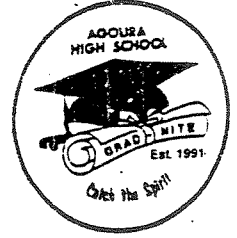


**COMMUNITY/CULTURAL GRANT REQUESTS
2005 - 2006**

ORGANIZATION	FUNDED FY 2002-03	FUNDED FY 2003-04	REQUESTED FY 2004-05	FUNDED FY 2004-05	REQUESTED FY 2005-06	FUNDED FY 2005-06
Agoura High Grad Nite	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Agoura High School Music Program			\$3,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	
Conejo Las Virgenes Future Foundation	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$2,500	
Conejo Youth Employment Service	\$500	\$500	\$1,000	\$500	\$1,000	
Many Mansions (new request 2004)			\$1,000	\$500	\$1,000	
New West Symphony	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	
The Wellness Community	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	
Y M C A	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	
Chabad of Westlake Village (Friendship Circle)					\$500	



Agoura High School



28545 West Driver Avenue • Agoura Hills, California • Phone (818)889-1262

April 15, 2005

Mr. Jim Thorsen
Assistant City Manager
City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Re: Donation for Grad-Nite 2006

Dear Mr. Thorsen:

I want to thank you for the funding we have received from the City in the past years. I understand that you are beginning your annual budget process and would like you to know that AHS Senior Class Booster Club, Inc. would still like to be considered for a funding donation for the next school year (2005 – 2006). In the past, the Agoura High School Grad Night Committee has received a donation of \$1,000. If possible we would like to have the same donation amount. Of course we are aware of the State fiscal crisis and budgetary restraints.

The purpose of our organization is to provide Agoura High School graduates with a **safe and sober** post-graduation celebration. Traditionally graduation night has become one of the most dangerous in a teenager's life. As an alternative to "senior parties", Grad-Nite offers an all-night (until dawn) alcohol and drug free event that has become the highlight of AHS graduations since 1991.

The event is planned and organized by a multitude of parent volunteers thanks to the financial support of community members, local organizations, and community businesses. A secure, secret location provides a night filled with entertainment, music, games, prizes, refreshments, fun, friends and memories. Open to all graduating seniors, this night denotes the culmination of 13 years of academic and extracurricular activities. We hope to instill in these seniors a strong sense of community by illustrating how everybody has worked together to create this event for them. It provides them with a refreshing beginning for their future endeavors.

We sincerely thank you for your generosity in the past and hope you will support us once again next year. Should you need to contact me I can be reached at (818) 991-6490.

Sincerely,

Barbara Waller
Treasurer / Grad-Nite 2005

April 20, 2005

Jim Thorsen
Assistant City Manager
City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Dear Mr. Thorsen,

Agoura High School Music Boosters wish to be considered for funding for the upcoming year. As you may have heard our Jazz Ensemble has for the second consecutive year been chosen for the Essentially Ellington Competition in New York. What you may not know is the competitive nature of the invitation to this prestigious event. Of the 1200 high schools internationally who received the musical scores, 111 returned the required audition recordings. From these entries, the top 15 were chosen. Because Agoura High School completed last year, they were required to be one of the top five entrants.

Our music program is a comprehensive program which also includes a string orchestra, two choirs, two concert bands, as well as two intermediate jazz bands. These groups recently participated in the Festivals of Music competition in Chicago, placing first in five categories receiving excellent and superior ratings. Both the Essentially Ellington and Festivals of Music competitions are internationally recognized and put Agoura "on the map" among top high schools.

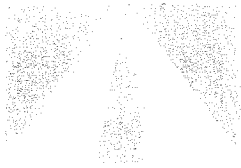
We are requesting \$3000 for the Agoura High School music program. These funds will be used for sheet music, music equipment, transportation to and from festivals, salaries for an accompanist and classroom assistants (to help with class-size reduction) and instrument repair and purchase. Any additional funds would be used to hire clinicians who have in the past been essential to the maintenance of this award-winning program.

On behalf of our students, teachers and music booster parents, I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Denise Louie
President, AHS Music Boosters



Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation

April 15, 2005

Mr. Jim Thorsen
Assistant City Manager
City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Dear Mr. Thorsen,

Thank you for your City's past support of the Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation (CLVFF). The Foundation has engaged in studies addressing quality of life issues that have affected our region for 33 years. CLVFF has viewed workforce development, lifelong learning, neighborhood identity/community spirit, adequate housing and senior opportunities for our region in a series of forums for the public. The recommendations from these forums are compiled in reports that are available through the CLVFF office.

Our most recent forum addressed how our local agencies can continue to deliver the services to maintain our life style. Over 30 community leaders from our region gathered and exchanged ideas about the relationship between state and local governments and how our tax dollars are spent. "Financing Our Region's Future" was held on September 30, 2004 at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. A DVD is enclosed for your viewing. In addition, we held our first Senior Congress which was developed as a result of our successful "S.O.S. (Senior Opportunities and Strategies)" colloquium (June, 2003). Using the model of Youth Congress, "Senior Financial Savvy: What You Need to Know" was held at CLU on January 12th. Over 200 people attended this very informative program. It was so well received that the Foundation has recently been contacted by the Simi Valley Police Department for input on how to bring a similar program to their community.

CLVFF's involvement with area youth continues to be a significant focus of our organization. Youth Congress XXI was held on April 16th at Calvary Community Church examined teen health issues. The students have named their congress "What the Health! An Inside Scoop on Exercise, Nutrition and Personal Management" and it was a tremendous success. The Teen Assist hotline card, which was the result of Youth Congress XI, has once again been updated and distributed at local high schools and other places where teens gather.

Another annual CLVFF event is a citizenship awards program which recognizes several people from the community at an annual dinner. The program is designed to encourage a sense of community among the citizenry and honor many people who might not otherwise receive this recognition. Plans are underway for the Fifth Annual CLVFFie Awards. Over 30 people from the community are serving on selection committees in eight different categories.

City of Agoura Hills (cont'd)

Page 2

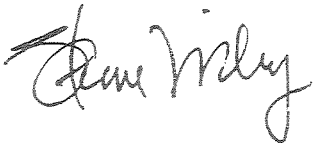
Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation serves as a catalyst and facilitator to involve citizens in studies, projects, and events that focus on enhancing quality of life and planning for the future on a regional level. The Foundation is managed by a board of 34 trustees representing government, education, business and the general public. We are careful to include individuals who represent each city in our service area, from Calabasas through Newbury Park, on the Board of Trustees as well as in our task force work.

We respectfully request a grant of \$2500 to help finance our ongoing youth and senior programs, citizenship awards, and the Foundation's next colloquium scheduled for early 2006. It will chronicle a day in the life of a Conejo/Las Virgenes region resident in the year 2016.

Please contact me at (805) 495-6471 or Fran Brough, CLVFF Executive Director, if you need any further documentation.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fran Brough". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and "B".

SW:fb



80 E. Hillcrest Drive • Suite 207 • Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(805) 496-6868 • Fax (805) 496-3980 • Email cyes@conejoyes.org

May 4, 2005

City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

RE: Grant Funding Request 2005/06

Dear Mr. Thorsen:

Conejo Youth Employment Service has been successful in the past due to the support and sponsorship of the City of Agoura Hills. Without the City of Agoura Hills, we would not have been able to match over 1,200 youth to jobs with local employers in the Conejo Valley this past year. We are truly grateful, for the City of Agoura Hills contributions.

CYES needs an increase in funding to continue with our community services. We have seen our main sources of funding; city grants, United Way, and private foundation and grant donations decrease due to circumstances beyond our control. Private foundations and grants have become more restricted. United Way has significantly reduced their distributions as compared to previous funding cycles. Conejo Valley Days has been a major source of funding in the past, but due to weather conditions, poor turn out, and increasing costs of operation, our overall funding from this source has also been significantly affected. We have instituted alternate fundraising projects; The Longest Day of Golf Tournament, and Ultimate Gaming, in which we are trying to replace the revenue shortfalls to achieve our goals. We have maximized all possible cost reductions without trimming any of our programs.

CYES is adapting to the ever-changing needs of youth in our community. Job preparation, basic skills, and resume writing are areas not addressed in any other programs. Recognizing this most basic need for our youth, our plans include expansion of current workshop/counseling activities and implementation of new programs. To accomplish our goals, we would like to implement further outreach programs through the school systems, we would like to develop an



office/computer skills program to raise our clients skill sets above basic job interviewing and job retention techniques. In order to accomplish these goals, we will need to expand.

When we examine the makeup of the current business community, there has been a transition from manufacturing and small business concerns, to large pharmaceutical and high technology (mainly custom software) corporations along with a growing small business sector. This current business environment requires increased skills in the area of software usage/applications as well as critical thinking and organizational skills. Employers, even at entry level/internship positions, seek these advanced skills in applicants. Though the school system addresses the basics, the schools lack the ability to produce students with higher-level skill sets that can be evaluated and certified at required levels. Employers are bringing skills testing, personality evaluations, and other methods of pre-screening applicants into the workplace. Programs that would increase the skills and salability of youth to the employer undoubtedly will pay handsome rewards for everyone.

We are an unique service, and do not duplicate services offered in the area. It is important that we not only maintain, but also increase our presence in the community on an ongoing basis. There can be no dispute that with monies expended at the youth level, that this could only contribute to a more productive community member, and bring a high rate of return in the long term.

We are requesting funding in the amount of \$1,000 for 2005/06. We are asking those that have been long time supporters, as the City of Agoura Hills has been, to take a fresh look at who we are, our potential, our track record, and to please consider an increase in funding to Conejo Youth Employment Service.

