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PUBLISHER

Bruce Spotleson bruce@gmgvegas.com

ASSISTANT Terry Martin (990-2443)

EDITORIAL

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS EDITOR Rob Langrell

SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR Sal DeFilippo

STAFF WRITERS Alana Roberts

Brian Sodoma

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Lisa McQuerrey

Deborah Roush

CREATIVE

EDITORIAL DESIGNERS Adam Bucci

Bradley Samuels

ADVERTISING CREATIVE DIRECTOR Thomas Jackman

ADVERTISING

SALES MANAGER Debbie Donaldson (990-2457)

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Sarah Dennis (990-8170)

Allen Grant (990-8991)

Bessy Lee (990-8948)

Carol Skerlich (990-2503)

Kelly Behrens-Keldel (990-8969)

ACCOUNT COORDINATOR Sue Sran (990-8911)

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Maria Blondeaux

PRODUCTION MANAGER Blue Uyeda

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Marissa Gable

TRAFFIC COORDINATOR Janine Hughes

TRAFFIC ASSISTANT Rue McBride

CIRCULATION

VP OF CIRCULATION Kris Donnelly (990-8994)

CLIENT RELATIONS MGR. Rhona Cameron (461-6434)

ROUTE MANAGER Lindsey Chapter (990-8187)

CIRCULATION ASSISTANT Doris Hollifield (990-8993)

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From the Editor

When schools return to session and fall approaches, it marks a special time here at *In Business Las Vegas*. It simple means that it's time to produce the "feel good section of the year." Of course, that's Community Giving.

Each year we get the opportunity to showcase the great contributions that area businesses and companies are making. This year we were inundated with great story ideas and photos. Las Vegas is a special place when it comes to lending a helping hand.

I don't just mean 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.

We get the chance each September to tell a few of the stories that embody the spirit of giving. It's impossible to document everyone's efforts here — that's the most frustrating part. We've tried to provide an assortment of people's generosity.

In this publication, you will also find our traditional list of nonprofit organizations located throughout Southern Nevada. We provide contact information and some of

their needs. This year, the list tops 100 deserving organizations for the first time.

Additionally, you'll find snapshots of various companies' efforts to help the community we call home. We tried to include in some way something about everyone who approached us. There is also a section that portrays giving through photos, showcasing some great candid shots of employees and their involvement in various programs.

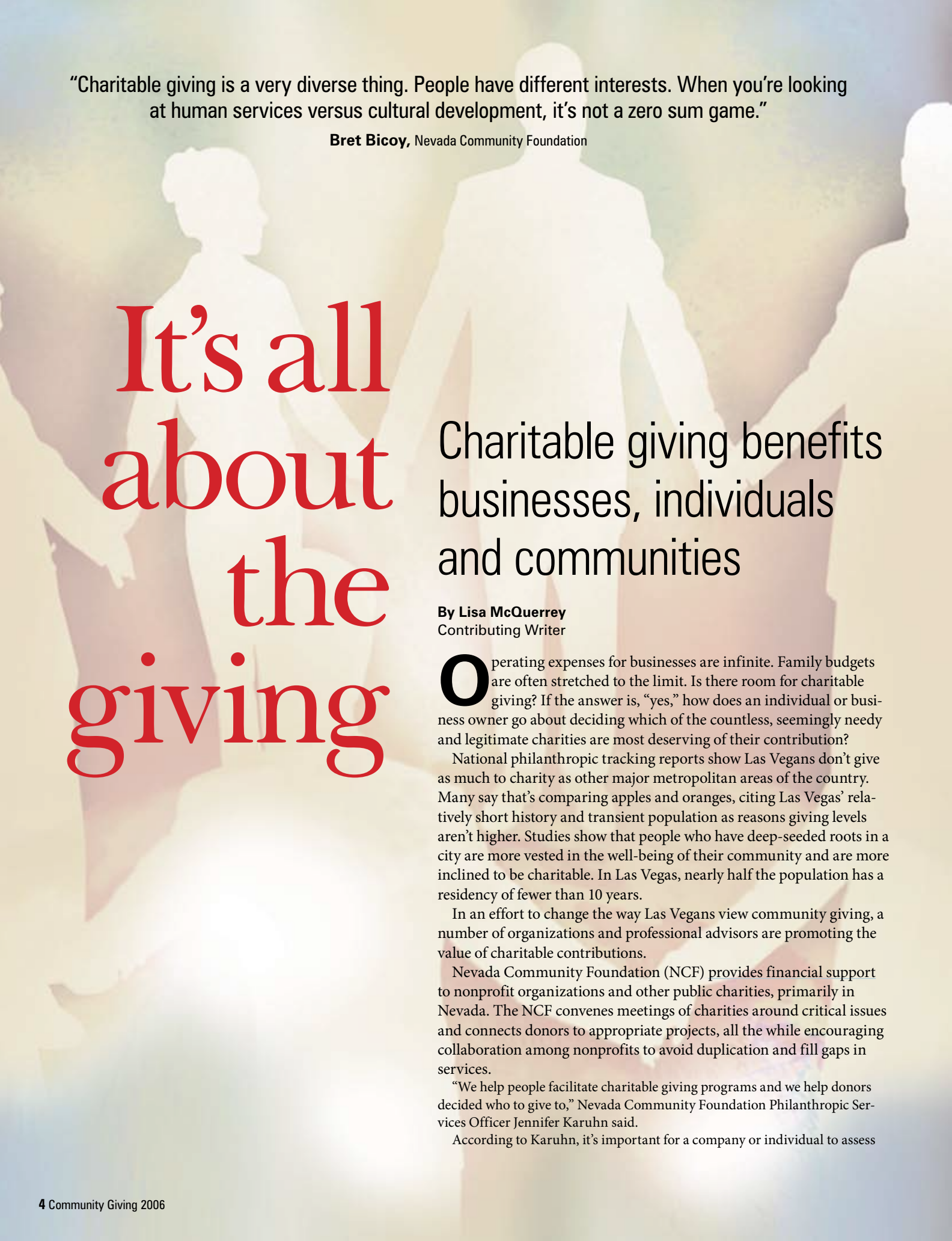
We sincerely hope you find this publication informative and helpful. It's important to paint a picture of the good things going on in our growing community. Community giving is simply the right thing to do. I hope you agree.

Rob Langrell
Editor of Special Publications
Rob.Langrell@gmgvegas.com
(702) 990-2490



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"Charitable giving is a very diverse thing. People have different interests. When you're looking at human services versus cultural development, it's not a zero sum game."

Bret Bicoy, Nevada Community Foundation

It's all about the giving

Charitable giving benefits businesses, individuals and communities

By Lisa McQuerrey
Contributing Writer

Operating expenses for businesses are infinite. Family budgets are often stretched to the limit. Is there room for charitable giving? If the answer is, "yes," how does an individual or business owner go about deciding which of the countless, seemingly needy and legitimate charities are most deserving of their contribution?

National philanthropic tracking reports show Las Vegas don't give as much to charity as other major metropolitan areas of the country. Many say that's comparing apples and oranges, citing Las Vegas' relatively short history and transient population as reasons giving levels aren't higher. Studies show that people who have deep-seeded roots in a city are more vested in the well-being of their community and are more inclined to be charitable. In Las Vegas, nearly half the population has a residency of fewer than 10 years.

In an effort to change the way Las Vegas view community giving, a number of organizations and professional advisors are promoting the value of charitable contributions.

Nevada Community Foundation (NCF) provides financial support to nonprofit organizations and other public charities, primarily in Nevada. The NCF convenes meetings of charities around critical issues and connects donors to appropriate projects, all the while encouraging collaboration among nonprofits to avoid duplication and fill gaps in services.

"We help people facilitate charitable giving programs and we help donors decide who to give to," Nevada Community Foundation Philanthropic Services Officer Jennifer Karuhn said.

According to Karuhn, it's important for a company or individual to assess

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Stacey Wedding is president of Stacey Wedding & Associates.

not only that a charity is legitimate, but to also take stock of what is most important to them personally, or from a company philosophy perspective. Is it children and education? Seniors? Social services programs or animals? Karuhn said it's important to come into a charitable giving program having an idea of what type of impact you want to make in the community.

Bret Bicoy, NCF president, said locally, many business owners are realizing they've been the beneficiary of Las Vegas' exceptional business climate, and as a result, see the benefit of supporting the community in which they operate. Bicoy said he sees a lot of corporations moving toward supporting issues that affect their employees directly, in particular, affordable housing and improved educational opportunities.

"Businesses are practical when it comes to giving," said Bicoy. "They see how quality of life issues affect their employees' performance and they see how employee performance affects their bottom line."

The Business Community Investment Council (BCIC) operates under the umbrella of the NCF and provides opportunities for business owners to collectively work together toward supporting common community goals. A nonprofit collaboration of businesses dedicated to enhancing the community through philanthropic giving, BCIC provides monthly funder's forums and an annual summit which allows member companies to interact and discuss a broad spectrum of programs and funding requests. BCIC members also provide mentoring partnerships for executives working to enhance their business through philanthropy.

Stacey Wedding, president of Stacey Wedding & Associates, is a former NCF executive who provides consulting services to foundations, businesses and charitable organizations. Services include philanthropic research and development of charitable giving programs. According to Wedding, businesses looking to step up community giving programs should first create a charitable giving plan that helps them narrow the focus of their efforts, decid-

ing what type of organizations are aligned with their personal or business philosophy. She said the next step is to assess the legitimacy of the organizations you're considering supporting.

"Is there an operating reserve or endowment? Do they have diversified funding streams? Is there a strong, established track record? Who is on the organization's board of directors?"

Wedding said it's appropriate to ask for an organization's financial statements and to conduct research online, using resources (see accompanying story) to view annual reports and learn more about an organizations' background, including its decision makers. Once an organization(s) has been chosen, Wedding said there are a number of ways individuals and businesses can offer support.

"If you're creating a culture of giving in your workplace, you may want to involve your employees in this part of the decision-making process," said Wedding. "Survey employees about what they want to support. This inspires involvement."

Wedding encourages donors to be creative in their approach to charitable work, noting that effective giving programs include financial and in-kind support as well as volunteer hours. She said taking a team approach not only helps develop leadership skills and increases morale, but also increases a company's visibility in the community, enhances reputation and gives companies a competitive advantage when attracting and retaining employees. Wedding said, "Studies show that assuming quality and price are the same, a business exhibiting good corporate citizenship is more likely to attract customers than its competitors."

Bret Bicoy
Nevada Community
Foundation president

Marguerite Griffin is the national director of philanthropic services for Northern Trust, an organization that administers more than \$120 billion in charitable assets for families, cultural organizations, charitable groups and nonprofit organizations. Griffin said in advising clients, Northern considers geography, program relevancy, financial stability of the organization and whether an organization's



Marguerite Griffin is the national director of philanthropic services for Northern Trust.

program(s) and mission fall within grant/corporate giving guidelines.

"Our due diligence in reviewing charitable organizations is quite extensive," Griffin said. "We conduct site visits, review annual reports and financial statements."

Griffin said the benefits of supporting the local community are many, from the development of new business relationships, support of an educated and motivated work force and creation of healthy living conditions and a stimulating cultural environment. She also noted the value of involving employees in community giving.

"It's important that employees recognize their responsibility to help strengthen the communities in which they live and work," said Griffin. "At Northern, we encourage our employees to support programs that improve social welfare, educational opportunities for children, contribute to arts and culture or otherwise enrich both quality of life and opportunities for all individuals."

Griffin said one way to foster employee participation is to offer programs that make volunteering and giving easily accessible. She suggests providing information on organizations in need of support and suggestions for ways to get involved. Business owners can also offer matching gift and volunteer grant programs, in which a company matches employees' financial gifts or donates money to an organization in which employees are involved.

Experts agree that while Las Vegas may be slow in coming to recognize the benefits of community giving, the city and its citizens are definitely moving in the right direction.

Bicoy said locals seem to be more interested in supporting human and social services programs over non-critical ones.

"Charitable giving is a very diverse thing. People have different interests. When you're looking at human services versus cultural development, it's not a zero sum game. We need to grow our charitable giving base and encourage people to give in the way that is most rewarding to them."

Developer issues challenge

Company's charity program becomes model for others to emulate

By Brian Sodoma
Special Publications writer

How will John Ritter be remembered in Las Vegas? The developer, who has several large valley commercial and residential projects to his credit and is putting plans into action for the 12,000-residence Inspirada housing development in southwest Henderson, hopes it will be for the kindness of his company, Focus Property Group, and not so much the success he has achieved personally.

The son of a hippy, Ritter admits that his mother probably wishes he became an artist living on a commune as opposed to a developer in a sprawling city. But some of his mother's free-spirited energy clearly rubbed off on him, as the Focus CEO last year initiated a program called "Community 911," where employees participate by donating their time and effort to a particular charitable project. Ritter characterizes the program as "a melding of the Apprentice, American Idol and Survivor." Film crews followed the groups' progress, and edited the footage into a program for Focus' holiday party.

The four-team effort that is Community 911 involves: rehabilitating and expanding a home for Child Haven; developing a land parcel for Olive Crest, a foster car agency; building a new "wish house" for the local chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation; and building a pet-care facility for the Shade Tree shelter.

More than 100 employees are involved in the challenge, more than two-thirds of the Focus staff, and Ritter said the program has become a model for other companies to follow, as it has produced more than 4,100 community service hours and easily surpassed its initial goal of \$2 million of in-kind contributions.

"We're getting a lot of requests locally and nationally about the program. Hopefully we can take our success and have it encourage others to do the same thing," Ritter said, adding that Focus is in the process of developing a handbook to help other firms create their own in-house charity challenges. Ritter said employees have gotten quite competitive, having gone above and beyond what they initially planned for their respective charities.

"We started out doing an obstacle course for \$50,000. ... Before we knew it we were renovating a whole house for \$500,000. John has definitely made it very easy for all of us to live, eat and drink this," said Desta Collins, a project manager for Landtek, a company within

Focus. Collins is the leader of the Mended Hearts group, which is working on the Child Haven project.

As with the other groups, Collins said Mended Hearts members became more obsessive and gave time on the weekends, and sometimes during the workday, which Ritter approved. She has also received inquiries from clients about the project, and says Community 911 has helped her meet people within Focus she otherwise wouldn't have.

Ritter said the Shade Tree and Child Haven projects should be done by early next year, while the other two will take a little longer.

"Each team captain has mentioned to us that this is a lifetime commitment to philanthropy. ... A lot of the projects the groups picked were really ambitious and certainly weren't six-month projects. Our first priority now is to finish up the projects each team committed to. After those are completed, then we can look at what to do next."

Ritter said his drive to promote giving in his company certainly comes from his mother's

influence, but other factors in his life as well.

"I certainly have to attribute some of it to my upbringing. (My mother) had always been the kind of person that helped her friends. ... She kind of took in a lot of strays," said Ritter, whose father died at a young age, thus thrusting him into a man-of-the-house role he became quite comfortable with. "I got used to the concept of helping out and I guess working hard."

In 2002, Ritter also established a charitable trust in his name. In the past year alone the group has donated more than \$4 million to more than 60 local nonprofits.

The establishment of the trust came after Ritter turned 40, had far exceeded all of the financial goals he set in his 20s, but "felt empty."

"I really wasn't motivated to make more money for myself. I've always lived a fairly modest lifestyle and the idea of accumulating more wealth for myself just didn't excite me." That's when Ritter made the ultimate pledge: "Everything I make will ultimately end up in a foundation that will help our community."

