Simon;

other members have volunteered as reading tutors. Member Tawny Sanders and her family recently funded a computer learning center for the Violence Intervention Program. Stone Soup will also be the beneficiary of a community service project at the John Thomas Dye School initiated by member Leslie Aronzon. Other Everychild members have made individual donations to the Violence Intervention Program, QueensCare, and the Mar Vista Family Center.

As Everychild grows in size and experience, so does our impact in the community. Together, we are making the Everychild vision a reality – becoming a group of women in Los Angeles who are making a significant difference in the lives of children in need.

Everychild Inspires Members to Found Charities

When Everychild Foundation embarked on its mission to help local children, the founders hoped that their vision of "Women Reinventing Philanthropy" might also serve as an example which others could follow to make a difference in the lives of children. Directly inspired by the Everychild model, members Stefania Magidson and Robin Broidy have recently started their own charities for children in need.

Stefania Magidson founded the Blue Heron Foundation to extend her generosity to the orphaned children of her home country, Romania. Magidson "felt [she] should give back to the universe, to say thank you for this abundant life." Magidson

Broidy was inspired
by the simplicity
of the Everychild
formula.

says that Everychild showed her she could take an active and effective stand to help her chosen cause. The Everychild example of simplicity, low overhead expenses, no hierarchy, and a real impact "gave [her] the courage that it is possible to make it happen." Blue Heron Foundation is a non-profit organization targeting specific orphanages in Romania, each housing about 1,600 children from newborn to 18

years. The Foundation raises money to improve the facilities and hire additional staff, particularly to hold and cuddle infants. Magidson and her family pay all overhead expenses, so that 100% of the money raised goes toward giving these children a good beginning in life.

Robin Broidy, founder of the Platinum Associates, a support group for the Aviva Foundation's Family and Children's Services, is another Everychild member who has taken philanthropy into her own hands and heart. When she first toured Aviva's Wallis Annenberg Center, she knew that she "could not turn her back on" the physically and sexually abused adolescent girls it served. The 36-bed facility provides 6-18 month residential treatment to these abused girls; Aviva also funds a non-public school for its residents. When Aviva bought a nearby building to replace the Center's small one-room schoolhouse, Broidy founded Platinum Associates to help raise the funds needed to pay for the new facility. Broidy says she was inspired by the simplicity of the Everychild formula. Members make a \$1,000 annual donation and can be as involved as much as they choose.

For information on the Blue Heron Foundation, call (310) 275-2217; for information on the Aviva Foundation and Platinum Associates, call (323) 876-0550.

RAND's Brad Stein Discusses Effects of Violence on School Children



Dr. Bradley Stein

On May 8, 2003, Everychild Foundation members met at the home of member Randi Fett and her husband, David, to explore the detrimental effect of community violence on school children in our city. Speaking to the group was Brad Stein, PhD, a researcher for RAND and Assistant Professor of Child Psychology at USC. Dr. Stein's presentation opened members' eyes to another serious problem facing children in the Los Angeles area.

In a survey taken among urban youth in Los Angeles last year, 50% of the sixth graders surveyed had been exposed to violence within the last year, while 30% had been directly threatened with a knife or gun. As Stein commented, "Violence is a common experience in their lives." Exposure to violence is an impediment to learning and focus in both social and academic situations and must be addressed in schools in an effective and lasting manner.

Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSS) is common in children who have witnessed or been part of a violent encounter. Such an incident becomes a lasting reality that a child cannot escape; constantly reminded of the experience, the child becomes nervous and unable to focus. There is also increasing evidence of an actual change in biological equilibrium; failing to treat symptoms can lead to permanent increased heart rate and increased body temperature. PTSS significantly affects a child's ability to function successfully in a classroom. However, an estimated 90% of children with PTSS do not receive the help they need.

At RAND, researchers have been following an innovative pilot program instituted by the Los Angeles Unified School District. Children who show clinically significant symptoms of PTSS join a ten-session group therapy program where they "develop better coping skills." With meetings held during school, children are more likely to attend. Not only is the program directly beneficial to the child, but family life is improved as children learn to talk to their parents about their problems. While this is a relatively new program, RAND evidence shows astonishingly good short-term results, including improved grades and test scores.

ACLU Briefs Everychild Members on Controversial California Lawsuit

On Friday, January 9, representatives of the ACLU joined Everychild members to discuss their high-profile and controversial lawsuit, *Williams vs. the State of California*, at the home of Member Mona Andrews and her husband, Anthony. Featured speakers were Ramona Ripston, Executive Director of the Southern California Chapter of the ACLU, along with Staff Attorney Catherine Lhamon, and Amy Salyer, a public elementary schoolteacher and witness in the case.



From left to right: Ramona Ripston, Catherine Lhamon, Mona Andrews, and Tracy Katayama Esse.

The lawsuit argues that the state has failed to provide an equal education for all public school students by virtue of the fact that substandard conditions exist in many classrooms in low-income areas. The speakers cited poor roofing, inadequate ventilation, heating and cooling, lack of working bathrooms, rat infestations, mold, and classrooms which lack not only enough desks and books, but in some instances, even teachers.

Audience members queried the speakers as to whether the ACLU seeks additional funds from the cash-strapped state in order to remedy the problems. Attorney Lhamon responded that instead of funds, they are seeking an accountability system which would provide minimal standards, regular investigations of conditions in the schools and intervention to coerce implementation of the standards. The case is now entering its fourth year, with many people across the nation eagerly awaiting its outcome.

Everychild Gives Grant and Receives Commendation at Annual Luncheon

This year's annual Everychild Luncheon was held March 5, 2004, at the Regency Club, highlighted by the official presentation of our Year 2004 grant to Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services. Our \$630,000 grant will help build a larger facility to integrate the Home's education and therapy programs for troubled teens, also enabling the agency to serve an additional 150 students.



From left to right: Everychild Treasurer Denise McCain Thamstrom, Everychild Secretary Debra Colbert, Optimist Student Gloria Diaz, Optimist Executive Director Sil Orlando, Optimist Board President Scott Graham.

In accepting the grant award for Optimist, Executive Director Sil Orlando commented, "We thank the Everychild Foundation for making this long-awaited day possible. Your leadership gift of \$630,000 to construct the Youth Learning Center will enable hundreds of children to live a brighter and fuller life." Also joining Sil at the podium was Optimist student Gloria Diaz, who spoke in very moving terms about how the love and support she has received

from the Optimist organization have transformed her life.

With three years of grant awards behind us, the annual luncheon is also an opportunity for members to see how the impact of the Everychild Foundation is increasing year by year in our community. This year, members heard program updates from the recipients of our three previous grants - QueensCare, Wonder of Reading, and Violence Intervention Program. As these agencies' reports made clear, the Everychild Foundation has already made a difference in the lives of literally thousands of needy children in Los Angeles. State Senator and Everychild Advisory Board Member Sheila Kuehl presented Everychild with an official resolution from the California State Senate recognizing the Foundation's accomplishments.

In keeping with Foundation policy, the luncheon was entirely underwritten by outside sponsors; no member dues were used to pay for the event.



Everychild's Jacqueline Caster with Optimist Student Gloria Diaz (above) and with State Senator Sheila Kuehl (below).





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Friends of Everychild

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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Carol Clemmensen	Weston, Benshoof, Rochefort,	“Let’s Have a Cart Party”	17th Street Café
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Dene Feldman Photography	Meryl Holland	Magic Jump	AND... the many generous members
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