Please find attached our 501(c)3 designation and a listing of our board of directors. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy DuPont', written over a horizontal line.

Kathy DuPont
Conejo Youth Employment Service
Director of Administration

Internal Revenue Service

Date: March 19, 2005

CONEJO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
INC
80 E HILLCREST DRIVE 207
THOUSAND OAKS CA 91360-7880 576

Department of the Treasury
P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Person to Contact:

John C. Crawford 31-08343
Customer Service Representative

Toll Free Telephone Number:

8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET
877-829-5500

Fax Number:

513-263-3756

Federal Identification Number:

95-3452397

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to your request of February 3, 2005, regarding your organization's tax-exempt status.

In March 1982 we issued a determination letter that recognized your organization as exempt from federal income tax. Our records indicate that your organization is currently exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our records indicate that your organization is also classified as a public charity under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our records indicate that contributions to your organization are deductible under section 170 of the Code, and that you are qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely,



Janna K. Skufca, Director, TE/GE
Customer Account Services



Board of Directors FY 2004-2005

President

Mary Elva Lussier
CVE Engineering, Inc.
P.O. Box 7208
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359-7208
Ph: (w) 805-496-4839
Fax: 805-496-1653
Email: cve@verizon.net

1st VP

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(h) 805-496-0967
Fax: 805-777-7374
Email: dslkw@aol.com

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Michael Garcia, VP
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6001 Topanga Cyn. Blvd., Ste. 301
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
Ph: (w) 818-716-3265
Fax: 818-227-9546

Cell: 818-261-1938
Email: garciamg@wellsfargo.com

Secretary

Mark Rutherford, J.D.
4212 Saddlecrest Lane
Westlake Village, CA 91361-4761
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Fax: 818-707-2211
Email: mrcrmi@pacbell.net

Director

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516 Pennsfield Place, Ste. 104
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Ph: (w) 805-495-4653
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Email: garcia100@verizon.com
(3/5/2005)

Director

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Agoura Hills, CA 91301
Ph: (h) 818-991-0488
Fax: 818-991-0525
Email: pereinisch@mindspring.com

Director

Rheni Pasricha
11538 Country Creek Court
Moorpark, CA 93021
Ph: (h) 805-529-9819
Cell: 805-428-0163
Email: flohanpas@netzero.com
rheni@aldik.com (3/8/05)

Director

Jill Lederer
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100 N. Rancho Road, Ste. 25
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
Ph: (w) 805-373-0745
Fax: 805-373-7545
Email: jl.beau@verizon.net



A Non-Profit, Affordable Housing and Service Provider

April 19, 2005

Mr. Jim Thorsen
City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Ct.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Dear Mr. Thorsen,

Many Mansions would like to express tremendous gratitude for Agoura Hills' past support and are excited about the possibility of partnering with you again to serve our community. We are requesting \$1,000 from the City of Agoura Hills to fund Stoll Community House, a transitional housing program serving homeless families. Specifically, funding would be used toward case management and job development program costs.

Families in the City of Agoura Hills face extremely high housing prices. With the median home price rising to \$808,000 and the median rent at about \$1,300, limited-income families have few, if any, housing options. To address this need, Stoll House provides housing and needed services to families that have been pushed into homelessness.


Although located in Thousand Oaks, Stoll House is open to homeless families from all areas. Stoll House is the only transitional housing property in the Conejo Valley and has served residents from the Agoura/Calabasas area. In addition, Many Mansions would be happy to work with the City in developing a stronger outreach and referral system to promote access to our services for Agoura residents.

Stoll House consists of 10 apartment units that serve homeless, single-parent families. The program's primary goal is to empower and help stabilize homeless families, enabling them to move into and maintain permanent housing. Residents pursue numerous goals throughout the year-long program. Working with a case manager, residents gain employment, build savings, secure childcare, pursue education/vocational training, and address legal, credit, or other problems as steps toward economic self-sufficiency and stable, permanent housing.

Last year Stoll House served 19 homeless families, totaling 20 adults and 36 children. 81% of these residents were employed or engaged in certified gainful training within 6 months of entering; 72% saved at least 10% of their monthly income; and 70% successfully obtained permanent housing upon exiting Stoll House. Our success in assisting families to move up and out of poverty depends greatly on the support of community members like the City of Agoura Hills. 80% of Stoll's funding is paid through a HUD grant, which requires Many Mansions to supply a 20% match through other public and private sources. Every contribution makes a difference for the families we serve.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request. I am looking forward to speaking more about Stoll House at the public hearing. If more information is needed before then, please do not hesitate to call me at 805-496-4948 x. 23 or nichole@manymansions.org.

Sincerely,


Nichole Lanse
Director of Resource Development

EXECUTIVE STAFF

RICK SCHROEDER, Esq.
Executive Director

FIONA KILNER
Director, Resident Services

CAILAN LU
Director, Finance

NEIL MCGUFFIN
Director, Housing Development

ERIC RHODES, JR.
Director, Housing Management

NICHOLE LANSE
Director, Resource Development

MARGARET YUN
Director, Supportive and Adult Services

APRIL DUPREY
Office Manager

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STEVEN PEDERSON, Esq.

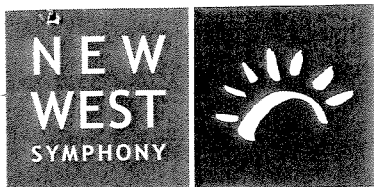
GIB POIRY

CHERYL RICHMOND

DAVE SABEDRA

FRANK SCHILLO

JANE STOLL



BORIS BROTT • MUSIC DIRECTOR

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Marilyn Lippiatt
AGOURA HILLS

Michael Melody
THOUSAND OAKS

Heather Mobarak
OJAI

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Elly Nordskog
THOUSAND OAKS

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CAMARILLO

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Russ Spoto
THOUSAND OAKS

Mark Sullivan
SIMI VALLEY

Lee Weisel
VENTURA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kenneth W. Hopper

April 14, 2005

Mr. Jim Thorsen
Assistant City Manager
City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Re: Grant proposal from the New West Symphony

Dear Mr. Thorsen:

The New West Symphony seeks funding from the City of Agoura Hills this year in the amount of \$3,000 to support its youth education outreach programs for grades 3-4 at the Sumac, Willow and Yerba Buena Schools in Agoura Hills.

Mission:

The goal of the New West Symphony is to be a premier music organization providing a full spectrum of musical activities that will inspire people of all ages and cultures through excellence and creativity. Education is central to this mission; the organization will conduct educational outreach not only to children, but to all ages in our community as it seeks to enrich lives today and build audiences for tomorrow.

Description of Community Services provided:

Now in its tenth season, the symphony provides a wide range of programs to a combined audience of 62,000 in Ventura County and adjacent communities in Los Angeles County.

- NWS performs its **Masterworks Series** of six classical concerts at both the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza (TOCAP) and the Oxnard Performing Arts Center (OPAC). Special discounts are offered to students.
- The Thursday and Friday prior to each concert weekend, Maestro Boris Brott conducts lively interviews of guest artists at "**Meet the Artist**", a free public event held in the Founders Room of TOCAP and at Borders Books in Oxnard.
- Popular **Informances** are held an hour before each concert at each venue and are offered free to ticket-holders.
- NWS will present a **Discovery Artists 2006** preview concert in Ventura in June, 2005 giving a sneak preview of next year's young musician winners.

(New West Symphony grant proposal – page two)

NWS Youth Educational Outreach programs include:

- **Symphonic Adventures:** A three-part program which includes eight fresh, lively school concerts attended by 10,000 third-fifth graders from Ventura County and Los Angeles County in 2005; **the Music Van** – a musical petting zoo of orchestra instruments which visited 89 schools during the 2004-2005 year (free to all schools); and **Ensembles in the Schools** – small groups of NWS musicians who perform in interactive school assemblies throughout the region. The Symphony reaches 25,000 Ventura County students annually through these programs.
- **Discovery Artists Concerts:** Outstanding young solo talent from the region audition each year to play two concerts with the full symphony (at both TOCAP & OPAC). High school jazz groups from the area play before the concert and a youth mariachi group serenades attendees after the concert. (Ticket prices are kept very low to encourage young people, families and seniors to attend.)

Proposed Use for Grant Funds and How They Would Directly Benefit Agoura Hills Residents:

At the heart of the New West Symphony mission is our dedication to providing educational outreach to the young people of our region, particularly in this economic climate of drastic state budget cuts all but eliminating arts from the schools. **We therefore request \$3,000 from the City of Agoura Hills to support a program which will specifically and directly benefit the children and families of your city. (None of the funds will be used for administrative, general operations or office expenses.)**

Our proposed program for the Sumac, Willow and Yerba Buena Schools of Agoura Hills is as follows:

A) We will send the Music Van with trained docents to the schools for two full days. The Music Van is a nationally acclaimed program bringing thousands of dollars worth of orchestral instruments to schools for “hands-on” experience. The children can experiment with all the instruments they will hear later played by the professionals.