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Supreme Court Vice Chief Justice Nancy Becker, center in red, is surrounded by members of the “50-hour Club” — lawyers who donated at least that much in pro bono work last year.

The volunteer spirit

Supreme Court encourages lawyers to perform pro bono work

By Alana Roberts
Special Publications writer

It's not required, but a Nevada Supreme Court rule strongly recommends that lawyers offer some of their services for free to people and charitable groups who can't otherwise afford them.

The rule is a boon to local groups that offer free legal services to the community.

“It's an aspirational goal set by the Nevada rules for professional conduct,” said Kimberly Mucha Abbott, director for the Clark County Pro Bono Project. “The rule says we should give back to the community. It strongly suggests attorneys do 20 hours of pro bono work a year or donate \$500 (to benefit pro bono work).”

The rule was passed by the Nevada Supreme Court and went into effect in May. Mucha Abbott said the new rule puts a greater emphasis on volunteer service than on the financial contributions.

“There always was the rule in place (recom-

mending pro bono work),” Mucha Abbott said. “The change wasn't an enormous change. It's this emphasis on direct service.”

Although lawyers aren't required to give pro bono service, each year they must report if they have volunteered their services and how many hours to the State Bar of Nevada.

Nevada Supreme Court Vice Chief Justice Nancy Becker, helped start the Clark County Pro Bono Project in 1984 and was president for 10 years. She is now chairwoman of the new Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission.

She said when lawyers give of their services to benefit low-income individuals and charitable or public interest groups that lack means, the entire legal system benefits.

“We need to make people aware of how lack of access to the courts rebounds back into society,” she said. “If someone is the victim of fraud and they lose their home for it they're going to be looking for public housing. Also, people who feel like they've had a fair shot in court are less likely to take out their frustra-

tion by violent means.”

The Clark County Pro Bono Project is a division of Clark County Legal Services, a nonprofit law firm dedicated to providing free legal services and legal information to low income people. Clark County Legal Services has 18 staff attorneys who provide services in a variety of areas. The organization handles about 1,000 cases at any given time, and serves about 12,000 individuals in a year through its legal education classes and its free legal work, said Terry Bratton, the group's legal administrator.

He said the organization has an annual budget of about \$2 million and receives money from a variety of sources including the Eighth Judicial District Pro Bono Foundation, which acts as a clearinghouse for donations. Other local legal services organizations are Nevada Legal Services, City of Las Vegas Senior Citizens Law Project, Clark County Law Foundation-Trial by Peers Juvenile Diversion Program and the Foundation for the Relevant Education About the Law.

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Junior Achievement of Southern Nevada
Junior League of Las Vegas
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International
KNPB/Channel 5 Public Broadcasting
Latin Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation
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Justice Michael Douglas, left, and attorney Thomas Fell at the awards ceremony honoring pro bono work.

Volunteer lawyers for the Clark County Pro Bono Project handle those cases that the staff attorneys can't take. In her role Mucha Abbott recruits those volunteers.

Clark County Legal Services and the Clark County Pro Bono Project take cases of merit for people who meet certain income requirements in such areas as family law, domestic violence, abused and neglected children, immigration, consumer fraud, predatory lending and bankruptcy.

"What we do is we recruit volunteers to handle cases," Mucha Abbott said. "We're the clearinghouse that matches attorneys with cases. I spend a lot of time out at legal events trying to get the word out."

She said in 2005 the project placed 423 cases with 290 volunteer lawyers.

"I can tell you the number of people coming to us is increasing," she said.

In honor of those lawyers the project, along with the Clark County Bar Association, holds a lunch each December to honor lawyers and firms who place an emphasis on pro bono work.

"It's turned into one of the biggest events in the legal community," Mucha Abbott said. "Six hundred people attended in December 2005. We sold out the room."



Judge Philip Pro, left, hands an award to attorney Marshal Willick at the awards ceremony.



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Judge Nancy Loehrer, left, congratulates Doreen Spears Hartwell on her award for pro bono work.

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 A close-up photograph of a pair of hands holding a large, ripe red apple. The apple has a small green leaf attached to its stem. Overlaid on the apple is the 'Community Experience' logo in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline. Below the logo, the tagline 'Education is a Lifestyle.™' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

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The Clark County Pro Bono Project also sponsors continuing legal education classes with the Clark County Bar Association. She said the classes are a great way to recruit lawyers because the group holds them for free but in exchange participants agree to take on a pro bono case.

"That's our best recruitment tool," she said. "We get judges and attorneys to teach the classes."

Whether or not they're required to offer free services, some lawyers and law firms have made pro bono work a priority.

Cam Ferenbach, a partner with Lionel Sawyer & Collins, said the firm's history is steeped in its commitment to pro bono work. He said the firm doesn't require it, but it supports its lawyers who do want to provide pro bono services. The firm's lawyers have won numerous awards for their pro bono work from the Clark County Pro Bono Project and Clark County Bar Association.

"You remember the pro bono cases you did because you made a real difference," Ferenbach said. "You don't win every one, but the ones you're able to win it's pretty clear that if they hadn't had a lawyer, they wouldn't have had as good of a result."

Seniors assisted by LV organization

City of Las Vegas program helps lower-income elderly legal services

By Alana Roberts
Special Publications writer

A new facility is helping a well-established free legal services organization to better serve the area's senior population.

The City of Las Vegas Senior Citizens Law Project has been in the community since 1978, but earlier this year the program moved to the Downtown Senior Services Center at Ninth Street and Bridger Avenue. Although it is in Las Vegas' city limits, the program serves seniors throughout Clark County.

The move offers the organization an opportunity to better reach out to the senior population because other service providers are housed in the same building, said Sugar Vogel, the project's administrator. The building houses a food bank and other programs that address the social needs of seniors.

"We network with other senior service providers in our community to set them up with assistance with housing or with food costs," she said. "We're very proud to be a tenant in this building."

The program works to provide access to justice for lower income seniors who are at least 60 years old. Vogel said the project offers free legal services in a variety of areas, such as long-term health care issues, consumer disputes, identity theft, some estate planning issues, government benefit disputes, document preparation and elder rights issues.

Also, the organization is involved in a pilot program to represent the best interests of seniors who are involved in guardianship proceedings, which is funded by a grant from the Nevada Division for Aging Services.

Vogel said the project's staff is aggressive in its outreach efforts to seniors throughout Clark County by visiting senior and community centers, retirement homes and by making in-home visits, when necessary.

The project is sponsored by the city of Las Vegas, which supports its \$1.1 million a year budget along with various grants, said Ed Jost, senior citizen program manager with the city.

The program has 10 staff members, including four attorneys, and serves about 3,000 clients a year. Although there is a staff, there's an omnipresent need for more volunteer lawyers to take cases, Vogel said.

"There aren't enough attorneys that have volunteered their time for us to adequately place all of the cases we have," she said.

However, if the organization can't address an individual's issue then staff members will

work with other legal services groups in Clark County to provide the services.

Seniors are some of the most vulnerable people who need easy access to legal services, Vogel said.

"Seniors are easy victims," she said. "They're easy prey for the unscrupulous."

The Clark County Bar Association has honored the program twice for its pro bono efforts. But, Jost said the program is successful because

of how it touches people's lives.

"A good example is they had a woman who was overpaid Social Security benefits," he said. "The (U.S. Social Security Administration) was going to collect \$600 a month until it was paid. Through the work of the Senior Citizens Law Project it was reduced to \$10 a month. She didn't have to be homeless; she had money to live on. She had a resolution to the case and lot less stress because of it."

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Helping those in need

Businesses, nonprofits stepping up for at-risk youth

By Brian Sodoma
Special Publications writer

There's no secret that each generation of youth faces its own unique challenges. But today's group, many of which will be raised by single parents, some dealing with their own mental illness or substance-abuse problems, appear to be having the toughest go of all.

Defining at-risk youth comes with its inherent challenges. Even those offering services to this growing group may disagree on what an at-risk youth profile actually is. But a common ground seems to be that a growing number of teens and youth today are forced to live a life without some basics for success, such as a stable home environment. They may face pressures to do drugs, have to deal with hunger, or even go without medical care.

Ron Lawrence, director of the Community Counseling Center (CCC), a comprehensive outpatient community mental health center in Las Vegas, said most of the problems his center sees when it comes to at-risk youth are drug-related.

"No question about it. ... At one point we did an assessment on a 10-year-old who was already a heroine addict," he said, while adding that his group also does a lot of parent counseling, for mothers and fathers who are substance abusers themselves.

With an annual budget of \$1.5 million, 80 percent of which is public funding designated for salaries, CCC relies a lot on "community service" donations to help keep its building updated and for purchasing

supplies. One donor recently bought 27 computers for CCC's 10,000-square-foot facility, a needed upgrade to stay networked with public agencies, Lawrence added.

But Lawrence said CCC is now putting more focus on reaching out to the business community for funding, which he said has been a tough sell in past years.

"One of the things I've learned lately is that if I talk about the fact that getting good mental health care ends up preventing a whole lot of other things from happening, they listen," Lawrence said. "There's a whole lot of spin-off for what we do. We're giving people coping skills, helping them to stay sober, and keeping families and relationships together. ... People understand when I start to talk about results."

Kids and Cops ...

Businesses and nonprofits are partnering in other ways to help at-risk youth.

An initiative born out of a 2004 conversation between United Way of Southern Nevada president Dan Goulet and Sheriff Bill Young, Kids and Cops is a voucher program allowing police officers in Las Vegas' northeast and Bolden areas to issue vouchers for food, clothing, school supplies, or other basic needs to at-risk youth.

"As we talked about it we found that police officers were taking money out of their own pockets to help these kids," said Goulet.

Officers in the areas carry two packs of 10 vouchers each, one from

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Target department stores and one from McDonald's. The \$25 vouchers for Target are to be used for clothing, school supplies, shoes or other needs, as indicated by the issuing officer on the voucher. The McDonald's vouchers are each worth \$5.

In the past year, the program spent about \$40,000, giving out 2,500 vouchers. For the next year, MGM Mirage's Voice Foundation contributed \$50,000 to the program, more than doubling its initial \$20,000 contribution. Goulet said two new districts – downtown and the southeast – will be added in the coming year, and he estimates the cost at about \$80,000 to run the program with the areas.

"The bigger long-term goal for this project is to build the relationship between the community and the police," Goulet added. "Kids are being receptive and pointing out things to police in the neighborhood."

By monitoring what the vouchers were used to buy, and to whom they were issued, United Way and the police can get insight into the users. Currently, the average age of a voucher recipient is seven. Backpacks are the most sought out items, while having other information on the voucher receipt allows officers to follow up on at-risk youth.

"It (the voucher format) helps us to measure the effectiveness of the program," added Goulet. Ultimately, Goulet said he would like to see the program go county-wide.



At-risk youth learn confidence and trust while picking up circus basics in Cirque du Monde.

Kids and Cops also goes hand-in-hand with United Way's Success By Six initiative, which promotes literacy, health and safety for young children in an effort to assure them of having the skills to begin school at age six. United Way also supports the Center for Independent Living, which assists at-risk teens in learning basic life and job skills, helping them to get through high school and into college or the work force.

No clowning around ...

For many businesses, helping at-risk youth comes in the form of offering up its own skills and services to those in need. Cirque du Soleil is one of those entities.

In the mid-80s, Cirque du Soleil, whose original 14 members were struggling Montreal street performers, implemented its Cirque du Monde program, where company representatives help at-risk youth learn circus basics, in an effort to build trust and confidence.

On the surface the program may come across as a clinic for people interested in a potential circus careers. But Karen Gay, Cirque du Soleil's director of social and cultural affairs for resident shows in Las Vegas and California, asserts the program is exactly the opposite. Instead Cirque uses pyramid building, stilt walking, juggling and other circus tricks as a tool to reach out to the hearts of disadvantaged youth.

"This is never about selling a show, or getting artists to come to work for us," said Gay. "The best way I can say it is that our founder, Guy Laliberte, said it best when he looked at these kids and said there's nothing 'behind the eyes.' With this he hoped to help them find that something."

A typical workshop could last nine to 12 weeks, said Gay, and will meet for two three-hour sessions a week. "I've seen some of them (students) in the beginning and the end of the workshop, and to see that spark, that light in the eyes, they really feel like they can do something with their lives," she said.

On a local level, Cirque du Monde is conducted in cooperation with the Andre Agassi Foundation, the Center for Independent Living and other local partners. It runs in 54 communities around the globe and has served over 7,000 youth, 80 percent of which are at-risk. One percent of Cirque's gross revenues goes to funding Cirque du Monde. Coaches who conduct the programs are not necessarily



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coaches for Cirque shows.

"Sometimes we have (people) who are fantastic jugglers and love kids, or they may be former dancers, make-up artists. These are people that come from all walks of life," Gay added.

Young contractors ...

As a new generation of contractors emerges in Las Vegas, many are giving time and resources to help at-risk youth.

Erick Sanchez, 23, president of General Design and Construction, a Las Vegas general contractor, will donate about \$75,000 in materials and services to help expand and upgrade the Huntridge Teen Medical center. The facility is used by many at-risk youth to gain access to dental and basic medical care. Sanchez said the project was part of a group exercise he participated in when he was involved in the Leadership Las Vegas class for young business owners, sponsored by the city's chamber of commerce.

"We sought out projects for charitable organizations that needed help," Sanchez said. "We (the group) felt this was a project where we could bring the most value. We're involved with a couple of other projects too."

Sanchez's father, Ramon, who owns a steel manufacturing business in town, has also given to Opportunity Village through the years. Erick Sanchez believes younger contractors like him, who have grown up in the business are a prime group for giving to charitable causes.

"I think that we are a relatively young group of people that have a great opportunity to do well. So we're fortunate for that. We want to, in turn, provide opportunities to groups who don't (have our same good fortune)," he added.

Sanchez is also on the board of the Shade Tree shelter.

Another young developer in town is Tommy Isola, a principal at Blue Heron Development, which is currently building Stone Canyon, a 46-unit, luxury loft condo project at the corner of Buffalo and Del Rey avenues. Isola, 27, recently signed his company on to help Boys Hope Girls Hope of Nevada, a program to help at-risk teens. Blue Heron will build its first girls' home at the corner of Spring Mountain Road and Decatur Boulevard. The group already has a boys' home in North Las Vegas, said Isola, but with the help of Blue Heron, will have a second home completed by August 2007.

"I was looking pretty hard at some sort of community involvement and Boys Hope Girls Hope came to me. I really like how they focus individually on each person. With some organizations you take this shotgun approach where you throw a lot of money and a lot of resources at a lot of kids," Isola said. "With this, they kind of walk them through school, giving them educational, emotional and spiritual

"We're giving people coping skills, helping them to stay sober, and keeping families and relationships together. ..."

Ron Lawrence

Director, Community Counseling Center

support. All of the parents still have custody of (the boys and girls in the program), but they (the children) face certain hardships in their lives. It might be the parents are abusive or addicted to drugs, and don't have the means to raise a child.

"These are kids that have the potential and the ability to do great things, they just need some direction." Isola is also on the board for Boys Hope, Girls Hope. Currently, the boys' home has six participants, and the girls' home will have eight when completed.

Deep roots ...

