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COMMUNITY giving

From the editor



There isn't a special publication at In Business Las Vegas more enjoyable to produce than this one. We get the opportunity once a year to showcase the great contributions that area businesses

and companies are making.

I'm not talking just about the money, either. While vital to philanthropy, the cash donations are one part of the overall process. The time and effort people across the Las Vegas Valley give back to the community is admirable. The unselfishness and bigheartedness is extraordinary.

Annually, we tell a few of the stories that embody the spirit of giving. It's impossible to document everyone's efforts here, but we've tried to provide an assortment of people's generosity. If you want to have your story considered for 2006, please send an E-mail with some of the details.

In this section, you will also find our list of nonprofit organizations from throughout Southern Nevada. We provide contact information and some of their needs. The list approaches nearly 100 deserving organizations this year.

We sincerely hope you find this publication informative and helpful. It's important to document the good things going on in our growing community.

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Nevada, Henderson community foundations strive to serve local charities

By Allen Grant
Special sections writer

Las Vegas Franklin Koch died a few years ago.

A wildlife supporter, Koch wanted to leave a legacy and build a charity to protect Nevada's wildlife. After his passing, Koch's passion is now a reality with the help of the Nevada Community Foundation (NCF).

The foundation helped Koch find the best match for his donation dollars. With the NCF's assistance, he developed the Franklin Koch Fund.

Koch's story is not unlike many other local philanthropists wanting to help various charitable organizations. They just need expert assistance to carry out their passion.

Two local charitable groups — NCF and HCF — work together for the betterment of their communities and to assist people like

Koch. The foundations have a similar goal: match donors with Southern Nevada-area charities in the hope of creating a long-term legacy.

"We connect donors and charities," said Bret Bicoy, president of the Nevada Community Foundation, a charitable organization working hand in hand with individual clients offering large donations. "(NCF) is helping people realize they can be part of something larger, which can make the entire region stronger for everyone."

James Green, president of the Henderson Community Foundation, said the HCF was created to help city residents.

"We cover a spectrum of areas of need from supporting health and educational needs to improving the overall quality of life in Henderson," he said.

Established in 1988, the Nevada Community Foundation (NCF) strives to improve the lives of Southern Nevadans by matching acts of caring to the many needs of the community. Designed to encourage philanthropy at all levels, NCF also provides leadership in building a lasting source of funds, sustains nonprofit organizations through grants and provides citizens with new and meaningful ways to act on their charitable objectives.

"(The NCF)

serves as a philanthropic advisor," Bicoy said. "We are here to help (individual philanthropists) become more effective with their contributions by helping them establish a fund under our community umbrella. We work with some of the most generous people in town looking to leave a legacy and permanent contribution and develop partnerships in their name."

With extensive knowledge of and expertise on issues of importance to southern Nevada including its nonprofit organizations working to address them, NCF representatives regularly visit nonprofit organizations and public entities to evaluate which ones do what is best to determine their effectiveness and impact in meeting community needs.

The foundation experienced tremendous growth during the last few years, doubling its staff size from five to 10 employees. After raising \$12 million in total charitable assets in 2003, the NCF increased its assets to nearly \$20 million in 2004 and topped \$30 million for 2005.

"Every year we're growing, but we need our community foundation to become stronger," said Bicoy. "We've only scratched the surface of what we can do."

According to Bicoy, the NCF differs from many other organizations, especially with its donation sizes and donors. "Unlike the United Way, which generally handles smaller donations from individuals, the NCF deals with larger-fund clients," he said.

Both the NCF and HCF work together on projects.

Bicoy said the NCF matches "our strengths — understanding community giving — and (HCF's) strengths — understanding Henderson issues," to create a fitting vehicle for Henderson donors to leave a legacy and helps the community.

"We all win," Bicoy said.

The Nevada Community Foundation board of directors includes 19 business and community leaders volunteering their time. Overseeing the NCF's policies, priority setting and final decision making on awards and grants, the board features several high-profile members including: former



James Green

state senator Richard H. Bryan of the law firm Lionel Sawyer Collins; Mujahid Ramadan of Vanguard Media; Robert E. Clark of Clark, Greene & Associates; and philanthropist Darlene Ensign, wife of Nevada's U.S. Sen. John Ensign.

Bicoy said the foundation hopes to hire more full-time staffers and create a larger organization including a full-time executive director.

"We're looking to take a big step forward in the next few years," Bicoy said.

Founded just three years ago, the Henderson Community Foundation also partners with other entities and individual donors to support Henderson-focused charities.

As a growing, not-for-profit corporation providing resources and support to improve the health, education and quality of life in the community, the HCF accepts, manages and distributes resources to qualified charitable causes in Henderson.

"The Henderson Community Foundation allows people in the community the potential to help several different organizations," said D.J. Allen, vice president and founding member of HCF. "We collect donations, earmark those funds and then distribute them as intended."

According to Green and Allen, the

"There are now so many needs in Henderson. This (foundation) was created as a way to help everyone."

Henderson Community Foundation was an idea created as a community service project for the 2002 class of Leadership Henderson, a group of community leaders working to improve Henderson.

"Good people want to do good things," Allen said. "There are now so many needs in Henderson. This (foundation) was created as a way to help everyone."

HCF is growing quickly with several recent area partnerships with Henderson Public Libraries, Southern Nevada Medical Industry Coalition, Nevada State College and APPLE Partnership.

A partnership between the City of Henderson and the southeast region of the Clark County School District, APPLE (All People Promoting Literacy Efforts) is designed to assist educators and families help children to learn to read.

Created by Henderson Mayor James Gibson and Southeast Region

Superintendent Dr. Lauren Kohut-Rost, APPLE needed an agency to handle donation collection, fund management and eventually distribution, Allen said.


"They needed a partner to assist them and that's where we came in to help," he said. "(The HCF) is the engine that generates and handles the funds."

HCF executives said the foundation raised nearly \$150,000 in charitable donations during the last six months.

"We're happy to be here to help," said Green, whose foundation is made up of a volunteer support staff.

Allen agreed. "It's amazing how many programs never manage to work out," he said. "We can help those people develop charitable opportunities. We can partner up and really impact our community."

According to HCF officials' future goals, the foundation hopes to continue adding partnerships. In fact, HCF nurtured a dozen new partnerships during the last eight months.

"Garnering partnerships helps us to do things immediately to impact the community," Allen said. "We want to get to the point that we have funds in the general account, so we can accept grants and become more flexible as a community partner." 

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Matchmaker: Nonprofit links volunteers with rewarding opportunities

By Damon Hodge
Special sections writer

Get Fran Smith talking about the Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada and you might not get her to stop. Bottling enthusiasm can be hard when it's your job to match beneficent citizens with worthwhile volunteer opportunities in a sort of boomeranging pay-it-forward democracy.

The center's base of 1,100 volunteers annually helps 250 to 300 groups in a variety of outreach, from assisting the homeless to preparing young people for service to participating in both disaster relief and preparedness. Vital to the center's success has been the ability to link the

civic-minded with appropriate charities.

"A bad experience can be worse than no experience," said Smith, the Volunteer Center's executive director. "We're focused on building capacity for effective volunteering, making sure volunteers are used to the maximum benefit of the groups and for the volunteers to have good experiences."

Without volunteers, the nonprofit Helping Hands of Henderson would cease to exist, says Liz Hefner, leaving the 400-plus seniors ferried monthly to appointments, the grocery store, the pharmacy — and to the salon, barbershop and mall, time and volunteer help permitting — in a lurch. On various occasions, Helping Hands has used the

Volunteer Center's helping hands.

"We're a volunteer-driven organization, so we couldn't function without them — many volunteers drive the seniors around in their own cars," said Hefner, a coordinator for Helping Hands, an outreach program of St. Rose Dominican Hospital. "Henderson is growing and the need is so big. The volunteers have been wonderful."

The Volunteer Center opened in 1999, two years after a local delegation attended the Summit on America's Future and decided to channel volunteer interest in the valley and provide resources to address community needs. From that sprang an approach that reads like a business plan: background checks for volunteers, youth initiatives, recognition events, corporate



Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman and U.S. Rep. Shelley Berkley paint with local Boy Scouts at the National Youth Service Day.

programs, better publicity about opportunities (through a partnership with KTNV Channel 13), “Lunch and Learns” — periodic empowerment workshops on topics like reaching out to faith-based communities, interviewing, placing and managing volunteers.

Hopping into cyberspace, center brass streamlined data gathering by putting a volunteer matching system online. The web site, www.volunteercentersn.org, receives more than 5,000 hits a month, one fifth of whom click the “Volunteer Opportunities” link and spend an average of 17 minutes perusing the options. “We get about 30 new referrals a month,” Smith said.

Over the years, the center has teamed with big companies (Harrah’s Entertainment’s Senior Coalition, for example), participated in big projects, such as Stand Down for the Homeless, an annual program offering a one-stop remediation shop for homeless veterans, and coordinated large outreach efforts. They have directed the 80-plus volunteers Nellis Air Force Base and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Social Work routinely offer for manpower-heavy causes.

Equally adept at marshalling kid-power, the center’s four-year-old youth component mobilized nearly 1,500 youth to volunteer on National Youth Service Day; one project included making a Centennial mural for display at Heritage Park. (Though the center accepts volunteers of any age, Smith says high schoolers are the most desired youth segment because they have fewer transportation issues).

An active volunteer since high school, Brandon Carter’s enthusiasm led him to his current job as the center’s youth coordinator, where he plans activities such as participation in National Youth Service Day and funnels the 20-plus youth volunteers to groups like the Candlelighters and Olive Crest (a home for foster kids in transition) and toward programs discouraging activities such as underage drinking.

Earlier this month, Carter was among a group of Las Vegans who spent a week in southern Louisiana helping with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, a life-affirming experience that redoubled his commitment to volunteerism.

To hear the 22-year-old, UNLV

communications/public relations major tell it, volunteering is one of life’s greatest teaching tools — by giving, you receive more: “The key is to get young people involved, to show them how helping people helps them — they get lots of experience, they get to put math and English skills to good use ... They need to get out and do things. The best classroom isn’t a classroom.”

As debates rage over the Gulf Coast’s (lack of) preparedness in the wake of Katrina’s ravage, the Volunteer Center is also helping local emergency response officials conduct disaster preparedness efforts. During a county-run disaster response drill in July, staff operated a

mock reception center. Operating on directions from a faux central command, the center received, processed and assigned untrained volunteers to various places, giving them appropriate identification, briefing them on safety measures and, in some cases, transporting them to sites.

“It’s a relatively real-world experience, and especially important in light of what happened in Louisiana,” said a smiling Smith, her excitement contagious. “When disasters happen, volunteers come. If you don’t manage them well, you can create disasters within a disaster.” **GG**

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International House of Blues Foundation	United Way of Southern Nevada
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Catholic Charities works to educate public about ongoing community needs

By Lisa McQuerrey
Contributing writer

While Catholic Charities is a well-recognized national charity, the local branch of this nonprofit organization is facing an unusual type of identity crisis: people aren't entirely sure what they do or just whom they serve.

Since 1941, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada has been providing a wide range of services to a diverse clientele, regardless of religion. From delivering meals to

elderly shut-ins to helping refugees with resettlement, Catholic Charities offers help and hope to many, often on a shoestring budget.

"We are one of Las Vegas' best-kept secrets," said Community Relations Director Sharon Mann. "People are aware of Catholic Charities, but not clear about whom we serve, who is eligible and how many programs we have. Our programs are very diverse and are designed to help infants through seniors — every phase of life."

In an effort to raise awareness of the organization, R&R Partners has developed a two-year public awareness campaign to educate the community about what the charity offers. With a tagline, "We Serve a Community, Not a Congregation," the goal of this campaign is to let people know that in spite of its name, Catholic Charities doesn't discriminate, offering its services to everyone who needs them. The campaign also informs the community about the type of funding the organization does and does not receive.

"Catholic Charities is affiliated with the church, but is not supported by the church, with the exception of one donation per year," explained Betsy Ward, media relations manager for R&R

Partners, "Their biggest single problem is that they are perceived as a 'Catholics-only' organization."

According to Ward, R&R Partners has conducted an editorial board outreach to educate the local media about Catholic Charities and its current needs. The nonprofit's St. Vincent's Lied Dining Facility is its most expensive program to maintain, and the program is becoming overwhelmed, due to both community growth and personal economic circumstances. In fact, Mann said food remains one of her organization's biggest needs.

St. Vincent's serves an average of 1,700 meals every day. Other housing programs and Meals on Wheels deliver food and groceries as well. On Aug. 23, with the assistance of Albertson's, Lotus Broadcasting and R&R Partners, an annual summer food drive was launched to benefit Catholic Charities. Each of Albertson's 38 locations erected displays and more than 1,000 bags of groceries were collected.



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Classroom on Wheels
Community Services Agency
Development Corporation
Desert Research Institute
Ely Renaissance Society

Foundation for Positively Kids
Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada
Habitat for Humanity
Housing for Nevada
Huntridge Teen Clinic
KLVX Channel 10 Public Broadcasting
KNPB/Channel 5 Public Broadcasting
I Have a Dream Foundation
Junior Achievement of Southern Nevada
Junior League of Las Vegas
Latin Chamber of Commerce
Community Foundation
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
LIED Discovery Children's Museum
March of Dimes
Nevada Ballet Theatre
Nevada Childrens Cancer Foundation
Nevada Collaborative IDA
Nevada Community Foundation
Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth

Nevada Public Radio
Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April
Ronald McDonald House
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“The rising cost of living today causes some parents to make a choice between food and rent,” said Mann. “We are here to support their food needs as well as provide rent and utility assistance, clothing, baby goods and referrals.” Added Mann, “Meals on Wheels provides more than 1,100 seniors each with seven frozen meals, milk and supplements each week. We currently have a waiting list of 100 seniors. Catholic Charities Child Care Center provides breakfast, lunch and two snacks daily to more than 80 children Monday through Friday.”

Besides feeding the hungry through St. Vincent’s, Meals on Wheels and within a variety of its housing support programs, Catholic Charities runs an adoption services program, a child-care center, social services and a social services ministry. It provides immigration services, including low-cost legal representation to indigent immigrants. The organization’s migration and refugee service resettles refugees from all over the world by providing basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and education.

Catholic Charities provides help to those 55 and older who have found themselves temporarily homeless, on a limited income and waiting for permanent low-income housing to become available. It also runs an emergency shelter, residential work and transitional housing programs, and maintains 120 furnished apartments that are available to help men, women, mentally and physically challenged individuals, seniors and others regain independence and transition to permanent housing.


In addition to food and shelter services, Catholic Charities Employment Services Center helps homeless individuals and those on welfare secure employment. It offers medical nutrition therapy, respite care for those caring for seniors and even

a service whereby homebound individuals who are over 60 and living alone receive regular, reassuring phone calls.

“We will continue to fund-raise, ask for help from local churches and community organizations, apply for grants and work with our local county and city officials on long-term solutions to fight hunger and homelessness in Las Vegas,” Mann said. “We strive toward the goal of each individual gaining self-sufficiency, independence and dignity. Our focus and mission is to give help and hope to people in need regardless of race, religion or creed.”