B) After the first Music Van visit, an ensemble from the orchestra will give an interactive family performance at the schools. By this time the students will have had a chance to experiment with all the instruments, and they will show their parents what they learned and how their parents can use the instruments themselves. They will then enjoy the ensemble performance together. A second Music Van day can be scheduled for a morning assembly or whenever the **school would like it.**

C) Symphonic Adventures Concerts for young people: All third-fourth graders at Sumac, Willow and Yerba Buena Schools (this year that total is 586) will be brought to the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza for the special New West Symphony youth concerts with **Maestro Boris Brott.** These concerts are designed to meet the following California Music Standards: identify visually and aurally the four families of orchestra instruments; identify melody, rhythm, harmony and timbre in selected pieces of aural music; sing age-appropriate songs from memory, including

(New West Symphony Grant proposal – page three)

rounds, partner songs and ostinatos. Each classroom receives a teaching video, listening tape, curriculum activities related to the concert and activities integrating music with other subject areas. These pre-concert teaching materials are aligned with the California Standards for Visual and Performing Arts. The children come fully prepared for these concerts, some of them are brought up on stage, and they have an unforgettable experience. **With this grant, the schools would not incur any fees or bussing charges. The entire program would be FREE to them.**

We realize that many people aren't familiar with classical music, and we want to make it accessible to everyone, and especially families. This program is meant to be user-friendly, so that kids and families will feel comfortable coming to the symphony.

This is a proven program; one which we hope you would be proud to sponsor. It would be our pleasure to bring it to the Sumac, Willow and Yerba Buena Schools and help fill today's gap in school arts education.

Enclosed is further information about our programs, testimonial letters, an annual budget, a list of our Board of Directors and our 501 ©3 documentation. Please feel free to call me directly at 805-777-7868 if you should have any questions. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to serving the needs of the elementary school children of Agoura Hills.

Sincerely,



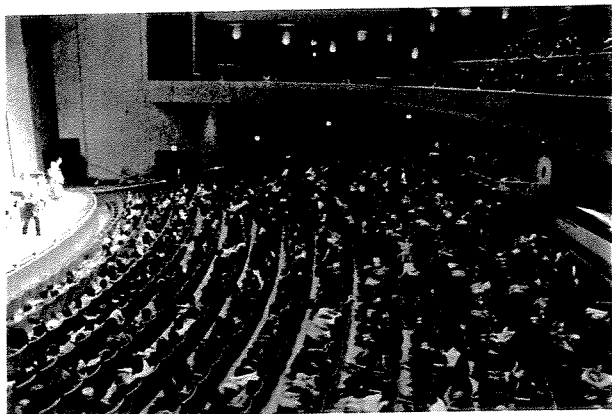
Diana Dunbar
Director of Development

Symphonic Adventures 2005

"Introduction to the Orchestra"



BORIS BROTT • MUSIC DIRECTOR



over 9,500 children attended
8 concerts in 4 days

student conductors



string family members



members of the brass family



members of the woodwind family

percussion family



student participation



"I really liked how you showed us every instrument."

"I give it two thumbs up."

"The music, it just spoke to my heart."

"I think everybody is very unique with the instrument they played."

"It was great. I like the part when they played the four notes, dun dun dun duunn."

"When you played Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, it really had me on the edge of my seat."

"I think that I like the kettle drum the most because it has a really pretty sound, and because it reminds me of kettle corn."

"It sounded very nice. You can really tell you practiced a lot."

"I was amazed what an orchestra can do."

"I really want to be like you. I also want to practice way more on my clarinet."

"It was fun because we were able to participate and because it was very loud."

"I say NEW WEST Symphony rocks."

student comments

Symphonic Adventures January 2004

"Thank you for your generosity for the tickets and bus transportation. You made a rich learning experience possible."

"Education can often become dull and text oriented. It was pure joy to see true learning brought to life!"

"I thank you sincerely for bringing a slice of culture to our children, and I hope you will continue this beautiful journey of music."

"For the last few days, my 3rd grade class has asked me to play classical music."

"My students have only grown in a positive direction because of all of your own passions for music."

"Thank you so much for sharing the gifts of melody, harmony, rhythm and your love of music with us!"

"The hour long show was perfectly tailored for any child..as well as to captivate and educate the adults!"

teacher comments



NEW WEST SYMPHONY
SARIE BROTT, MUSIC DIRECTOR



BORIS BROTT • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Symphonic Adventures

Dear Boris Brought,

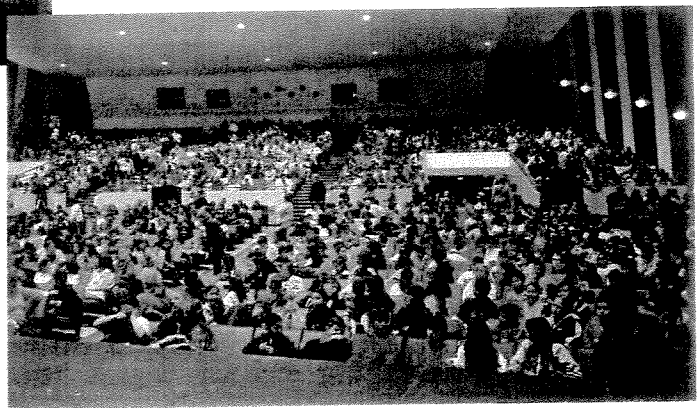


We Came to see your magical
Music it filled me up with Joy
to see you and your Music.
I wish to go there again, you
are amazing to me and your
Music.

Dear New West Symphony,

Thank you so very much
for sharing your beautiful
music with my students and
me. As second language
learners their vocabulary
and their lives benefited
from your concert.

They truly enjoyed your
music and learning
about the different
instruments. This was my
first year attending your
concert and I look forward
to many more in the
years to come.



Thank you for invited us
to your wonderful concert. I liked
all the instruments but I liked
better the Violin because they started
at the same time and ended at the
same time. My second instrument
is the Bass and I liked because
the mans were spinning the Bass and
that was cool.

New West Symphony

Board of Directors

Rick Newberger
Westlake Village
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Managing Director
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Antonia Boehm, Ph.D.
Thousand Oaks
Musicologist

Elda Bielanski
Thousand Oaks
Owner
Artagraphix Gallery

William Bleuel
Westlake Village
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Pepperdine University

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Boris Brott
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
Music Director

Kenneth W. Hopper
Simi Valley
Executive Director

P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

FEB 16 2001

Employer Identification Number:

77-0406042

Date:

BY:

DLN:

17053246731010

Contact Person:

TERRY W BREWER

ID# 31227

Contact Telephone Number:

(877) 829-5500

Our Letter Dated:

January 24, 1996

Addendum Applies:

No

FEB 09 2001

NEW WEST SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION
2100 E THOUSAND OAKS BLVD STE D
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91362

Dear Applicant:

This modifies our letter of the above date in which we stated that you would be treated as an organization that is not a private foundation until the expiration of your advance ruling period.

Your exempt status under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) is still in effect. Based on the information you submitted, we have determined that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are an organization of the type described in section 509(a)(2).

Grantors and contributors may rely on this determination unless the Internal Revenue Service publishes notice to the contrary. However, if you lose your section 509(a)(2) status, a grantor or contributor may not rely on this determination if he or she was in part responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act, or the substantial or material change on the part of the organization that resulted in your loss of such status, or if he or she acquired knowledge that the Internal Revenue Service had given notice that you would no longer be classified as a section 509(a)(2) organization.

You are required to make your annual information return, Form 990 or Form 990-EZ, available for public inspection for three years after the later of the due date of the return or the date the return is filed. You are also required to make available for public inspection your exemption application, any supporting documents, and your exemption letter. Copies of these documents are also required to be provided to any individual upon written or in person request without charge other than reasonable fees for copying and postage. You may fulfill this requirement by placing these documents on the Internet. Penalties may be imposed for failure to comply with these requirements. Additional information is available in Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, or you may call our toll free number shown above.

If we have indicated in the heading of this letter that an addendum applies, the addendum enclosed is an integral part of this letter.

Letter 1050 (DO/CG)



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

P.O. BOX 1286
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA. 95741-1286

September 4, 1996

In reply refer to
755:G :JCA

NEW WEST SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION
3451 FOOTHILL RD
VENTURA CA 93003-1015

Purpose : CHARITABLE
Code Section : 23701d
Form of Organization : Corporation
Accounting Period Ending: May 31
Organization Number : 1942734

You are exempt from state franchise or income tax under the section of the Revenue and Taxation Code indicated above.

This decision is based on information you submitted and assumes that your present operations continue unchanged or conform to those proposed in your application. Any change in operation, character, or purpose of the organization must be reported immediately to this office so that we may determine the effect on your exempt status. Any change of name or address must also be reported.

In the event of a change in relevant statutory, administrative, judicial case law, a change in federal interpretation of federal law in cases where our opinion is based upon such an interpretation, or a change in the material facts or circumstances relating to your application upon which this opinion is based, this opinion may no longer be applicable. It is your responsibility to be aware of these changes should they occur. This paragraph constitutes written advice, other than a chief counsel ruling, within the meaning of Revenue and Taxation Code Section 21012(a)(2).

You may be required to file Form 199 (Exempt Organization Annual Information Return) on or before the 15th day of the 5th month (4 1/2 months) after the close of your accounting period. Please see annual instructions with forms for requirements.

You are not required to file state franchise or income tax returns unless you have income subject to the unrelated business income tax

September 4, 1996
NEW WEST SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION
Corporate Number 1942734
Page 2

under Section 23731 of the Code. In this event, you are required to file Form 109 (Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return) by the 15th day of the 5th month (4 1/2 months) after the close of your annual accounting period.

Please note that an exemption from federal income or other taxes and other state taxes requires separate applications.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Registry of Charitable Trusts.

