



The Everychild Foundation Awards a \$1 Million Grant to The Children’s Clinic, “Serving Children and Their Families”



The Children’s Clinic staff and supporters at the Everychild Grant Hearing on October 16 where they presented their proposal for the Everychild Bright Beginnings Initiative to the Everychild membership.

The Everychild Foundation has awarded a \$1 million grant to The Children’s Clinic, “Serving Children and Their Families” (TCC), a non-profit agency located in Long Beach. The three-year grant will be used to launch the Everychild Bright Beginnings Initiative (EBBI), a program designed to identify and address the effects of toxic stress and chronic exposure to violence on infants, toddlers, and pregnant mothers.

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.

The goal of the Everychild Bright Beginnings

Initiative is to introduce a proven approach to reducing abuse and neglect and creating nurturing home environments during pregnancy and the first three years of life.

“This new innovative program has the potential to change the way health care providers conduct routine

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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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exams of low-income families with young children,” said Jacqueline Caster, Founder and President of the Everychild Foundation. “By identifying chronic stressors in their lives and providing ways to intervene, quality of life will be greatly improved both in the short term and the long term.”

There is increasing scientific evidence that family stress during pregnancy and the first three years of life shape the “scaffolding” of a child’s growing brain with dramatic and lifelong effects not only upon their health but also upon their ability to learn, behave, and cope with life changes into adulthood.

The EBBI acknowledges the vital role of health care providers in identifying and supporting children in highly stressed home environments as they are often the only professionals who have routine contact with these families until the children enter pre-school or kindergarten. At this point, it may be too late, and much more expensive and challenging to address the problems that are already “hardwired” into the child’s brain by age 3.

“When fully implemented,” said TCC CEO Dr. Elisa Nicholas, “the Everychild Bright Beginnings Initiative will catalyze a fundamental change in the way we approach pediatric and early childhood services. More importantly we will change the trajectories of children’s lives.”

A recent survey conducted by TCC found that more than 30 percent of children served by TCC are experiencing serious toxic stressors, including exposure to violence, caregiver substance abuse, parental mental illness, physical and emotional abuse, and economic hardship.

The EBBI program will be implemented throughout TCC’s eight community health clinics serving the greater Long Beach area. TCC will train its staff in the method of trauma-informed care, an approach emerging nationally as a successful means of recognizing the impact of past trauma, such as child abuse and domestic violence, on a parent’s ability to provide a nurturing and safe home environment for children.

When fully operational, EBBI will respond to the needs of at least 4900 children ages 0-3 and at least 300 pregnant women per year. For more information on the grant, go to www.everychildfoundation.org.

Grant Updates

2012: Public Counsel and The Alliance for Children’s Rights grant creates the nation’s first large-scale project to provide comprehensive legal and social services to adoptive and guardianship families within Los Angeles. Called the “Everychild Families Forever Project,” the services include early outreach to families, completion of adoptions and guardianships, long-term follow up and post-adoption/guardianship study. As of the end of their second quarter, more than 260 adoptions and 469 guardianships were completed, toward the goal of 1400 and 1500 respectively.

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. To date, over 450 teens have been referred to date for Tier I, which includes status offenses such as curfew violations, fighting, truancy, and bullying. An additional 90 youth have entered the program for Tier II, which includes more serious first and second time misdemeanors offenses.

2010: Boys & Girls Clubs of Los Angeles Harbor received the Everychild grant for an expansion of the College Bound Program and creation of “The Everychild College Bound University Web Portal” to provide college preparation and counseling. At the most recent College Bound graduation, the class included 303 graduating seniors. Of those, 296 will be attending a 4-year university or a 2-year college this fall, two are entering arts colleges, and four joined the military, including one who enrolled at the U.S. Naval Academy. This year, 226 youth obtained a combined total of \$3,627,941 in financial aid. The successful program is being replicated in 51 clubs nationwide.

2009: South Bay Center for Counseling’s 4-year grant implemented the “Everychild Youth Career Pathway Program,” linking at-risk and out-of-school youth ages 16-18 to higher education and career development. As of the end of June 2013, 260 students had enrolled in the program. They anticipate adding 60 more this fall, exceeding their goal of 300. Of those enrolled to date, 219 have received their high school diplomas and 44 have received AA degrees.



Samantha and Julia at the Everychild luncheon last spring.

A Ripple Effect – The Lasting Impact of an Everychild Donation

Have you ever tossed a pebble into a lake when the water was completely calm? Although the pebble is small, the effect is exponentially larger.