Catholic Charities receives funding from governmental sources, program fees, St. Vincent Thrift Stores, contributions and United Way. The organization is still seeing needs rise faster than funding,

and is currently seeking donations of the following:

- Non-perishable and canned food items
- Toiletries
- Shoes and gently used clothing
- Coats and sweaters for the winter season
- Holiday food drives
- Adopt-a-Family during the holidays
- Monetary donations 



Accountants takes innovative approach to giving

By Lisa McQuerrey
Contributing writer

Johnson, Jacobson Wilcox (JJW) recently decided on a novel approach to its corporate philanthropy efforts: invite children at an at-risk elementary school to design the artwork for a patriotic corporate mailer and give the school a donation for the students' efforts.

"We didn't want a holiday card sent to clients and friends to get lost in a deluge of other cards, and if we were to send something out, we wanted it to be meaningful," said Gary Johnson. "After many discussions of what we could do that would have an impact and be a community service, we came up with the Fourth of July card. We took the idea of having young people design the card for us and added the contribution to the school so we could have a unique way to give."

Johnson said he felt the approach would be more effective than simply writing out a check. He said he wanted to remind students of what it means to be an American and live in this country, while also providing the excitement of an art contest. Johnson thought the approach would also serve as a reminder that helping others is an important community obligation.

Johnson, Jacobson Wilcox employees searched the Clark County School District database to find a school they felt could really benefit from a donation. They ultimately decided on Jacob E. Manch Elementary School.

Manch students were given two weeks to complete their project and were encouraged to think like a real team member working for

an ad agency. Representatives from both JJW and local ad firm one11 tackled the difficult task of judging 200 entries and selecting what they felt was the most effective image.

"We chose one and wrote the copy that shared Gary's core message," Overgaard said. "At a final ceremony at the school, we were able to give our winner a gift of art supplies and present Gary's donation of \$5,000. This was an extremely rewarding project to be involved with. The contest winner was ecstatic and the other children loved the experience

and the funds being donated to them."

Patricia Garcia, the principal at Manch, said JJW's donation allowed the school to purchase "Accelerated Reader," a program designed to motivate students to read in their spare time. The school also bought DARE T-shirts for all of its fifth-graders.

"We can't rely on donations because we never know when they will come to us," Garcia said. "However, when we get donations, we're able to provide extras to students that we normally could not." **CG**



Principal Patricia Garcia, left, and JJW's Gary Johnson flank the winning artist and postcard.

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Local rotarians put 'service above self'

By Deborah Roush
Contributing writer

When Roy York, a designer for Environmental Creations Landscaping, joined the Fremont Rotary club at the suggestion of a friend he was looking to make connections with people in the business world.

In the nearly two decades since York has been a Rotarian, he has learned that the organization is much more than that.

"It's a mix of people in the field of business who try to do good in the community. When it started 100 years ago it was about food, fellowship and fun, and I don't think that's ever changed. And it's a do-gooders group; our goal is to go out and make life better for other people," York said.

"Rotary is without politics, without gender and without religion," he added.

Fellow Rotarian Geoff Holmes, a partner in Las Vegas' GLB Insurance Group, agreed. "Originally I joined for the business leads, but it's not an organization primarily for that," Holmes said.

"We do a lot of community projects and it's really about giving back," he added.

In fact, Rotary International's motto is "service above self" and has a serious code of ethics.

Rotarian Gary Prater, vice president of GLB Insurance Group, said there is a "four-way test that is a code for business dealings and dealing with our fellow man.

"We ask, 'Is it fair to all concerned; is it beneficial to all concerned; does it build good will and will it better a friendship?' " Prater said.

An international organization with 1.3 million members and more than 20,000 clubs, Rotary is big and well structured with a rich history.

Prater said local rotaries in the United States are "organized into districts and led by a district governor." There can be several clubs within each district, which is the case in Las Vegas, where there are 17.

According to York, the organization has 600 members in Las Vegas — a number that is a bit disappointing, he admitted.

"When I first joined there were 600 Rotarians here and a population of a few

hundred thousand. Now we have 1.4 million people and (the same amount) of Rotarians. We think we should be five times larger. There should be 3,000 Rotarians easily in Las Vegas," he said.

With additional members, more could be accomplished for the community, York asserts.

Still, what local Rotarians have accomplished for local, national and even international causes is impressive.

Holmes favorite projects have included donating a van to a mobile immunization group with proceeds from a fund-raiser and helping to deliver wheelchairs to needy people in Mexico.

There has also been a large landscaping project for a local nonprofit, donations to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and gifts of tickets to sporting events for children at local Boys and Girls Clubs.

"We do so many projects that help out the young and old in our community. It's very fulfilling to be able to give back," Holmes said. **CB**



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It's all part of the plan.

Local gaming properties step up, diversify corporate philanthropy efforts

By Lisa McQuerrey
Contributing Writer

As an industry leader, Southern Nevada gaming corporations have a substantial impact on the community's overall economic picture. From our favorable tax structure to our employment percentages, local resorts are very much a part of our community.

Recognizing the need to be good corporate citizens, resort corporations have devised a number of ways to give back to the community through both financial and volunteer contributions.

Gaming properties all have a different approach when it comes to distributing philanthropic dollars and deciding which of many worthy causes to support. Most have specific criteria, notably that an organization be a recognized nonprofit organization. Many opt to support community organizations that have a focus on health,

education or seniors. Others support a wide variety of charities, both here in Southern Nevada, and often, in other cities where they have a presence. Many include their team members in the process, encouraging employees to support causes that are near and dear to them personally.

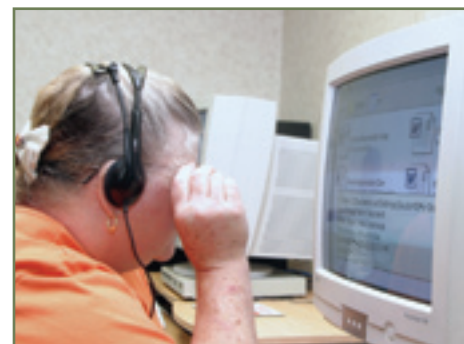
MGM MIRAGE

Since its creation in 2002, the MGM MIRAGE Voice Foundation has donated more than \$12 million in employee contributions to a host of charitable organizations, both in Las Vegas, and in other cities where the company operates. Employees participate by directing their personal donations to a preferred charity, the United Way or to an Emergency Relief Fund that helps fellow employees during times of need. MGM MIRAGE covers the costs associated with administering the foundation, ensuring 100 percent of



Top: Dr. Tyree Davis and assistant Charmaine Maduray of Miles for Smiles provide free dental services for a young patient at Child Haven. MGM MIRAGE employees recently visited the Miles for Smiles bus to present program operator, Nevada Health Centers, with \$65,000 for its mobile dental bus serving local children.

Bottom: Jerice West, who is partially blind, works on a special computer equipped with oversized icons. MGM MIRAGE employees donated \$21,692 to improve the computer lab at the Blind Center of Nevada.



contributions go to charity.

According to Debra J. Nelson, vice president of corporate diversity and community affairs, money generated locally stays in Southern Nevada. Las Vegas employees set a record this year, collecting more than \$3.2 million. Three areas of focus for the foundation include education, childhood development and

America's Schools Recycling program raises money for area schools

Over 25 businesses have enrolled in Chamber recycling program to help local schools

HENDERSON - The program, which is hosted through the America's Schools Recycling, allows businesses and resident the opportunity to raise money for schools and clean-up the environment by participating in a turn-key program that recycles old cell phones and used inkjet and toner cartridges. Funds raised by participants will be used for programs at area K-12 schools, such as art, drama and music. The money will be dispersed to schools throughout statewide, relative to where the money was raised.

For more information on the America's Schools Recycling Program or to submit an application for involvement call the Henderson Chamber of Commerce at (702) 565-8951 or visit the Website at www.hendersonchamber.com



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community development. Organizations supported by The Voice Foundation include Catholic Charities and its Meals on Wheels program, Blind Center of Nevada and Nevada Health Centers. Other recipients of funding include Shade Tree, the Clark County Public Education Foundation, Classroom on Wheels and the Foundation for an Independent Tomorrow.

In addition to The Voice Foundation, which is entirely employee-funded, MGM MIRAGE makes its own corporate donations. The company provided financial support to the new Community Development Corp. in east Las Vegas, which developed the first new housing development on the city's east side in 30 years. The development included 40 new homes and provided affordable housing to lower income residents. Executives and other employees also give back by serving on a number of nonprofit boards, including AFAN, Las Vegas After School All-Stars, United Way and Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas.

Nelson said while employees make personal financial contributions to The Voice Foundation, a number of employee-sponsored activities add an additional level of support. Programs include the "Make a Friend A Basket Silent Auction," which raised \$26,000 in 2005; the holiday "Adopt a Family" program coordinated through MGM Grand and The Mirage; and "Can You Spare a Pair" to benefit social service organizations in the community.

"We know that our company is only as good as its people," said MGM MIRAGE Chairman and CEO Terry Lanni. "Results like this demonstrate that our employees care about the communities in which they live, work and care for their families."

BOYD GAMING CORP./COAST CASINOS

During 2004, Boyd Gaming Corp. contributed nearly \$2 million to charitable organizations in Nevada, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi and New Jersey, states where the company has gaming operations.

Boyd Gaming takes a focus on community, health and human services, culture, education and gaming and general business associations when determining how to distribute funding. United Way, Special Olympics and Boys and Girls Clubs are past recipients of Boyd Corp. donations. There is on-going, corporate-wide support for participation in walks and general sponsorships. Supported organizations have included United Blood Services, The American Heart Association, Opportunity

Village and March of Dimes.

"While there are certain schools of thought that say you should just look at a few areas, we have such a long-standing history of giving in the community that we like the 'vast buffet' approach to service," said Gina Polovina, Boyd Gaming Corp. vice president of government and community affairs. "We put an emphasis on the United Way, particularly the 'Success by Six' program that gets kids ready to enter school."

Boyd works with the Clark County Public Education Foundation in addressing the needs of local, at-risk schools. The company also has a long-standing history of supporting University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV). Polovina said corporate giving

is simply a cornerstone of the company's mission that goes on in every jurisdiction in which Boyd operates.

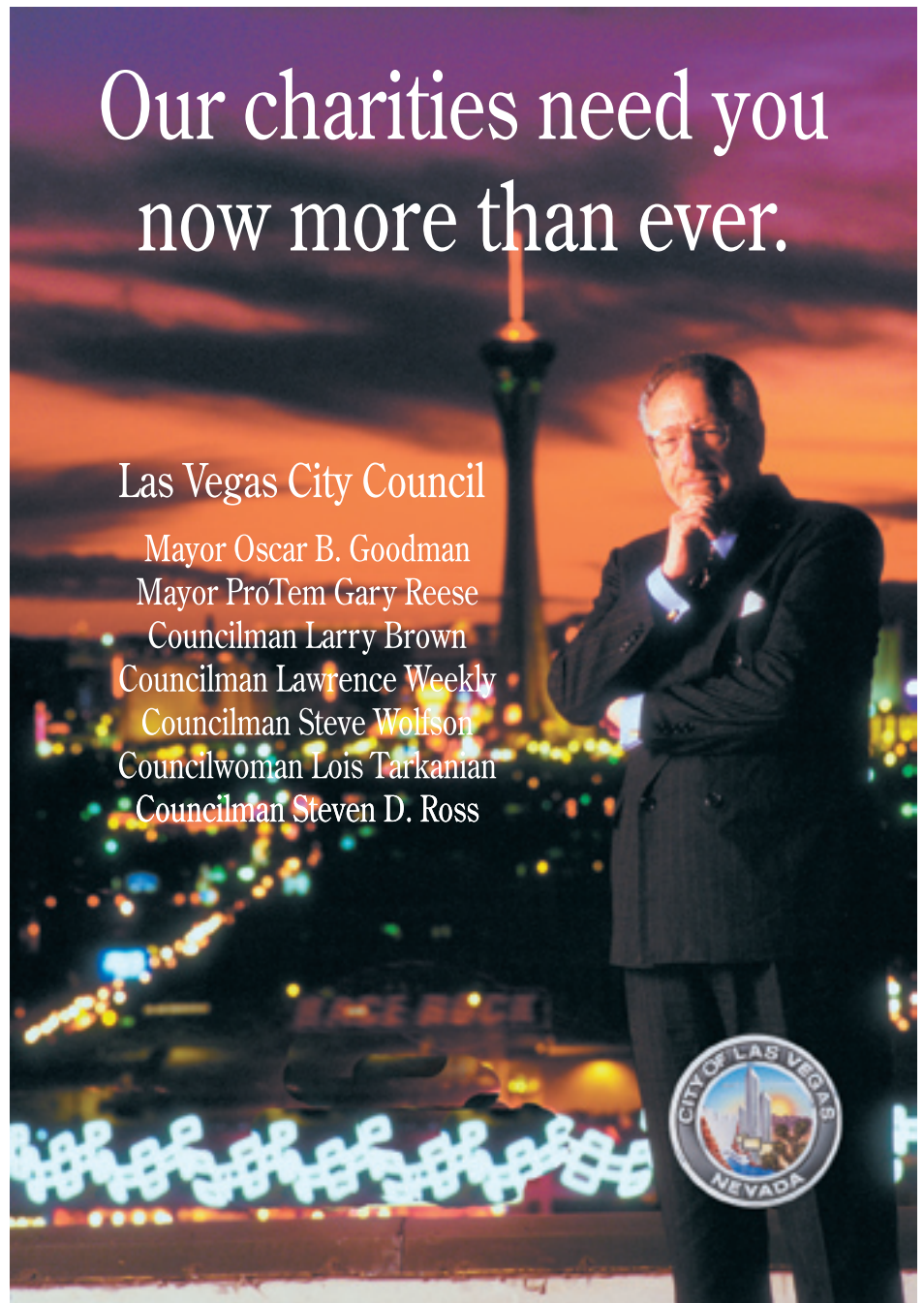
Besides corporate-wide support, individual Boyd properties and their employees contribute many volunteer hours and support causes of their own choosing. Stardust hotel-casino employees recently staged a food and clothing drive to benefit Street Teens. The Orleans Arena hosted the annual Lied Animal Shelter "Best In Show" competition. Animals were later available for adoption and funds raised from the event were donated to the shelter.

Boyd's downtown Las Vegas properties, Main Street Station, and the Fremont and California hotel-casinos, support the Clark

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County Jazz in the Park Series. Suncoast employees recently raised more than \$15,000 in donations for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation through a Jazz and Wine event. A group of Sam's Town chefs prepare a monthly breakfast for children attending local at-risk schools. Coast Casinos works with the Las Vegas Metro Police Department and local schools to educate teenagers on the dangers of drinking and driving.

Boyd Gaming also supports a number of local business organizations and is a founding member of the National Center for Responsible Gaming. Boyd has donated more than \$1 million to fund research related to the assessment and treatment of problem gambling disorders.

HARRAH'S

Harrah's supported 440 Nevada organizations during 2004, donating more than \$1.6 million in financial contributions and sponsorships. Major Nevada projects funded through the Harrah's Foundation include the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation's Philip G. Satre Chair in Gaming Studies, which received \$334,000; the Affordable Housing Resource Council's Silver Sky Assisted Living Center, which received \$267,000; and the Nevada Cancer Institute, which was gifted with \$100,000. Other organizations receiving support included the Epicurean Club Las Vegas Scholarship Program, Opportunity Village's Harrah's Project P.R.I.D.E. Program and

YMCA of Southern Nevada's Harrah's Entertainment Senior Wellness Center.