J AMAYA
EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS
PROCESSING SERVICE BUREAU
Telephone (916) 845-4171

EO :
cc: FELICE GINSBERG

2004- 2005	
Education Activities Budget	
Expenses Category	Expenses Amount
Education Staff wages, taxes & benefits	\$ 33,500.00
Professional Development	\$ -
Symphonic Adventures	
Artistic	\$ 68,710.00
Bussing	\$ 14,000.00
Production	\$ 10,500.00
Discovery Artist Audition Expenses	\$ 1,500.00
Discovery Artist Recital/Reception	\$ -
Music Van	\$ 2,000.00
Education Postage	\$ 250.00
Materials	\$ 1,000.00
Symphony 101	\$ 1,500.00
Ensembles in the Schools	\$ 2,400.00
Summer Music Camp	\$ 6,250.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,300.00
TOTAL EDUCATION EXPENSES	\$ 142,910.00

** Please note, many Music Van expenses appear in additional budget line items, i.e. :

Education Staff wages, taxes and benefits

Artistic

Production

Education Postage

Materials

Miscellaneous

want to support the New West Symphony!

- \$5,000 \$1,000 \$250
 \$2,500 \$500 \$100
 Other _____

NAME: _____
(This is how your name will appear in the program book listing)
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____
 HOME PHONE: _____
 WORK PHONE: _____
 EMPLOYER: _____
 TITLE: _____
 EMPLOYER ADDRESS: _____

Gift Designation:

- Educational Programs Music Van
 Symphonic Adventures Discovery Artists

Making a gift to the New West Symphony is easy:

- A check, payable to New West Symphony, for the full amount is enclosed.
 To submit your pledge on-line visit: www.newwestsymphony.org
 Please bill my credit card for the full amount of the gift.
 Visa MasterCard American Express

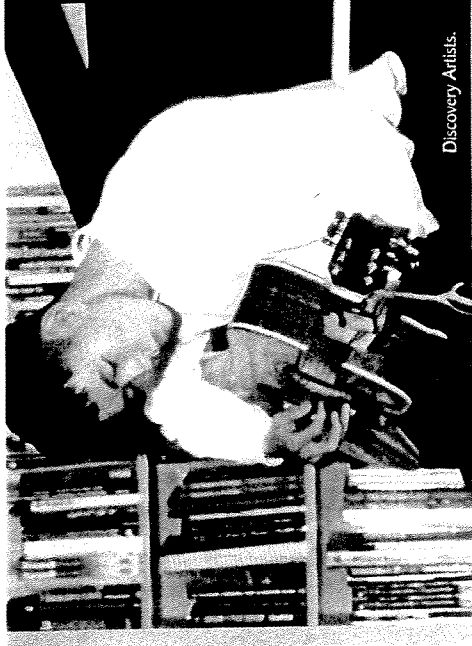
NAME OF CARDHOLDER: _____
 CARD #: _____
 EXP.: _____
 CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE: _____

Please contact me about planned giving opportunities.
Double or Triple Your Gift
 If you or your spouse works for a matching gift company, your gift to NWS may be doubled or tripled! Please check with your HR office and then submit the completed form along with your gift to NWS.



NEW WEST SYMPHONY

Boris Brott, Music Director
 2100 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Suite D
 Thousand Oaks, California 91362



Discovery Artists.

Why support the New West Symphony?

Great music enlightens and inspires people of all ages and cultures. For the young, it can be a particularly powerful influence on their emotional and intellectual development. The New West Symphony is very proud to present a broad range of programs to reach this very important segment of our communities.

- For most schools, music is no longer part of the every day curriculum, which is why the New West Symphony music programs are so important.
- For many children, our programs are their first experience hearing a live orchestra, playing a real musical instrument or interacting with professional musicians.
- "Like spinach and broccoli, classical music is something most kids might never learn to enjoy if left to discover it on their own. But cook it up in a tempting dish — seasoned with plenty of fun and excitement — and the first taste could lead to a lifetime of nourishing pleasure."

— *Los Angeles Times*, Editorial

We invite you to make a difference in the lives of your youngest neighbors by supporting the New West Symphony's education outreach.

*Your support makes
all the difference!*



NEW WEST SYMPHONY

Boris Brott, Music Director

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Expect the Extraordinary...

...right in your Own Backyard!



Entertainment for Today
Education for Tomorrow

A Lifetime Impact

Our Mission:

Youth education has always been an important focus of the New West Symphony organization. The mission of the New West Symphony is to be a premiere musical organization, offering fine concert music and educational programs that will enlighten and inspire all ages and cultures.

This year the New West Symphony will bring the joy of music to more than 25,000 kindergarten - fifth graders throughout the region!

Lynn Decker-Mahin
Educational Director
805/777-7886



Symphonic Adventures

The New West Symphony offers award-winning youth education outreach programs, among them interactive student concerts, the Music Van, and visits to classrooms by New West Symphony musicians.

This multi-faceted educational program presents the finest possible introduction to symphonic music for children. With music programs cut from most county elementary schools, many children will experience for the first-time the elements of music and the joy it brings.

Developed for a target age group of 3rd - 5th grade students by Music Director Boris Broth, the student concerts are aligned with the California Standards for Visual and Performing Arts. Each concert includes an introduction to the four families of orchestral instruments - strings, brass, woodwinds and percussion - and offers students a blend of classical and contemporary music. Prior to student concerts, the New West Symphony distributes curriculum materials to classroom teachers in order to assist in preparing students for the live concert. The experience of a live performance, from the powerful sound of the music to the foreign shapes of the instruments, is magical to students.

In addition, many children will have a visit from our Music Van, a musical petting zoo staffed by volunteer docents, that travels to classrooms year-round for a hands-on experience with all the instruments of an orchestra. Ensembles of New West Symphony musicians also provide visits to classrooms and schools to further enhance the

"I know I'll never forget the Discovery Artists concerts. It was a turning point in my life...it's helped me in many, many ways....After all the excitement and lights of the past two concerts, I doubt that I'll be able to get used to the blahness of regular life...Last night I was so excited I couldn't sleep until four in the morning!"

- Tiffany Chen, Discovery Artist, Pianist
Age 13



music experience. All ensembles demonstrate their instruments, explain how sound is produced and play a variety of music.

Annual Young Artists' Concerts featuring the Discovery Artists

Each January New West presents two remarkable "Young Artists" concerts featuring "Discovery Artists", extraordinary young musicians who have auditioned for the opportunity to perform as soloists with the full professional New West Symphony orchestra. It is a unique event, giving four young persons under the age of 25 an opportunity to perform at a concert specifically designed for families and young people.



Symphonic Adventures.



NEW WEST SYMPHONY
Boris Broth, Music Director

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$100 First Chair Circle

Make your first \$100 gift to the New West Symphony and during that season you will be showcased in the First Chair Circle receiving the following benefits:

- Year-round listing in the concert program book
- Post-concert backstage tour at one Masterpiece concert

\$100 - \$249 Members Circle

- Year-round listing in the concert program book
- Post-concert backstage tour at one Masterpiece concert

\$250 - \$499 Patrons Circle

- All of the preceding benefits, plus
- Advance notice of special New West Symphony events

\$500 - \$999 Gold Circle

- All of the preceding benefits, plus
- Invitation to one donor event

\$1,000 - \$2,499 Presidents Circle

- All of the preceding benefits, plus
- Priority ticketing assistance
- Invitation to two donor events
- Post-concert backstage tour at one Masterpiece concert
- Presidents Circle lapel pin

\$2,500 - \$4,999 Maestros Circle

- All of the preceding benefits, plus
- Invitations to all donor events and other exclusive events

\$5,000 Silver Circle

- All of the preceding benefits, plus
- Invitation to a special private performance by a NWS musician

\$10,000 Gold Circle

An opportunity to make a special gift to ensure New West Symphony's continued success.

Please call Diana Dunbar, Director of Development, at 805/777-7868 for more information.

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President

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Cancer Center Valley Presbyterian Hospital

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Susan Thomas, LCSW
Manager, Medical Social Services
Kaiser Permanente, Woodland Hills

Jeff Weisz, M.D.
Medical Oncology/Hematology
Medical Director
So. California Permanente Medical Group

Deane Wolcott, M.D.

Vice President,
Clinical Systems and Knowledge Management
Sallick Health Care

Bruce Zietz, M.D.
Medical Oncology/Hematology
Assistant Clinical Professor (retired)
UCLA School of Medicine

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The Board of Directors**

Harold H. Benjamin, PhD
Founder of The Wellness Community

**Honorary Member of The Board
of Directors**

Norman Cousins (1915-1990)

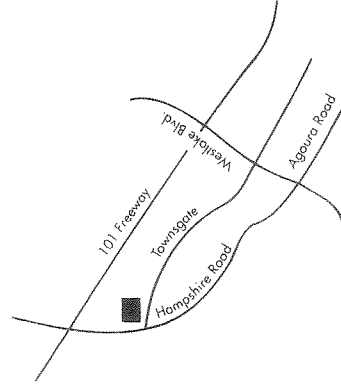
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**the wellness
community**
valley/ventura
Cancer support, education and hope

530 Hampshire Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

PHN 805.379.4777
FAX 805.371.6231
www.wellnesscommunityhope.org
twcinfo@wellnesscommunityhope.org



Cancer
support,
education
and hope

**the wellness
community**
valley/ventura

A free program of education, emotional
support, and hope for people with cancer
and their loved ones.

530 Hampshire Road
Westlake Village, CA 91361
(805) 379-4777
Fax: (805) 371-6231
www.wellnesscommunityhope.org
twcinfo@wellnesscommunityhope.org

Our Purpose

The mission of The Wellness Community is to help people with cancer and their loved ones enhance their health and well-being by providing a professional program of emotional support, education and hope. Participants learn how to become "Patient Active" which can help them become more effective partners with their health care team. Our goal is to help as many people as possible recover to the fullest extent possible.