Marty Mahoney, owner of Mahoney's Entertainment, which provides bands, acts, as well as instrument rental for valley events, is another example of a man who is taking a long look at the good he has achieved in 30 years of business in Sin City, and using his resources to give back to at-risk youth.

Mahoney recently donated about \$7,000

in in-kind services, including face painters, clowns and musicians for the annual Back To School event held at Meadows and Boulevard Malls on August 12 and 19th. The event is co-sponsored by the 10,000 Kids program, a Las Vegas-based gang prevention and outreach program headed by East Vegas Christian senior pastor Troy Martinez, as well as the Nevada Youth Alliance, among others.

Mahoney said the 10,000 Kids program is a big reason why he got involved. Mahoney began attending Martinez's church a few months ago and was impressed with his efforts to get kids out of gangs. Martinez, a former gang member himself, is a member of the Southern Nevada Community Gang Task Force.

"I was a drug addict and I've been clean and sober for eight years. It helps for me to be compassionate to how it is. ... Kids grow up in an apartment building. Mom's gone all day and they find trouble. We're just trying to show them music is something else they can do, instead of going around shooting people," Mahoney said.

Mahoney also said that helping the 10,000 Kids program is a way for him to try to keep his own neighborhood safe.

"I have two babies of my own now, and you hear about the murders, gang shootings. I just don't want my kids to get into this," he said. "Hopefully we can make a difference and get people to want to help out with this stuff."

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Care Givers

Las Vegas community contributes to success at Nevada Cancer Institute

By **Alana Roberts**
Special Publications writer

There are many things the Nevada Cancer Institute has achieved in its short existence. But, if its leaders have their way, the non-profit cancer care and research facility will add one more achievement by earning the designation of Comprehensive Cancer Care Center by the National Cancer Institute.

That designation, considered to be an honor within medical circles, is not given lightly, said Shelley Gitomer, the organization's vice president of development.

"There are many community cancer centers, but comprehensive is a prestigious designation," she said. "The nearest comprehensive center is in Los Angeles. There's very good cancer care in Las Vegas,

but not with this model of fully-integrated care."

The designation is given to facilities that perform laboratory, clinical and population-based research.

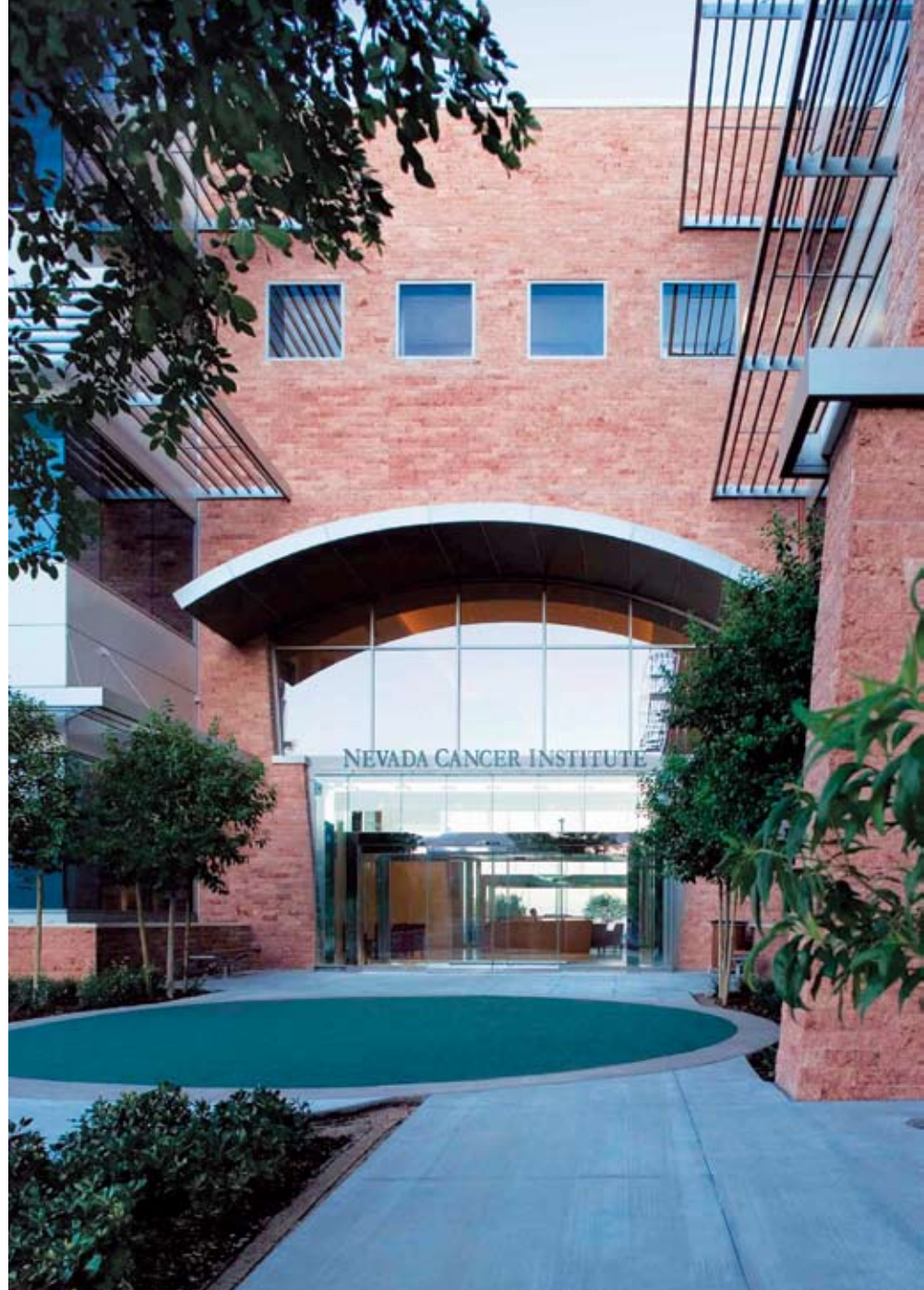
In addition to the

research, most comprehensive centers also provide clinical care and service for patients, as does Nevada Cancer Institute.

The institute's continued success will be tied to the amount of ongoing support the community gives.

"This is just the beginning," she said. "We plan on growing."

A wide range of individuals, corporations and philanthropic organizations have supported the institute since its founding in 2002. It has raised more than \$100 million in private contributions.



For more information
about Nevada Cancer
Institute

SEE PAGE

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The Nevada Cancer Institute, founded in 2002, serves more than 1,500 patients with state of the art facilities funded by the donations of companies and individuals.

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Shannon Mason, Big Sister since 2004,
seen with her "Little Sister" Jessica Maldonado.
Senior Video Graphics Designer at IGT.
Employee since 1998.



Heidi Littenberg
Rides in 100-mile fund raisers for
the Lance Armstrong Foundation.
Marketing Services Supervisor at IGT.
Employee since 1999.





The Harrah's waiting room offers patients and families a serene setting.

Nevada Cancer Institute has built a 42,000 square-foot flagship research and cancer care facility, with support from a \$50 million construction bond. The facility opened in Summerlin a year ago.

The research facility is on five acres donated by The Howard Hughes Corp. That plot is part of 61 donated acres that the nonprofit agency can use expand operations.

The institute serves more than 1,500 patients, employs more than 200 administrative and medical personnel and has 380 volunteers.

Gitomer said none of the institute's achievements would have been possible without the community's support. "People have stepped forward philanthropically, but people have also been volunteering," Gitomer said. "That's what it takes to make something like this successful. It not only takes the staff, but community buy-in. We would not be here today without the community."

Lori Goodwine
Director of Hospitality

Lori Goodwine, the institute's director of hospitality, reception and volunteer programs, said volunteers work on premises and off. They perform various tasks at the facility for patients and their visitors. She said the bulk of those volunteer efforts are related to outreach and fund-raising efforts.

"Ninety percent of volunteers are focused on our community message, either through special events or community outreach," she said.

"They are significant to getting community buy-in."

In addition to The Howard Hughes Corp., a long list of other organizations and individuals have also given to the Nevada Cancer Institute, including The Greenspun Family Foundation, Harrah's Entertainment Inc. and the Las Vegas Founders Foundation.

Gitomer said she has been pleasantly surprised by the large number of individuals, families and philanthropic foundations that have stepped forward to support the Nevada Cancer Institute.

"When I first came here, people told me 20 named families were the ones who give," she said. "But now the list is longer. We've been very lucky. Young organizations have a difficult time attracting foundations and corporations. (But) we have corporate sponsors like Harrah's and we have large grants from the Avon Foundation. Those gifts have been



Shirley Gitomer

helpful in attracting other grants."

She said the fact that the community can support an organization such as Nevada Cancer Institute means the area has reached a certain level of growth.

"I think it has been part of the maturing of the community," she said. "I think as the community gets older they understand that it's important to take care of our own."

She said the organization has a special relationship with Harrah's Entertainment because it has been a longtime supporter of Nevada Cancer Institute.

"They were the first corporation to give us a large gift," Gitomer said. "We're very happy they continued that kind of generosity."

The company began its contributions to the Nevada Cancer Institute with a multi-year donation totaling \$1 million, which includes an employee/company match, said Anne Sheridan, Harrah's Entertainment director of community relations. The company's World Series of Poker recently named the Nevada Cancer Institute its official community relations partner. She said companywide, Harrah's contributes 1 percent of its profits to local charitable causes.

"We are large, profitable and growing in size, that translates to a lot of real dollars for a lot of real needs in our community," she said. "Before Nevada Cancer Institute came on line people had to leave to get treatment in some cases. We're happy that's no longer the case."

The Nevada Cancer Institute's strong leadership team, led by Heather Murren, the institute's president and chief executive, encouraged Harrah's leaders to support the institute from the beginning.

"They were led by some very dedicated and motivated people and the need was so obvious," Sheridan said. "We like in our philanthropy to be the first on board."



A large sculpture stands outside of the Nevada Cancer Institute.

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Bringing back smiles

Give Back a Smile program lends hand to victims of domestic abuse

By Deborah Roush
Contributing Writer

Victims of domestic violence who have had teeth cracked, broken or knocked out by their spouses have found help for the last seven years through a national program established by the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD) that puts them in touch with dentists in their area to give them back their smile – for no cost.

In Las Vegas there are a half-dozen such volunteer dentist offices in the organization's Give Back a Smile program and the list is growing, said Anna Velton, a spokesperson for the AACD.

Velton said her organization partners with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), which identifies and helps qualify victims.

"It can be a case of neglect, for example, and there are no financial stipulations. Also, the victim has to be out of the abusive relationship for one year," she said.

"It's about helping the survivor – it's a final step in the healing process," she added.

Dr. James Wagner, a cosmetic dentist at Las Vegas' Dental Artistry, has been a longtime member of the AACD and a volunteer for the Give Back a Smile program since its inception seven years ago.

Wagner, whose office helps one to two patients a year completely pro bono, said the

program provides him with a meaningful way to contribute to someone else's life.

"The purpose of the program is really to help people who have been battered to give them back a life – to give them back a smile. And it really does help," he said.

"The AACD has done significant research about the effect a nice smile can have on a person's self-image. To be able to give that back to someone is a wonderful thing," he said.

Wagner said most of the victims he has assisted have been injured and have damaged front teeth. "We have done most of the full range of cosmetic procedures at one time or another with this program. With the one we just finished recently the tooth had been broken and we had to extract what was broken and make a bridge," Wagner said.

Wagner said he believes the program is a logical fit for the AACD. "It is one thing as a group we can do that fits in with the theme of cosmetic dentistry," he said.

Velton agreed. "It shows the dramatic effects that cosmetic dentistry can have on a person's life," she added.

Velton said there are program volunteers



Dr. James Wagner

in every state and Canada and more than 900 dentists, lab technicians and other dental professionals have volunteered their time to the program since 1999.

Since its creation, 457 domestic abuse cases have been completed for more than \$3 million. There are currently 342 applicants being treated through the program, according to statistics provided by the AACD.

In the last fiscal year, Give Back a Smile volunteers donated more than \$1 million in services, they report.

Yet the number of volunteer dental offices in Nevada – 10 – is still relatively small.

Wagner isn't surprised.

"Within any group there are a certain number of people who tend to be very involved, and others who are just members," he said.

He does, however, encourage other local dentists in the AACD to consider volunteering in the program.

"You don't have to qualify people's needs – that's handled through the existing organizations professionally and with a great degree of confidentiality," he said.

"It's good to have a cause to be involved in," he said.

For more information about becoming involved or donating to the AACD's Give Back a Smile program in Nevada, call 1-800-543-9220 or access www.givebackasmile.com. Victims wishing to apply to the program can call 1-800-773-4227.

Giving at a Glance

Community Food Pantry

With the help of Albertson's, Lotus Broadcasting and R&R Partners, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada is receiving some much-needed restocking of their Community Food Pantry. The Second Annual Catholic Charities Summer Food Drive took place in late August at all area Albertson's stores across the Las Vegas Valley.

At each of Albertson's 38 locations valley-wide, shoppers could purchase pre-stuffed grocery bags for \$9.99 each. The bags were delivered directly to the Catholic Charities campus, which is located at 1501 Las Vegas Blvd. North near Cashman Center. Donations may also be made at the campus office.

"Summer is typically a slow donation time for us as people are busy and away on vacation," said Monsignor Patrick Leary, executive director of Catholic Charities. "But the need to feed thousands of hungry citizens never goes away – especially working poor families and senior citizens who often have to choose between paying rent or buying food."

Catholic Charities is one of the largest nonprofit social service providers in the state, offering the most comprehensive range of human services. Catholic Charities offers 25 diverse programs designed to help all people in need, from infants and children to families, seniors and the homeless, regardless of race, religion, or creed.

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza recently teamed up with the Clark County School District School-Community Partnership Program to help underprivileged children by providing tools they would need to begin the school year.

Sammy's hosted a drive for back-to-school supplies in August, collecting new, unwrapped school supplies such as packages of pens and pencils, paper, backpacks, scissors, binders, markers and more at both Nevada locations. Each guest who brought in a donation of school supplies valued at \$5 or more received a certificate for a free giant Messy Sundae®.

Peckman Outdoor Media

As part of the "Empowerment Schools" pilot program, Maureen Peckman, president of Peckman Outdoor Media, announced in August that the locally owned billboard advertising company has donated \$50,000 to Adams Elementary School in northeast Las Vegas.

The "Empowerment Schools" program aims to provide schools with more control in budgeting funds, planning schedules and implementing programs to advance student achievement. Principals and staff will have more autonomy when making school-based

decisions, and the program's overarching goal is to increase community involvement with the schools.

Clark County School District Superintendent Walt Rulffes set up the pilot program earlier this year. Four low-income elementary schools have been paired with local corporate sponsors – Peckman Outdoor Media with Adams, Greenspun Family Foundation with Antonello, MGM Mirage with Culley and Wells Fargo with Warren. The selected schools represent a variety of the school district's campuses in terms of diversity, economics and performance.

Each corporate sponsor has donated \$50,000 to its particular school. Staff and business partners will determine how best to use the money.

MaxxaM Entertainment

MaxxaM Entertainment, a local entertainment production company, will hold their launch party on Sept. 21, where it will hold drawings to donate money to three local charities in the names of attendees.

Donations of \$6,000 will be made to Child Haven, Las Vegas Academy and Heaven Can Wait Animal Sanctuary.