According to Harrah's Senior Vice President Jan Jones, about 40 percent of Harrah's corporate contributions are earmarked for senior citizens' programs. Twenty percent typically goes to groups that support diversity, another 20 percent goes to local non-profits and the remaining 20 percent of the giving budget is for discretionary spending.

"When we look at where we'd like to focus our giving, we see that seniors don't often get much attention," Jones said. "We have an opportunity to do something a little different. A lot of our customers are retirees, and we try to pick organizations where we can make a measurable difference."

Harrah's employees are actively involved in volunteer fund-raising opportunities. During 2004, employees raised \$352,600 for Nevada's United Way agencies and donated \$116,000 to Nevada Cancer Institute. Nearly 750 employees volunteered 8,000 hours to 45 different projects in Southern Nevada through Harrah's Entertainment Reach Out (HERO) program. Employee-supported projects benefited community organizations such as Candlelighters for Childhood Cancer of Southern Nevada, Military Moms and Kids Kottage.

STRATOSPHERE/ARIZONA CHARLIE'S

American Casino & Entertainment Las Vegas properties recently established a program called "Community Connection," which facilitates volunteer opportunities for all of the properties' employees. The program kicked off in July 2005.

Community Connection has collected books for Clark County READS and participated in back-to-school drives to benefit the Stupak Community Center and three at-risk schools: Doris Hancock Elementary, William Beckley Elementary and Fremont Middle. Employees have also participated in the "Blow the Whistle on Asthma Walk" to benefit the American Lung Association. Plans are in the works to be part of the upcoming American Heart Association Heart Walk.

According to Community Connection facilitator Michelle Layton, youth, education and senior citizens will be a focus of future volunteer efforts. The company has already identified several other local organizations to support, including Classroom on Wheels (COW) and Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth. The properties will also

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adopt local families during the holidays and conduct a toy drive through the Stupak Community Center.

STATION CASINOS

Station Casinos has developed a three-tiered approach to corporate philanthropy. The first tier focuses on improving educational opportunities for high-need local schools through the company's "Smart Start" school partnership program. The program pairs each Station Casino property with a local school. Employees contribute thousands of hours per year volunteering with their partner schools and the corporation provides each of these nine select high-need schools with an annual donation of \$10,000. According to Station Casinos Director of Corporate Communications Lori Nelson, individual properties get to know their schools very well, providing them with volunteer support ranging from homework help to assistance with IT problems.

Besides the school partnership program, Station Casinos identifies close to 60 other at-risk schools every year and provides them with donations of \$5,000 each. Funds are administered through the Clark County Public Education Foundation and are generally used for classroom supplies and




Top: Station Casinos helps fund the I Have a Dream Foundation with a "Dreamers Station" at Texas Station, a meeting place for dreamers and mentors to meet. Bottom: A Station Casino worker spends time with a youngster at St. Jude's Ranch for Children.

teacher training.

Station Casinos is continuing its four-year-old "Caring for Our Communities" program, which provides financial contributions to deserving local agencies in conjunction with

a high-profile public awareness campaign. The program provides nine annual \$50,000 contributions to local nonprofit organizations. In addition to the cash donation, which Nelson said is applied for and delivered with very little "red tape," the company puts together a television and newspaper publicity campaign to raise awareness of the selected charities. Organizations supported in the past include Operation School Bell, Olive Crest, the I Have a Dream Foundation, St. Jude's, Shade Tree and the Nevada Neuroscience Foundation. Station Casinos will be accepting applications for future funding Oct. 1 through Nov. 1.

Another aspect of Station Casinos' corporate philanthropy is its "Teamwork in Action" program, formerly known as "STARS." The program provides a vehicle for encouraging employees to "take part in volunteer activities and engage in quality of life issues that are being discussed within the community" as a way of remaining active and informed voters.

"Lorenzo and Frank (Fertitta) are local boys who grew up here," Nelson said. "They're committed to improving life in this community. We also believe it's every company's responsibility to get involved and give back." 

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Group seeks to make educational dreams come true

By Damon Hodge
Special sections writer

Turning off of Lake Mead Boulevard and into the rear of the Texas Station, you pass the hotel-casino's Employee Center and an eight-foot, wrought-iron fence before coming to a small, solemn gray building configured much like the portables the school district uses to deal with student overflow.

Black, block lettering on the edifice's southeast corner spell out a name indicative of its mission — "I Have a Dream Foundation."

Looking at some of the posters in the reception area — "Leaders are followers of what is true, what is fair and what is right;" "Educate. Enrich. Empower. One child at a time." — conjures images of Martin Luther King Jr. His five-word proclamation 42 years ago, "I have a dream," provided a moral compass to a nation divided by race.

Known as "Dreamer Station," the portable is equal parts classroom, recreation center and refuge for 60 students, "Dreamers" whose futures, once circumscribed by circumstance, are now limited only by their aspiration.

Ashley McDaniels can see herself at the prestigious all-women's Spelman College in Atlanta. After matriculating, she has plans to be a lawyer or a pharmacist, whichever suits her fancy. Thanks to the foundation's scholarship promise, the 15-year-old Eldorado High sophomore has a chance to escape the negativity that's ensnared so many in her neighborhood, derisively known as "Third World."

"This organization is great for young people because it gives you positive things to do with your time," McDaniels said while finishing some homework.

Dreamers can choose from a smorgasbord of programs — tutoring, mentoring, homework assistance, counseling, hygiene, sex and dental hygiene education, drugs, crime and violence prevention initiatives, cultural enrichment, college preparation, career guidance, leadership training and community service. During the summer, several participated in a six-week institute, touring financial institutions, learning lifeguard skills and attending a workshop organized by Las

Vegas F.A.C.T (Fighting AIDS in our Community Today), among other things.

The changes Kevin Stolworthy has seen in the Dreamers are miraculous, educational turnaround stories on par with Lean On Me, what he hoped for and more.

The vision he had in the early 1990s, of doing locally what Eugene Lang did for Harlem students, is coming to fruition. An attorney at the firm of Jones Vargas, Stolworthy read an Associated Press story about how Lang created the I Have A Dream Foundation after a 1981 speaking engagement at his old school, PS121 in Harlem, went poorly. Lang talked about being present at King's "I Have a Dream" speech. He encouraged students to pursue their dreams and promised to support them however he could. As many teachers can attest, sixth-graders don't always make the best listeners.

Seeking ways to back up his promise, Lang hired a project coordinator and enlisted



community support for the fledgling nonprofit. Buoyed by coverage of his exploits in the *New York Times* on "60 Minutes"—all

his Dreamers were still in school four years later — Lang created the I Have a Dream Foundation in 1986. Among its signature components was a promise to pay for college for youth; local Dreamers get enough to fund four years at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

According to the organization's national Web site, www.ihad.org, more than 90 percent of the 61 initial Dreamers in Harlem earned high school diplomas or general equivalency diploma (G.E.D.) certificates, 60 percent pursued higher education, with several earning bachelor's degrees from Bard and Barnard Colleges in 1991. An interested Stolworthy wrote Lang about starting a local branch.

"In 1993, his secretary called and said he was in town. I met him at Alexis Park and told him that myself and (community activist) Julie Murray were interested," he said. "So we set up a nonprofit. We talked to then-Sheriff Jerry Keller and Clark County School District officials and picked (the since razed) Weeks Plaza, off Eastern Avenue. In December 1995, we selected 55 kids from a large age group, from kindergarten to junior high and we met in a community center." Five additional Dreamers





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were added in 2004.

Added Murray: "With Las Vegas having one of the highest drop-out rates and one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy rates, and all the other negative ratings we read about in the newspaper, I Have a Dream seemed like a great way to provide a hands-on approach to improving children's lives."

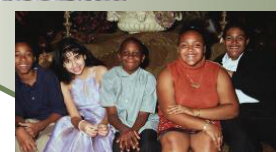
Since parents can be determinants in a child's success, an Associate Dreamer program was established to give parents and relatives use of the foundation's facilities and services; only a third of the parents use the offerings, Stolworthy lamented.

Still, progress has marked the decade hence. Initially funded via federal Community Development Block Grant

monies, the foundation has garnered significant corporate support from banks and entities like the Agassi Foundation and Station Casinos, which purchased a van, donated the offices and offers use of its parking lot.

"When this first started, I hoped it would be successful," Stolworthy said. "I have certainly learned how many good people will come to your aid when you do something good."

On the academic front: One Dreamer received a full-ride scholarship to Bishop Gorman High



The I Have a Dream Foundation was started locally by attorney Kevin Stolworthy and community activist Julie Murray. Dozens of children locally have benefited from their efforts.

School, Stolworthy said, and a third of them are on the A-B honor roll. Of the foundation's eight high school graduates, several are the Community College Southern Nevada and one received an athletic scholarship to a Texas college.

Stolworthy keeps the graduates' cell phone numbers, periodically calling to offer encouragement. Busied by his work as a lawyer and as a father of four — two of them teenagers — Stolworthy and Murray leave the daily operations to folks like project coordinator Mona Lisa Paulo, who is like Mother Hen in her oversight of Dreamers. She checks on grades, does home visits, coordinates field trips — recent jaunts include college tours in California and Georgia — basically, Joe Clark with a ponytail. "We take an active interest in every part of their lives," she said.

Larry Russun dittos that. A Dreamer for six years, the 15-year-old Cheyenne High sophomore relishes the normalcy offered inside Dreamer Station. He hopes that when the current crop of Dreamers finish later this decade that another deserving group will be selected and given the opportunities he has. Who knows, he might come back and mentor them.

"I want to be a doctor," he said. "I really want to help people." ©



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When Keenan Berry's toothaches became progressively more painful, his parents were in a bind about what to do. When they shared their story, an acquaintance suggested they call St. Rose Dominican Hospitals' Positive Impact program. Keenan qualified for the program and his teeth were cleaned and cavities filled. Positive Impact also provided free dental care for his older sister, Vannah, younger sister, Bethany, and younger brother, Terrell. Like many others, the Berry family now knows first hand that at St. Rose it's more than just a nice smile - it's about life.

St. Rose Dominican Hospitals' Positive Impact programs provide free medical and dental care to approximately 500 uninsured and underinsured children each year.

State's largest women's shelter relies on corporate community

By Deborah Roush
Contributing writer

In the late 1990s, Dick Rizzo's firm stepped in to rebuild the Shade Tree, the largest shelter for women and children in crisis in the state of Nevada. The building had been condemned, but Perini Building Co. rebuilt it at cost.

Now a beautiful structure offering a multitude of programs, the shelter stands ready to expand. And Perini and other supporters are asking the local corporate community for help.

Shade Tree operates from the 35,000-square-foot Donald W. Reynolds Foundation near Main Street and Owens Avenue in North Las Vegas with a staff of about 50 providing more than 80,000 bed nights to about 4,000 individual women and children every year.

But Executive Director Brenda Dizon is quick to point out that the shelter is not a "crutch or a warehouse."

"We're in the business of building and rebuilding lives," Dizon said.

The shelter offers a multitude of programs on its own and by partnering with community service organizations.

The Shade Tree was founded as an emergency shelter program where women can stay for up to 30 days with the possibility of extending their stay provided that they use their time to help themselves.

It also offers long-term, transitional housing funded by HUD where women may live at the shelter for up to two years.

"We're not about dependency. We believe that if you give them a fish, they eat for a day. If you teach them how to fish, they eat for a lifetime," Dizon said.

Through its day shelter, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. any woman can visit the shelter, have access to a shower and a healthy meal, Dizon said.

"These can be women staying in another shelter at night, those who are couch surfing with family or friends or women on the streets. This program is particularly important in the summer months when temperatures are so hot," she said.

In addition, children ages 1 to 18 have access to the shelter's Children's

Activity Center.

"A significant number of these children are forced to take on adult responsibilities. Here we say, 'While you guys are here we'll take care of mom, food and shelter. We want you to learn how to relax and be a child,'" Dizon said.

"We also get and keep the kids in school, and show them that education is a way out. We work with the parent and child to restore a healthy bond and strengthen that unit," she added.

One of the most important opportunities

"They run it as if it is a business at a bare bones minimum and they do a remarkable job..."

Shade Tree offers is the Job Development Program, Dizon said.

"It's not just about getting them a job. It's about teaching them how to get a job that is not a dead end. We want a career for our ladies. We teach them how to achieve upward mobility and how to find the right fit in respect to employment.

"We teach them how to earn a living wage; in terms of salary we're looking for jobs that earn \$10 to \$13 an hour so mom doesn't have to work two to three minimum wage jobs and pay rent, child care and everything else," she said.

Shade Tree also houses a Victims Services Center specializing in street crime, elder abuse and domestic violence.

"We have a trained staff to deal with these issues. We're seeing such a rise in the number of senior citizens accessing shelter services. We've had women here upward of 90 years old with no place to go.

"They have no spouse so their monthly stipend has been cut in half and family members can't help. Or they have adult children that misappropriate their benefits entitlements. Those people are brought here," she said.

Dizon said she is excited, too, about Shade Tree's newest project — Noah's

Animal House, which is expected to be completed by December.

"It's a 1,400-square-foot facility that will house the pets of the family members who are with us so they don't have to leave them behind and children aren't separated from a life-long emotional support," Dizon said.

Dizon said she is proud of the work Shade Tree accomplishes with limited money.

With an annual budget of less than \$2 million, the organization receives 34 percent of its funding from government grants. "All the rest is from community support, corporate support and foundations," she said.

Pamela Puppel, a Las Vegas public relations consultant and Shade Tree board member, said the shelter is "extremely well run."

"They run it as if it is a business at a bare bones minimum and they do a remarkable job," Puppel said.

That's why Puppel is busy working with the community to raise the \$7 million needed for the expansion — a 30,000-square-foot HOPE Center that will focus on job development and life skills.


Perini Building Co. will build the HOPE Center for cost, said Rizzo, the company's chairman.

For Puppel, who has clients such as the Molasky Group of Companies, working at the Shade Tree enables her to "keep things in perspective," she said.

"I get to work on fabulous properties in Las Vegas. Working at a place like a shelter helps me keep things in balance," she said.

She encourages others in the community to contribute time and dollars.

"We do monthly tours of the shelter and we invite people to come and see what it's all about. You don't have to bring your checkbook, just see the fantastic work going on here," she said.

Rizzo, too, makes a persuasive case for support of Shade Tree. "They were identified as a need, which is why we got involved. But we fell in love with what they're doing. They do a wonderful job," he said. 

St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation launches new campus capital campaign

By Allen Grant
Special sections writer

Designed to assist charitable works more than a decade ago, the St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation supports the operations of St. Rose Dominican Hospitals, including its Siena, Rose de Lima and soon-to-open San Martin campuses.

With the estimated \$147 million San Martin campus set to open next July, the foundation is preparing for its second major capital campaign to support the new campus.

The health foundation “changes and adapts to the community we serve,” said Shauna Walch, the foundation’s special projects director. “We’re the funding arm to the building and (health) services we support.”

