



# EVERYCHILD

## F O U N D A T I O N

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# St. John's Well Child and Family Center Receives Everychild \$1 Million Grant

## Helps Children Sickened by Slum Housing

St. John's Well Child and Family Center is the recipient of Everychild Foundation's 2009 grant. The \$1 million grant will be used to implement the agency's environmental health project called Healthy Homes, Healthy Kids. The program uses a comprehensive approach to help children who have been literally sickened by slum housing. It specifically targets two primary illnesses: asthma, one of the leading causes



Jim Mangia of St. John's Well Child and Family Health Center receives \$1 million grant award from (left to right) Hilary Nelson Jacobs, Jacqueline Caster, and Vickie Baker

of missed school days, and lead poisoning, a serious condition that can lead to brain damage, kidney disease and nerve damage.

Established in 1965 to address the desperate poverty that produced the Watts riots, St. John's (no affiliation with the Westside hospital) provides more than 60,000 medical, dental and mental health visits each year to residents of south and east Los Angeles who are economically disadvantaged, including those who are either underinsured or have no health insurance at all.

The Healthy Homes, Healthy Kids program integrates comprehensive pediatric medical care with education, case management and

tenant assistance to reduce the exposure of children to health hazards present in their homes. These hazards include lead-based paint, mold, vermin, cockroaches and dust mites. The project uses successful strategies employed by St. John's in earlier, smaller projects.

"Our members like this project because it directly works to rectify the slum housing conditions, something that most health care programs in impoverished communities do not do; they usually leave these services to housing programs and there is often a disconnect," said Jacqueline Caster, Founder and President of the Foundation. "The program breaks the cycle of illness by educating families, providing resources and materials, and helping them navigate the housing bureaucracy."

Over an 18-month period, Healthy Homes, Health Kids will provide comprehensive health care and educational services to 4,000 children. Three hundred of these children will also receive intensive home-based case management services. In addition, the project will have a positive impact on the entire community. The vast majority of families have multiple children and many share homes with others. Also, by channeling compelling health data into advocacy that helps tenants,



Conditions in low-income housing can lead to a greater risk for asthma, especially among small children



Children who eat lead-based-paint chips found in slum housing risk serious health problems including mental retardation

housing conditions will improve.

This is the ninth year the Everychild Foundation has given a grant to an agency in the Los Angeles area to help children, and the third full \$1 million grant. For more information about the St. John's grant, visit [www.everychildfoundation.org](http://www.everychildfoundation.org).

### Child and Family Guidance Center Recipient of First Everychild Foundation Merit Award

The Child and Family Guidance Center is the recipient of the first Everychild Foundation Finalist Merit Award, created to recognize the runner-up to the Foundation's \$1 million yearly grant. The award includes a gift of \$25,000 cash.

The Child and Family Guidance Center, serving the San Fernando Valley, had proposed an expansion of its successful Champions for Children program.

"Each year we face a difficult decision between two finalists for our grant," said Everychild Foundation Founder and President, Jacqueline Caster. "This award recog-

nizes the excellence of the runner-up and provides the agency with a monetary award to support their good work. We also hope the award will help bring them attention from other potential funders."

Champions for Children is a successful, evidence-based best practices mental health services program serving disadvantaged children with severe behavioral or emotional problems that place them at risk for removal from their home. More information on the program can be found at our web site: [www.everychildfoundation.org](http://www.everychildfoundation.org).

# Annual Luncheon: Time to Celebrate

## Everychild Grants Surpass \$6.5 Million

The Everychild luncheon, held this year on March 16th, is the Foundation's once-a-year celebration of its newest grant recipient. This year, the celebration centered on St. John's Well Child and Family Center, recipient of the 2009 grant for \$1 million.

The Everychild Foundation has now given away more than \$6.5 million to nine different projects since 2000. These grants have directly served approximately 375,000 children throughout Los Angeles County.

"I don't think there are too many groups in our city, let alone the nation, with this kind of track record and impact," said Everychild president and founder Jacqueline Caster when addressing the group. "By coming together, Everychild members have made an immense, tangible difference in the lives of the most vulnerable members of our community."

Ms. Caster also thanked the membership for caring about those in the community who are less fortunate in these very difficult economic times. "The economic downturn hit before the 2008 dues were due. Despite this, we are able to fund this grant."

Representing St. John's, Executive Director Jim Mangia thanked Everychild for its confidence and support of the St. John's program to bring trained staff into the homes of children diagnosed in their clinic with asthma

or lead poisoning to ameliorate the household conditions contributing to these serious illnesses.