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Success in numbers

More streamlined operation allows 'Big Brothers' to serve more kids

By **Alana Roberts**
Special Publications writer

Erin Cornelius, chief executive of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada, measures the success of the group by the number of "littles" the group is able to serve.

Since taking the helm of the youth mentoring organization a year and a half ago, Cornelius' goal has been to boost the number of kids the group serves by recruiting more volunteer mentors.

When she joined the organization, 163 children participated in the program. Now there are 843 youths paired with volunteers. She said the group hopes to reach about 1,500 by the end of the year.

"That's the number of kids we should be serving based on our budget," Cornelius said.

She said one reason for the ability to match more youngsters with volunteer mentors is the speeding up of the volunteer screening process. The waiting list for mentors has been whittled from 178 to 32, with the maximum

waiting time reduced to two months from as long as two years.

"When I came here it took us (on average) six to nine months to process a volunteer," Cornelius said. "Now we do it in two weeks."

Under Corne-

"We want kids to realize that it's important to do well in school."

Erin Cornelius


Chief Executive of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada

lius' leadership the group has implemented more streamlined operations and has cut the cost to match each child with a volunteer from \$4,000 to \$2,100. That cost includes the process of screening volunteers through background checks and interviews, matching them with the proper child and supervising the relationship. The group operates on a \$3.5 million budget.

"We trimmed our staffing to be more cost-efficient," she said. "We really focused on having the right people in the right positions,



Above, Jensara Clay, who is a volunteer mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada, is shown with her little sister, Jessica, during the organization's annual picnic earlier this year at Paradise Park. At left, a volunteer mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada spends time with his little brother at Disneyland in July.



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consists in sharing the
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~George Santayana

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At left, an excursion sponsored by the Land Rover Club of Las Vegas featured traversing ditches – intentionally – as part of a Big Brother Big Sister excursion. Below, volunteer mentor Greg Brown is shown with his little brother, Jamal, during the Disneyland trip in July.

serving kids. We really cut our administrative expenses so the focus of our money goes toward our program.”

She said that streamlining process was important, particularly in Las Vegas.

“We need to be accountable to our donors and most of our donors run businesses,” Cornelius said. “They expect us to run efficiently and manage their dollars well. So we made changes to make that happen. Donors now, especially in this community, are very savvy. They will put their money where they think they’ll get the most bang for their buck.”

Some of those bucks will go toward a new

office. The organization is partnering with Boys and Girls Clubs to build an office for the two groups at Mohave

For more information about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nevada

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SEE PAGE

Avenue and Bonanza Road. Cornelius said Big Brothers Big Sisters’ share of the cost to build the project would be \$1.5 million, which she said is a savings.

The building will be near where many of the group’s young clients live. That will also help the group to better serve them, Cornelius added.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada has recently been praised for its efficiency. The chapter’s board of directors was honored as 2006 Board of the Year by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America at its national conference in June.

The agency was judged on its growth in rev-

enue, strong governance, growth in matches between volunteers and children, partnership development, support of other Big Brothers agencies and success in fund-raising.

Those efforts have affected the group’s little brothers and little sisters in some very tangible ways. Thanks to a group of donors who provided \$15,000, 52 little brothers and sisters along with their mentors went on a day trip to Disneyland in July. The trip was a reward for good or improved grades.

Cornelius said the organization is planning on offering the trip again next year.

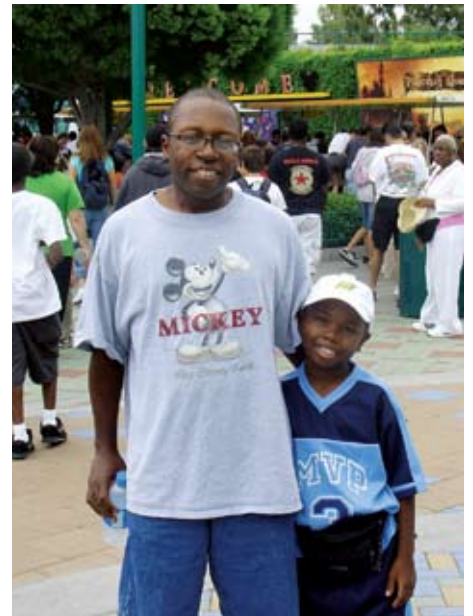
“Some of our kids have never been out of Las Vegas so it was a big deal for them,” she said. “We want kids to realize that it’s important to do well in school.”

Raising interest among donors as well as volunteers has been important to the group’s success.

Katherine Little, a board member and volunteer mentor of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada, said she was recruited by a friend who is also a board member. She said her friend, who she declined to name, found ways to convince her by showing her how easy it is to be a big sister.

“She was very tricky actually,” Little said. “She would invite me on her outings when she would go out with her ‘little’. She would take her ‘little’ to the movies and she’d say, ‘Do you want to go?’ I would see how she interacted with her ‘little’ and I said, ‘I could do that.’”

Volunteers only need to meet with their littles a few hours a week, and if at times it isn’t possible to meet with the child, a phone call or an e-mail is acceptable. More people should consider volunteering with Big Brothers Big



Sisters of Southern Nevada, she said.

“I think a lot of people have that fear factor. They’re not sure what is involved; that’s why a lot of people don’t get involved,” she said.

She said the experience has positively affected both she and her 8-year-old little sister.

“I’m also learning from her even though she’s eight,” Little said. “Learning to slow down. I’m so used to such a fast lifestyle. It gives me a different perspective in life. I do enjoy spending time with her. I hope someday she will go onto the right path.”

Giving at a Glance

Business Bank of Nevada

Business Bank of Nevada recently announced that this year's contribution to United Way's 2006 Community Campaign totaled nearly \$18,000. The Bank's donation consisted of almost \$15,000 from its employees and another \$3,000 in a corporate gift. This year's campaign contribution was a 20 percent increase over last year's donation, which totaled nearly \$15,000.

The bank also enjoyed a record 74 percent employee participation in this year's campaign compared to last year's 63 percent employee participation. It had 62 of its 84 employees in southern Nevada participate in United Way's 2006 Community Campaign compared to 42 of its 67 employees participate in last year's annual United Way fund-raising event.

"We are very proud of our employee support for United Way and the continual increase in employee involvement in this wonderful nonprofit agency," said Larry Charlton, executive vice president and chief operations officer of Business Bank, who also serves as a current board member and immediate past chairman of the board for United Way of Southern Nevada. "We're continually educating our employees about United Way and the benefits they provide to individuals and families in our community. Education is the key to employee participation, which we hope to achieve 100 percent participation in our United Way fund-raising event in the not too distant future."

The average Business Bank employee gift this year was just over \$240 per employee compared to the average per capita employee gift of approximately \$177. The bank's corporate gift of \$3,000 far exceeded the corporate per capita gift of just under \$36 per company. The bank also had four leadership donors who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to United Way's Community Campaign.

The bank contributes financial, in-kind and volunteer assistance to nonprofit institutions and organizations that enhance the quality of life and promote public interest where the company conducts its business. The four main areas of the bank's philanthropic outreach include education, health and human services, community development, and arts and culture. Business Bank is a member of the Business Community Investment Council in Las Vegas.

C.A.R.E.

Southern Nevada nonprofit groups are invited to apply for graphic design, multimedia and web design, animation and even culinary services from The Art Institute of Las Vegas as part of the school's community service initia-

tive. The arts services will be provided for no charge through the school's Community Arts Resource Exchange (C.A.R.E.) program, which gives its students opportunities to apply their art and design talents to projects that support the needs of the community.

Nonprofit groups may apply for assistance in areas such as logo development, poster design, brochures, flyers, postcards and other marketing collateral material, as well as multimedia projects, computer animation sequences, web sites and other projects that fit into the school's curriculum. The school currently offers diploma, bachelor's degree and associate's

degree programs in Drafting Technology, Graphic Design, Culinary, Interactive Media Design, Interior Design, Culinary Arts, Digital Media Production, Game Art & Design, Media Arts & Animation, and Visual Effects & Motion Graphics.

To apply for project assistance from the school, local nonprofit groups should contact Anne Dean, Director of Public Relations, The Art Institute of Las Vegas, 2350 Corporate Circle, Henderson, NV 89074; (702) 992.8453 or at adean@aiie.edu. The school reviews requests to determine feasibility and whether they will match with class projects.

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More than half of Nevada's 10th graders will perform at or below the proficient level in science in any given year. The Samaritan Innovative Science Foundation is trying to change that.

All aboard the magic (science) bus

'Samaritan' effort gaining steam for science program

By Brian Sodoma
Special Publications writer

Valley students may soon be getting some much-needed science tutoring from a magic bus. But before the melody to a Who song and hippy memories spring to mind, it's important to note that this bus is no party ride; in fact, local officials are hoping it will be a major catalyst in helping boost Las Vegas high schoolers' science scores.

A lack of interest and resources have led to the sad conclusion that more than half of Nevada's 10th graders will perform below a proficient level in any given year, said Dr. Janet Greeson, CEO of Samaritan Pharmaceuticals Inc., a publicly-held company with a research facility at Georgetown University, where it is testing medicines to help AIDS, cancer and Alzheimer's sufferers, among others.

Greeson has also recently spearheaded a nonprofit arm of the company called the Samaritan Innovative Science Foundation, which hopes to bring a science lab on wheels called BioFuture to



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“With the Bio(Future) bus you actually get a million-dollar lab you can transport to all the schools. If you put all (the funding for all) the schools (in Clark County) together, you couldn’t get that.”

Dr. Janet Greeson
CEO, Samaritan
Pharmaceuticals Inc

**For more information about
Samaritan Innovative Science
Foundation**

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Clark County schools for the 2007-08 school year in an effort to increase interest in science among its students.

The 40-foot science laboratory on wheels, modeled after the BioBus, a similar program run in Connecticut and North Carolina, will simulate DNA testing for criminal cases like on the hit television show “CSI: Las Vegas,” Greeson said. Up to 24 students can engage in science experiments on the bus, even testing their own DNA. The idea came to Greeson after she saw students’ reactions to the BioBus at a conference last year.

“I saw the bus and the response different kids had to it. I was kind of fascinated. So I sat and watched it for about three hours,” Greeson, a clinical psychologist, said. “The kids going through one bus had tested their own DNA. All these little kids were so excited, and I thought, ‘Wouldn’t that be a great thing to do in Las Vegas?’”

The idea behind trying to court students into science-related fields is also part of a national effort. According to recent reports in Time Magazine, more than 50 percent of college-bound students in China will pursue a degree in either science or technology, where in the U.S. that number is down to 17 percent.

“One-third of the jobs in the U.S. are science-based. If only 17 percent are going to school for science, we’re way below the number of people we should be graduating with technology and science degrees,” added Dianne Thompson, senior vice president of development for Samaritan Innovative Science Foundation.

But Greeson doesn’t necessarily blame the American students for a lack of interest in science.

“What happens in schools when there’s a lack of funding, they usually cut the arts, then they go after the most expensive programs. Usually science is an expensive program,” Greeson added. “With the Bio(Future) bus you actually get a million-dollar lab you can transport to all the schools. If you put all (the funding for all) the schools (in Clark County) together, you couldn’t get that.”

She added that with the elimination of science labs in schools, it makes science a daunting, book-learning affair, instead of an “experiential” one, which is necessary for keeping children’s interest.

“With technology or science, we’re talking the future of not only our children, but the economies of the world. I think the only way to get children into science is by experiential learning,” she added.

The bus, which will be geared toward seventh through 12th graders, will require \$1.2 million in startup costs for its first year of operation, which would include the purchase of the bus, fitting it out with all of its equipment and hiring staff to run the program. After the first year, staff and operational costs would run about \$225,000 per year; the group hopes to involve UNLV science students as volunteers as well. Ultimately, Greeson would like to see

about three buses in Las Vegas.

Samaratin has held talks with the Clark County School District and UNLV about the program, and both entities showed interest. “They all think it’s a good idea, but they’re waiting for the first physical bus,” Thompson added.

Both agree that the interest is there on many levels, but funding commitments are still a little challenging. So far the inroads for the group have been Las Vegas’ growing medical community and the philanthropic arms of the casinos.

“Some community foundations are more successful here because they have connections to the casino industry,” Greeson added. “We’re fairly new. We’re more of a start-up even though I’ve been here 17 years and Samaritan has been around for 10.”

Beyond the bus, additional components to BioFuture will include: a teacher leader program recognizing high school science teachers who have contributed to the advancement of biotechnology and shown exceptional science teaching skills; “Bio-Academy,” a nine-month academic and lab skills training program designed to help participants prepare for a career in science and technology, while also allowing for up to 12 credit hours of college science credit; a summer hands-on science and technology academy; and a scholarship program as well.

Above all, Greeson hopes the bus and the other ancillary programs will lead to a growth in the biotechnology sector in Las Vegas. She added that UNLV recently established a biotechnology center. A good first step to attracting companies here in the future.

“Eventually Las Vegas will become a place where you’ll start to see biotech,” she said. “What’s great for us is normally you can never get a meeting with a major pharm-er (pharmaceutical company). But when you say you’re in Las Vegas, they create a way to come out.”



Dianne Thompson, is senior vice president of development for Samaritan Innovative Science Foundation.

Giving at a Glance

Urban Chamber of Commerce

The Urban Chamber of Commerce recently held its 7th Annual Ann Gregory Memorial Scholarship and Community Enrichment Awards reception at the Venetian. This year's theme is "Instead of just returning a favor; Pay It Forward."

The prime sponsor for this year's reception is the Venetian Foundation. Scholarship donors were Famous Daves, MGM-MIRAGE, Ronald McDonald Charities, Station Casinos, Urban Chamber Scholars and the Venetian. The Urban Chamber will award scholarships to more than 60 high school and college students.

The Community Enrichment Awards were presented to Suzanne Madison of Allegra Consulting; Punam Mathur of MGM MIRAGE; Chancellor Jim Rogers; Tony Sanchez with the Alliance of Black and Latino for Education (ABLE); and Maureen Peckman with Council for Better Nevada (CBN). The executive director's New Leadership Award was presented to Francisco Aguilar and Sonya Douglas-Horsford.

The Urban Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization that promotes community outreach. Membership is open to all races and ethnic backgrounds although the thrust of this organization focuses on the black community.

EO Las Vegas

EO Las Vegas, a chapter of Entrepreneurs Organization, raised \$5,000 for the Literacy Education Awareness Project (LEAP) during the chapter's recent "Chase for Charity" fund-raising event.

Scott McManus, CEO of Ganix Biotechnologies and EO Las Vegas member, said the organization's annual Chase for Charity is a cross between a road rally, scavenger hunt and the game "Trivial Pursuit."

EO has more than 5,500 members in 120 chapters and 40 countries. Founded in 1997, the Las Vegas chapter of EO currently has member company revenues in excess of \$876 million. The organization serves men and women under age 50 who are the founder, co-founder, owner or controlling shareholder of a business with a minimum of \$1 million in annual gross sales.

Laura Jane Spina

Her business card says Laura Jane Spina, but her friends call her "LJ." Having moved here when she was 6 months old, she can almost be considered a native of Las Vegas. Laura Jane loves this community and is involved in everything she can get her hands on. She sits on the Parks & Recreation and Cultural Commission

(PRAC) board, Redevelopment Association of Nevada (RAN) and is a past president of the American Planners Association (APA) and American Society of Interior Designers (ASID).