When cancer is diagnosed the reaction may be isolation, loss of control and perhaps, worst of all, loss of hope. These overwhelming emotions are often the hallmark of cancer. By sharing with others who are fighting the illness or who have recovered from it, cancer patients can gain hope and a renewed will to live.

All services at The Wellness Community are offered at no charge to our participants.

The Patient Active Concept

"Cancer patients who participate in their fight for recovery along with their health care team will improve the quality of their lives and may enhance the possibility of recovery"

Harold H. Benjamin, Ph.D.
Founder of The Wellness Community

Our Program

You can partner together with your physician, health care team, and other cancer patients with challenges similar to yours. Groups are facilitated by licensed psychotherapists who have received post-graduate training in The Wellness Community's unique methods.

The Wellness Community Patient Active Concept "Combining the will of the patient with the skill of the physician - A powerful combination."

Harold H. Benjamin, Ph.D., Founder

The Wellness Community provides a variety of means through which cancer patients can actively participate in their fight for recovery. These include:

Community: A home-like setting available all day long where people with cancer can be with others, share, learn and fight for recovery.

Workshops: Participatory learning opportunities provided by experts on a variety of topics that are related to reducing stress and fighting for recovery.

Orientation Groups: Informal drop-in groups where people learn about TWC and share their experiences with cancer.

Support Groups: Ongoing, weekly groups facilitated by licensed psychotherapists, in which adults with cancer create an understanding extended family and explore new ways to deal with cancer.

Family Groups: Ongoing, weekly groups facilitated by licensed psychotherapists, for family members or friends of an adult with cancer.

Youth Programs: Specialized programs for children or teens who have a parent or grandparent with cancer.

Education: Symposiums, lectures and seminars presented by oncologists, oncology nurses and other authorities in fields of interest to cancer patients.

Networking Groups: Meetings to discuss and exchange information about special areas of concern to cancer patients, such as prostate cancer, breast cancer, brain tumors, lung cancer, lymphoma, leukemia, etc.

Yoga, Stress Reduction, Relaxation/Visualization, Chi Gong: Regularly scheduled classes during which adults with cancer and family members learn how to use the mind/body connection.

The Jennifer Diamond Cancer Research Library: Resources available for cancer patients and family members to access state-of-the-art information and increase knowledge.

Buddy Book: Listing by specific diagnosis, of experienced cancer survivors willing to share their stories to those newly diagnosed.

Social Events: Gatherings that bring participants together to laugh and play.

Programs also available in Spanish.

Facts

Many, many people recover from cancer. Cancer patients need not and should not be alone. There is much cancer patients can do to fight for recovery and improve the quality of their lives.

The Wellness Community is the largest support program in the United States devoted solely to providing psychological and emotional support to cancer patients and their families **free of charge**.

Our programs are offered in a home-like setting that invites people with cancer to join a "community" of others fighting the same disease.

"The Wellness Community is the model of the social and psychological care of the cancer patient which must be an integral part of the fight for recovery."

Norman Cousins, Author of *Anatomy of the Illness and How to Heal It*; *The Biology of Hope*

Questions

Who uses The Wellness Community?

Adults with cancer who desire to improve the quality of their lives and fight for the recovery along with their physicians and health care team. Family and friends are also welcome to participate.

What does it cost to participate?

Nothing. The Wellness Community is a non-profit organization and does not charge for any of its services. It is supported by generous contributions from the public.

Do participants follow a specific program?

No. Participants may use those parts of the program that they believe or hope will help them improve their own well-being. Some may choose to simply visit the community rather than be alone.

How does The Wellness Community work with medical treatment?

While the medical profession fights cancer on the physical front, The Wellness Community helps people with cancer learn techniques that help them fight on the psychological and emotional front. The Wellness Community is in support of and in addition to conventional medical treatment. The Wellness Community is not an alternative to Medical treatment.

the wellness community[®]
valley/ventura
cancer support, education, and hope

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Founder of The Wellness Community

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Evan Slater, M.D.
Susan Thomas, LCSW
Jeff Weisz, M.D.
Deane Wolcott, M.D.
Bruce Zietz, M.D.

April 19, 2005

Jim Thorsen
Assistant City Manager
City of Agoura Hills
30101 Agoura Road
Agoura Hills, California 91301

Dear Jim:

The Wellness Community Valley/Ventura is grateful for the City of Agoura Hills past support. Your contributions helped The Wellness Community Valley/Ventura provide free professional cancer support programs to 52 active regular participants who are residents of Agoura Hills. To continue offering our comprehensive services in 2005-2006, we are requesting \$3,000. Residents of Agoura Hills, who have cancer, as well as their family members, will benefit from the support groups, networking groups, educational workshops and stress-reduction programs designed to meet their special needs in fighting the devastation of a diagnosis of cancer.

The cost for one professionally facilitated group of 10 to 12 people meeting weekly for one year is \$10,000. Most participants attend several workshops and networking groups each month.

When cancer is diagnosed, the reaction is terror, panic and, perhaps worst of all, loss of hope. These overwhelming emotions, which are the hallmark of cancer, cause a downward psychological spiral, which often has a negative effect on physical well-being. Cancer strikes without discrimination. It affects a cross section of our population, young and old, men and women, rich and poor of all ethnic groups. Statistics show that one in three women and one in two men will develop cancer; three out of four families will be affected. Cancer is a major critical illness that can have long-term physical and psychological impacts on residents of Agoura Hills.

The Wellness Community provides a unique, Patient Active © program to help cancer patients in an area which includes Las Virgenes, western San Fernando Valley, and all of Ventura County, take control of their fight for recovery rather than being passive victims.

There are only twenty-two Wellness Communities throughout the United States, which makes The Wellness Community Valley/Ventura a valuable resource right next door to the City of Agoura Hills. The medical community realizes the value of having a Wellness Community available to the patients they treat for this very serious illness. Over 75 residents of Agoura Hills actively participate as part of our 500 member volunteer team who donate their time to help with community outreach, fund-raisers, on our Board of

Please remember The Wellness Community Valley/Ventura in your will.

530 hampshire road, westlake village, ca 91361 (805) 379-4777 fax (805) 371-6231
www.wellnesscommunityhope.org twcinfo@wellnesscommunityhope.org

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Deane Wolcott, M.D.
Bruce Zietz, M.D.

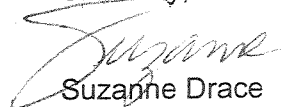
Directors, and with office support and bulk mail preparation. They know how important it is to have this facility available to meet critical needs.

By granting our request for funds, Agoura Hills residents affected by cancer will be assured of continuing weekly participant and family groups designed so that they can receive the support of others in similar situations and learn coping skills to help in their fight for recovery. Networking groups provide them cancer specific support and education, as well as a chance to share with others undergoing similar treatment or experiences. The weekly relaxation/visualization workshops offer a valuable tool in boosting immune systems and enhancing quality of life. Each month special seminars, such as "Ask the Doctor," pain management, and nutrition, as well as weekly groups for children who have adult family members with cancer, bring educational benefits and quarterly major educational seminars are presented by physicians from major teaching hospitals.

At The Wellness Community, we believe that cancer can be beaten and, as studies have shown, that the mind is a powerful weapon. People have no choice about getting cancer, but they can choose how to respond to it. They can choose not to be victims of the disease. Rather, they can actively participate in their fight for their recovery. Cancer patients and their loved ones find people who will stand shoulder to shoulder with them as they fight their battles--people who will inspire them, encourage them, and understand what they are going through. They find HOPE!

Thank you for the opportunity to request financial assistance to help provide the many cancer support programs and services that serve the citizens of Agoura Hills. You will join other cities in our service area in contributing to cancer support programs for your residents. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Drace
President
Enclosures

SD

Please remember The Wellness Community Valley/Ventura in your will.



Kids Circle
Presents



Jump into ART and other creative activities

Tuesday afternoons 4 - 5:30
Meets weekly beginning September 21

Children, ages 5-11 who have a
parent or grandparent with cancer

- ★ Create, play and share with other children.
- ★ Children feel less alone when they have an opportunity to express feelings and concerns through creative activities.
- ★ Facilitated by licensed psychotherapists and an elementary school art teacher.
- ★ Parents are welcome to chat.
- ★ Held at The Wellness Community, 530 Hampshire Road, Westlake Village.

**the
wellness.
community**[®]
cancer support, education and hope

FREE OF CHARGE

For more information, call:

Kids Circle Coordinators

Joyce Boucher, LCSW, MFT (310) 455-1779

or Peggy Johnston, MFT (805) 449-8318



A Time for Healing

In this Issue:

- On Volunteering 2
- The Mind-Body Connection 3
- Major League Pitcher Scores
Homerun at Survivors Day 5
- Tools for Quality of Life 6
- Ways to Give Support 6
- Strides Raises Nearly \$46k 7
- Honoring Our 2003 Donors 8-10
- Aliados Graduates 11
- Home Tour Notes 11
- Calendar 12

The Wellness Community Valley/Ventura mourns the loss of a dear friend and past Board Chairman, Daniel Jacoby. Daniel passed away Saturday, March 13, 2004 in his home in Malibu, surrounded by those he loved. He was 37 years old. It had been nearly seven years since he was diagnosed with an incurable tumor in his brain stem.