Los Angeles City Council member Wendy Gruel, who is now City Controller Elect, praised the grant to St. John's and spoke of legislative efforts she has led in the city to lessen the burden of diseases caused by slum housing.

Mar Vista Family Center, Heart of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital provided updates on their funded projects at the luncheon. Further information on these three projects is found on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.



Everychild founding members Carol Lief, Dana Slatkin, and Tobey Cotsen Victor with new member Debra Dresner



Spencer Hawk tells luncheon attendees about how much he enjoys the Everychild Foundation Universally Accessible Playground at Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital. He is accompanied by his mother, Jennifer Powell.



Jacqueline Caster, Wendy Gruel and Jim Mangia

## Greg Mitchell: CEO from the Heartland



California National Bank CEO Greg Mitchell loves to dress up as Santa Claus.

"What can I say?" he says, with an affable smile and ready laugh. Once a year, I get to give out presents to kids who might not get another one. It is truly the highlight of my year."

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of Stone Soup, where he moonlights as Santa Claus, Greg serves on the Everychild Foundation Advisory Board. He has lent his wisdom and expertise to The Everychild Foundation since 2002.

"We always have a grant winner and a runner-up," explains Everychild Founder and President Jacqueline Caster. "It was Greg who first had the heart, the vision and generosity to fund the runner-up. California National's grant to Stone Soup was the first time this happened so it is fitting he plays the role of Santa Claus for them every year. To put it simply, Greg is one of the most caring people I know."

Greg is quick to deflect praise.

"I view charitable involvement as enlightened self interest," Greg says. "If we fail to come together to support and nurture the next generation of Americans, we all lose. Kids need to know where their next meal is coming from. They need a roof over their heads. They need to be able to read. They need to know people care. And if at-risk kids don't get these fundamental needs met, our communities and our nation will experience escalating rates of violence, teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse and the loss of millions of future taxpayers needed to keep our system strong."

Proving the old adage – "if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it" – over the years Greg has been very involved with Operation Hope, the Central City Association and the Boy Scouts of America. As if that is not enough, he also is a Director with Saint Vincent's Meals on Meals. For many years, Greg also served as

Vice Chairman of the Board for the March of Dimes of Southern California and as a Director with the Children's Hunger Fund.

"I choose to support organizations that promote and support programs I care deeply about," Greg says. "I want to do what I can to help at-risk kids in urban environments and Operation Hope is doing incredible work with financial literacy while Stone Soup focuses on early childhood development. I have a real soft spot for Meals on Wheels because they provide physical and emotional sustenance for our most vulnerable citizens, many of whom suffer from crushing loneliness and isolation."

When Greg is not donning his Santa suit, he actually has a day job. As CEO of California National Bank, Greg oversees \$6.3 billion in assets as well as 874 employees in 68 branches spanning an area from Ventura to San Clemente. Greg also serves as Chairman of Pacific National Bank, a \$1.7 billion asset community bank with 18 offices in the San Francisco Bay Area.

For that past 10 years, California National Bank has achieved an "Outstanding" CRA rating which reflects their community service commitment (7000 hours a year from employees), their level of loans to low-to-moderate income homeowners and their investment in community development and job creation.

What is the secret to his bank's success?

"Relationships," Greg says. "There is no doubt in my mind that the secret to all that is good and rewarding in this life is the ability to nurture relationships."

"Your relationship with your spouse, your family, your children, it all springs from there. I view our banking relationships as I do family relationships."

"Everything I know today, I learned growing up on a family farm in Central Illinois that has been in my family for five generations," Greg explains. Like most American families, we faced some rough years, but my parents never let us forget that hard work, honesty, giving back to your community and keeping your word were nonnegotiable values we had to live by. Period. And we did. And I am deeply grateful to them for raising us with that mind-set."

Given his leadership style and the values that inform that style, the music is not going to stop for Greg Mitchell.

Written by Cathleen Young



# Grant Hearing: Getting Up Close and Personal

## A Chance to See and Hear the Final Proposals

We all love Everychild and for many reasons. For some it is what we don't have to do. No fund raising events. No soliciting our friends for donations or to attend a gala. No silent auctions. And, indeed, members don't have to do anything at all but write their check once a year. And that's just fine.

BUT, if you have never attended the October Grant Hearing, you're missing out on the very core of what the Everychild Foundation does. It is at this informative meeting where members listen to presentations by two agencies selected by the Grant Screening Board as finalists for the Everychild grant. Members are encouraged to ask questions of potential grantees, meet their staffs and community members who benefit from their services, and speak with members of the Grant Screening Board who have worked 10 months to bring the potential grantees to this day.