While volunteering for the Assistance League, she wrote and published children's books for "At Risk" children. She is creating a nonprofit group, Friends of Paradise Park, whose mission is to revitalize Paradise Park. The organization has already begun the process to add public artwork, water efficient landscaping, new equipment, and programs to educate and otherwise benefit the public.

She is also a vital part of the Clark County Museum Guild's annual Halloween fundraiser "Ghosts and Goblins of Nevada's Past" and the Friends of Henderson Libraries annual holiday fund-raising event "Library Tree Lane."

LJ has instilled her philosophy of giving back by encouraging every employee of her two firms, RAFI Architecture and Fielden & Partners Interior Design (both women-owned and managed firms), to be involved in at least one nonprofit organization. Some may say that the values of philanthropy have gone to the way side, but to that it can only be said "take a look at LJ."

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Beginning with this year's freshman class, Bishop Gorman students will need to complete 100 hours of community service to graduate.

Helping out

Local school increases community service requirement to 100 hours

By Deborah Roush
Contributing Writer

Aurora Driscoll, 17, has spent countless hours helping in the kitchen and with crafts at local nursing homes. Her friends, she says, work in soup kitchens and collect items for the needy. While Driscoll said she enjoys serving, her outreach has been spurred by her high school – Bishop Gorman – which has always required students in its religion courses to complete community service hours. Beginning with this year's freshman class, however, the school will mandate that graduates complete 100 hours of community service.

The Rev. Edward Wagner, director of the Campus Ministry at Bishop Gorman, said the school has slowly been moving toward this require-



ment.

"It has been an evolution. Every student in religion class already was required to complete 10 hours of service each semester," he said.

Two of the school's biggest outreaches have been Matthew's Closet, where students collect clothing and hygiene items to distribute to the homeless, and the Matthew 25 board, a group of students who work with social agencies to help the needy.

Overseeing the weekly donations from students, the Matthew 25 board has replaced an elderly person's wheelchair and paid a financially struggling family's electric bill, Wagner said.

Wagner said the mission of the school dictates student involvement in the community. "The mission is clearly to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel is certainly adamant about our calling to minister to those left out, oppressed and poor," he said.

It is because "no one lives solely alone – we are all brothers in sisters and we must live in regard for others," that giving time to help the community is critical, he added.

Wagner said he hopes the new requirement will benefit Bishop Gorman students.

"We want this to help them broaden their view of the world. Service connects us with the community and shows us that we're not an isolated entity. It teaches that there is something bigger than Gorman and ourselves," he said.

"We want the student to value service and hope they'll come to understand that all are created in the image of God and that same God made us stewards of creation," he added.

"No matter what a Gorman graduate has as a career goal, to serve others is our highest calling. Service is something you can do no matter what you're doing. You don't have to have a service vocation," he said.

Gorman students, Wagner said, will hopefully get to the point where "service becomes almost an automatic response."

Wagner also hopes the added hours will benefit the community.

"Our kids have done tutoring and cleaned up the parks. We have a group of kids who have cut grass for elderly people who are homebound," he said.

Now, he said, the school can accept even more projects suggested by faculty, parents and local churches.

There are long-term plans in the works, too, for a large-scale service project where the students might travel. "It could be a habitat for humanity project or something (helping rebuild) New Orleans," Wagner suggested.

Wagner said students have not been surprised by the new requirement, which was outlined in the school newsletter and is posted on the Web site.

"I don't think anyone is stunned. Generally you would have to have done 60 to 70 hours by the time you graduated anyway," he added.



The Rev. Edward Wagner

Driscoll agreed. "The people who complain are the ones who do it last-minute. This has always been required; now it's just a couple of more hours," she said.

The difference now, said Wagner, is that

instead of being part of the school's religion courses, service hours will be carefully tracked by the Campus Ministry Department.

"To finish your freshman year, you need 10 hours or you can't become a sophomore. A sophomore needs 30 hours to become a junior and you need 60 hours to go from junior to senior," he said.

Wagner said a significant number of Catholic schools across the country have similar requirements.

"Last year when our administrative team was discussing graduation requirements in general it was decided that if other requirements would be changing we might as well make this change now, too," he said.

Sometimes, Wagner said, something must be required before "you can discover the value of it," he added.

That's just what has happened to Driscoll, now a senior, she said.

"This shows people that there are a lot of things that need to be done in the community that people don't know about," the student-body president said.

"There are people less fortunate than us and they need help. It's not all about you," she said.

To suggest a community service project for Bishop Gorman High School students, call the Campus Ministries Department at Bishop Gorman High School at (702) 732-1945.

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JORDAN WIRSZ is a member of the board for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada, is an active member of Civitan and donates to several different organizations such as the Door of Faith Orphanage in Mexico.

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Nonprofit Organizations

AARP

5820 S. Eastern Ave., Suite 190
Las Vegas NV 89119
P: 866/389-5652 F: 702/938-3225
nvaarp@aarp.org
www.aarp.org/nv

Mission: AARP is a nonprofit nonpartisan membership organization that provides information, resources, legislative advocacy and unique benefits to make life better for people 50 and older.

Wish List: Looking for volunteers to share their experiences while engaging their own interests. Many volunteer opportunities are available, including Community Ambassadors, members of our Health and Affordable Rx or Energy/Utilities Issue Teams, voter education/outreach and service program volunteers. Give to our community by getting involved.

A Lift Up.org

3310 S. Nellis Blvd., Suite 28
Las Vegas NV 89121
P: 702/457-0700 F: 702/451-3508
aliftup@cox.net
www.aliftup.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

1785 E. Sahara Ave., Suite 340
Las Vegas NV 89104
P: 702/968-1986 F: 702/968-1989
jom@adoption.lvcoxmail.com
www.adoption-alliance.com

Mission: Provide a 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 89102
P: 702/382-2326 F: 702/366-1609
caroline@afanlv.org
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.

Alzheimer's Association, Desert Southwest Chapter

5190 S. Valley View Blvd., Suite 101
Las Vegas NV 89118
P: 702/248-2770 F: 702/248-2771
Susan.Hirsch@alz.org
www.alzdswo.org

Mission: To equip and empower individuals and communities to provide effective and compassionate care and support through Helpline, family care consultants, education and support groups.

Wish List: Volunteers for Memory Walk, Helpline and support groups; printing services for brochures and fliers; office furniture; color printer; office supplies.

American Cancer Society

1325 E. Harmon Ave.
Las Vegas NV 89119
P: 800/227-2345 F: 702/798-0530
jpisani@cancer.org
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 fund-raising, 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
P: 702/369-9995 F: 702/369-3717
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 fund-raising goals and achieve our mission, as well as advertising, marketing, printing, public relations partners.

American Heart Association

2355 Red Rock St., Suite 103
Las Vegas NV 89146
P: 702/367-1366 F: 702/367-1975
john.mcneil@heart.org
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
P: 702/791-3311 F: 702/791-3372
info@redcrosslasvegas.org
www.redcrosslasvegas.org

Mission: Provide relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Wish List: 16-passenger van to respond to local/regional disasters, 400 cots/blankets for shelter, disaster supply trailer to locate in outlying areas, supplies to set up first aid stations, trailer for first aid station supplies.

Amerindian

840 S. Rancho Drive, Suite 4-428
Las Vegas NV 89106-3837
P: 702/393-3476 F: 702/454-3043
bobcrow777@yahoo.com
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 89169
P: 702/227-5700 F: 702/866-2928
info@agassi.net
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
P: 702/384-3333 F: 702/384-4563
dorgill@animalfoundation.com
www.animalfoundation.com

Mission: To provide a safe, clean and caring refuge for the animals of the Las Vegas valley and find new homes for those who are not reclaimed.

Wish List: All cleaning supplies, food for all exotic pets, towels, blankets, used cell phones,

Nonprofit Organizations

volunteers, monetary donations.

Area Health Education Center of Southern Nevada

1094 E. Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas NV 89104
P: 702/318-8452 F: 702/318-8463
info@snahec.org
www.snahec.org

Mission: To improve Nevada's health status through education and outreach.

Wish List: Printing; juice and water; paper products; volunteers with health education and community outreach experience; consumable office supplies (such as CD-ROMs; etc.)

Assistance League of Las Vegas

6446 W. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas NV 89146-1165
P: 702/870-2002 F: 702/870-1101
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
P: 702/385-0684 F: 702/614-0400
loyd@nvbest.org
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 89119

Administrative offices:

P: 702/731-2227 F: 702/737-9209

Donation Center:

P: 702/222-9000
info@bbbsn.org
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
P: 702/642-6000 F: 702/649-6739
info@blindcenter.org
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: Music instruments, 10+ passenger van, delivery van, bus tokens, food items, cheese, frozen meats, non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, disposable latex gloves, first aid items, glue sticks, hand towels, sponges, scouring pads, Kleenex, craft items, napkins, office supplies, paper plates, cups, plastic utensils, paper plates, paper towels, toilet paper, trash bags, copy paper, volunteers in all areas, donations of commercial food items and bulk commodities, monetary donations, planned giving, foundation trust and corporate sponsorship.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas

P.O. Box 26689
Las Vegas NV 89126
P: 702/367-2582 F: 702/367-9522
www.bgclv.org

Mission: Provide opportunities for young people to learn the skills necessary for happy, healthy and successful lives and to become responsible members of society.

Wish List: Unrestricted general operating funds, art supplies, school supplies, office supplies, athletic equipment, computer hardware and software, billiards and games tables (pool, bumper pool, foosball, ping-pong, etc.), electronics (TVs, DVD players, and video game consoles like Play Stations), furniture (desks, chairs, stools, storage cabinets, couches, and bean-bag chairs), busses and vans.

Boy's Hope/Girl's Hope of Nevada

4100 W. Flamingo Road, Suite 1200
Las Vegas NV 89103
P: 702/839-9455 F: 702/676-2085
psavage@bhgh.org
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 of Southern Nevada

601 N. Rancho Drive, Suite B11
Las Vegas NV 89101
P: 702/737-1919 F: 702/792-2780
shorn@candlelightersnv.org
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 our children and families; food gift certificates, new toys, games and art activities (in constant demand); volunteers (welcomed and needed).

CHR Inc.

(Caring, Helping and Restoring Lives)

2980 S. Jones Blvd., Suite A
Las Vegas NV 89146
P: 702/889-4466 F: 702/889-1538
CHRLIV7@aol.com
www.CHRLINC.net

Mission: We equip individuals with necessary tools to live independent and self-sufficient lives. We help capable employees find and train for better jobs.

Wish List: Computers with flat-screen monitors; monetary contributions; office supplies; gas cards; food cards or vouchers; bus passes; clothing vouchers; Home Depot gift cards; Lowe's gift cards (gift cards and vouchers are for client supportive services); work boots, shoes, uniforms and tools.

Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada

1501 Las Vegas Blvd. North
Las Vegas NV 89101
P: 702/365-9464 F: 702/384-0677
smann@catholiccharities.com
www.catholiccharities.com

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

Wish List: Monetary donations, food, clothing, furniture, baby supplies, shoes, socks and underwear and toiletry items, and holiday toys and turkeys.

Center for Creative Therapeutic Arts

6375 W. Charleston Blvd., WCL Suite 184
Las Vegas NV 89146
P: 702/363-8166 F: 702/315-4362
cctalv@aol.com
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, sponsorships and grants for public awareness events.

Child Focus

4310 S. Cameron St.
Las Vegas NV 89103
P: 702/436-1624 F: 702/367-1624
info@childfocusnv.org
www.childfocusnv.org

Mission: Provide resources/services enriching lives of children living in foster care.

Wish List: Laptop Computers (for teen-age children), diapers, office supplies (paper, ink cartridges), personal hygiene items (deodorant, soap, shampoo).

Children's Advocacy Alliance

2245 N. Green Valley Parkway, Suite 432
Henderson NV 89014
P: 702/228-1869 F: 702/294-0980
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.

Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

7617 Constantinople Ave.
Las Vegas NV 89129
P: 702/860-3050 F: 702/207-2559
david.jadwin@nvwg.cap.gov
www.cap.gov

Mission: Southern Nevada members train to serve effectively in emergencies and help local young people grow as leaders. Opportunities are available for pilots and non-pilots.

Wish List: Adult volunteers needed to work with youth in a structured development program. Pilots and aerospace-oriented individuals needed for search and rescue, disaster relief and educational opportunities. Volunteer opportunities are typically in evenings and weekends. Monetary and technology donations used directly with four Southern Nevada, community-based chapters.

Class! Publications

4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas NV 89154-1025
P: 702/895-1504 F: 702/895-1505
classpub@unlv.edu
www.classmag.com

Mission: Promote the successful transition from adolescence to adulthood for teens in Clark County.

Wish List: Page or topic sponsors for articles in the CLASS! Monthly youth publication, updated design software, updated computers, legal advice, high-function color printer, new fax machine, mentors or workshop presenters in communication fields, free Internet service

for CLASS! Interns with financial need, digital cameras for intern reporters.

Community College of Southern Nevada (CCSN) Foundation

6375 W. Charleston Blvd. W3D
Las Vegas NV 89146-1164
P: 702/651-7301 F: 702/651-7303
jacque_matthews@ccsn.edu
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; \$2 million matching funds for new transportation technology center.

Community Food Bank of Clark County

4190 N. Pecos Road
Las Vegas NV 89115
P: 702/643-0074 F: 702/643-0794
bbraggs@lvfoodbank.org
www.lvfoodbank.org

Mission: Alleviate the effects of hunger related poverty by gathering food and other items for distribution to the needy.

Wish List: Food (non-perishable or perishable, canned or dry), forklift, security fencing/gate, cargo van, monetary contributions, copier, volunteers.

Court-appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Foundation

601 N. Pecos Road
Las Vegas NV 89101
P: 702/455-4306
fdcasa11@co.clark.nv.us
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, volunteers.

Courtney Children's Foundation

818 West Brooks Ave.
North Las Vegas NV 89030
P: 702/315-5159 F: 702/315-5193
skuhn@ccflv.org
www.ccflv.org

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

Wish List: Formula, diapers, wipes, infant clothing (t-shirts, gowns, one-sies), infant toys, bottles, baby powder, baby lotion, etc., cribs, mattresses, bassinets, rocking chairs.

Cultural Diversity Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 335699
Las Vegas NV
P: 702/646-2615 F: 702/233-3666
jflowers@cdfnv.org
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: Funding to support scholarship, technology, and finance education workshops that are offered to the community; sponsorships for signature scholarships; and funding for the annual scholarship benefit.

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

2990 Sunridge Heights Parkway, Suite 110
Henderson NV 89052
P: 702/383-8500 F: 702/383-9700
nevada@cff.org
www.cff.org

Mission: Fund research to find a cure for Cystic Fibrosis.

Wish List: Wonderful auction items for events, volunteers.

Easter Seals of Southern Nevada

6200 W. Oakey Blvd.
Las Vegas NV 89146
P: 702/870-7050 F: 702/870-7649
tjeves@eastersealssn.org
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
P: 702/836-3324 F: 702/836-3338
rgmehariccdc@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
P: 702/258-5855 F: 702/258-9767
kconi@cox.net
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 mem-

Nonprofit Organizations

bers and Advisory Board members (recruited quarterly).

Family to Family Connection

6114 W. Charleston Blvd., ISD 13
Las Vegas NV 89146
P: 702/870-9583 F: 702/870-9585
f2fisd13@infionline.net
www.newbabycenter.com

Mission: Empower and support local families to provide safe and nurturing environment for their children through parent education and community networking.