Daniel did not waste a moment of the time left to him. The company he co-founded, Digital Insight, went public, and he retired in 2001. Following the footsteps of his hero, Ernest Shackleton, he traveled to Antarctica and began a career in digital photography. One of his photographs of Elephant Island is now on permanent display in Dulwich, England next to the lifeboat James Caird, which carried members of the Shackleton Expedition to safety. Daniel discovered The Wellness Community Valley/Ventura following his diagnosis, and became deeply involved, eventually serving as Board Chairman. In the days prior to his death, he founded his own non-profit, Interfaith Inventions, Inc., on the vision of providing summer camp programs for children of all faiths to meet and make friends.

Daniel remained an intrepid explorer even as the tumor took its toll. He explored the end of life from many perspectives and across many faiths through reading and meditation. As he said, "I have reached the realization that 'healing' does not necessarily mean getting better." He outlined a philosophy of getting through rough times based on his reading. "Live in love. Be in the moment," it said. "You are who you are at any given moment, and change is the only constant. Hope for healing. A healing of the soul works in life and death." And, he said: "Open up and share. Somewhere there is a gift for someone. Find that person."

Daniel's legacy took shape in July, 2004, when 15 children from the Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities in Albuquerque met at Rose Mountain, NM for a one-week retreat. The event was overwhelmingly successful, and laid a blueprint for growing a national network of interfaith peace camps.

Daniel is greatly missed by all at The Wellness Community Valley/Ventura. In tribute to his fun-loving and adventurous spirit, we will host an annual Daniel's Magic Night for participants and families at TWC in Westlake Village. This night of laughter and fun, complete with magicians from the Magic Castle, is being planned for March, 2005.

-Article by Barbara Hoyt



"Open up and share. Somewhere there is a gift for someone.

Find that person."

-Daniel Jacoby

Calendar of Events

Weekly:

Orientation meetings led by cancer survivors
Tuesdays, 7pm; Fridays, 10 am

Participant and Family Groups
Ongoing weekly support groups in Westlake Village and Camarillo.
Orientation and interview required.

Family and Friends Drop-In Group
Tuesdays, 6pm-8pm Westlake Village

Programs in Spanish
Bienvenidos A Wellness, a cancer support group, meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, and *Martes Social* (social activities), meets on the 3rd Tuesday, 7pm, Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, Gault St., Room 1, Canoga Park

Sylmar - Prostate Cancer Group, 3rd Wednesday, 10am-12noon, L.A. County UCLA Medical Center.

Oxnard - Cancer support group, 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 7pm, Cancer Center of Ventura County, St. John's Regional Medical Center.

Spanish Helpline: 1-888-707-9355

Bridge Club
Mondays, 1pm-3pm

Knitting Club
3rd Tuesday, 2pm

Beginning Yoga
Wednesdays, 4:15pm-5:15pm

Quilting Club
2nd Wednesday, 1pm-4pm
4th Saturday, 1pm-4pm

Relaxation/Visualization sessions
Fridays, 1pm-2pm

QiGong
Saturdays, 9am-10am

Special Programs:

Kids' Circle, A Support Program for Children with a Parent or Grandparent with Cancer
Children 5-11 years of age.
Tuesdays, 4pm-5:30pm.

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction - 8-week course. Offered throughout the year.
Call for next class dates.

Yoga for Stress Management - 8-week course
Mondays, 11:30am-12:45pm.
Call for schedule.

Social Events

Thanksgiving Feast
November 19, 2004
6-9pm

Holiday Party
December 10, 2004

Monthly:

Gynecological Cancer Networking Group
1st Mondays, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Breast Cancer Networking Group
3rd Tuesdays, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Breast Tumor Networking Group
1st Thursdays, 6:30pm-8:30pm

The Wellness Connection
For those beyond the day-to-day fight for recovery
1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 11:00am-1:00pm
2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Transition Group
2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Prostate Cancer Networking Group
3rd Saturdays, 10:30am-12:30pm

Call 805-379-4777
to be added to our
monthly calendar mailing list or
visit our website for a
complete list of
Wellness Community
Valley/Ventura programs.
www.wellnesscommunity/hope.org

the wellness community®
valley/ventura

530 Hampshire Road
Westlake Village, CA 91361

The Wellness Community is a national nonprofit organization with the mission to help people with cancer and their loved ones enhance their health and well being by providing a professional program of emotional support, education and hope.

"News"
Published twice a year by
The Wellness Community Valley/Ventura

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Education, emotional support, and hope for adults with cancer and their loved ones.

530 Hampshire Road
Westlake Village, CA 91361
805 379 4777 FAX 805 371 6231
www.wellnesscommunityhope.org

Suzanne Drace, President
Marty Nason, R.N., M.N., Program Director

CLINICAL & PROGRAM STAFF

- Anne Gassert, M.A., MFT, Asst. Program Director
- Susan Saboi, Psy. D., Asst. Program Director
- Kevin Axelrad, Ph.D.
- Joyce Boucher, LCSW, MFT
- Rebecca Dekker, MFT
- Maryana Palmer, MFT
- Peggy Johnston, MFT
- Guadalupe Gonzalez, Ph.D.
- Janet Sparks, Intern
- Lucia Liberman-Ert, MFT

Orientation Meetings

Your introduction to The Wellness Community. Tuesday, 7:00pm; Friday 10:00am (NO appointment necessary)

Weekly Support Groups

ONGOING weekly groups led by licensed psychotherapists, in which people with cancer offer support to one another, explore ways of coping with the stress of cancer, and learn how to become effective partners with their health care team. **Requires attendance at an orientation meeting, a brief interview, and commitment to regular attendance.**

Tuesday: 11am-1pm, 6-8pm
Wednesday: 6-8pm
Thursday: 10am-12pm
(Camarillo) Wednesday: 6-8pm

FAMILY GROUPS: Ongoing weekly groups, led by licensed psychotherapists, providing support for loved ones of people with cancer. **Requires attendance at an orientation meeting, a brief interview, and a commitment to regular attendance.**

Wednesday: 6-8pm

DROP-IN GROUPS: Drop-in groups, led by licensed psychotherapists, providing support for people with cancer and their loved ones.

Family & Friends: Tuesday, 6-8pm
and Thursday, 10am-12pm

cancer support, education and hope



April



2	0
0	5

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to the generous donors underwriting support groups for cancer patients and their families: • Altracare Foundation • Argenet Foundation • Argenet, Inc. • Boeing Employee Fund • Catholic Healthcare West • Deserno • Diane Weirer Foundation • Entertainment Industry Foundation • Has • Kinross Foundation • L.A. Dept. of Water & Power • Baker Brothers Foundation • Susan G. Komen Foundation • The Boeing Company • Los Robles Regional Medical Center & Your Neighbors • Cancer Foundation • Metrolinks • National Charity League • WoodClayssens Foundation • The Cities of Calabasas, San Buenaventura, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, & Westlake Village 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction 6:30-8:30pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Groups* • Wellness Connection 11am-1pm • Knitting Club 1pm • Kids Circle 4-5:30pm • Family & Friends Drop-In Group 6-8pm • Orientation 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Groups* • Wellness Connection • Family Groups* • Beginning Yoga 4:30-5:30pm • Camarillo Program 6-8pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Groups* • Tai Chi Chih 9:30-10am • Family & Friends Drop-In Group 10am-12pm • Watercolor Art Class 1-3pm Group 6:30-8:30pm • Brain Tumor Networking Group 6:30-8:30pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation 10am • Relaxation/Visualization 1-2pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides For Hope Training 7:30am / "OFFSITE" • Qigong 9-10am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How To Help Teens Cope with Cancer in the Family 7-9pm • "You and Me, Doctor—What A Team!, with Angela Jo, MD, 7-9pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Group • Kids Circle 4-5:30pm • Family & Friends Drop-In Group 6-8pm • Wellness Connection 6:30-8:30pm • Orientation 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Groups* • Family Groups* • Knitting Club 1pm • Kids Circle 4-5:30pm • Family & Friends Drop-In Group 6-8pm • Breast Cancer Networking Group 6:30-8:30pm • Orientation 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Groups* • Family Groups* • Beginning Yoga 4:30-5:30pm • Camarillo Program 6-8pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Groups* • Tai Chi Chih 9:30-10am • Family & Friends Drop-In Group 10am-12pm • Watercolor Art Class 1-3pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation 10am • Relaxation/Visualization 1-2pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides For Hope Training 7:30am / "OFFSITE" • Qigong 9-10am • Quilting Club 1-4pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look Good... Feel Better, 6:30-8:30pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Groups* • Wellness Connection 11am-1pm • Knitting Club 1pm • Kids Circle 4-5:30pm • Family & Friends Drop-In Group 6-8pm • Breast Cancer Networking Group 6:30-8:30pm • Orientation 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Groups* • Family Groups* • Beginning Yoga 4:30-5:30pm • Camarillo Program 6-8pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Groups* • Tai Chi Chih 9:30-10am • Family & Friends Drop-In Group 10am-12pm • Watercolor Art Class 1-3pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation 10am • Relaxation/Visualization 1-2pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Groups* • Tai Chi Chih 9:30-10am • Family & Friends Drop-In Group 10am-12pm • Premiere Showing of "The Journey", 6-7pm • Transition Group 6:30-8:30pm • Eat to Beat Cancer, Susan Speer, RD, 7-9pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation 10am • Relaxation/Visualization 1-2pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qigong 9-10am 						

APRIL 2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST STEP - ORIENTATION MEETINGS

ORIENTATION - Tuesdays, 7pm and Fridays, 10am. Introductory meetings for adults with cancer, family members and friends to learn about our FREE programs at The Wellness Community and to share concerns. Meetings last about 2 hours.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS - SUPPORT GROUPS

Weekly Support Groups

PARTICIPANT AND FAMILY WEEKLY GROUPS - These ongoing assigned groups provide a warm, nurturing, safe environment to express your feelings and to learn from others. Attendance at an orientation meeting, a short pre-placement interview and a commitment to regular weekly attendance are required. Please see front of calendar for additional details and times.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS DROP-IN GROUP - Tuesdays, 6:30pm and Thursdays, 10am-12pm - This group provides support for adult loved ones of people with cancer. No pre-placement interview required.