"The Grant Hearing is a content-filled meeting which provides the opportunity for Everychild members to make an informed decision when they vote," explains Hilary Nelson Jacobs, immediate past Chair of the Grant Screening Board. "We value and need the perspective of our members, and the agencies deserve their consideration."

If you attend only one charitable event this year, make it the Everychild Grant Hearing at RAND on Wednesday, October 21.



Hilary Nelson Jacobs introduces St. John's team



The St. John's Well Child and Family Center team



Everychild members can ask specific questions after the presentations

### 2009 Grant Screening Board (\*Founding Member)

|                               |                       |                |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Vicki Baker <i>Chair</i>      | Karin Fielding        | Betsy Newman   |
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## Committee Updates (continues on last page)

### Public Policy Committee

Chaired by Denise McCain-Tharnstrom, the Everychild Public Policy Committee is focused on three issues:

- Support for infants and toddlers 0-3,
- Advocacy for youth aging out of foster care at 18
- Reform of the juvenile justice system

Denise McCain-Tharnstrom, who is also the current Vice Chair of the Los Angeles Public/Private Funders for Infants and Toddlers, a countywide



Policy committee members from left: Anne Youngblood, Therese Funk, Jackie Caster, Denise McCain Tharnstrom (chair), Rhona Rosenblatt, Liz Abbe and Barbara Moore

collaborative of major foundations and city and country offices, has involved Everychild members with the collaborative's policy work. 0-3 subcommittee members worked with the collaborative to put on the Baby Futures Conference in September of 2008, aimed educating local funders to the needs of infants and toddlers. The committee is currently at work advocating for improvements to the Individuals with Disabilities Act, (IDEA), the federal law authorizing early identification and intervention for children with disabilities.

The foster care subcommittee led the Everychild effort in support of Senator Barbara Boxer's recently passed federal bill to increase the age when children age out of foster care from 18 to 21. Our letters and advocacy helped to make a difference and a support statement by the Everychild Foundation was read into the record at the Senate hearings on the bill. Currently, the subcommittee has turned its efforts to supporting the passage of California AB 12, the state companion bill that must pass in order for the Federal payments to kick in here.

Finally, the committee is at the forefront of a countywide reform effort aimed at improving youth camps for juvenile offenders. Members are currently working to organize a county delegation to visit Missouri to learn about the innovative juvenile justice reforms already in place there.

*Public Policy Committee: Denise McCain Tharnstrom (Chair), Anne Youngblood, Rhona Rosenblatt, Therese Funk, Barbara Moore, Liz Abbe, Katie Sharer Muller, Marlene Rapkin, Michelle Richman, Deborah Ramo, Janie Coolidge and Jacqueline Caster.*

## Accessible Playground is a Hit!

Since its official opening in February 2008, the Everychild Universally Accessible Playground has brought literally thousands of children with all abilities together and given them a truly magical place to play. The model is being replicated throughout the US and internationally. Soon the playground will have a “sister” playground in Jerez, Mexico.

Highlights the year:

- Speaker system installed so parents can take children to the playground without missing being called for an appointment
- Shane’s Inspiration held three “Buddy Days” bringing children of all abilities together
- Special events were scheduled throughout the year, including a Pumpkin Patch, Beach Party and Holiday Festival
- The Park was named the “Best Kids Attraction” downtown by the *Los Angeles Downtown News*



Enjoying the swing at the park



Assembling the special merry-go-round for the park



LAOH “play date” in Universally Accessible Park

## 2008 Grantee Update: Mar Vista Family Center

## Everychild Foundation Youth Center Dream Comes True

Saturday, March 14, 2009 was the day the Mar Vista dream came true. The new, two-story, 11,500 square foot Everychild Foundation Youth Center to house the Center’s By Youth For Youth programs had its grand opening event. Under festive balloons an excited group of children, youth, parents, neighbors, supporters, and public officials got its first look at the flexible, warm, and inviting space.

Highlights of the year:

- Construction completed on By Youth For Youth building
- The By Youth For Youth group traveled to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for the 8th Annual BYFY Conference. The purpose of the conference is to promote the importance of higher education while providing an opportunity for the youth to explore an academic environment.
- 30 youth worked as summer camp counselors promoting health and nutrition for 100 children as part of the city’s Scholar’s Foundation health and wellness initiative



Mar Vista Everychild Foundation Youth Center on opening day

## HOLA Moves Ahead

HOLA's Everychild grant will provide for the expansion of the Lafayette Park Community Center building, the new home for the many programs HOLA offers youth in the Rampart community of Los Angeles. Scheduled for completion in summer 2009, the center will include a technology learning center, expanded classroom space, and more program staff offices to accommodate an additional 900 children.