Wish List: Sponsorship for annual events: Touch a Truck and Stroller Roll, Bike and Hike; in-kind donations of printing, copy paper, furniture, sponsor for monthly mailing of calendar and newsletter (\$400 per month).

First Tee of Southern Nevada

3590 E. Patrick Lane, Suite B
Las Vegas NV 89120
P: 702/433-0626
dgladd@snghouse.net
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.

Foundation for Positively Kids

3753 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 200
Las Vegas NV 89109
P: 702/262-0037 F: 702/262-0252
pkfs@msn.com
www.positivelykidz.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 fund-raisers; 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
P: 702/385-3677 F: 702/385-9278
info@frontiercouncil.org
www.frontiercouncil.org

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

Wish List: Volunteers and financial donations to support our outreach programs for at-risk girls and boys of southern Nevada.

Girls and Boys Town of Nevada

821 N. Mojave Road
Las Vegas NV 89101
P: 702/642-7070 F: 702/649-3906
waitet@girlsandboystown.org
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.

1280 W. Cheyenne Ave.
North Las Vegas NV 89030
P: 702/214-2021 F: 702/214-2035
lanil@sngoodwill.org
www.sngoodwill.org

Mission: Provide education, employment and training for people with disabilities and other special needs to maximize the quality of life for each individual served.

Wish List: Monetary donations toward our capital campaign (naming opportunities available); corporate sponsorships for our annual fundraiser; volunteers to work in our stores and at our special events; partnerships with Las Vegas valley companies that will put our clients to work.

Greater Las Vegas After-School All-Stars (Formerly Inner-City Games)

1785 E. Sahara Ave., Suite 400
Las Vegas, NV 89104
P: 702/382-5447 F: 702/382-5801
Jackie@glvicg.org
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

1573 N. Decatur Blvd.
Las Vegas NV 89108
P: 702/638-6477 F: 702/638-6478
guy@habitatlasvegas.org
www.habitatlasvegas.org

Mission: To build simple, decent, affordable homes for working families, in partnership with God and our community.

Wish List: Land, construction materials, professional services (engineering, electrical, plumbing, foundation, excavation subcontractors), financial contributions for home construction, operating expenses and other

program costs.

Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, Inc.

2100 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite 3
Las Vegas NV 89104
P: 702/633-7264 F: 702/649-6438
hhofvv@aol.com
www.hhofvv.org

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

Wish List: Corporate sponsors to supplement our grant income. Corporate members in the community to enhance our Board of Trustees in the areas of accounting; marketing; fund-raising and business management; volunteers to provide direct service for our clients to remain independent contributing to the community and food drives to stock our pantry.

I Have a Dream Foundation - Las Vegas, Inc.

Dreamer Station
2101 Texas Star Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89032
P: 702/966-3126 F: 702/966-3129
info@ihaveadreamlasvegas.org
www.ihaveadreamlasvegas.org

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

Wish List: Contact Lindsay Harper at 966-3126.

International House of Blues Foundation-Las Vegas

3950 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Las Vegas NV 89119
P: 702/632-7682 F: 702/632-7681
krussell@hob.com
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
P: 702.732.0304 F: 702.794-2033
ExecDirector@jfsalv.org
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, non-perishable foods, toiletries, diapers, wipes, baby food, bottled water.

Junior League of Las Vegas, Inc.

The Morelli House
861 Bridger Ave.
Las Vegas NV 89101
P: 702/822-6536 F: 702/822-6538
jrleagueoflv@aol.com
www.jllv.org

Mission: Promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through effective action and leadership-trained volunteers.

Wish List: In-kind donations & corporate sponsorships for Martinez Elementary "Birthday Closet," Education Grants Program for Clark County School Classrooms, Junior League Jog, Paint the Town Red Gala, Christmas Bear and Done In A Day projects.

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

5542 S. Fort Apache Road, Suite 120
Las Vegas NV 89148
P: 702/732-4795 F: 702/732-1635
Nevada@jdrf.org
www.jdrf.org

Mission: Find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research.

Wish List: Office volunteers, printing services, cabinets and shelving, storage unit.

Las Vegas Area Council of Boy Scouts of America

7220 S. Paradise Road
Las Vegas NV 89119
P: 702/736-4366 F: 702/949-6022
regrant@bsaemail.org
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 Founders Foundation

1800 Village Center Circle
Las Vegas NV 89134
P: 702/242-3000 F: 702/242-3020
lvfounders@lvfcgolf.com
www.lvfc.com

Mission: The Las Vegas Founders and its charitable foundation Las Vegas Founders Golf Foundation, have contributed in excess of \$12 million to local charities over the years from its operation of golf events for the PGA Tour, Champions Tour, UNLV men's and women's golf teams and the American Junior Golf Association.

Wish List: Volunteers to work various aspects of the PGA Tour's Frys.com Open tournament (formerly the Las Vegas Invitational) in October.

Las Vegas Master Singers

P.O. Box 70055
Las Vegas NV 89170
P: 702/387-7278
info@lvmastersingers.com
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

1412 S. Jones Blvd.
Las Vegas NV 89146
P: 702/258-5438 F: 702/893-7757
lvphil@lvphil.com
www.lvphil.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, music stands.

Las Vegas Springs Preserve Foundation

333 S. Valley View Blvd.
Las Vegas NV 89107
P: 702/258-3919 F: 702/822-8453
becky.day-swain@lvspringspreserve.org
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, endowment gifts.

Las Vegas Sun Summer Camp Fund

2275 Corporate Circle, Suite 300
Henderson NV 89074
P: 702/259-2323 F: 702/259-4019
brian.cram@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.



The I Have a Dream® Foundation, Inc.
Las Vegas program motivates and empowers children from low-income communities to reach their education and career goals by providing a long term program of mentoring, tutoring, enrichment and tuition assistance for higher education. For more information, please call 702-966-3126 or visit our website at www.ihaveadreamlasvegas.org.

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of their
time.*

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1-866-389-5652 • nvaarp@aarp.org

Nonprofit Organizations

Leukemia-Lymphoma Society Southern Nevada Chapter

6280 S. Valley View Blvd., Suite 342
Las Vegas NV 89118
P: 702/436-4220 F: 702/436-2396
mittchelle@lls.org
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: Scanner, projector Powerpoint presentations, full size refrigerator, volunteers.

Liberace Foundation for the Performing & Creative Arts

1775 E. Tropicana Ave.
Las Vegas NV 89119
P: 702/798-5595 F: 702/798-7386
darin@liberace.org
www.liberace.org

Mission: To help talented students pursue careers in the performing and creative arts through scholarship assistance. The foundation also operates the Liberace Museum, which aims to preserve and interpret collections related to Liberace while producing educational exhibits and programs about him and the history of the performing and creative arts.

Wish List: In-kind advertising space and air-time; monetary donations to help with the conservation of the museum collection and expand its scholarship grants.

Lili Claire Foundation

522 E. Twain Ave.
Las Vegas NV 89169
P: 702/862-8141 F: 702/862-4845
staff@liliclairefoundation.org
www.liliclairefoundation.org

Mission: To enhance the lives of children living with Williams Syndrome, Down Syndrome, Autism and other neurogenetic conditions, while providing hope and resources for the families who love them.

Wish List: Medical equipment (eye chart, blood pressure machine, hearing test); medical and informational books for the family resource center library; new bean bag chairs and couches; computer programs; monetary donations for testing materials for behavioral clinics; funding for free genetics, autism and behavioral clinics.

Lutheran Social Services of Nevada

PO Box 1360
800 N. Bruce St.
Las Vegas NV 89125-1360
P: 702/639-1730 F: 702/639-1736
info@lssnv.org
www.lssnv.org

Mission: Expressing the love of Christ by serving and caring for all people in need.

Wish List: Mini van for senior transportation assistance, 15-passenger van for youth

transportation, commercial refrigerators for our food pantry, food donations for our food pantry, clothing donations (particularly men's work and children's playwear), sponsors for adopt-a-child/senior Christmas gift program, holiday food items, cash donations for operations and program services.

Make-A-Wish Foundation Of Southern Nevada

3885 S. Decatur Blvd., Suite 1000
Las Vegas NV 89103
P: 702/212-9474 F: 702/367-0301
sonevada@southernnevada.wish.org
www.southernnevada.wish.org

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

Wish List: Sponsored wishes, bi-lingual volunteers.

March of Dimes, Nevada Chapter

820 Rancho Lane, Suite 55
Las Vegas NV 89106
P: 702/732-9255 ext. 224 F: 702/732-9250
nv411@marchofdimes.com
www.marchofdimes/nevada

Mission: Improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature births, and infant mortality.

Wish List: Operating supplies and equipment.

McCaw School of Mines Foundation

52 Lynn Lane
Henderson NV 89015
P: 702/558-8501 F: 702/566-4501
mccawschool@earthlink.net

Mission: Provide a quality educational experience in the areas of geology, earth science and mining to all who visit.

Wish List: Volunteers dedicated to fun, science and education to help with tours for children in the Clark County School District – even for one day per month.

Miracle Flights for Kids

2756 N. Green Valley Parkway, Suite 115
Henderson NV 89014-2120
P: 702/261-0494 F: 702/261-0497
info@miracleflights.org
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 – more than 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
P: 702/579-0799
info@myhopechest.org
www.myhopechest.org

Mission: My Hope Chest provides uninsured breasts cancer survivors access to free reconstructive surgery and emotional support.

Wish List: An accountant; corporate sponsors of at least \$10,000 (every \$10K funds a surgery); marketing company to help with local and national campaigns; dedicated individuals to serve as consultants; volunteers (many jobs can be done from home with phone calls and a computer).

Nathan Adelson Hospice, Inc.

4141 Swenson St.
Las Vegas NV 89119
P: 702/796-3133 F: 702/796-3195
jhantin@nah.org
www.nah.org

Mission: "No one should end the journey of life alone, afraid, or in pain."

Wish List: Cash donations, games and toys for children, stuffed animals for children, new or good running van.

Neighborhood Housing Services of Southern Nevada, Inc.

1849 Civic Center Drive
North Las Vegas NV 89030
P: 702/649-0998 F: 702/649-0702
info@nwsn.org
www.nwsn.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 (NALA)

323 N. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas NV 89101
P: 702/382-6252 F: 702/383-7021
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

10441 W. Twain Ave.
Las Vegas NV 89135
P: 702/821-0000 F: 702/821-0001
sgitomer@nvcancer.org
www.nevadacancerinstitute.org

Mission: Reducing the burden of cancer by pursuing the development of a comprehensive

sive cancer research institute – as defined by the National Cancer Institute – that is staffed by the finest scientists, clinicians, educators and caregivers.

Wish List: cash gifts, appreciated securities, real estate; deferred gifts such as bequests, life insurance, charitable trusts and gift annuities.

Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence (NCASV)

741 Veterans Memorial Drive
Las Vegas NV 89101
P: 702/384-1005 F: 702/383-3385
laurie@ncasv.org
www.ncasv.org

Mission: Achieving statewide, uniform and comprehensive sexual assault services through the provision of training, technical assistance, and leadership to member programs across the state.

Wish List: Office furniture, general office supplies, laptop computer, multimedia projector, antivirus software, graphic design and printing services, web design services, public relations services, accountant services, gas cards, frequent flyer miles.

Nevada Community Foundation

300 S. Fourth St., Suite 1009
Las Vegas NV 89101
P: 702/892-2326 F: 702/892-8580
info@nevadacf.org
www.nevadacf.org

Mission: To build and strengthen community.

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

2355 Red Rock St., Suite 106
Las Vegas NV 89146
P: 702/388-8899 F: 702/388-2966
pepinfo@nvpep.org
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

4800 S. Maryland Pkwy.
Las Vegas NV 89119
P: 702/383-1332 F: 702/313-0216
kboutin@nphy.org
www.nphy.org

Mission: To provide drop-in centers, emergency shelter, street outreach help and housing for homeless teenagers.

Wish List: \$10 gift cards to Target, volunteers to help with street outreach, new or used backpacks, financial assistance for the new building.

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

1289 S. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas NV 89146
P: 702/258-9895 F: 702/258-5646
melanie@nevadapublicradio.org
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
P: 702/873-7722 F: 702/362-7757
nevadaspca@aol.com
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

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

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PROPERTIES, LLC

www.acepllc.com



Nonprofit Organizations

Nevada Youth Alliance

7380 S. Eastern Ave., Suite 124
Las Vegas NV 89123-1552
P: 702/393-6163 F: 702/656-4910
nvyouthalliance@aol.com
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 Blvd.
Las Vegas NV 89146
P: 702/259-3741 F: 702/259-3735
Harnedc@opportunityvillage.org
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.

Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada

3220 W. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas NV 89102
P: 702/878-3622 F: 702/878-1037
liz.carrasco@pprm.org
www.pprn.org

Mission: Improve the quality of life by enabling all people to exercise individual choice in their own reproductive health.

Wish List: Sponsor for new Henderson health center; gifts to cover printing and newsletter needs; gifts to subsidize costs of low-income individuals' birth control prescription, cancer screenings, gynecological exams and STD testing for men and women; items donated for annual silent auction charity event.

Project Sunshine

6787 W. Tropicana Ave., Suite 250
Las Vegas NV 89103
P: 702/434-3699 F: 702/284-7158
maureen@projectsunshineofnv.com
www.projectsunshineofnv.com

Mission: Provide nurturing, fun, educational camping experiences for children with critical illnesses and for kids who have been abandoned, abused or neglected.

Wish List: Sponsors to underwrite individual camping programs that facilitate 100 kids per camp (total of six camps); sponsors for individual campers (700 children annually, ages 4-17 who are critically ill or abandoned/abused);

funds to purchase bunkhouses (total of five).

Public Education Foundation

3360 W. Sahara Ave., Suite 160
Las Vegas NV 89102
P: 702/799-1042 F: 702/799-5247
www.cpef.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.

Rape Crisis Center

6375 W. Charleston Blvd. W1B
Las Vegas NV 89146
P: 702/385-2153 F: 702/385-7659
staff@therapeccrisiscenter.org
www.therapeccrisiscenter.org

Mission: support, advocate for and assist those whose lives have been affected by sexual violence in whatever way necessary.

Wish List: printing services, gas cards, men's and women's undergarments (all sizes), new, clean clothing (men's and women's, all sizes), bus tokens, grocery store gift certificates, paper, repair services for survivor residences.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Las Vegas

2323 Potosi St.
Las Vegas NV 89146
P: 702/252-4663 F: 702/252-7345
www.rmhlv.com

Mission: RMHC supports programs directly benefiting the health, education and welfare of children in Southern Nevada. The Ronald McDonald House is the cornerstone program of RMHC and provides temporary housing for families who travel to Las Vegas to receive medical treatment for their children.

Wish List: Cleaning supplies; trash bags (large and 13-gallon); laundry supplies; copy paper; manila folders; paper towels; toilet paper; Zip-lock bags (1 gallon); individual snack size chips; cookies and crackers; fruit snacks; brown paper lunch bags; snack cakes; coffee; creamer; sugar; cereal; air fresheners; 3-ring binders; address labels (Avery 5160).