The foundation’s mission is to improve community health and wellness through fund-raising and relationship building for St. Rose Dominican Hospitals. With a primary purpose to solicit, receive, maintain and distribute gifts (both money and property), the foundation has just eight employees, who facilitate a number of projects.

“For the health of our community, we strive to extend the means and access to health care for all,” said Laura Fritz, development specialist at St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation. “Right now, we are starting our efforts to secure funding for the San Martin campus. We’re just starting to ask for gifts (from our traditional donors).”

Besides capital campaigns, the hospital’s funding sources include its operations, long-term financing and community donations.

Located on a 30-acre campus in southwest Las Vegas near I-215 and Durango Drive, the four-story, full-service hospital offers 110 private rooms and spans nearly 300,000 square feet. The acute-care facility also features an additional 47,614 square feet of shelled space (to house another 90 beds) and includes a four-story medical office building to provide physician offices representing a variety of medical disciplines and an outpatient pharmacy.

According to foundation executives, the San Martin campus capital campaign goal is attainable, thanks to the area’s individual community giving efforts.

“Our capital campaign goal is \$15 million, and it’s a volunteer-based effort,” Fritz said. “We look to the generous community members for donations. We have a number of naming opportunities. Right now, we are looking for a title sponsor for our medical plaza.”

“For the health of our community, we strive to extend the means and access to health care for all...”

Laura Fritz
Development Specialist
St. Rose Dominican Hospitals

Additional naming opportunities for several internal features include the emergency department, chapel and bell tower, conference center and maternal child wing. The hospital also has naming opportunities with its external healing garden.

“We hope to have \$15 million collected by the time (San Martin campus) opens,” said Laurie Susie, president at St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation.

The foundation’s previous capital campaign for the Siena campus project raised \$10 million. The fund-raising efforts were “very successful and exceeded our goals,” Susie said.

Besides soliciting funds for capital campaign projects, the foundation also collects funding designed to increase the hospital’s other amenities. For example, the San Martin campus offers a variety of health services including an emergency department, obstetrical, gynecological and pediatric services. In fact, St. Rose hospitals’ introduced its new 64-Slice CT scanner this year. Designed to take x-rays of organs and skeletal structures, the scanner provides clearer images faster than previous technologies, leading to a more accurate, timely diagnosis.

“We also find resources to advance

our medical technologies,” Walch said. “Funding is the key to the hospitals’ community outreach efforts. While many other foundations and charities are focused on one specific focus, (St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation) has to focus on many different programs and health issues.”

To collaborate with a range of community health organizations and agencies, the St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation writes grants for St. Rose’s primary community outreach programs:

- Positive Impact – Provides free medical and dental treatment to uninsured and underinsured children in more than 70 Clark County schools.

- Helping Hands of Henderson – Provides the frail, elderly and disabled assistance in getting to the doctor, grocery shopping and other errands enabling them to live independently.


- R.E.D. Rose (Responsible, Early Detection of breast cancer) – Provides free clinical breast exams, mammograms, ultrasounds, surgical consultations and breast biopsies for those who do not have adequate insurance to afford such services.

- Barbara Greenspun WomensCare Center of Excellence – Provides an array of support groups, health education, a self-care magazine and personal enhancement workshops aimed at helping women and their loved ones realize physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.

The foundation has also garnered a partnership with the Children’s Miracle Network (CMN), an alliance of 170 premier hospitals to help children. CMN raises funds to assist its hospitals in providing the finest medical care, life-saving research and preventative education.

“The Children’s Miracle Network gave (our foundation) a vote of confidence,” Susie said. “They sought us out.”

The foundation also hosts two special fund-raising events per year — Mardi Gras Ball and Charity Golf Classic. In addition, the Annual Fund Program helps acquire new donors through direct mail and phone solicitation.

Individuals with smaller donations are also welcomed, beginning in spring, and the foundation even offers a three-year pledge commitment plan. 

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Local businesses get creative in giving

By Deborah Roush
Contributing writer

Pulte Homes/Del Webb has a fairly generous charitable budget every year and like many companies, they make donations to favorite causes.

They're also approached by many charities throughout the year and set money aside to meet special needs. But because there are more requests than money, and those who work in the public affairs office hate to say "no," the company has implemented what they call "creative philanthropy," or interesting ways to help the community while benefiting their company at the same time.

That's just what happened recently when Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nevada approached Pulte Homes/Del Webb for help.

While the company couldn't write a check, they could take part in the Save and Donate Program, where its used ink cartridges are put in bins in the copy room to be picked up by the charity.

Big Brothers Big Sisters sells the cartridges — from copy machines, fax machines and inkjet and laser printers — to national companies that recycle and resell them, said Pulte Homes/Del Webb Public Affairs Associate Sasha Jackowich.

"Within a short time we made between \$2,000 and \$3,000," Jackowich said. "Since we work with numerous contractors and subcontractors, we contacted all of them to let them know about it. We knew if our employees embraced this, others would as well — plus it is good for the environment."

"And it was a no-cost opportunity that was really easy to be involved in," she added.

Creative philanthropy came into play again when Pulte Homes/Del Webb provided backpacks for hundreds of local school children.

"Back-to-school drives are not original. So we called the school district and they said backpacks were a big need and we decided to do a backpack drive. We brainstormed and came up with the idea — since we're a home builder — to bury a



Pulte Homes/Del Webb employees, with the help of a few neighboring businesses, recently buried a bulldozer in backpacks. They were then donated to hundreds of local children.

bulldozer with them," Jackowich said.

"We parked a bulldozer in our parking lot and people started donating ... not only our employees but fellow tenants and the public," she said.

"Our employees could look down out of the windows of our three-story building and see how close we were getting to our goal. It would inspire them to go out and get more backpacks even if they had donated already," she said.

Jackowich said she believes creative philanthropy can be utilized in companies big and small. "Some companies may not have a community outreach department or a written given policy.

"But, no matter what your size or annual revenue, there are low-cost or no-cost opportunities that are a way to reach out," she said.

Robyn Clayton, community affairs manager for Southwest Gas Corp. and a founder of Nevada Gives, a resource and Web site that encourages corporate giving in Southern Nevada, said companies should not overlook the helpfulness of creative giving, which often includes in-kind donations.

"Maybe it's not in your budget to supply cash, but you might have something in your warehouse.

"Or there are computers, furniture, things you don't really think about on a daily basis that nonprofits can really use," Clayton said.

"It may even be facilities or space. A company can host a meeting for a nonprofit and buy the lunch. It's really about being

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Pulte Homes/Del Webb donated a home for Opportunity Village's "Magical Forest."

creative with the resources that you have," she added.

Clayton said in-kind donations, when possible, should only be part of a giving program. "It should be a combination of volunteerism, resources and cash — a combination of all of them that go hand-in-hand," she said.


Companies benefit by giving, Clayton said. "You get back as much as you give. It's not always about the publicity. It's about creating that culture within your company that says we care, our employees care and they get involved," she said.

"A shredding company, for example, could offer a free shredding day to whomever. By doing that, their employees feel more part of the community," she added.

Jackowich said local companies should consider it a responsibility to help the community in whatever way they can.

"I don't think people realize how deep their resources run whether they're a five-person firm or a 500-person firm," Jackowich added.

On the flip side, charities can also benefit by becoming more creative, she said.

"They need to start stepping up this type of creative efforts because companies are getting tighter with their dollars and there are so many great causes that need support." 



Hope is more powerful than a hurricane.

Help victims of Hurricane Katrina and thousands of other disasters across the country each year by donating to the Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide food, shelter, counseling and other assistance to those in need



American Red Cross

1-800-HELP NOW
redcross.org



This message brought to you by the American Red Cross and the Ad Council.

Local Habitat for Humanity provides homes for needy families

By Allen Grant
Special sections writer

With housing costs rising, it is becoming more difficult for families to find affordable housing. For many, more than half of their income is spent on housing, leaving little for food, clothing and other necessities.

For Guy Amato, offering local families the opportunity at the “American Dream” is rewarding enough to work long, hard hours. His position as executive director for Habitat for Humanity Las Vegas puts him on the front lines of helping families obtain a new home.

“We build homes for local working families,” Amato said. “And, we help those folks attain a house at an affordable rate and help stabilize their environment. It becomes a life-changing experience for the (family’s) next several generations.”

Habitat for Humanity International states its ultimate goal is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the face

of the earth by constructing and building adequate and basic housing.

Established locally in 1991, Habitat for Humanity Las Vegas adheres to similar goals and builds housing solutions with the help of volunteers, eligible families and community partners. A not-for-profit organization, Habitat builds affordable housing for local families who otherwise might be forced to live in substandard housing, Amato said.

With the support of volunteer labor, along with material and monetary donations from area partners, Habitat builds simple houses and sells them to partner families at no profit and with no interest. According to Amato, Habitat has constructed 50 homes in Clark County helping 175 people through August 2005.

Organized groups or affiliates in the valley raise the funds used to construct Habitat houses. To assist internationally, U.S. Habitat branches allot 10 percent of their contributions to fund house-building work in other nations.

Amato said.

“Twenty percent of people spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing,” he said. “When that happens, the health of the family can suffer. There’s less money for health care, proper food and clothing. We’re here to help those people (with more options for affordable housing).”

According to Amato, Habitat’s program is not a giveaway promotion for families. He better describes the program as a hand up, rather than a hand out. In fact, qualifying families must provide the down payment and pay the monthly mortgage payments. In addition, the program requires family members to work several hours on the home during the construction process.

“(Chosen ones) must demonstrate a level of responsibility,” Amato said. “Plus, each adult family member must complete 250 hours of volunteer construction work on the house. It gives them a sense of earning the house and being part of the process.”

Amato said the Habitat for Humanity Las Vegas chapter builds about 10 to 15 homes annually. Right now, the organization is breaking ground on three new houses in Vegas Heights, located near Martin Luther King and Lake Meade boulevards. Working with both the City of Las Vegas and City of North Las Vegas, Amato said partnerships and donors are the key to future successes.

“We rely on private donations from individuals and companies,” he said. “We’re gearing up a fund drive now to help finance the next three years. Our three-year goal is to build 60 homes. Our activity has to increase as our city grows.”

Amato said the Habitat is working on its local three-year business plan and trying to develop partners at the highest level to sponsor a home. Some multiple-year partners have included the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citigroup/Citibank, Nevada Subcontractors Association and HSBC Bank, formerly Household Bank.

“We need more people and companies to participate,” said Amato. “We are also trying to reach all the (home) builders. It’s a community effort and it’s important that everyone participates.” **CG**



Habitat for Humanity has been successful locally, helping make homeownership a reality for many families.

Amato said although the local charitable group has a national parent affiliation, local donations stay here for valley projects.

“What happens with local donations benefits us here at the local level,” he said.

For families to qualify for Habitat assistance, they have to earn considerably less than the median household income for Clark County residents. According to the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, the Clark County median household income is \$44,307. Thus, a single mother with one child making \$28,328 a year would qualify for assistance,

Nevada's response to Hurricane Katrina

A variety of organizations and businesses in Southern Nevada have offered aid to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. They include the following:

•World Market Center has announced the formation of the Las Vegas Market Relief Fund, designed to help rebuild the communities, homes and lives of displaced families whom have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina. To touch the greatest number of lives, World Market Center will match up to \$250,000 of contributions.

•Las Vegas-based Astoria Homes contributed \$100,000 to the Catholic Charities Relief for Katrina fund. The funds will be used directly to aid families seeking housing, clothing and medical needs. It will also help them in finding employment and any necessary retraining.

•For the last two weeks of September and part of October, Steiner's — A Nevada Style Pub donated \$1 for every burger purchased at all three of its locations to the American Red Cross and New Orleans/Hurricane Katrina Relief efforts. Steiner's also donated \$500 to the relief efforts through "Shirts for Saints," a program started by Madison Ave. Bar & Grill owner Tony Radovich.

•Las Vegas-based Whittlesea Bell Transportation held an all-day drive on Sept. 14 to collect necessary items for victims. Coordinated by accounting manager Dacia Moore and payroll staff members Sabrina Columbus and Stacy Gartzke, drivers from the transportation companies contributed \$3,000 in cash, which was then matched by the company. In addition, about \$1,500 worth of household items, such as toothpaste, razors, deodorant, toilet paper and feminine products, were also donated to help the victims. Each driver who made a \$15 cash donation or an equivalent contribution in products also received a polo shirt.

•Station Casinos offered 84 hurricane evacuees jobs during a two-day job fair held at Texas Station Gambling Hall & Hotel on Sept. 13 and Sept. 15 exclusively for the evacuees. Evacuees went through a simplified employment process that included being paired with a Station Casino ambassador for ongoing assistance, a skills and training assessment, application process and immediate interview. The on-the-spot offers were in fields such as cooking, dealing, valet, security, housekeeping and finance.

•Rainbow Medical Centers, in partnership with the Tabernacle Baptist Church in West Palm Beach, Fla., will be collecting gift cards at all of their locations. The total monetary amount in gift cards received will be matched by Rainbow Medical Centers, and 100 percent of the proceeds will be given directly to Hurricane Katrina survivors.

•WRG Design, Inc. donated \$30,000 to Mercy Corps International in support of the relief efforts. Funds for the donation were raised over a one-week period during which employees made monetary donations. All employee donations were matched 100 percent by WRG. Employees from all five WRG Design offices, located in Portland, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Sacramento and Boise participated.

•The Las Vegas Gladiators held a one-day youth football and junior dance camp Sept. 24 at Sam Boyd Stadium to benefit victims. A \$25 donation to participate in the camp will be given directly to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Relief. Gladi-

ator players Steve Konopka, Wilky Bazile, Craig Whelihan, Coco Blalock and Junior Lord joined head coach Ron James and his staff as they taught youngsters football skills and drills. The Gladiator Goddesses Dance team showed the latest dance moves and routines to all future Goddesses.

•Commander's Palace Las Vegas donated 50 percent of the day's proceeds for several weeks in September. Donations to the American Red Cross were also taken at the restaurant located inside the Desert Passage mall at the Aladdin hotel-casino.

•Excellence Community Management LLC, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, STAR 102.7 radio, KVVU-TV, FOX 5, Findlay Toyota and Club Sport, joined forces to organize a relief benefit on Sept. 11 at Club Sport in Henderson. All proceeds were donated to the American Red Cross. The benefit featured live music and dozens of raffle prizes.

•The Sloan Consortium in collaboration with the Southern Regional Education Board is offering students displaced by the hurricane an opportunity to continue their education at no cost. Students interested in finding out more about the program and the free courses can do so at www.SloanSemester.org.

•For the entire month of September, People's GMC-Pontiac-Buick and People's Mazda-Mitsubishi-Kia accepted donated goods for relief efforts. In addition, both dealerships will give \$100 to the American Red Cross for every car they sell through September.

•The Nevada Chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation is donating 400 wheelchairs to victims who have disabilities and were left without their wheelchairs.

•Las Vegas Motor Speedway collected money throughout the September at every LVMS event. The money will be turned over to the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Red Cross. The money then will be sent to Red Cross chapters in the Gulf Coast region.

•MGM MIRAGE also has donated \$1 million. The company is also matching all employee donations through Dec. 31, 2005, and has attracted another \$1 million donation from an anonymous donor.