With its unique partnership with the L.A. City Recreation and Parks Department, HOLA offers children and youth in one of the most densely populated areas in the Los Angeles area access to much needed green space, including a turf soccer field, outdoor basketball courts, and a new gym.



Students at work in a computer lab at HOLA

### Highlights of the year:

- Construction of the Community Center on its way to completion
- Los Angeles Police Department-installed surveillance system in the park to assure the highest security
- Skate board park opened by L.A. Recreation and Parks



Construction underway on HOLA's Lafayette Community Life Center



HOLA kids tend the community garden in Lafayette Park

### 2008 Grantee (cont'd)

County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas presents Lucia Diaz, Executive Director of Mar Vista Family Center, with a Commendation from the County



Mar Vista youth created a dance to celebrate the opening of the new building



Sports activities are an integral part of HOLA's programs



## A Message from Jacqueline Caster

**H**ow timely it is that we awarded our 2009 \$1 million grant to St. John's Well Child and Family Center! St. John's, a non-denominational agency providing a broad range of health care and development programs, has served low-income residents of south and east Los Angeles for more than 40 years. The program funded by this grant brings trained staff into the homes of children diagnosed in the St. John's clinic with asthma or lead poisoning to ameliorate the contributing household conditions behind these devastating diseases.

In an economy like this one, it is simply fact that landlords are less able to maintain their properties, and indoor pollution caused by infestation, mold and deteriorating lead paint will, in all reality, simply be left as is.

Not only will this cause parents to be more at risk of losing jobs when they have to stay home to care for children with asthma attacks, but it will also increase the odds that

their children will be unable to break the cycle of poverty when they grow up. Without intervention, these children will suffer irreparable brain damage from lead paint exposure, and they will fall behind academically when asthma attacks cause them to miss school.

I want to express my gratitude to all our dedicated members and supporters during these very difficult economic times for coming through for those clearly less fortunate and for your loyalty to the mission of Everychild Foundation. The economic tsunami hit before the 2008 dues were due, and it is really quite remarkable that we were still able to fund this grant. It is testament to the compassion of our members who understand that it is children who suffer most in times like these and that we should never stop working to change the status quo for those in need.

As George Bernard Shaw once said, "The people who get on in this world are those who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them, change them." More than 375,000 children have been assisted by Everychild grants to date and thousands more will be aided by our amazing new million-dollar grant. It is in this spirit of change – an exciting and recurrent theme in our national landscape this year – that I thank you all.

## Supporting Everychild

The Everychild Foundation provides a unique opportunity to give back to the children of Los Angeles in an immediate, efficient way. We are a group of about 200 pioneering women who:

- Share a 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 does our 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 our friends or colleagues 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 envelope included with this newsletter. In addition, contributions from non-members are always welcome.

For further information, please contact us:

Tel 310.573.2153 • E-mail: [info@everychildfoundation.org](mailto:info@everychildfoundation.org)  
[www.everychildfoundation.org](http://www.everychildfoundation.org)



- 01 QueensCare**  
Purchase and equipping of the first mobile dental clinic to serve 30 low-income elementary schools in the LAUSD



- 02 Wonder of Reading**  
Renovation and restocking of 15 elementary school libraries as well as training of instructional reading volunteers



- 03 Violence Intervention Program**  
Renovation and expansion of existing building to create a permanent center for psychological care of physically and sexually abused children



- 04 Optimist Youth Homes**  
Construction of a learning center for at-risk probation youth



- 05 Hillsides**  
Transitional housing for foster youth who have aged out of the foster care system



- 06 Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital**  
Construction of universally accessible playground at an orthopaedic pediatric outpatient clinic



- 07 Heart of Los Angeles Youth**  
Renovation of Lafayette Park Community Center to increase and modernize class space and create a new computer center for free after-school, vocational, and inter-session programming in the Rampart District



- 08 Mar Vista Family Center**  
Construction of the Youth Center to house Youth for Youth, a youth-led leadership and mentoring program in a high-risk Mar Vista neighborhood



- 09 St. John's Well Child & Family Center**  
Implementation of the agency's environmental health project called Healthy Homes, Healthy Kids

## Executive Board

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 Toni Stone  
*Non-Profit Consultant*