SAFY of Nevada

(Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth)

4495 W. Hacienda Ave., Suite 3A
Las Vegas Nevada 89118
P: 702/385-5331 F: 702/385-5678
fletcher@safy.org
www.safy.org

Mission: Work with you who have a variety of special needs, including, but not limited to, physical handicaps, special medical needs,

developmental disabilities, alcohol and drug issues, emotional problems, physical and/or sexual abuse, neglect, and behavioral problems

Wish List: The donation of any tickets to events, toys, furniture, car seats, gift cards and clothing would mean a lot to the children in our care.

S.A.F.E. House, Inc.

921 American Pacific Drive, Suite 300
Henderson NV 89014
P: 702/451-4203 F: 702/451-4302
Andreas@safehousenv.org
www.safehousenv.org

Mission: Stop abuse in the family environment by providing confidential location shelter, safety, and support to all victims of domestic violence.

Wish List: General office supplies, laptop computer, multimedia projector, graphic design and printing services, public relations services, gas cards, gift cards for grocery stores and discount stores, clothing for women, children, shampoo, soap, cleaning supplies, small household items, used cell phones, phone cards, non-perishable foods, towels, sheets, over the counter medications, diapers.

Safe Nest

(Temporary Assistance for Domestic Crisis)

2915 W Charleston Blvd., Suite 12
Las Vegas NV 89102
P: 702/877-0133 F: 702/877-0955
bcar@safenest.org
www.safenest.org

Mission: To be the leading advocate in promoting the eradication of domestic violence by providing confidential assistance, including shelter, food, clothing, counseling, education and other services to individuals experiencing domestic violence while maintaining the highest respect and dignity for our clients.

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

Salvation Army

P.O. Box 28369
Las Vegas NV 89126
P: 702/870-4430 F: 702/258-8259
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.

Samaritan Innovative Science Foundation

101 Convention Center Drive, Suite 320
Las Vegas, NV 89109
P: 702/735-7001 F: 702/737-7016
diannesis@aol.com

www.samaritanpharma.org

Mission: To develop programs that enhances and improves the quality of life for children and their families through health and science education-related programs.

Wish List: Cash donations and event sponsorships; mobile unit for BioFuture Science Laboratory Bus; facility or land donations for health-related programs (HIV/AIDS Humanitarian Program and Children's Orphan Drug Center of Excellence); volunteers for event and office work; web site design specialists; grant writers.

Second Chance Foundation of Nevada

2069 E. Sahara Ave., Suite B
Las Vegas NV 89104
P: 702/369-5876 F: 702/369-6032
info@secondchancefdn.org
www.secondchancefdn.org

Mission: To expand organ and tissue donation; to provide support and services to Nevada organ and tissue transplant patients.

Wish List: Laptop computer, projector, color copier.

Shade Tree

1 West Owens Ave.
North Las Vegas NV 89030
P: 702/385-0073 F: 702/385-2337
fd@theshadetree.org
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: Personal hygiene products, bus tokens, stamps, copy paper, books, educational videos, children's clothes, operating funds and volunteers.

Southern Nevada Child Abuse Prevention Center

4065 E. Post Road
Las Vegas NV 89120
P: 702/433-4331 F: 702/433-4566
flora@childabusepreventionnevada.org
www.childabuseprevention.org

Mission: To break the generational cycle of child abuse.

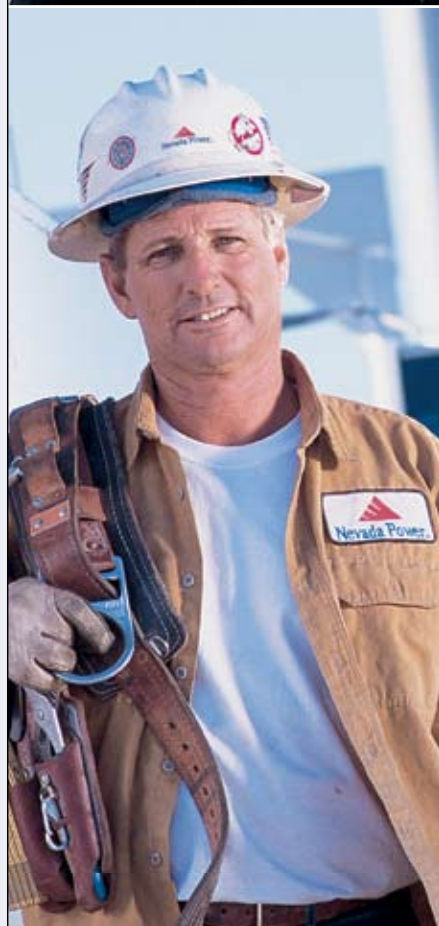
Wish List: Cash donations; disposable diapers; infant's clothing; toiletries for infants and mothers; volunteers.

Special Olympics Nevada

5670 Wynn Road, Suite H
Las Vegas NV 89118
P: 702/474.0690 x202 F: 702/474-0694
rickg@sonv.org
www.sonv.org

Mission: Provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in Olympic-type events for individuals with developmental disabilities by giving them the opportunity to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy.

Wish List: Printing and advertising collateral; scissor-lift rental for a three-day span, truck



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Nonprofit Organizations

rental for a four-day span; food (lunches, pizzas, sandwiches, bottled water, juices); facilities for bowling, swimming, basketball, ice arena activities; sports equipment; TV with VCR and DVD player; signage; bicycles and paper.

Speedway Children's Charities

7000 Las Vegas Blvd. North
Las Vegas NV 89115
P: 702/632-8242 F: 702/644-7774
jmelvin@lvms.com
www.sclasvegas.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
P: 702/616-5750 F: 702/616-5751
laura.fritz@chw.edu
www.strosehospitals.org

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

Wish List: Major gifts to support charitable works and operations; in-kind donations and services to support Mardi Gras Ball (50th year) and Golf Classic (design and printing services, floral arrangements/table décor, gift bags, auction items, volunteers, golf accessories – balls, tees, bags, visors, shirts, awards).

Street Teens

PO Box 70478
Las Vegas NV 89170
P: 702/215-4171 F: 702/215-4187
streetteens@earthlink.net
www.streetteens.org

Mission: Assisting homeless, abandoned, and at-risk youth, ages 12-21, in the Las Vegas Valley.

Wish List: New and used clothing, furniture and household items; groups interested in completing service projects; contributions to our campaign for expanding our facility; for contributions, call Lisa Preston at 215-4171.

Sunrise Children's Foundation

3196 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite 307
Las Vegas NV 89109
P: 702/731-8373 F: 702/731-8372
fdn@sunrisechildren.org
www.sunrisechildren.org

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

Wish List: Business and corporations to donate money to support any of our kid's programs; new items that can be used for raffle prizes or silent auction items; printers to donate printing; office supplies.

Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Las Vegas Affiliate

4850 W. Flamingo Road, Suite 25
Las Vegas NV 89103
P: 702/822-2324 F: 702/877-2455
komenlv@earthlink.net
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.

Through the Eyes of a Child Foundation

420 Red Canvas Place
Las Vegas NV 89144
P: 702/420-6970 F: 702/255-2399
flora@businesscoach.com

Mission: To fund educational and cultural opportunities for current and former residents of Child Haven to realize their individual goals and aspirations.

Wish List: Cash donations and volunteers.

United Way of Southern Nevada

1660 E. Flamingo Road
Las Vegas NV 89119
P: 702/734-2273 F: 702/734-8504
info@uwsn.org
www.uwsn.org

Mission: Engage our community to create lasting change to improve lives.

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

University Medical Center Partners in Excellence Foundation

4065 E. Post Road
Las Vegas NV 89120
P: 702/433-4331 F: 702/433-4566
flora@childabusepreventionnevada.org
www.childabuseprevention.org

Mission: To break the generational cycle of child abuse.

Wish List: Portable ultrasounds units; rehabilitation care beds; clinical telecommunication equipment; cardiac cath laboratory equipment; endoscopy equipment; computerized medical record system; computerized physician order entry system.

Valley View Community Cares

2037 Englestad St.
North Las Vegas NV 89030
P: 702/480-6421
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 academic success.

Wish List: Two computers with printers, copy

machine, 65 back packs, school supplies, water bottles, bus passes; a van for transporting our youth to other programs.

Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada

3075 E. Flamingo, Suite 100A
Las Vegas NV 89121
P: 702/892-2323 F: 702/836-3036
volunteernevada@cox.net
www.volunteercentersn.org

Mission: Provide resources to deliver creative solutions to community problems through volunteerism, connecting people with opportunities to serve, building capacity for effective volunteering, and promoting volunteerism.

Wish List: Computers, funding, centerpieces for October event.

Women's Development Center

4020 Pecos McLeod
Las Vegas NV 89121
P: 702/796-7770 F: 702/796-3007
aschmit@wdclv.org
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
P: 702/341-9807 F: 702/341-9828
dvrsty@cox.net
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
P: 702/877-9622 F: 702/877-0856
www.lasvegasyymca.org

Mission: Invoke Judeo-Christian principles to promote healthy bodies and minds, strong families, good citizenship, leadership, strength of character and spiritual growth.

Wish List: Financial support for "Strong Kids Campaign," clothing, food and office supplies.



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Giving at a Glance

YWS Architects

YWS Architects, a Las Vegas-based architecture firm, recently presented \$6,000 in scholarship awards to two UNLV School of Architecture students.

One scholarship of \$3,500 was presented to fourth-year UNLV student, Angela Silveria, via the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the second scholarship of \$2,500 was awarded to third-year student, Kelsie Fowler, through the Architecture Program at UNLV.

YWS Architects initiated the YWS Award of Excellence scholarship program in 2005 to encourage architecture students to continue their education in architecture and to maintain a diversified portfolio. To qualify, applicants must have a minimum 3.0 grade-point average and complete an essay detailing their architecture-driven accomplishments and strong personal attributes.

Elizabeth Reiter, DDS

Elizabeth Reiter, DDS, founder and practitioner at Harmony Dental, recently announced plans to donate a portion of each month's proceeds from the practice to the local non-profit organization, Las Vegas Music Teachers

Association (LVMTA).

The LVMTA, a part of the Music Teachers National Association, is dedicated to advancing the value of music study and music making to society and supporting the professionalism of music teachers. Locally, the money Harmony donates will benefit LVMTA events that bring in out-of-town music professionals to adjudicate its students, or to bring in guest clinicians for general meetings, including the popular Bolognini Scholarship Competition for students aged nine to 18. All LVMTA events require participating teachers to run events on a volunteer basis.

Safe Nest

Safe Nest, a charitable organization that has been providing domestic violence services to the Greater Las Vegas area for nearly 30 years, is in need of land. Safe Nest has been invited to submit an application to the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation for a capital grant to fund a 25,000-square-foot building. Architectural plans are underway and the application to the Foundation is nearly ready for submission. Except for one essential pre-requisite: Land.

It is seeking a parcel of 2 to 2.5 acres, located close to a bus route and fairly central

geographically in the Las Vegas Valley. While donated land would be ideal, Safe Nest is willing to consider any of the following arrangements:

- Donation of some or all of the land on which Safe Nest can build the new facility
- Donation of any parcel of land that may be either sold and/or "swapped" for another parcel
- Long-term land lease (20-plus years) at below-market prices (Safe Nest will build the facility on the land and lease back from the land owner – good for people needing long-term income)
- Joint venture – Safe Nest and landowner will jointly own the land and the new facility and lease back to Safe Nest, with possible future gift of the land by the landowner
- Other possibilities – Safe Nest will consider other arrangements

Safe Nest is an IRC 501(c)(3), nonprofit entity, and gifts to Safe Nest could be an excellent vehicle for persons needing either a current income tax deduction or to reduce the size of his or her estate for estate and gift tax purposes.

Please call Executive Director Estelle Murphy at (702) 877-0133 ext. 241.

GES

Geotechnical & Environmental Services, (GES) believes that philanthropy is essential in both creating and maintaining public confidence in the role that businesses play in sustaining a strong local community.

Voted as a "Best Company to Work For" by the Southern Nevada Human Resource Association, GES and its 45 employees demonstrate that there is no correlation between a company's size and its willingness to give back to the community.

"We intend to focus our efforts on creating, attracting and retaining a talented labor pool for Southern Nevada as a means of allowing our community to thrive," said GES President Greg DeSart.

As chairman of the UNLV Civil Engineering Advisory Board, DeSart devotes quite a bit of time to recruiting and retaining high quality engineers to UNLV. GES has donated \$25,000 towards the new UNLV Science Engineering and Technology Building, which will help the university in recruiting efforts.

UNLV annually awards a scholarship through the UNLV Advisory Board Scholarship Program. DeSart plans to use team building through the City of Las Vegas Corporate Challenge tournament to raise money for this year's scholarship. Donations on behalf of GES will be made for each GES team member that medals during the City of Las Vegas Corporate Challenge tournament.

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Station Casinos held a job fair for Hurricane Katrina evacuees, hiring 100 people in the aftermath of the disaster.

Casino giving

Gaming properties stepping up, getting creative in philanthropic efforts

By Lisa McQuerrey
Contributing Writer

Las Vegas has often been referred to in the national media as a “stingy” city, eager to part people from their money but unwilling or unable to give back to those less fortunate. Local gaming properties beg to differ, noting that not only are local giving levels rising incrementally year after year, encouraging community giving from employees has a contagious effect, introducing more and more Las Vegas to the rewards of giving back to their community.

The MGM MIRAGE Charitable Giving Program is well known for its employee-



Arizona Charlie's Decatur Vice President and General Manager Ron Lurie, left, serves as chairman of the Community Connection program.

funded Voice Foundation, which has raised \$5.7 million in 2006, funding 69 nonprofits in Southern Nevada, including Caminar, Huntridge Teen Clinic and Ronald McDonald House Charities. MGM MIRAGE primarily gives in areas related to diversity, education and childhood and community development, though the company also raised \$1 million for the Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund last year. Nearly half of all employees contribute to The Voice Foundation, including employees who are "new" to the company following the recent merger with Mandalay Resort Group.

"One of the best things about The Voice Foundation is that it's all about choice," said Merlinda Gallegos, MGM MIRAGE Director of Corporate Philanthropy. "Employees can give to the charity of their choice. As a corporation we know our employees work hard for their money, so we underwrite the administrative expenses so they know all of their money is going to charity."

Gallegos said MGM MIRAGE is very "outcome focused" when it comes to charitable giving and strives to support organizations that make Southern Nevada a better place to live and work.

"At MGM MIRAGE, giving back to the community where our employees live and work is a cornerstone of our corporate philosophy and a pillar of our corporate culture," added Debra Nelson, MGM MIRAGE Vice



Ron Lurie, right, and Mark Majetich, far left, of the Stratosphere and Arizona Charlie's hand over the keys to a van to the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth.

President of Corporate Diversity, Communications and Community Affairs. "The success of our business is directly impacted by the strength and well-being of the communities in which we operate; therefore, we are committed to supporting public education, at-risk children and community development. Most

importantly, we strive to be a good corporate citizen."

In 2005, Boyd Gaming Corp. made charitable contributions totaling \$2.4 million companywide, an 83 percent increase over the previous year. The figure includes both monetary and in-kind contributions and

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Foundation for an Independent Tomorrow
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CCSN Foundation
UNLV Foundation

Nevada Arts Advocates
KLVX
Nevada Ballet Theatre
YMCA
Ronald McDonald House
Salvation Army
JDRF





Two children were among the many to receive gifts from Boyd Gaming at a Big Brothers Big Sisters benefit for the Salvation Army in Shreveport, La., following Hurricane Katrina.

does not take into consideration individual donations or volunteer hours. The company had properties affected by both hurricanes Katrina and Rita. According to Gina Polovina, Vice President of Government & Community Affairs for Boyd Gaming Corp., employees company-wide stepped up to offer whatever assistance they could.