•At least seven MGM MIRAGE employees based in Southern Nevada and Detroit recently returned from several days of working in Mississippi, where they established a Beau Rivage Recovery Center to help about 3,400 company employees left jobless. For those interested, the company has helped employees there relocate to Las Vegas, Detroit or elsewhere to start a new job and new life. The company offered free use of 200 rooms in Jean for at least 90 days for displaced employees and their families.

•Members of the Greater Las Vegas Association of REALTORS are teaming up with their counterparts nationwide to help by donating thousands of dollars to REALTOR associations in areas impacted most by this week's disaster. All administrative costs of the project will be absorbed by the GLVAR so that 100 percent of all donations will go directly to aid the victims.

•The Southern Nevada Home Builders Association, in response to members' requests, is coordinating an industry-wide effort to raise funds to assist with relief efforts. SNHBA asked for donations to either the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army.

•The UNLV football team collected donations during the team's first home game.

•The Las Vegas 51s organization accepted monetary donations for the Red Cross at the teams final five home games at Cashman Field.

•The Little Chapel of the Flowers will donate to the Red Cross in the names of couples who marry or reserve weddings there in the next few months.

•Local musician Randy Anderson accepted \$10 donations at the door for a special benefit at Larry's Hideaway in September.

•A Live Aid benefit is planned for Oct. 16 at Gilley's Dancehall Saloon. A slew of celebrity impersonators, including producer-director Peter Banks as Austin Powers, will entertain crowds in the name of Katrina victims.

•The David L. Simon Foundation has offered to match 10 percent of all donations made to the United Jewish Community/Jewish Federation of Las Vegas UJC/JFLV Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund.

•The Boyd Gaming Employee Relief Fund has been established. A contribution from the company has been enhanced by donations from members of our senior management team to provide the seed money to establish the Fund, with 100 percent of the donations directed to provide help.


•Officials from the Las Vegas Valley Humane Society and Nevada Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals are working with Liberty Realty Home Show, Liberty Realty, Inc, and Southern Nevada Movers to collect needed funds and supplies for Katrina's displaced pets.

•Bass Pro Shops is accepting \$1 and \$5 donations for Katrina victims at checkout locations.

•Buffalo Exchange is donating money to Habitat for Humanity, the International Rescue Committee, and Noah's Wish. Habitat for Humanity is helping Habitat families and other low-income families in the affected areas recover and rebuild.

•Las Vegas-based GES Exposition Services has set up a relief fund for its more than 70 employees who were displaced because of Hurricane Katrina.

•The Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group will donate 10 percent of the September proceeds from each of their outlets to the American Red Cross. They will also be accepting further donations at each participating site: Spago and Chinois (Forum Shops), Postrio (The Venetian), Lupo de Trattoria (Mandalay Bay) and the Wolfgang Puck Bar & Grill (MGM Grand).

•The Palms Casino Resort and N9NE Group team members have already begun to contribute donations in a September fund-raising effort, with each dollar raised matched by Palms owner and president George Maloof. Also, the Palms valet team did a benefit drive with Red Cross representatives, donating 100 percent of a day's tips to the Red Cross. 

Company program has co-workers competing, charities benefiting

By Damon Hodge
Special sections writer

It's a sad tale replicated far too often in communities across America: families torn apart by disasters, both natural and man-made, the children shuttled into a foster care system that can be as navigable as a tidal wave.

With both of her parents in jail — her father was an alcoholic — Tania Michaels, then age 7, and her three siblings were taken to Child Haven, a county-run facility providing temporary care and treatment for abused, neglected and abandoned children. Separated from her siblings — two sisters and a brother — Michaels feared she might never see them again. Or worse.

"When you go in, you have no idea what's going to happen, you think you are going to die," said Michaels, who works in land acquisitions for Focus Property Group. "Once you get there, though, the people are so nice and kind. They make you feel like you are in a loving environment. I remember them putting me to bed, brushing my hair, giving me pajamas to put on and telling me a (bedtime) story.

"There is a misperception about Child Haven that the kids are not treated well. It's the complete opposite. They put huge resources into hiring and training the right people. I walked the campus as a child and as an adult. Those memories remind me that there are great people out there."

When Focus created Community 911, a unique program that pitted Focus employees and their counterparts at real estate firm Landtek in a competition to see who can do the most for charities of their choice, Michaels remembered Child Haven. One of four team captains — other charities include Olive Crest (serving abused children), the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Shade Tree Shelter for homeless and abused women and their families — Michaels' targeted group is Mended Hearts, a program that assists Child Haven and the nonprofit Children Services Guild with buying supplies Child Haven can't and covering services it won't, such as dental care.

"Not everyone with an abused,

abandoned or neglected past ends up a criminal. I'm proof," said Michaels, noting that her team will participate in everything from adoption carnivals to expanding shelter capacity. "Child Haven saves lives, saves futures."

Focus Property Group Chief Executive Officer John Ritter hoped for such passion. Always philanthropically inclined, he wanted to engage his 120 employees in life-affirming community service. The answer came from media maven Lynn Purdue in the form of an "American Idol," "Survivor" and "The Apprentice" hybrid initiative, where randomly formed teams representing a cross section of the companies made presentations for the chance to win \$2,500 for causes of their choice.

Floored by the presentations — "the teams did a lot of research and brought in executive-level representatives from the charities," Ritter said — Community 911 grew. Teams received \$20,000 to \$30,000, with the winning squad promised a "substantial" gift to its charitable cause. Ritter said his employees turned a service initiative into marching orders, promising outreach beyond a dollar figure raised or time period set forth.

Landtek Development Manager Moe Seabeck is captain of Team Endeavor, whose charity is the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Nevada. "We chose this charity because it struck a chord with a lot of people," he said.

For Make-A-Wish's annual picnic in October, Team Endeavor plans on staffing the function, giving out ice cream, organizing an arts and crafts table and bringing in the Girl Scouts to make necklaces and bracelet. Later that month, when members of the Southern Nevada Off-Road Enthusiasts take Make-A-Wish children on rides, team members will hand out drinks. And in November, Seabeck's team will be present when country music star Kevin Sharp meets a child whose wishes are to meet a record producer.

Long-term, the plan is to build what would be only Make-A-Wish's third permanent facility (called a Wishing Place) among 77 global branches; the world the others are in Salt Lake City and


Orange County, Calif. Perennially plagued by leasing issues and space contracts, Seabeck's team wants to build a \$500,000-\$600,000 office.

Though fund-raising ideas are still being vetted, lots of folks — from a block wall mason to a cabinet company — have pledged support. Amenities will include office and parking spaces and a media room; square footage hasn't been determined. "We've identified a potential site," Seabeck said, "and think that the project is doable in 12 to 18 months."

Similarly, the Michaels-led team is going to bat for Child Haven. On top of establishing an ongoing care package project — packages containing baby formula, diapers and other items will be given to new mothers — members are repainting faded walls, participating in county-sponsored adoption fairs, recruiting volunteers to mentor to youth and to spend time cradling drug-addicted babies. The biggest project involves turning a 2,700-square-foot building currently used for office space into a 3,700-square-foot shelter.


"Given the growth of the population and the rise of use of methamphetamine, the number of kids needing help is outpacing the supply," Michaels said. "We're basically adding 3,700 square feet of capacity, which will extend the length of stay by one month for an additional 180 children. We're trying to raise \$400,000 for this. We have an architect and a civil engineer donating time. Ritter Charitable Trust is willing to match funds. We have people in the community who are big Child Haven supporters who are willing to give. The Children Services Guild is also looking to raise money. We would like to have the money raised by December. Once we have it, we expect completion of building in roughly 12 months."

Michaels sees working for a program that she benefited from as more than mere coincidence.

"Everybody who has taken a tour of Child Haven has felt moved to do something," Michaels said. "We've had grown men walk out of that campus sobbing and wanting to help." 

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

- *Aesop*



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NONPROFIT LISTINGS

A Lift Up.org

3310 S. Nellis Blvd., Suite 2B

Las Vegas NV 89121

Phone: 702/457-0700

FAX: 702/451-3508

E-mail: aliftup@cox.net

Web site: www.a-liftup.org

Mission: Give philanthropic aid to struggling and underprivileged, and spiritual guidance to those in need

Wish List: Corporate sponsors for Thrift Store items such as lost and found, apartment lockouts and clean furniture donations

Adoption Alliance, The

1785 E. Sahara Ave., Suite 340

Phone: 702/968-1986

FAX: 702/968-1989

E-mail: jom@adoption.lvcoxmail.com

Web site: www.adoption-alliance.com

Mission: Provide full range of caring and appropriate services and education to both pregnant women and prospective adoptive parents

Wish List: Sponsors or in-kind donations to cover costs of advertising in all media

Aid for AIDS of Nevada

2300 S. Rancho Drive, Suite 211

Las Vegas NV

Phone: 702/382-2326

FAX: 702/366-1609

E-mail: caroline@afanlv.org

Web site: www.afanlv.org

Mission: Provide support and advocacy for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Nevada

Wish List: Financial support by building community partners; office furniture, lobby chairs, community room furniture, TV, DVD, VCR, color printers; food (see wish list on Web site), nutritional supplements

American Cancer Society

1325 E. Harmon Ave.

Las Vegas NV 89119

Phone: 702/798-6877

FAX: 702/798-0530

E-mail: fmarshall@cancer.org

Web site: www.cancer.org

Mission: Eliminate cancer as a major health problem through research, education, advocacy and service

Wish List: Volunteers to answer phones, assist in Quality of Life Center (provides gift items for patients), perform fundraising, transport patients for cancer treatments (volunteers donate this use of their cars and gasoline expenses); various supplies including wigs, scarves and hats, mastectomy bras and prosthesis, liquid food supplements, ostomy/colostomy aids

American Diabetes Association

2785 E. Desert Inn Road, Suite 140

Las Vegas NV 89121

Phone: 702/369-9995

FAX: 702/369-3717

E-mail: jholmes@diabetes.org

Web site: www.diabetes.org

Mission: Prevent and cure diabetes and improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes

Wish List: Corporate and business sponsorships to help reach fundraising goals and achieve our mission, as well as advertising, marketing, printing, public relations partners

American Heart Association – Clark County Division

2354 Red Rock St., Suite 103

Las Vegas NV 89146

Phone: 702/367-1366

FAX: 702/367-1975

E-mail: john.mcneil@heart.org

Web site: www.americanheart.org

Mission: Reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke

Wish List: Meeting room space for monthly Stroke Support Groups, and Heart and Stroke Committee meetings; VCR for health fairs; heart-healthy food for support group and committee meetings

American Red Cross-Southern Nevada Chapter

1771 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 206B

Las Vegas NV 89119

Phone: 702/791-3311

FAX: 702/791-3372

E-mail: penneyt@redcrosslasvegas.org

Web site: www.redcrosslasvegas.org

Mission: Help people prevent, prepare and respond to emergencies through high-quality safety training and disaster relief

Wish List: Volunteers, including board members, willing to assist in assessing community needs and determining how to use

Red Cross resources to best meet those needs in an effective and efficient fashion; contributions of cash, stocks and capital assets; donations of new computers

Amerindian

840 S. Rancho Drive, Suite 4-428

Las Vegas NV

Phone: 702/393-3476

FAX: 702/454-3043

E-mail: bobcrow777@yahoo.com

Web site: www.amerindian.org

Mission: As Indians helping Indians, we provide hope and basic living necessities to alleviate the pain and suffering inherent with poverty

Wish List: Non-perishable canned or dry food (beans, corn, meat); clothing, especially sneakers and age-appropriate outfits for teenagers, warm coats for elders (mostly women aged 80+) and blankets; school supplies; sponsors to cover expenses of extra-curricular school activities

Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation

3960 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 750

Las Vegas NV 89109

Phone: 702/227-5700

FAX: 702/866-2928

E-mail: info@agassi.net

Web site: www.agassifoundation.org

Mission: Provide recreational and educational opportunities for local at-risk children through emotional, physical and academic programs, which enhance a child's character, self-esteem and career possibilities

Wish List: Monetary contributions, individual or corporate mentors for Agassi Prep students, Agassi Prep Gap Scholarship sponsors (\$2500 scholarships that bring the per-pupil allotment closer to the national average), field trip sponsors, lunch program sponsor, passenger van, musical instruments, plants and trees for landscaping

Animal Foundation

655 N. Mojave Road

Las Vegas NV 89101

Phone: 702/384-3333

FAX: 702/384-4563

E-mail: dorgill@animalfoundation.com

Web site: www.animalfoundation.com

Mission: To provide a safe, clean and caring refuge for the animals of Las Vegas



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hundreds of Valley charities and
thousands of our neighbors.



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Luxor • Excalibur • Circus Circus • Boardwalk • Primm Valley Resort • Buffalo Bill's • Whiskey Pete's • Gold Strike
Nevada Landing • Colorado Belle • Edgewater Railroad Pass

Wish List: Volunteers, financial contributions, grooming services, printing and graphic artist services, corporate partners, towels, blankets, kennels, medical supplies, office equipment, used cell phones

Assistance League of Las Vegas

6446 W. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas NV 89146-1165
Phone: 702/870-2002
FAX: 702/870-1101
Web site: www.allv.org

Mission: Implement programs and services to enrich the lives of children

Wish List: "Friend of Assistance League" volunteers; donated items for Thrift Shop; funds for philanthropic projects such as Operation School Bell

BEST Coalition for a Safe and Drug-free Nevada

3075 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 100A
Las Vegas NV 89121
Phone: 702/385-0684
FAX: 702/614-0400
E-mail: loyd@nvbest.org
Web site: www.nvbest.org

Mission: Implement and facilitate school and community partnerships to promote a safe and drug-free lifestyle for the well being of all Nevadans, bringing everyone's strengths together

Wish List: Alcohol, tobacco and other drug-prevention information; assistance with grant writing and foundation proposal writing; office space at a donated or reduced rate (at least 4,000 sq. ft.)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nevada

4045 S. Spencer Street, Suite A-57
Las Vegas NV
Administrative offices:
Phone: 702/731-2227
FAX: 702/737-9209
Donation Center:
Phone: 702/ 222-9000
E-mail: info@bbbsn.org
Web site: www.bbbsn.org

Mission: Help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one mentoring relationships with measurable impact

Wish List: Big Brother volunteers to participate in community and site-based mentoring programs; increased participation by parents to enroll their daughters (Little Sisters) for matching with a caring role-model; donations of cars; clothing and other household items; new office equipment & furnishings

Blind Center of Nevada, Inc.