CANCER SPECIFIC NETWORKING GROUPS

These specialized cancer specific groups meet on a monthly basis to exchange information and offer support, encouragement, education, and networking. These are drop-in groups—no pre-placement interview required.

BREAST CANCER GROUP—Third Tuesday, Apr. 19, 6:30-8:30pm—For women who have or have had any stage of breast cancer.

BRAIN TUMOR GROUP—First Thursday, Apr. 7, 6:30-8:30pm—For people who have been diagnosed with a brain tumor, as well as for spouses and significant others.

PROSTATE CANCER GROUP - Second Saturday, Apr. 9, 10:30am - 12:30pm - This group for men with prostate cancer helps raise issues and concerns about sexual functioning, job conflicts, family role changes, self-image and other quality-of-life issues. Spouses/significant others welcome. ****Note, meeting on 2nd Saturday this month.****

GYNECOLOGICAL CANCER GROUP - Temporarily suspended.

INFORMATION

"BUDDY BOOK" - Connect with someone with your type of cancer who has "been there"

The **JENNIFER DIAMOND CANCER RESEARCH LIBRARY** features books, pamphlets, and two state-of-the-art computers. Open Monday through Friday, 9am - 5pm; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 6 - 8:00pm; Saturdays by appointment.

RESEARCH STUDY

We are pleased to announce an exciting new research study for women diagnosed with breast cancer within the last 24 months; "The Breast Cancer Support Project". Participants will be randomized into either a face-to-face support group or an internet support group, and of course, will also have the opportunity to take part in all of the other programs and classes offered at The Wellness Community Valley/Ventura. For more information please call Kristin McMahon at (310) 314-2566.

SPECIAL CONCERNS GROUPS

HOW TO HELP TEENS COPE WITH CANCER IN THE FAMILY - Second Monday, Apr. 11, 7-9pm. Joyce Boucher, LCSW, MFT and Peggy Johnston, MFT. This monthly workshop is for adults and focuses on the special needs of teens that have a parent or grandparent with cancer. Each month we will provide information on a particular topic with plenty of time for discussion.

THE WELLNESS CONNECTION - First and Third Tuesdays - Apr. 5 & 19, 11am-1pm and Second and Fourth Tuesdays - Apr. 12 & 26, 6:30-8:30pm - Join this drop-in group for those who are no longer involved in the day-to-day cancer experience but want to remain connected and involved in the community and maintain their quality of life.

TRANSITION GROUP - Second and Fourth Thursdays - Apr. 14 & 28 - 6:30-8:30pm - For those who have experienced the loss of someone from cancer. Please call Anne Gessert for more information prior to attending.

SATELLITE GROUP

CAMARILLO - We are pleased to offer an ongoing support group for people with cancer and their family and friends. Meetings are each Wednesday from 6-8pm at the Camarillo Health Care District, 3639 E. Las Posas Rd., Suite 117, Camarillo. Please call Marty Nason at (805) 379-4777 for more information.

PROGRAMS IN SPANISH

West San Fernando Valley - "Bienvenidos A Wellness", a cancer support group, meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm, and Martes Social, social activities, meets 3rd Tuesday, 7pm at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, 22021 Gavitt St., Canoga Park, Room 1 (Library).

Orange "Bienvenidos A Wellness", meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 7pm, St. John's Hospital, The Cancer Center, 1700 N. Rose Ave., #145. Spanish language help line: (888) 707-WELL.

RELAXATION & STRESS MANAGEMENT

YOGA FOR STRESS MANAGEMENT - Mondays, 7:30am-12:45pm. Jeannette (JJ) Green, Certified Yoga Instructor. This popular course focuses on using the yoga tools of awareness, breathing, gentle movement, meditation, relaxation and imagery to reduce stress and increase feelings of relaxation and well being. **PLEASE CALL FOR DATES.**

MINDFULNESS-BASED STRESS REDUCTION - Mondays, Anne Gessert and Catherine Baum. ****This series is now full—please watch calendar for next series start date.****

BEGINNING YOGA - Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30pm - Maggie Mellor, Certified Yoga Instructor. Yoga, with its gentle stretching and deep breathing, can increase flexibility, relieve muscle tension, and in relaxation and promote a feeling of serenity. **Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat, towel, or blanket to lie on.**

TAI CHI CHI - Thursdays, 9:30-10am, Anne Gessert, MA, MFT. Tai Chi uses flowing movements to release tension, negativity and stress. Tai Chi Chih is a very simple and easy-to-learn form of tai chi using verbal visualization to give images to the flow. Come and start your day this gentle and relaxing way.

RELAXATION/VISUALIZATION - Fridays, 1-2pm, Jonathan Brewer, Ph.D. - Visualization has been shown to be effective in reducing pain, decreasing anxiety, and boosting the immune system.

QIGONG - Saturdays, 9-10am - Ed Suzuki, Jerry Durr, Volunteers. Qigong is a form of traditional Chinese exercise that proposes to improve health by combining mental focus, breathing, coordination, and relaxation. The goal of Qigong is to "rebalance" the body's own healing capacities by activating energetic currents that flow along meridians located throughout the body.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION & SOCIAL EVENTS

KNITTING CLUB - First and Third Tuesdays, Apr. 5 & 19, 7pm - Join the camaraderie and creativity. All ability levels are open. Bring yarn and needles if you have them, or we will have them.

KIDS CIRCLE - Jump into Art and other Creative Activities - Tuesdays, 4-5:30pm. Joyce Boucher, LCSW, MFT and Peggy Johnston, MFT. A program for children between the ages of 5 and 11 who have a parent or grandparent with cancer. Children feel less alone when they have the opportunity to express feelings and concerns through creative activities. Parents are welcome to chat.

QUILTING CLUB - Second Wednesday, Apr. 13, 1-4pm and Fourth Saturday, Apr. 23, 1-4pm. Join this dynamic group of people who find the age old art of quilting a wonderful outlet for creative expression, a great way to connect with others, and a way to give back to The Wellness Community. Quilting experience not necessary.

WATERCOLOR ART CLASS - Thursdays, Apr. 7 & 21, 1-3pm. Susard Kriebler. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore your imagination through the use of watercolors. No experience (or talent) necessary.

SPECIAL EVENTS THIS MONTH

YOU AND ME, DOCTOR—WHAT A TEAM! - Monday, Apr. 11, 7-9pm. Angela Jo, MD. A cancer survivor who is also a physician, Angela Jo intimately knows both sides of the examining table: she is uniquely qualified and eager to share what she has learned about being an active patient and forming a relationship with a health care team based on mutual respect and partnership. Dr. Jo is a faculty member of the UCLA Department of Family and Community Medicine, an active Research Scientist at the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control Research at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, and a recent breast cancer survivor. Her career interests include working with the indigent ethnic minority groups, and educating and empowering physicians to provide solid health care to the medically indigent. Her research focus is cancer prevention and control in the minority populations, and is currently conducting several research projects with aims to increase cancer screening among the immigrant populations of Los Angeles County. Please RSVP, 805-379-4777.

LOOK GOOD...FEEL BETTER - Monday, Apr. 18, 6:30-8:30pm. Look your best throughout chemotherapy or radiation treatment. Learn makeup, hair styling, and grooming techniques to help cope with appearance changes which may occur. You will receive a bag of cosmetics and skin care products. This is a public service program of the American Cancer Society—Greater Orange Valley Unit, The Cosmetics, Trolley and Fragrance Association Foundation, The National Cosmetology Assn and The Wellness Community. Please call 805-379-4777 to reserve your spot. For women with cancer only. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED** and space is limited to 10 students.

PREMIERE SHOWING OF "THE JOURNEY" - Thursday, Apr. 28, 6-7pm. Join us for the premiere showing of this special video featuring several of our TWC participants who share things they have learned along the way on their cancer journey. This video was created by Les Brown, Emmy-award winning editor and cancer survivor. A discussion will follow the showing of the video and a light dinner will be served. Please RSVP, 805-379-4777.

EAT TO BEAT CANCER - Thursday, Apr. 28, 7-9pm. Susan Speer, RD. "What you eat can affect how strong you are and how well you feel. It can help you withstand the stress of cancer and cancer treatment." Passionately sharing her belief that nutrition is vitally important in cancer care, Susan Speer is always one of our most popular presenters. Bring your nutrition questions and concerns. Susan is a fellow of the American Dietetic Association, a clinical instructor at Santa Monica-UCLA Family Practice Program and the nutritionist at the Regional Cancer Center of Ventura County where she consults individually with cancer patients. Please RSVP, 805-379-4777.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

STRIDES FOR HOPE MARATHON (TRAINING) - The SFH Marathon team will be training on Saturday mornings, 7:30am, at Mission Oaks Park, 5501 Mission Oaks Blvd, Camarillo (between Oak Canyon and Joshua Trail). Anyone new interested in joining the SFH team please contact Elynn Wallen at (805) 379-4777. The SFH Marathon will take place on May 1, 2005 in Vancouver, BC.

