

## Everychild Foundation Awards \$600,000 Grant

The Everychild Foundation has awarded a \$600,000 grant in support of the Violence Intervention Program's (VIP) capital campaign to renovate a historic building. The funds will allow the VIP to renovate its East Los Angeles facility and continue to expand services for children who are victims of child abuse and family violence. VIP looks forward to renaming that part of its program that deals with child abuse the Everychild Foundation Center for the Vulnerable Child.



The Everychild Foundation announced its 2003 grant award of \$600,000 to the Violence Intervention Program at the foundation's annual membership luncheon on March 7, 2003 at the Regency Club in Los Angeles.

Jacqueline Caster, President and Founder of the Everychild Foundation, said VIP was selected for the 2003 award after reviewing its pioneering work in detecting and treating child abuse victims, and equally important, providing long-term follow-up care.

"That's what swayed us," Caster said. "What happens to some of these kids is unspeakable, and VIP is out there trying to make a difference in a world most people could never imagine."

Dr. Astrid Heppenstall Heger, VIP's Executive Director said the funds would immediately allow the center to increase its patient load of child abuse victims by 350 to about 1,000 a year. "For us, this is a statement of permanence. This finally gives us a home," Dr. Heger said. "This is a gift to the community."

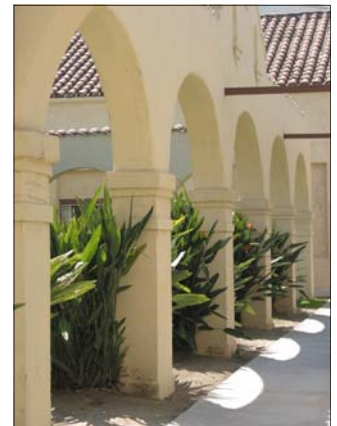
In January 2002, the VIP was invited to begin an extensive screening and evaluation process along with

several other local non-profit agencies each hoping to be named the sole 2003 grant recipient of the Everychild Foundation. Once the applicant pool was narrowed down to only two non-profit agencies, the Everychild Foundation's membership voted to name VIP as its 2003 grant recipient.

The fifteen-month process culminated on March 7, 2003 at the annual Everychild Foundation luncheon when the VIP was officially presented with the \$600,000 grant award.

The Everychild Foundation is made up of women who pay membership dues of \$5,000 a year. There are no fund-raisers; the total of the dues are awarded to one non-profit group whose work is geared toward at-risk children.

Since its inception 2 ½ years ago, the Everychild Foundation has awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants. VIP is the third grant recipient and joins QueensCare and the Wonder of Reading, which received grants in 2001 and 2002, respectively.



(L-R) President and Founder of the Everychild Foundation, Jacqueline Caster, with VIP Executive Director Dr. Astrid Heppenstall Heger.