1001 N. Bruce St.
Las Vegas NV 89101
Phone: 702/642-6000
FAX: 702/649-6739
E-mail: paulaf@blindcenter.org
Web site: www.blindcenter.org

Mission: Assisting blind and visually impaired persons of all ages in reaching their highest physical, social, intellectual and economic potential

Wish List: Monetary donations for job coaches, computer instructors, music lesson and ESL instructors; counselors; adaptive living equipment for those with low income; assistance with public relations; campaign development for fund-raising; computer recycling and paper goods supply programs; passenger van (15 seat); printing services and 3000-pound electric forklift; bulk food donations

Boys & Girls Clubs of Henderson

401 Drake St.
Henderson NV 89015
Phone: 702/565-6568
FAX: 702/565-8377
E-mail: ginger.trueblood@earthlink.net
Web site: www.bgchenderson.org

Mission: To inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens

Wish List: School supplies, office supplies, arts & crafts supplies (especially colored paper); children's sports equipment, and new recreation equipment; paper products (especially paper towels, plates, napkins, cups, Kleenex tissues); cleaning supplies; office furniture; 15-passenger van

Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas

2850 S. Lindell Road
Las Vegas NV 89146
Phone: 702/367-2582
FAX: 702/367-2104
E-mail: dsmith@bgclv.org
Web site: www.bgclv.org

Mission: Inspire and empower young people, with special concern for those from disadvantaged circumstances, to develop the skills, self-esteem and self-reliance necessary to become productive, responsible and caring citizens

Wish List: Office equipment with service contracts, aquarium with exotic fish, bookshelves, storage cabinets, age-appropriate movies and games, A/V equipment, arts and craft supplies, sports equipment, vehicles and maintenance, microwaves, furniture, books,

food, industrial carpet cleaner, professional exterior and interior contractor services, land, facilities and buildings

Boy's Hope/Girl's Hope of Nevada

233 S. Fourth St., Suite 301
Las Vegas, NV 89101
Phone: 702/839-9455
FAX: 702/676-2085
E-mail: peardley@bhgh.org
Web site: www.boyshopegirlshope.org
Mission: Helping academically capable and motivated children-in-need to meet their full potential by providing value-centered family-like homes, opportunities and education through college
Wish List: Volunteers for dinner preparation, tutoring, special events, marketing, graphics, gardening, and ceramic tile and carpet installation; donations for restaurants and child-appropriate entertainment such as sporting events, movies, and bowling; goods needed are bedding for twin size beds, dressers, living room furniture, carpeting, cleaning supplies and Pentium IV computers/laptops

Candlelighters for Childhood Cancer

3201 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite 600
Las Vegas NV 89109
Phone: 702/737-1919
FAX: 702/792-2780
E-mail: celesteochal@bigplanet.com
Web site: www.candlelightersnv.org
Mission: Help alleviate the isolation, uncertainty and loneliness felt by families facing childhood cancer through support, education and services
Wish List: Contributions to support Travel for Treatment, Emergency Assistance and Bereavement-support programs; group or individual sponsors for special parties for children and families; food gift certificates, new toys, games and art activities (in constant demand); volunteers (welcomed and needed)

Court-appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Foundation

601 N. Pecos Road
Las Vegas NV 89101
Phone: 702/455-4306
E-mail: fdcasa08@co.clark.nv.us
Web site: www.casalasvegas.org
Mission: Meet unmet needs of children in foster and alternative care who have become wards of the court; support program that enlists CASA volunteers
Wish List: Financial donations

Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada

1501 Las Vegas Blvd N

Las Vegas NV 89101

Phone: 702/385-2662

FAX: 702/384-0677

E-mail: smann@catholiccharities.com

Web site: www.catholiccharities.com

Mission: Single focus since 1941 – give help and hope to people in need regardless of race, religion or creed

Wish List: Canned and non-perishable food, baby clothes and supplies, toiletries for men and women, school supplies, shoes for all ages

Center for Creative Therapeutic Arts

6375 W. Charleston Blvd., WCL Suite 184

Las Vegas NV 89146

Phone: 702/363-8166

FAX: 702/315-4362

E-mail: lasvegas@ccta.us

Web site: www.ccta.us

Mission: Dedicated to improving health and building public awareness for all generations, through music therapy programs that positively affect emotional, mental, physical and spiritual well-being

Wish List: Grants supporting children's therapy with family financial assistance, musical instruments (electric guitar, drum kit, high-quality acoustic guitar, rhythm instruments,

drums), old instruments that are not playable, new computer system, b/w / color copier, 4-drawer locking file cabinet

Child Focus

1771 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 214B

Las Vegas NV 89119

Phone: 702/436-1624

FAX: 702/367-1624

E-mail: info@childfocusnv.org

Web site: www.childfocusnv.org

Mission: Provide resources/services enriching lives of children living in foster care and create opportunities for each child to develop their individual strengths/abilities to prepare for responsible adulthood

Wish List: Volunteers to serve as tutors, committee members and Board of Directors positions; creative and media services; financial contributions; donated items for annual Silent Auction

Children's Advocacy Alliance, The

2245 N. Green Valley Parkway, Suite 432

Henderson NV 89014

Phone: 702/228-1869

FAX: 702/294-0980

Web site: www.childrensadvocacyalliance.com

Mission: Putting the health and safety of children first by taking action to improve their

lives, and protecting those who are victims of abuse and neglect

Wish List: Contributions to support programs including a statewide report card on children's issues; various support services and Child Haven

Clark County Public Education Foundation

3360 W. Sahara Ave., Suite 160

Las Vegas NV 89102

Phone: 702/799-1042

FAX: 702/799-5247

Web site: www.ccpef.org

Mission: Mobilize community resources to support and enhance public education through initiatives designed to improve student performance in preparation for the challenges of this century

Wish List: Cash contributions, volunteers, warehouse space and materials for InterAct Exchange (a resource center providing teachers with inexpensive supplies and equipment), office furniture and supplies, books, computers, and volunteers

Class! Publications

UNLV, Box 451025

Las Vegas NV 89154-1025

Phone: 702/895-1504

FAX: 702/895-1505

E-mail: classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu



(Anything is possible)

Bryson Fox

GEAR UP student

Through GEAR UP and all the other programs at the Center for Academic Enrichment & Outreach at UNLV (The Center), underprivileged students have gained the confidence and the support they need to pursue their dreams of higher education. With your help, The Center can continue to give students like Bryson the opportunities they won't find anywhere else.

- Bryson has a dream to become a computer technician.
- Right now he's not sure what he has to do to accomplish that dream.
- GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is leading him in the right direction.
- Bryson doesn't believe in the concept of impossible. We're going to see to it that he never does.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUPPORT THE CENTER'S PROGRAMS AND SCHOLARSHIPS OR TO BECOME A MENTOR OR DONOR CALL 895-4777 OR VISIT WWW.UNLV.EDU/STUDENTSERV/CAEO.

TheCenter
CENTER FOR ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT & OUTREACH

Web site: www.classmag.com

Mission: Promote communication and understanding among Clark County's teen diverse population and to encourage positive life choices through education, career exploration, and involvement

Wish List: Financial contributions for a variety of projects including a teen resource center, educational workshops, page sponsors in the publication, and scholarships for Clark County high school students; in-kind donations may include a copy machine, fax machine, laptop computer, LCD projector and digital cameras

Community College of Southern Nevada (CCSN) Foundation

6375 W. Charleston Blvd. W3D

Las Vegas NV 89146-1164

Phone: 702/651-7301

FAX: 702/651-7303

E-mail: foundation@ccsn.edu

Web site: www.ccsnfoundation.org

Mission: Securing funds and resources to provide quality post-secondary educational opportunities for students and to enhance educational programs within CCSN

Wish List: Funds for student scholarships, programs and capital projects; equipment and books for specialized programs

Community Food Bank of Clark County

4190 N. Pecos Road

Las Vegas NV 89115-0187

Phone: 702/643-0074

FAX: 702/643-0794

E-mail: bbraggs@lvfoodbank.org

Web site: www.lvfoodbank.org

Mission: Help feed hungry people by acquiring donations and purchasing food items for distribution through other charitable groups

Wish List: Food (non-perishable or perishable, canned or dry); paper products: toilet paper, facial tissue, paper towels; diapers, hygiene products; cleaning and household products; cash donations and volunteers

Courtney Children's Foundation

818 West Brooks Ave.

North Las Vegas NV

Phone: 702/315-5159

FAX: 702/315-5193

E-mail: skuhn@ccflv.org

Web site: www.ccflv.org

Mission: To have a measurable positive impact on the lives of at-risk pregnant teens, first-time mothers, their young children and their communities

Wish List: Volunteer "Resource Mothers" to mentor first time/at-risk pregnant moms in Baby Find Program throughout pregnancy term

and up until the baby turns one year of age; new or gently used maternity clothing; new or gently used baby clothing and nursery items; formula and diapers

Cultural Diversity Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 335699

Las Vegas NV

Phone: 702/646-2615

FAX: 702/233-3666

E-mail: jflowers@cdfnv.org

Web site: www.cdfnv.org

Mission: Create opportunities to learn by enhancing the educational, professional and personal growth of individuals through the development of programs for disadvantaged Clark County residents

Wish List: Sponsors for scholarships; funding to support scholarship and computer training workshops, and annual scholarship benefit; sponsor for maintaining website and providing office supplies; office space

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

2990 Sunridge Heights Parkway #110

Henderson NV 89052

Phone: 702/383-8500

FAX: 702/383-9700

E-mail: aweinberger@cff.org

Web site: www.cff.org

Mission: Fund research to find a cure for Cystic Fibrosis

Wish List: Wonderful auction items for events

Easter Seals of Southern Nevada

6200 W. Oakey Blvd.

Las Vegas NV 89146

Phone: 702/870-7050

FAX: 702/870-7649

E-mail: tjееves@eastersealssn.org

Web site: www.eastersealssn.org

Mission: Create solutions that help people with disabilities become self-sufficient through education, community partnerships and direct services; increase number served in all programs

Wish List: 15-passenger van; supplies for Child Development Center and Therapy Services (OT/PT/SLP); funds or fund-raising assistance for additional building

ECDC African Community Center

1500 E. Tropicana Ave., Suite 122

Las Vegas NV 89119

Phone: 702/836-3324

FAX: 702/836-3338

E-mail: rgmehariecde@earthlink.net

Mission: Resettle refugees; promote cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs in the United States; and conduct

humanitarian and socio-economic development programs in the Horn of Africa

Wish List: Vehicles for both human and material transportation; computers, especially a server; household furnishings (from furniture to cookware, dishes and silverware); clothing; hygiene products such as toothpaste, diapers; financial donations; and volunteers

Family and Child Treatment of Southern Nevada

1050 S. Rainbow Blvd.

Las Vegas NV 89145-6231

Phone: 702/258-5855

FAX: 702/258-9767

E-mail: kconi@cox.net

Web site: www.factlv.info

Mission: Helping children, adults and families overcome and heal from the traumas of abuse, neglect, and violence through education, prevention and treatment

Wish List: Office supplies, art supplies for Children's Art Therapy Program, new teddy bears, Volunteer Board of Directors members and Advisory Board members (recruited quarterly)

Family to Family Connection, Las Vegas West

6114 W. Charleston Blvd.

Las Vegas NV 89146-1127

Phone: 702/870-9583

FAX: 702/870-9585

E-mail: f2fisd13@infionline.net

Web site: www.newbabycenter.com

Mission: Empower and support local families to provide safe and nurturing environment for their children – from birth through 47 months – through parent education and community networking

Wish List: Monthly sponsors for calendar and newsletter mailings (\$350/month) and rent and utilities payments (\$2,100); Corporate Sponsor (\$1,000) for "Stroller Roll" in November or "Touch a Truck" in April – all needed to support 70 or more classes each month (wait lists for the majority) since current grant only covers staff salaries

First Tee of Southern Nevada, The

3590 E. Patrick Lane, Suite B

Las Vegas NV 89120

Phone: 702/433-0626

E-mail: jschlosser@sngthouse.net

Web site: www.snjga.org

Mission: Impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs to promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf

Wish List: Volunteers, golf equipment suitable

for young children, sponsors for developmental and tour programs, office equipment in good working order, financial support

Food for Kids, Inc.

4525 W. Reno, Suite A4

Las Vegas NV

Phone: 702/877-5437

FAX: 702/877-4044

E-mail: foodforkids@hotmail.com

Mission: Work with licensed child-care providers in Nevada to partially reimburse those providers for costs of meals served to children in their care

Wish List: Enroll all licensed Family Daycare providers in Nevada who are interested in improving the nutritional needs of the children in their care

Foundation for Positively Kids

3753 Howard Hughes Parkway S-200

Las Vegas NV 89109

Phone: 702/262-0037

FAX: 702/262-0252

E-mail: pkfs@msn.com

Web site: www.positivelykids.org

Mission: Developing and providing comprehensive nursing services for medically fragile children; providing a positive team,

positive environment and positive outcome for the children served

Wish List: Volunteers for annual fundraisers; medical equipment and supplies; office equipment and supplies (computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, case lots of paper); licensed in-office and in-field clinical staff (RNs, LPNs, CNAs, PT, OT and ST)

Girl Scouts of Frontier Council

2941 Harris Ave.

Las Vegas NV 89101

702/385-3677

FAX: 385-9278

E-mail: pmiller@frontiercouncil.org

Web site: www.frontiercouncil.org

Mission: Using Girl Scouting to build girls of confidence, courage and character, who make the world a better place

Wish List: Van to accommodate 15 passengers (for at-risk programs), computers, and educational software and games for after-school centers, outdoor camping equipment, business sponsors for various Girl Scout programs

Girls and Boys Town of Nevada

821 N. Mojave Road

Las Vegas NV 89101

Phone: 702/642-7070

FAX: 702/649-3906

E-mail: waitet@girlsandboystown.org

Web site: www.girlsandboystown.org/nevada

Mission: Change the way Nevada and America care for at risk children and families

Wish List: Corporate and business sponsorships to assist in meeting annual fund-raising goals; clothing, dish and cooking ware, and linens for emergency shelter and long-term residences

Goodwill of Southern Nevada, Inc.

3585 Patrick Lane, Suite 100

Las Vegas NV 89120

Phone: 702/597-1107

FAX: 597-5147

E-mail: stevec@sngoodwill.org

Web site: www.sngoodwill.org

Mission: Provide education, training, employment and job placement for people with disabilities to maximize the quality of life for each individual served

Wish List: Donations and sponsors to raise \$7.6 million for the Goodwill Good Neighbor Center, property, marketable securities, gently used household goods



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**At Southwest Gas,
philanthropy
comes
naturally.**



Greater Las Vegas After-School All-Stars

(Formerly Inner-City Games)
233 South 4th Street, Suite 100
Las Vegas, NV 89101
Phone: 702/382-5447
FAX: 702/382-5801

E-mail: Jackie@glvic.org

Web site: www.lvafterschoolallstars.org

Mission: Provide comprehensive out-of-school programs that keep children safe and help them achieve in school and in life

Wish List: Small bus or a company to provide in-kind transportation, office supplies, instructional material (notebooks, pencils, glue sticks, scissors, rulers, markers, pens), children's books, "G" rated movies, parachute, sporting equipment, board games, TV/DVD systems, boom boxes/sound systems, computer software programs (reading, math, science, language arts, typing etc.)

Habitat for Humanity Las Vegas, Inc.

1573 N. Decatur Blvd.
Las Vegas NV 89108
Phone: 702/638-6477
FAX: 638-6478

E-mail: info@habitatlasvegas.org

Web site: www.habitatlasvegas.org

Mission: Build simple, decent, affordable houses for families in need, in partnership with

God and our community

Wish List: Land, land and more land; permanent office and warehouse space; personal digital assistants (PDAs), computer server for office networking, dump truck

I Have a Dream Foundation, Inc.-Las Vegas

3773 Howard Hughes Parkway, 3rd Floor South
Las Vegas, NV 89109

Phone: 702/649-1111

FAX: 702/376-1479

E-mail: smaddocks@c2gaming.com

Web Site: www.ihad.org

Mission: Motivate and empower children from low-income communities to reach their educational and career goals by providing mentoring, tutoring, enrichment and tuition assistance for higher education

Wish List: Mentors and tutors, locations for field trips, donations of snack food and water, sports equipment, clothing, educational tools, books, computers and software, office supplies, furniture, as well as monetary donations

Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, Inc.