Please call 805 379 4777 if you no longer wish to receive this calendar, or if you wish additional copies. Visit our website at www.wellnesscommunityhope.org

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VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4

Triunfo YMCA

A Branch of the Southeast Ventura County YMCA

31225 LaBaya Drive, #115 • Westlake Village, CA 91362
(818) 706-0993 (818) 707-YMCA (9622) Fax (818) 706-0282
www.triunfoymca.org

April 27, 2005

Mr. Jim Thorsen
Assistant City Manager
City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Dear Mr. Thorsen

On behalf of the Triunfo YMCA and the families we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to once again submit our application for consideration of city funds. You help the YMCA and our Community "build stronger kids, stronger families and a stronger communities". For it may be truly said that every child is, potentially, "at risk" if not engaged and enriched with the developmental assets necessary for their wellness and the wellness of our community.

Program fees in our association typically provide approximately 80% of the YMCA's, revenue. The balance is provided by contributed support from community members as well as organizations and foundations such as yours. We would respectfully request your support this year in the amount of \$3,000.

Please allow me to highlight just one program that your gift supported last year. Many City of Agoura officials are familiar with our Youth and Government program for teens. We are proud to report that over 100 students participated in our program again this year including seventy who took part in the presentation of their own bills in Sacramento to an assembly of their peers.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Ronnie Stone
Executive Director



*We build strong kids, strong families,
strong communities.*

Friendship Circle

Proposal to the City of Agoura Hills

INTRODUCTION

Friendship Circle's Mission Statement:

The Friendship Circle's mission is to bring friends and smiles to children with special needs and peace of mind to their parents; to foster the values of volunteerism and compassion among our youth; and to ultimately realize the community's responsibility for its members with special needs.

Summary of proposal:

The Conejo Valley Friendship Circle was founded by Chabad of the Conejo in 2003. It operates as its own 501(c) (3) non-profit organization headquartered in Agoura Hills.

We seek funding from the City of Agoura Hills to assist us in our ongoing work with children of special needs and their volunteer teenagers.

Specifically, we are trying to develop Project TREAT, which will serve as a comprehensive training and incentive program to properly prepare community teenagers for their volunteer work with children with special needs.

Our Target Population

The Friendship Circle currently serves the needs of 175 volunteer teenagers (aged 13-17) and 100 families with special needs. Of these, more than a third of the teenagers and 25% of the families reside in the city of Agoura Hills.

Friendship Circle

Proposal to the City of Agoura Hills

The Friendship Circle currently serves the needs of 175 volunteer teenagers (aged 13-17) and 100 families with special needs. Of these, more than a third of the teenagers and 25% of the families are residents of Agoura Hills.

When The Friendship Circle began in the Conejo Valley in the fall of 2003, its goal was to link community teenagers with children with special needs by arranging for weekly visits from two teens to the home of the disabled child. Since then, the FRIENDS AT HOME program has been joined by many more activities including a winter camp, fitness program, Teen Scene (for disabled teenagers), SibShops, Mom's Night Out and Friendship Fairs. These varied programs have created the need for specific professional training for our teen volunteers.

In addition to properly training each volunteer before they begin interacting with a child, we have also identified the need for ongoing support and training for these teenagers. Issues and concerns continue to be raised by the teens as they interact with the children and become more acquainted with the social and psychological challenges of the disabled children. Working with The Conejo Valley branch of the Jewish Family Services, we have developed a variety of programs to offer ongoing support for the volunteers.

We have nicknamed our newest venture **Project T.R.E.A.T.**, an acronym for **T**een **R**esponsibility, **E**nticement, **A**ssessment and **T**raining.

The Friendship Circle's program proposal includes: comprehensive screening process to determine the teen applicant's ability to interact with special needs children (**Responsibility**); social gatherings, outings and other incentives to serve as a reward for the volunteers (**Enticement**); bi-annual meetings with all of the volunteers to assess their feelings and to address questions, doubts and emotional challenges; (**Assessment**); training seminars for all volunteers to be followed-up by supervision of each team of volunteers on a quarterly basis (**Training**).

Budget Proposal

The Friendship Circle is seeking individuals, corporations, foundations and endowments to help fund the different elements of Project TREAT. Our budget outlines the areas for which funding has been already been obtained or is being sought.

Responsibility

To implement and develop fully the comprehensive training seminars detailed on the previous page.

Proposed budget for one year for each of 2 seminars - \$750 (\$1500 for both)

Enticement

To show appreciation for the dedication of our volunteers, the Training Center's Project TREAT will host one major trip as well as award gifts (such as tote bags, jewelry, sports memorabilia, monogrammed items etc.) to volunteers throughout the year.

Proposed Budget for one year - \$2500

In June, The Friendship Circle hosts an annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at the Hyatt Westlake Hotel to publicly demonstrate the sacrificial kindness our teens.

Proposed Budget for one annual banquet - \$14,500 (2005 Banquet has been sponsored by the Gary & Fran Oppenheimer Foundation)

Assessment

The supervision session will be run as a support group by a JFS professional counselor who will engage the teens in sharing their reflections, apprehensions and spiritual or emotional concerns. These sessions will be offered twice throughout the school year.

Proposed Budget for each session - \$250 (Both sessions \$500)

Training

Training seminars for all volunteers to be followed-up by supervision from licensed therapists for each team of volunteers on a quarterly basis.

Proposed Budget for one year of supervision - \$3500 (A proposal to fund the 2005 budget for training supervision has been submitted to the Valley IRA and is in the final stages of review)

Project T.R.E.A.T.- Teen Responsibility & Training

Jewish Family Service has agreed to administer 2 comprehensive training seminars per year. Each seminar will be open to teenagers who are interested in joining the Friendship Circle program. Before attending a seminar, each applicant will first undergo a thorough assessment to ascertain his/her level of responsibility, dependability and maturity, and to gauge the applicant's understanding of the programs' expectations and requirements.

Upon completion of this initial step, applicants will be invited to a training seminar conducted by representatives of The Friendship Circle and JFS. The 3-hour seminar will consist of 3, one-hour sessions, that will be devoted to preparing the applicant for their future role as a friend of a child with special needs.

The first one-hour session will be an overall look at the Friendship Circle's "Friends At Home" program. It will detail the accomplishments of the program thus far and will include first-hand reports from teenagers and parents of children with special needs who have been touched by the program. A short video presentation will further enable the applicants to get a clearer picture as to the complexities and uniqueness of their significant undertaking.

The second one-hour session will highlight many of the physical and emotional challenges exhibited by children with special needs. While individual screening of each applicant will ensure that he/she is matched with a child with disabilities that the teen volunteer feels confident dealing with, it is still important that each teenager who is a member of the Friendship Circle be acutely aware of the overall dynamics of our special program. This knowledge heightens sensitivity towards all children with special needs and enables the volunteer to be better equipped emotionally when visiting their child. It also broadens their understanding of the nature of the task and teaches them to think ahead and to be prepared for unexpected challenges that may lie ahead.

The third one-hour session will focus on helping the teenagers understand that their primary and singular role is to befriend the child and not to assume anything like the role of therapist or a therapist. They will also be instructed on how to deal with siblings of their child and the parents. The teens will be taught how to see things through the eyes of their special child so that they can better appreciate their important role and how much it means to their friend and their family to receive a weekly visit. A special education teacher will teach part of this session so the teens learn how to best teach the special needs child simple games.



THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Let

Together We Can Perform Miracles



The Friendship Circle is a unique organization with a refreshing approach to helping families of children with special needs. Our innovative programming and creative activities are designed to foster a relationship between community teenagers and the children by drawing on the love, boundless energy and dynamism of our teenage population.

We are a non-profit, non-sectarian organization and our programs are offered free of charge to qualifying families. We serve the needs of the special needs child, the parents, siblings and our volunteer teenagers. There are Friendship Circle branches in 25 cities across North America.

While there are many organizations that serve the special needs family, most if not all, are focused on providing therapeutic care that is goal oriented. The Friendship Circle offers children unconditional love with no strings attached. Since its inception in 2003, the program has expanded rapidly, with consistent growth in every facet of its operation. We are emboldened and motivated by its success and with your generous partnership, we continue to dream for even greater milestones in the future.

Friends At Home

Friends At Home matches teenagers with a child with special needs. Each week, these special friends come together and share quality time.

Teen Scene

A monthly outing just for teenagers with special needs allows them to enjoy the thrill of "hanging out with friends", bowling, "a night out on the town", etc.

Fitness Program

Twice a month, children and their teen friends meet at the Elite Fitness Center where they receive professional and individual instruction in physical therapy and exercise.

This program is made possible thanks to the generosity of Mike Davis and the Staff of Elite Fitness Center.

Sunday Circle

This monthly program is designed to teach the children many important skills, from gross motor and cognitive skills to communication and language. The multi-faceted activities include music, stories, crafts, karate and interaction in an appropriate classroom setting.

Winter Camp

Our winter camp allows children with special needs to enjoy the excitement and attractions that most of us take for granted. A full program of arts and crafts, music, games, sports and field trips provides children with the experience of a lifetime.





Our Mission Statement

The Friendship Circle's mission is to bring friends and smiles to children with special needs and peace of mind to their parents; to foster the values of volunteerism and compassion among our youth; and to ultimately realize the community's responsibility for its members with special needs.



I thought I was alone
I thought no one cared

I thought no one else saw;

The struggle to blossom,
The fight to learn,
The will to grow.

My child
My family
And me
Alone.

But through dark, gray clouds
You arrived.
Like sunshine

And if the clouds burst
And if the tears just came

You were there
Protecting me
And helping

You are
My friend.



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The Concho Valley Friendship Circle is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-sectarian organization. Tax ID # 42-160-7378