## Friends of Everychild

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

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dermalogica             | Tuan Le, Astrotek       |
| Dorothy Duncan          | Diane Levin             |
| Leslie Dunn             | MINT Collection         |
| Chris Esse, musicesse   | Sandra Moss             |
| Foundation Consulting,  | RAND                    |
| Marcia Antopol          | Sarah Roberts,          |
| Sheila Fuerst           | Ballantine's PR         |
| Martha Galaif           | Shelley R. Rosenberg    |
| Ralph Gottlieb          | Mark Sackett, Reflectur |
| J.B. Berland Foundation | Lynn Stuart             |
| David Kera, Esq.,       | The Hidden Garden       |
| Oblon, Spivak, et al.   |                         |

## Salon Committee

The Salon Committee had a busy and successful year. Under the leadership of Amy Sommer and Terry Hamermesh, three standing-room-only Salons covered topics important to the Everychild Foundation and the community:

- Facing the Challenges of Asthma with Gary Rachelefsky, MD, asthma expert from the UCLA Geffen School of Medicine speaking about the devastation wrought by childhood asthma (May 2008)
- Advances in the Research and Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders with Michele Kipke, PhD, Professor at USC Keck School of Medicine and Pat Grayson DeJong, an advocate for parents fighting for better programs in public school districts for children with autism (Sept. 2008)
- Our Chance to Advance Educational Opportunities for all of Los Angeles' Children with Marshall Tuck, CEO of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools and advisor to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa (January 2009 and repeated in March 2009)

Salons are designed to educate members and their spouses about important issues affecting Los Angeles County and its children. Everychild members are notified about upcoming salons by e-mail. For more information about past salons visit [www.everychildfoundation.org](http://www.everychildfoundation.org).

*Salon Committee: Amy Sommer (Chair), Terry Hyman Hamermesh*

## Holiday Committee

Providing holiday cheer to those in need is the goal of the Everychild Holiday Committee. In December 2008, the committee, under the leadership of Mary de Kernion, prepared 20 gift baskets for families from the neighborhood who volunteer at the Mar Vista Family Center. Filled with items donated by Everychild members, the baskets included staples like flour and sugar, fruit, items for children's lunches, and gift certificates to Von's. Mary de Kernion did all the shopping and coordinated the effort in her garage. Lunch was served to volunteers and the baskets were filled and decorated in the holiday spirit.

*Holiday Committee: Mary de Kernion (chair), Susan Brauneiss, Jacqueline Caster, Patricia Collins, Anne Eigler, Kimberly Finkel, Helen Gaskin, Mary Hocking, Ellie Lederman, Maruja Lugash, Michele Lynch, Celeste Pinto McLain, Katie Sharer Mullen, Terry Peters, Carol Petschek, Margaret Sharer, Cindy Simon, Rosa Sinnott, Cam Starrett, Victoria Sutherland, Cynthia Troop, Marcella Winkler, Anne Youngblood.*



*Everychild members prepare gift baskets for the families of Mar Vista volunteers*

## Family Day Committee

"Donuts and Daisies" was the theme of Everychild Foundation's Family Day held on September 14, 2008. Members and their families spent the morning beautifying a deteriorated kindergarten playground at Loyola Village Elementary School in Westchester. The school serves many low-income children, and fully half of the student body qualifies for free or reduced lunch fees.

Volunteers from Everychild were joined by parents, teachers, neighbors and the students themselves. The event was coordinated by Everychild Family Day chair, Gina Goldsmith, with assistance from Michelle Richman, Eloise Rich Proctor, Emily Chen, Jacqueline Caster and Gale Schenbaum Lawton.

The Annual Family Day gives the entire Everychild community – members, youngsters, teenagers, and others – a chance to roll up their sleeves to help

worthy community effort. Family Day also instills the important values of community service and volunteering in the next generation.

The project was funded by a gift of \$5,000 to the Loyola Village School Booster Club from the Everychild Foundation. The money was raised through donations from Everychild members. In addition to the plant materials, purchases included new lockers, storage bins and two collapsible tables for use by the kindergartners. Individual Everychild members also participated in the event by donating books for the kindergarten classrooms.

*Family Day Committee: Gina Goldsmith (chair), Andrea Goodman, Gail Schenbaum Lawton, Eloise Rich Proctor, Michelle Richman, Linda Bernstein Rubin.*



*Everychild members joined parents and students to beautify a kindergarten outdoor space.*



*Finishing the garden*



*Parent and child painting lines*

## Everychild Calendar

**Fall:** Family Day

**October 21:** Grant hearing

**November 1:** 2009 member dues and ballots

**November 11:** Grant recipient chosen

**December:** Holiday Project

**Spring 2010:** Everychild 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!

## Everychild Foundation Newsletter • Issue 7 • June 2009



**EVERYCHILD**  
FOUNDATION

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