2100 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite 3

Las Vegas NV 89104

Phone: 702/633-7264

FAX: 702/649-6438

E-mail: hhofvv@aol.com

Web site: www.hhofvv.org

Mission: Providing independence with compassion, dignity and concern while promoting an, improved lifestyle for Southern Nevada's senior citizens

Wish List: Increased space to facilitate programs efficiently; direct Service Volunteers for Valley seniors; board members from local corporations to assist in expansion services currently provided; new or gently used handicap-accessible van; non-perishable food for pantry

International House of Blues Foundation-Las Vegas

3950 Las Vegas Blvd. South

Las Vegas NV 89119

Phone: 702/632-7682

FAX: 702/632-7681

E-mail: krussell@hob.com

Web site: www.ihobf.org

Mission: Bringing the arts to schools and communities through programs that promote cultural understanding and encourage creative expression

Wish List: New and used musical instruments (especially a cello for a needy student); retail gift certificates or dinner comps to award as prizes in speech and art competitions; one-week hotel stay for visiting artists in residence; funds for a guitar instructor

Jewish Family Service Agency

4794 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite C

Las Vegas, NV 89119

Phone: 702.432.0304

FAX: 702.794-2033

E-mail: ExecDirector@jfsalv.org

Web site: www.jfsalv.org

Mission: Providing comprehensive, non-sectarian social services through programs and services including food pantry, counseling, adoptions, case management, volunteer corps and services to holocaust survivors

Wish List: New (not used) computer printers, reception area and meeting room furniture; copier with sorting, stapling, two-sided copying capabilities

Junior League of Las Vegas, Inc.

The Morelli House

861 Bridger Ave.

Las Vegas NV 89101

Phone: 702/822-6536

FAX: 702/822-6538

E-mail: jrleagueoffv@aol.com

Web site: www.jllv.org

Mission: Promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through effective action and



changing a whole family's destiny?

Since our words can not describe the feeling, we invite you to donate to Habitat for Humanity Las Vegas and discover the feeling for yourself. Visit www.habitatlasvegas.org or call 702.638.6477 for information on eliminating poverty housing and homelessness in our community.



1573 N. Decatur Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89108



**WELLS
FARGO**

The Next Stage®



Opening New Frontiers For This Community

The financial contributions we make to community-based organizations and programs are just one way we serve this community. Equally, if not more important, are the unflagging volunteer efforts of Wells Fargo team members who contribute their personal time and energy to make this community a better place to work and live.

leadership-trained volunteers

Wish List: In-kind donations & corporate sponsorships for Martinez Elementary Birthday Closet, Education Grants Program for Clark County School Classrooms, Jingle Bell Jog, Christmas Bear and Done In A Day projects

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

1771 East Flamingo Road, Suite 213A

Las Vegas NV 89119

Phone: 702/732-4795

FAX: 702/ 732-1635

E-mail: Nevada@jdrf.org

Web site: www.jdrf.org

Mission: Find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research
Wish List: Office volunteers, printing services, conference table and chairs, cabinets and shelving, storage unit

Las Vegas Area Council of Boy Scouts of America

7220 S. Paradise Road

Las Vegas NV 89119

Phone: 702/736-4366

FAX: 702/949-6022

E-mail: regrant@bsamail.org

Web site: www.lvacbsa.org

Mission: Prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout oath and law
Wish List: Means to build an endowment to fortify scouting during periodic economic downturns, \$12-million gift to develop a 1,000-acre high-adventure camp, upgraded computer systems, audio-visual equipment, and construction assistance to rebuild and expand Camp Potosi

Las Vegas Master Singers

7513 Figaro St., Suite 204

Las Vegas NV 89128

Phone: 702/258-0329

FAX: 702/992-0815

E-mail: info@lvmastersingers.com

Web site: www.lvmastersingers.com

Mission: Provide opportunities for talented members of the community to perform programs for the enjoyment of valley residents
Wish List: General operating funds, items for silent auction, sponsorships, donations to Susan Johnson Scholarship Fund, printing services, funds for choral risers

Las Vegas Philharmonic

3271 S. Highland Drive, Suite 702

Las Vegas NV 89109

Phone: 702/258-5438

FAX: 702/893-7757

E-mail: lvpinfo@lvphil.com

Web site: www.lasvegaspilharmonic.com

Mission: Provide live symphonic music at the highest artistic level and encourage the appreciation of fine music for all residents of southern Nevada

Wish List: Printing services, sponsorships for youth and classical concerts, sponsors for fund raising, silent auction items for golf tournament, music stands

Las Vegas Springs Preserve Foundation

1001 S. Valley View Blvd. M/S #40

Las Vegas NV 89107

Phone: 702/258-3919

FAX: 702/822-8453

E-mail: becky.day-swain@lvspringspreserve.org

Web site: www.springspreserve.org

Mission: Inspire communities to sustain our land and embrace our culture, especially as the Springs Preserve approaches its 2007 opening
Wish List: Corporate sponsorships, capital campaign support, individual giving, in-kind donations and volunteers

Las Vegas Sun Summer Camp Fund

2275 Corporate Circle, Suite 300

Henderson NV 89074

Phone: 702/259-4097

FAX: 702/952-4098

E-mail: dee@lasvegassun.com

Mission: Provide economically disadvantaged youth an opportunity to experience summer camp. No child is turned away for lack of funds.
Wish List: Funds are collected each year from individuals and organizations to cover camping fees for approximately 800 economically disadvantaged children, ages 8-14. The Las Vegas Sun newspaper covers all administrative costs. In-kind contributions accepted include printing of application forms and auction items for fund-raising events.

Leukemia-Lymphoma Society of America

6280 S. Valley View Blvd, Suite 342

Las Vegas NV 89118

Phone: 702/436-4220

FAX: 702/436-2396

E-mail: mitchelle@lls.org

Web site: www.lls.org/snv

Mission: Cure Leukemia, Lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families
Wish List: Printing of parent letters in English and Spanish for all elementary aged school children in the Pennies for a Cure program

Lutheran Social Services of Nevada

PO Box 1360

800 N. Bruce

Las Vegas NV 89125-1360

Phone: 702/639-1730

FAX: 702/639-1736

E-mail: Jaime@lssnv.org

Web site: www.lssnv.com

Mission: Expressing the love of Christ by serving and caring for all people in need
Wish List: Non-perishable food items (including formula & baby food), personal hygiene products for all ages, gently used and new clothing items for all ages, baby furniture and car seats, Adopt-a-family sponsors, committed volunteers for programs and fundraising events, monetary contributions and corporate sponsorships

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Nevada

3885 S. Decatur Blvd., Suite 1000

Las Vegas NV 89103

Phone: 702/212-9474

FAX: 702/367-0301

E-mail: sonevada@southernnevada.wish.org

Web site: www.wish.org

Mission: Enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy by granting wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions

Wish List: Bi-lingual volunteers

March of Dimes, Nevada Chapter

3650 N. Rancho Drive, Suite 106

Las Vegas NV 89130

Phone: 702/732-9255

FAX: 702/732-9250

E-mail: nv411@marchofdimes.com

Web site: www.marchofdimes/nevada

Mission: Improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature births, and infant mortality
Wish List: Volunteers interested in participating in events, committees and/or advocacy network (can include soliciting donations, or organizing and implementing events, such as conferences); donations of paper and other office supplies; silent auction items for the Signature Chef Auction and Nurse of the Year award dinner

Miracle Flights for Kids

2756 N. Green Valley Parkway, Suite 115

Henderson NV 89014-2120

Phone: 702/261-0494

FAX: 702/261-0497

E-mail: info@miracleflights.org

Web site: www.miracleflights.org

Mission: Provide free air transportation for sick children as many times as needed, as far from home as necessary to get them well -- over 40,700 flights since 1985

Wish List: Cash donations, frequent flyer vouchers on airlines, printing, graphic design and information technology services, filing cabinets, office furniture, computers and computer equipment

My Hope Chest

3395 S. Jones Blvd., Suite 298

Las Vegas NV 89146

Phone: 702/579-0799

FAX: 484 771 0584

E-mail: info@myhopechest.org

Web site: www.myhopechest.org

Mission: Providing free breast-reconstruction surgeries to uninsured and underprivileged women who desire it and qualify, providing "the final step in breast cancer treatment"

Wish List: Corporate sponsors to insure annual capital for surgeries; Executive Director grant (has been voluntary for 2 years), PR Firm in-kind services, grant writer, volunteer-board and -committee members; plastic surgeons, surgery centers and anesthesia groups to participate in the program

Nathan Adelson Hospice, Inc.

4141 Swenson St.

Las Vegas NV 89119

Phone: 702/733-0320

E-mail: jhantin@nah.org

Web site: www.nah.org

Mission: Providing patients and their loved ones with comprehensive end-of-life care; and influencing better care for all the community

Wish List: Cash donations, office equipment

and supplies (color laser printer, high-volume copier, printer cartridges for HP LaserJet 2100), gently used passenger van, subscriptions to professional journals, printing services for various projects and events, items for E-bay fund-raiser (high-end jewelry, designer bags, collectables), new items or gift certificates for raffles and silent auctions

Neighborhood Housing Services of Southern

Nevada, Inc.

1849 Civic Center Drive

North Las Vegas NV 89030

Phone: 702/694-0998

FAX: 702/649-0702

E-mail: brians@nhssn.org

Web site: www.nhssn.org

Mission: Promotion and preservation of affordable, attainable housing opportunities and community revitalization

Wish List: Monetary contributions to support operations, maintenance items for residential units (paint, carpet, toilets, light fixtures, appliances)

Nevada Association of Latin Americans

323 W. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas NV

Phone: 702/382-6252

FAX: 702/383-7021

E-mail: terinala@hotmail.com

Mission: Improve opportunities and quality of life for people of all ages and ethnicity

Wish List: Monetary donations, building repairs, new computer equipment, landscaping services, toys for children, books for all ages

Nevada Cancer Institute

Administrative Office:

10000 W. Charleston Blvd.

Las Vegas NV 89135

Phone: 702/821-0000

FAX: 702/821-0001

Research and Care Center:

One Breakthrough Way

10441 W. Twain Ave.

Las Vegas NV 89135

Phone: 702/822-LIFE

E-mail: cdumont@nvcancer.org

Web site: www.nevadacancerinstitute.org

Mission: Dedicated to research, prevention, detection, education, care and cure of cancer

Wish List: Volunteers capable of providing caring support and assistance to cancer patients and their families

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Bridging Business Resources With Community Needs.



*Connecting our resources,
our family and our community,
by supporting youth,
education and seniors.*

AMERICAN CASINO & ENTERTAINMENT
PROPERTIES, LLC



arizonachariesboulder.com



stratospherehotel.com



arizonachariesdecatur.com

Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence

P.O. Box 530103

Henderson, NV 89053

Phone: 702/940-2033

FAX: 702/940-2032

E-mail: laurie@ncasv.org

Web site: www.ncasv.org

Mission: Achieving statewide, uniform and comprehensive sexual assault services

Wish List: Conference co-sponsors and in-kind printing of promotional and registration brochures; corporate sponsorships, cash donations, fundraising coordination (Advisory Board development); computer technical assistance and Web site maintenance; filing cabinets, shelves, folding chairs and office supplies

Nevada Community Foundation

300 S. Fourth Street, Suite 1009

Las Vegas NV 89101

Phone: 702/892-2326

FAX: 702/892-8580

E-mail: info@nevadacf.org

Web site: www.nevadacf.org

Mission: Established in 1988, the Nevada Community Foundation is a nonprofit, Community Corporation created by and for the people of Nevada. As a philanthropic advisor, the Community Foundation provides a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to giving while also connecting donors' charitable interests with the valley's most pressing needs. Currently, the Foundation administers \$30 million in charitable assets, half of which are in the form of endowments to provide a source of support to Nevada now and in the future.

Nevada Council on Problem Gambling

4340 S Valley View Blvd., Suite 220

Las Vegas NV 89103

Phone: 702/369-9740

FAX: 702/369-9765

E-mail: nevcouncil@aol.com

Web site: www.nevadacouncil.org

Mission: Generate awareness, promote education and advocate for quality treatment of problem gambling in Nevada

Wish List: Corporate sponsors, media partners to coordinate effective public awareness campaigns, office volunteers, advertising and printing services, LCD projector

Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents (P.E.P.)

2355 Redrock St., Suite 106

Las Vegas NV 89146

Phone: 702/388-8899

FAX: 702/388-2966

E-mail: pepinfo@nvpep.org

Web site: www.nvpep.org

Mission: To increase the opportunities for home, community and school success for children with disabilities through education, encouragement and empowerment

Wish List: General office supplies, colored paper, permanent outdoor table set, office cleaning service; assistance in developing a marketing plan to enhance public awareness of P.E.P. and to increase awareness of the successes and needs of children with disabilities in our community

Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth

PO Box 20135

Las Vegas NV 89112

Phone: 702/383-1332

FAX: 702/313-0216

E-mail: kboutin@nphy.org

Web site: www.nevadahomelessyouth.org

Mission: Eliminate homelessness among Nevada's youth under the age of eighteen

Wish List: \$10 gift cards to Target, volunteers to help with street outreach

Nevada Public Radio Corporation (KNPR FM 89.5) Radio Reading Service

1289 S. Torrey Pines Drive

Las Vegas NV 89146

Phone: 702/258-9895

FAX: 702/258-5646

E-mail: melanie@nevadapublicradio.org

Web site: www.nevadapublicradio.org

Mission: Enhance the quality of life and build better communities by informing, educating, entertaining and inspiring growing audiences
Wish List: Increased memberships (Basic: \$40; Seniors & Students: \$25), monthly volunteer opportunities (contact Michelle LaBonney by phone or via E-mail at michelle@nevadapublicradio.org), catering trade and in-kind donation opportunities to feed volunteers during membership campaigns

Nevada SPCA

4800 W. Dewey Drive

Las Vegas NV 89118

Phone: 702-873-7722

FAX: 702/362-7757

E-mail: nevadaspca@aol.com

Web site: www.nevadaspca.org

Mission: Operate a no-kill animal sanctuary, promote humane education, and challenge people to be the best possible guardians for animals in their care

Wish List: Financial donations (cash, bequests or trust gifts); basic supplies for animal care, grooming and cleaning; and office supplies

Nevada Youth Alliance

7380 S. Eastern Ave., Suite 124

Las Vegas NV 89123-1552

Phone: 702/393-6163

FAX: 702/656-4910

E-mail: nvyouthalliance@aol.com

Web site: www.nevadayouthalliance.org

Mission: Engage in strategic marketing and implementation for youth, and family related programs, which fulfill the diverse needs of youth, families, community, businesses and organizations

Wish List: Professional Radio & TV PSAs; facility/office space for year-round community wide meetings, workshops, training, rehearsals and theatrical enterprises; event printing (flyers, posters, programs); professional CPA, Attorney and Business Development assistance; technological support – Web site design and maintenance, computer hardware and software

Opportunity Village

6300 W. Oakey

Las Vegas NV 89146

Phone: 702/259-3741

FAX: 702/259-3735

E-mail: Harnedc@opportunityvillage.org

Web site: www.opportunityvillage.org

Mission: Enhance the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, along with their families
Wish List: Increase in donors to support vocational and day-service. Call to discuss specific ways you and your business can help.