It is said that every act we make creates a ripple with no logical end. And in the case of the Everychild Foundation, our ripples are far greater than the grants and donations we make.

In 2007, Everychild awarded its \$1 million grant to Heart of Los Angeles Youth (HOLA) to improve their facilities in Lafayette Park. Since its founding in 1989, HOLA's mission has been to "provide underserved youth with exceptional programs in academics, arts and athletics within a nurturing environment, empowering them to develop their potential, pursue their education and strengthen their communities."

HOLA's youth attend overburdened inner city schools. They live in communities that are heavily impacted by illegal drug trafficking and gang violence where many children are hindered by poverty and immigration status. HOLA believes that every child deserves a chance to succeed in life.

Two graduates of the HOLA program, Samantha G. and Julia F., were given that chance. At the

Everychild Foundation luncheon last spring, they told us about life before and after HOLA.

Samantha: "I have been part of Heart of Los Angeles for almost three years now. I came into HOLA not knowing what to expect. I was never really involved in my community when I began high school. I would only go to school and come straight home, but when I found out about HOLA, I decided I should give it a chance, so I wouldn't be stuck at home all the time.

Before coming to HOLA my life was so out of place. My family and I weren't really at a happy place. My mother was constantly struggling with her sickness and my father with his addictions. My sisters and I would often try to find a way out. Since I did not want to be part of that environment, I needed to find a place where I was comfortable.

During my junior year I realized that HOLA had become just that, my second home. It is such a wonderful place to be. I have met wonderful people, but most of all, my mentor has been part of my motivation to continue doing well in school and not give up. Being surrounded by positive adults has helped me be positive myself. Before coming to HOLA I was always negative about my future. But HOLA is truly where the heart is."

As of today, I am in my second year at Mount St. Mary's College and working two part-time jobs, including one at Heart of Los Angeles and one as a Scholar in Residence.

The help I received at HOLA definitely got me to where I am today. Before coming to HOLA I didn't really think much about college. I was always thinking that once I graduated high school I was going to work to help my mother with necessities at home. But now, I do both. HOLA helped me become the strong hard-working woman that I am today and helped me aim for success.

No matter how hard it is, I always try my best to give it my all. The HOLA Smart Start program has shaped who I am today, and I will continue to give back as much as I can."

Julia: "My relationship with HOLA started during high school. I began with SAT prep classes and soon enough I was there everyday after school – HOLA became my second home. I took every class possible, including the high school mentoring program.

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I would not be where I am today if it were not for HOLA. They helped my dreams come true and they have impacted my life in every way possible!

HOLA changed my life completely. I am now part of the Alumni Association, and I am an intern during the summer. I also volunteer whenever possible.

Today, I am a senior at Occidental College (Go Tigers!) where I major in psychology.

I intend to come back to HOLA and give other students the help I received. I also have a pact with the Everychild Foundation! One day, I will be part of this amazing organization. I want to give them a little of what was given to me."

Spotlight on Nancy McCabe



Volunteers Help Programs Succeed and Prosper

Everychild members often find a special connection with a grantee. Such is the case with Nancy McCabe who became a volunteer mediator for the Centinela Youth Services Restorative Justice Program funded by Everychild's 2011 grant.

An Everychild founding member, Nancy is an Executive Coach with experience in conflict resolution. When she learned about the positive impact the Restorative Justice Program was having on the teen population, she felt compelled to volunteer.

As a CYS volunteer mediator, she works with teen offenders and their victims and she also does family mediation. She now averages one mediation meeting a month. Victim mediation sessions are usually 60-90 minute meetings, while family mediation sessions are more intensive and spread out over three 2-hour conferences.

"First-time offenders are referred to the CYS Restorative Justice Program as an alternative to Juvenile Court where they can wind up with a police record," explains Nancy. "The program provides the opportunity for these young people to understand the impact of their offenses and to find ways to take responsibility for them."

"It has been incredibly gratifying to experience the positive impact of our grant to CYS. I have seen young offenders learn compassion for their victims and commit to a fresh start," she continues. "And families facing difficult dynamics with their teenage children discover the communication tools they need to effectively deal with their challenges. Families report substantial positive results after CYS mediations."

For more information on becoming a mediator, go to the Centinela Youth Services website at cys-la.org.

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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FOUNDATION

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P.O. Box 1808
Pacific Palisades, California 90272
Tel: 310-573-2153 Fax: 310-573-4207
Email: info@everychildfoundation.org
Website: www.everychildfoundation.org
EIN # 31-1693985

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