Rape Crisis Center, The

741 Veteran's Memorial Drive

Las Vegas NV 89101

Phone: 702/385-2153

E-mail: staff@therapeccrisiscenter.org

Web site: www.therapeccrisiscenter.org

Mission: Provide intervention, advocacy, support and education to all those affected by sexual assault

Wish List: Larger facility in order to offer more services to Clark County community

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Las Vegas

2323 Potosi St.

Las Vegas NV 89146

Phone: 702/252-4663

FAX: 702/252-7345

E-mail: joann@rmhlv.com

Web site: www.rmhlv.com

Mission: Provide a "home away from home" for families whose children in local hospitals; and support programs benefiting the health, education and welfare of children

Wish List: Personal hygiene items; sack lunch items; new toys; new clothes, socks and



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underwear for all ages (including adults); laundry detergent and softener; office supplies (letter-sized copy paper and file folders, 5-inch binders, photo paper, address labels, 10 X 13-inch white envelopes)

S.A.F.E. House

921 American Pacific Drive, Suite 300
Henderson NV 89014

Phone: 702/451-4203

Fax: 702/451-4302

E-mail: AndreaShcoe@aol.com

Web site: www.safehousenv.org

Mission: Ensuring every man, woman and child lives in a home free of violence

Wish List: Household furnishings (towels, pillows, linens, silverware, pots and pans), everyday household supplies (paper products, laundry detergent, toiletries), new undergarments, canned goods, in-kind printing and copying services

Safe Nest

2915 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite 12

Las Vegas NV 89102

Phone: 702/877-0133, ext. 228

FAX: 702/877-0127

E-mail: bcar@safenest.org

Web site: www.safenest.org

Mission: Advocating eradication of domestic violence through confidential, respectful and dignified assistance (shelter, food, clothing, counseling, education) to individuals and families experiencing domestic violence

Wish List: Three (3) acres of land along a main thoroughfare with availability to public transportation; 15-passenger van; business sponsorships and advertising services

SAFY of Nevada

(Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth)

4495 W. Hacienda Ave., Suite 3

Las Vegas Nevada 89118

Phone: (702) 385-5331

FAX: (702) 385-5678

E-mail: kurczp@safy.org

Web site: www.safy.org

Mission: Fostering an environment that positively impacts the lives of youth and their families -- whether they are with us for an hour or a lifetime

Wish List: Items for foster children between the ages of 5 and 17 especially suitcases, backpacks, school supplies and toys

Salvation Army, The

P.O. Box 28369

Las Vegas NV 89126

Phone: 702/870-4430

Fax: 702/258-8259

E-mail: charles.desiderio@usw.salvationarmy.org

Mission: Preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in his name without discrimination

Wish List: Cash donations, gas vouchers and bus tokens for job seekers, grocery store vouchers

Second Chance Foundation of Nevada

2069 E. Sahara Ave., Suite B

Las Vegas NV 89104

Phone: 702/369-5876

FAX: 702/369-6032

E-mail: info@secondchancefdn.org

Web site: www.secondchancefdn.org

Mission: Promote organ and tissue donation; provide aid for transplant patients

Wish List: Laptop computer, projector, copier, conference table, locking filing cabinets



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Shade Tree, The

1 West Owens

North Las Vegas NV 89030

Phone: 702/385-0072

FAX: 702/385-2337

E-mail: ED@theshadetree.org

Web site: www.theshadetree.org

Mission: Provide safe shelter to homeless and abused women and children in crisis, and to offer life-changing services promoting stability, dignity and self-reliance

Wish List: Toilet tissue, paper towels, new white socks (adult size), ladies underwear (sizes 7-10), 8 1/2 " x 11" copy paper, multipurpose liquid cleaner, spray deodorant, combs, diapers (size 5)

Special Olympics Nevada

4680 S. Polaris Ave., Suite 250

Las Vegas NV

Phone: 702/474.0690 x202

FAX: 702/474-0694

E-mail: rebeccam@sonv.org

Web site: www.sonv.org

Mission: Provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in Olympic-type events for individuals with mental retardation by giving opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy

Wish List: Printing and advertising collateral, scissor-lift rental for a three-day span, truck rental for a four-day span, food (lunches, pizzas, sandwiches, bottled water, juices); facilities for bowling, basketball, ice arena activities, swimming; sports equipment, TV with VCR and DVD player, signage, bicycles, paper

Speedway Children's Charities

7000 Las Vegas Blvd.

Las Vegas NV 89115

Phone: 702/636-8242

FAX: 702/644-7774

E-mail: jmelvin@lvms.com

Web site: www.sccllasvegas.org

Mission: Providing funds to organizations that meet the direct needs of children with medical, educational or social challenges

Wish List: Donations, sponsorships, volunteers

St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation

3001 St. Rose Parkway

Henderson NV 89052

Phone: 702/616-5756

FAX: 702/ 616-5751

E-mail: laura.fritz@chw.edu

Web site: www.strosehospitals.org

Mission: Improve community health and wellness through fundraising and relationship building for St. Rose Dominican Hospitals

Wish List: Major gifts to support charitable

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(702) 221-8600

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370 N. Stephanie St.
(702) 436-1515

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3250 S. Highway 160
(775) 751-4400

www.vbmv.com

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works and operations; in-kind donations and services to support Mardi Gras Ball (49th year) and Golf Classic (design and printing services, floral arrangements/table décor, gift bags, auction items, golf accessories -- balls, tees, bags, visors, shirts, awards; bottled water and soft drinks, boxed lunches, fax machine, volunteers

Street Teens

PO Box 70478
Las Vegas NV 89170
Phone: 702/215-4171

FAX: 702/ 215 4187
E-mail: lisap2003@earthlink.net
Web site: www.streetteens.org

Mission: Assisting homeless youth in the Las Vegas valley and meeting their survival needs by providing basic necessities in a safe, compassionate environment

Wish List: Donations and sponsors to raise \$1M in funds to purchase facility; community leaders to serve on volunteer Board of Directors and to work in the center; furniture, clothing, gift certificates, over-sized back packs, school supplies, tents, blankets, towels, bottled water & pop-top easy-open canned food

Southern Nevada Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

1094 E. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas NV 89104
Phone: 702/318-8452
FAX: 702/ 318-8463
E-mail: donations@snahec.org
Web site: www.snahec.org

Mission: Improve Nevada's health through education and outreach

Wish List: Cash donations, bottled juices and packaged snack items, general office supplies

Sunrise Children's Foundation

3196 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite 307
Las Vegas NV 89109
Phone: 702-731-8373
FAX: 702-731-8372

E-mail: fdn@sunrisechildren.org
Web Site: www.sunrisechildren.org

Mission: Helping children to fulfill their potential of safe, healthy and educated lives

Wish List: For "Be Bright, Don't Light" program (anti-smoking program in middle and high schools) - 40 NIC-o-teen Packs and 10 NIC-o-teen Manuals; For "Baby? Think It Over!!!" program (teen-pregnancy-prevention program) - 10 new electronic babies (infant simulators) and 150 updated computers for older infant simulators

Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Las Vegas Affiliate

4850 W. Flamingo Road, Suite 27
Las Vegas NV 89103
Phone: 702/822-2324
Fax: 702/877-2455
E-mail: komenlv@earthlink.net
Web site: www.komenlasvegas.com

Mission: Eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease by advancing research, education, screenings and treatment

Wish List: Strong community partners, advertising, copying and printing services; computer equipment and supplies, quilts, blankets, teddy bears

TechStart, Inc.

Attn: Joseph Sayles
1313 W. VanBuren Ave.
Las Vegas NV 89106
Phone: 702/491-3501
FAX: 702/638-0370
Email: techstart@lvcoxmail.com
Web site: www.techstartnevada.org

Mission: Break down real and imagined barriers to greater success, increased self-esteem, enhanced educational opportunities, and improved quality of life for the technologically disadvantaged

Wish List: Warehouse and office space, flatbed truck with lift gate, forklift, funding, volunteers/tutors and educational computer software

United Way of Southern Nevada

1660 E. Flamingo Road
Las Vegas NV 89119
Phone: 702/734-2273
FAX: 702/734-8504
E-mail: jill@uwaysn.org
Web site: www.uwaysn.org

Mission: Mobilize our community to create sustained change to improve lives

Wish List: Continue improving lives in Southern Nevada – that's what matters

Valley View Community Cares

2725 Donna St.
North Las Vegas NV 89030
Phone: 702/480-6421
FAX: 702/631-4434
E-mail: ydickerson@sunrisechildren.org
Mission: Address the developmental needs of at-risk youth and empower their families to provide a nurturing environment with a goal of success in school and a healthy family
Wish List: Survival kit packs for 65 youth @ \$25.00 each; sponsors for transporting youth outside of environment on field trip to Wax Museum (65 @ \$12.00 each); Two (2) computers

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Photo: Al Seib Costume: Dominique Lemieux © 2000 Cirque du Soleil Inc.

and games for Learning Center; incentive gifts for Book Club @ \$500; tee-shirts for Center (100 @ \$10.00 each)

Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada

3075 E. Flamingo, Suite 100A

Las Vegas NV 89121

Phone: 702/892-2321

FAX: 702/836-3036

E-mail: volunteernevada@cox.net

Web site: www.volunteercentersn.org

Mission: Provide resources to groups and individuals to help them deliver creative solutions to community problems through volunteerism

Wish List: Operating funds, volunteer matching system sponsors, volunteers, office space, youth program funding, TV, LCD projector, VCR, DVD player

Women's Development Center

953 E. Sahara Ave., Suite 201

Las Vegas NV 89104

Phone: 702/796-7770

FAX: 702/796-3007

E-mail: aschmit@wdclv.org

Web site: www.wdclv.com

Mission: Develop affordable housing, economic and educational opportunities, and support

services to individuals and families that enable them for long-term self-sufficiency -- ending cycle of poverty

Wish List: Financial support, volunteers, subcontracting services at reduced rates, PR coordinator, personal hygiene items, arts and crafts, games and activities for children, household items, laundry products

Women of Diversity Productions, Inc.

5790 N. Park St.

Las Vegas NV 89149

Phone: 702/341-9807

FAX: 702/341-9828

E-mail: dvrsty@aol.com

Web site: www.womenofdiversity.org

Mission: Empowering women and giving them visibility through free distribution of educational literary materials, such as books and videos, and by producing events

Wish List: Matching funds for grants from NAC and other sources; \$10,000 for operating expenses; VHS videotapes, CDs, DVDs and cases; batteries for microphones; graphic art work; video editing services

YMCA of Southern Nevada

4141 Meadows Lane

Las Vegas NV 89107

Phone: 702/877-9622

FAX: 702/877-0856

E-mail: DmcDaniel@ymcasn.lvcoxmail.com

Web site: www.lasvegasyymca.org

Mission: Put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirits, minds and bodies for all, turn no one away due to an inability to pay

Wish List: Financial support for "Strong Kids Campaign," which raises money for financial assistance and ensures that all those who desire services receive them

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Corporate 'Santas' help thousands through Angel Tree Program

By Deborah Roush
Contributing writer

While the beginning of fall marks back to school and cooler temperatures for most Las Vegans, it has an entirely different meaning for those involved in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. It's time to think about the holidays.

That's especially true for Jodi Tyra, who coordinates the companywide effort at Coldwell Banker Premier Realty and plans to again this year adopt more than 1,000 "angels."

According to the Salvation Army's Major Harryette Raihl, last year in Las Vegas more than 16,000 children received a new Christmas toy and piece of clothing through the Angel Tree Program.

It was firms like Coldwell Banker Premier Realty — which sponsored the most angels — that make it successful, Raihl said.

"We need the help of local companies big and small," she added.

The program is simple: The Salvation Army qualifies families with "little or no income" and records the children's toy wish and size. That information is transferred to paper "angel tags" that are hung on Christmas trees at local malls and delivered to participating businesses to distribute to employees and clients, Raihl explained.

Once gifts for the children have been collected, the Salvation Army picks them up or the company delivers them to the organization, she added.

Tyra, who is sales manager at Coldwell Banker and has been coordinating the program for five years, said she has the process "almost down to a science."

Tyra solicits participation from the company's Realtors by "blasting out e-mails" and attending sales meetings.

"The agents are awesome. They sponsor the kids themselves and take the tags to their clients," she said.

A couple of years ago Tyra added a twist to the program — shopper elves.

"Now, those who don't have time to shop can contribute a dollar amount and we'll do the shopping for them. I just put up a list asking for people to sign up to be the elves," Tyra explained.



More than 200 volunteers helped wrap over 1,800 gifts as part of the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program.

Some of the company's agents even have made the program a competition.

"We have one team of agents that started a prospecting game. They call their client list and get them to sign up for angels. They sponsored 100 angels their first year out. It's a way to keep in touch with clients, and now they have clients call them in October and November saying, 'We're going shopping; when can we get our angel?'"

"Then there was an agent in another office that said, 'I can do that too,' and they've made it a contest," she said.

It's that spirit of giving, said Tyra, that makes the work so rewarding.

"And just knowing that all the children we help are local makes it so worthwhile. Every child needs a Christmas. We work hard all year long for our own families and at Christmas we work to make it better for someone else," she said.

The Las Vegas chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors looks forward to the Angel Tree Program too, last year adopting more than 900 angels.

Michelle Cates, the organization's director of education, said her group plans to top that number this year.

By partnering with Interstate Plumbing and Air Conditioning and writing the more than 250 members in its organization to ask for donations, Cates said they are successful by "getting lots of people involved."

"Some go out and shop for gifts and bring them into the office while others donate dollars and the girls in the office go out and do

the shopping over two or three days. Then we take everything to Interstate and have a huge wrapping party.

"That's the most rewarding thing — seeing an 18-foot truck filled from top to bottom with toys," Cates said.

"Our members are so generous. The construction industry has been busy and blessed with good business and they want to pass on their blessings to people less fortunate," she added.

Helping children in need and making a connection with a specific child is why the Rio hotel-casino takes part in the Angel Tree Program, according to Melissa Harris, the administrative assistant in human resources who coordinates the program.


"Our employees like being able to pick someone with a specific name or age and do something personally involved with them," Harris said.

To get the message out, Harris hangs the tags on Christmas trees at the employee entrance and dining area.

"Employees take the tag off, go shopping and drop the gift back in my bin. Then several times a week the Salvation Army comes and picks up the gifts," she explained.

The two-week project nets Christmas gifts for 500 children, Harris added.

Tyra said companies interested in the program can "start small."

"The first year we did it we adopted 80 angels. It's just grown from there," she said. 



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Larry Ruvo, President
Southern Nevada Wine & Spirits**

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**RSVP required by
November 15, 2005**

*For membership application
and further information
call (702) 391-2242 or visit
www.BCICLV.org.*

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