"It's in times of adversity that people's true colors show," said Polovina, who noted how employees did everything from coordinating food, clothing and toy drives to helping do laundry. "It speaks to the spirit of our employees."

Boyd has several ongoing philanthropic commitments. It entered into a 10-year, \$800,000 pledge to Nevada Cancer Institute in 2004 and a \$500,000, 5-year gift to the Las Vegas Performing Arts Center in 2005. The property also makes annual contributions in the amount of \$100,000 to United Way, \$50,000 to the Boyd School of Law and \$50,000 to the St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation while also supporting a variety of other nonprofits. The United Way's "Success by Six" program is of particular importance to the corporation, as it focuses on education.

"The program prepares at-risk kids for school and engages parents in the educational process," explained Polovina. "Education is the backbone for everything, and when you provide a quality foundation for youngsters, the world is their oyster."

Station Casinos has been continuing with its \$500,000 "Caring for our Community" partnership program, whereby grant recipi-

ents each receive a \$50,000 donation as well as a television and newspaper public service campaign to educate people about their cause. Recipients during 2006 included Operation School Bell, Assistance League, I Have a Dream Foundation, Shade Tree Foundation, Teach for America, Driver's Edge, Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April, The Children's Service Guild of Southern Nevada,

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nevada and Opportunity Village. In addition to this established program, the company has an employee volunteer program.

"We have 500 active volunteers working with our programs," Station Casinos Director of Corporate Communications Lori Nelson said. "It's not always about the financial contribution. We cater to locals, so we all feel an



Texas Station Executive Chef Max Feiner poses with two 5th graders from its partner school, C.P. Squires Elementary, at a reception.



Station Casino team members work on a house as a part of the Christmas in April project.

emotional connection to the community.”

Last year, Station guests raised \$200,000 for hurricane relief and the company provided an additional \$250,000. The company also hosted job fairs to provide expedited employment opportunities to victims of Hurricane Katrina. The property told job applicants it was fine if they only needed short-term employment to help them through the crisis period. The

company made 100 hires in the aftermath of the disaster. Though many people choose to return home when conditions permitted, 20 have remained with the property and made Las Vegas their home.

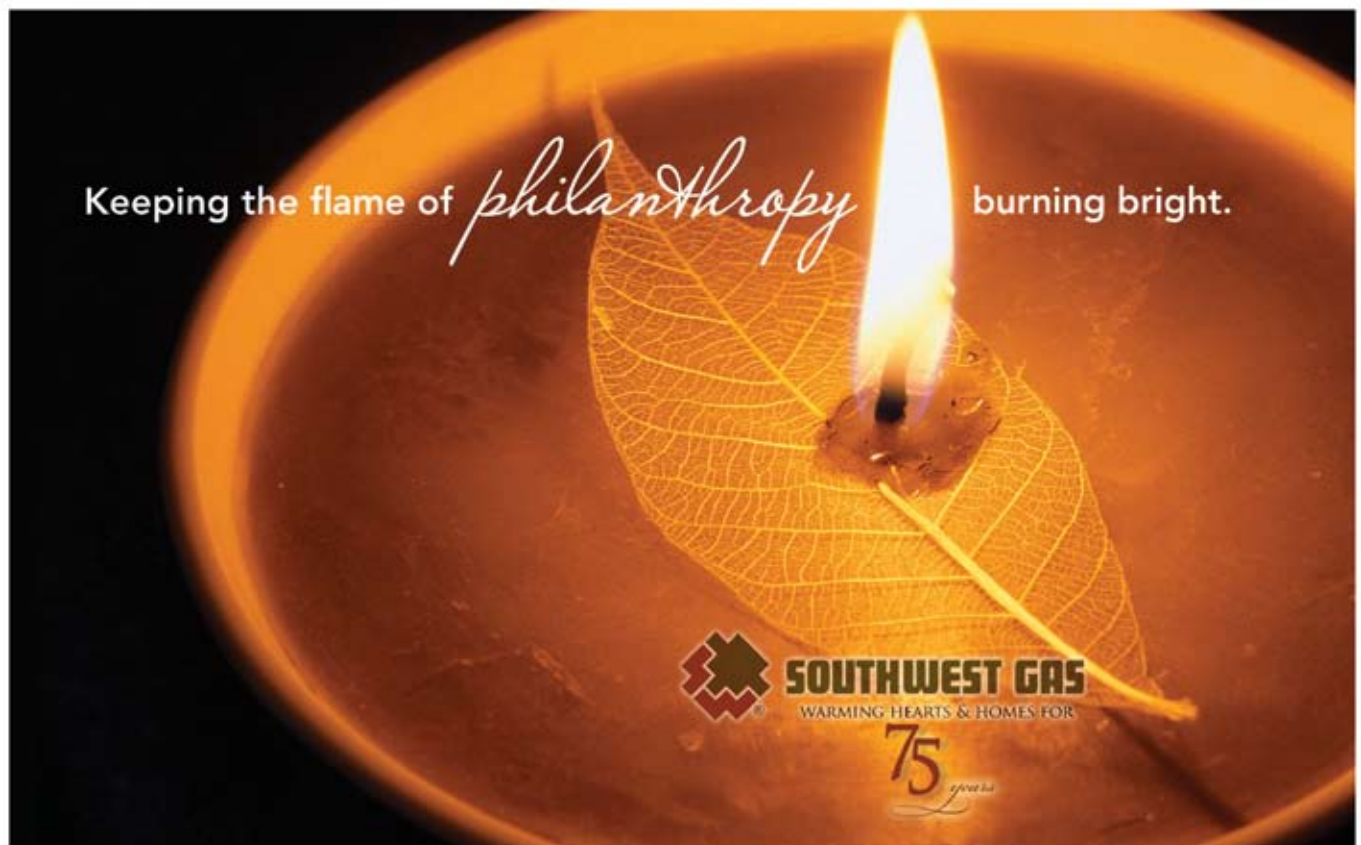
Station Casinos has also been involved with the Clark County School District in both a financial and hands-on way. In addition to adopting a number of at-risk schools through

its Smart Start program, providing them with cash support, volunteers from the properties also go into the schools and provide both students and educators with services ranging from IT help to tutoring, leadership training and etiquette lessons. In late August, the company presented more than \$400,000 to 70 at-risk schools.

“Our human resources teams work with the schools to figure out what their needs are,” explained Nelson. “When kids walk in the door to school, we want them to have what they need to level the playing field.”

Harrah’s Entertainment Inc. made more than \$57 million in community contributions in 2005, including \$8.1 million in assistance for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Additionally, Nevada Cancer Institute (NVCi) was recently named the official community relations partner of the company’s World Series of Poker (WSOP). Anne Sheridan, Harrah’s Corporate Director of Community Relations, said the company made an initial \$1 million donation to NVCi when the project was first launched and hopes partnering the relationship with the highly-visible WSOP will help raise awareness of the center’s mission.

Harrah’s focuses on issues related to seniors, health and diversity. The company has national charitable partnerships with the Alzheimer’s Association and Meals on Wheels. Individual properties contribute to local charities of their





Stratosphere and Arizona Charlie's employees paint a house as part of their Community Connection program.

choice. In Las Vegas, Harrah's is celebrating the opening of Silver Sky, an affordable assisted living facility. The company serves as a significant corporate donor.

In 2005, Harrah's provided more than 100,000 of employee volunteer time to various community causes, many of which tie into the company's core focus areas.

"The senior community is underserved,"

Sheridan said. "It has tremendous needs, and we have found this to be an area that genuinely needs attention."

Arizona Charlie's and The Stratosphere's Community Connection program was formed to bridge business resources with community needs. Arizona Charlie's Decatur Executive Vice President and General Manager Ron Lurie serves as chairman. All philanthropic

activities are focused on youth, education and senior needs. Community Connection activities include a back to school drive to collect supplies for Doris Hancock and Will Beckley elementary schools as well as the Stupak Community Center.

"I've always been a strong advocate of local businesses supporting the community," Lurie said. "We've got a lot of involvement from our employees. They're excited. We present a community service award each year, and we've started seeing what employees do outside of work and we're asking them to bring some of their ideas to the table."

The property has supported Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, donating a passenger van for picking up youth and distributing supplies, the Ronald McDonald House, providing holiday dinners and supporting programs and Rebuilding Together, Christmas in April. Other recipients of time and cash donations include Opportunity Village, Classroom on Wheels, Nevada Reads and Boys & Girls Clubs of Henderson, to name a few.

"You feel more satisfied being 'hands-on' instead of just giving money," said Lurie, though he notes cash and in-kind contributions are available as well. "Local businesses take from the community, so they need to give back to the community as well."



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A brand new Opportunity for growth

By **Lisa McQuerrey**
Contributing Writer

Founded in 1954 by a small group of families who wanted to improve the lives of their children with intellectual disabilities, Opportunity Village has grown to become Nevada's largest private, not-for-profit community rehabilitation program. The organization serves more than 3,000 people each year, providing vocational training, community job placement, advocacy and social recreation programs.

Despite the success of Opportunity Village, the demand for services continues to grow. It's estimated that at least 150 of the 5,000 or more new residents who move to Southern Nevada every month are developmentally disabled. Opportunity Village has a waiting list of 120 who qualify for and need their services. A recently launched \$33 million capital campaign for construction of a Southwest Campus on Buffalo Road and Patrick Lane hopes to address this burgeoning need.

"We never imagined we'd be building another campus," said Opportunity Village Chief Development Officer Linda Smith, who added that a fourth campus might become necessary someday. "As our population grows, it's incumbent upon us. If we didn't provide the services we do, the state of Nevada would be required to financially support many of these individuals. We generate 80 percent of our operating expenses every day, and we're saving taxpayers \$46 million every year."

According to Smith, in addition to the need for providing expanded client services, Opportunity Village is unable to accept new lucrative work center service contracts because of lack of space. The new campus will serve an anticipated 300 clients every day and provide the first of its kind arts and enrichment program for the intellectually disabled. More than \$20 million has been raised for the campaign. The 11-acre ground site was donated through a ground lease with Clark County. When complete, the new state-of-the-art facility will house an Arts & Enrichment Center and Employment & Training Center.

"Many retirees are bringing their adult disabled child here with them," Smith said. "And many come here because of Opportunity Village."

Often referred to as "Las Vegas' favorite charity," it's a moniker that could block the way for Opportunity Village's much-needed expansion efforts. According to Smith, while the community has been incredibly generous, many deem the organization "too successful" to need ongoing financial support.

"It's one of our greatest problems," Smith

said. "We can be punished for our success. We get turned down a lot because we're told, 'You know how to fund-raise.'"

According to Smith, one in 10 families will have a child born with a disability, and others will become mentally incapacitated because of accident or illness. "In the 1960s," Smith said, "These were considered throwaway people. We take those who have been deemed unemployable and draw out their potential. We train them, give them the opportunity to work and help them become successful."

Opportunity Village operates two work center campuses, which provide area busi-

nesses and organizations with full service mail house and fulfillment services, assembly & packaging resources, buttons and document destruction. Opportunity Village also operates a vehicle donation program and thrift store and hosts the popular annual Magical Forest.

"We're all local -- 100 percent of all money stays here and goes right into brick and mortar," Smith said.

For more information on how you can support Opportunity Village through donation or work center contracts, call Linda Smith at (702) 880-4080 or visit the organization's website: www.opportunityvillage.org.

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

- Aesop



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The Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy is a public charter school founded in 2001 for grades kindergarten through 12th. Photo by Brian Haraway.

Agassi's Grand Slam

Foundation nets millions for kids

By Deborah Roush
Contributing Writer

The charity event that brings entertainment megastars to the MGM for an evening gala with table sponsorships ranging from \$7,500 to \$75,000 is about a month away, but it has been nearly sold out for weeks.

The Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation's Grand Slam for Children is a black tie, sit-down dinner and live auction with music performances throughout the night that has become a who's who not only for locals, but for supporters from across the country.

"Probably half of those who attend now are from out of town," said Julie Pippenger, the foundation's executive director, who said corporations sponsor "a table or two to bring clients

11th annual Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation's Grand Slam for Children scheduled for Oct. 7 at the MGM Grand

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or employees.”

Others buy multiple tables to celebrate birthdays or anniversaries. “It has become a tradition for a lot of people,” she added.

In addition, the foundation sells 6,000 general admission tickets for the concert only.

While this year’s musical lineup has not been announced, last year’s performers included Celine Dion; Duran Duran; Earth, Wind & Fire; George Lopez, Glenn Frey; Mary J. Blige; Robin Williams and Usher. Grammy Award-winning producer David Foster will be the musical director for the 11th year.

Each year there is a surprise guest and last year it was Barbra Streisand. “Expectations are very high this year. That set the bar high for us,” Pippenger said.

Pippenger said Agassi works on the event with the foundation’s staff. “He gets personally involved in making phone calls along with Perry Rogers, his manager,” she said. The talent, she added, donates their time.

Pippenger credits the success of the event, which is the sole fundraiser for the foundation, to the “VIP treatment” the guests receive.

“From the time you walk in the door until you leave at night there are 250 volunteers making sure the evening is special,” she said.

“Everything is personalized to make sure all 2,100 people have a great experience,” she added.

Pippenger said last year the event earned \$10 million after Agassi and Perry personally contributed \$2.5 million in honor of the event’s 10th anniversary.

That money, she said, goes toward charities, including the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy – a K-12 public charter school founded in 2001.

The school, in the heart of Las Vegas’ most at-risk neighborhood, is designed to improve skill levels and combat lowered academic expectations while creating a climate of hope among this community’s most challenged children.

“It was put there for the community to have an option,” said Pippenger, adding that the school was built in three phases and this year the foundation will complete the high school and gym.

In addition to the school, the foundation supports 10 other organizations in Las Vegas and adds funds to the foundation and school endowments every year as well.

“The amount of money we give out to the community ranges from year to year, but this year with the school we will give out well over \$4 million,” she said.

“And we have been pretty consistent with the organizations we have supported,” she added. “We help a smaller number at a larger dollar amount to make a bigger impact.”

Among those is the Agassi Boys and Girls Club which was built in 1997. “We want to make sure the club is being kept up and looks



Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy students is in the heart of one of Las Vegas’ most at-risk neighborhoods. Photo by Brian Haraway.

nice and is a safe and warm environment,” Pippenger said.

In addition to traditional club offerings, the club also offers a full-time tennis and basketball program that “has created nationally ranked players on the tennis side,” she said.

Angela Quinn, chief executive officer of the Andre Agassi Boys and Girls Club, said in addition to making the annual contribution of \$250,000 toward the operating costs of the organization, the foundation covers all costs associated with the tennis and basketball programs.

“You don’t see a lot of tennis programs in the inner city and this is a terrific opportunity for those kids who participate in it,” Quinn said.

“If you’re a young African-American girl living in West Las Vegas the chance of going to Brown University on a tennis scholarship might be pretty far fetched. But if you live near the Agassi Club you have that opportunity right at your doorstep,” she said.

Participation in the sports activities encourages the students to improve academically, Quinn added.

"One of the roles of the Boys and Girls Club is to help with education and tutoring. If you're good at tennis but a bad student, you have to become a better student to participate," she said.

Other organizations the Andre Agassi Foundation supports include the Assistance League's Operation School Bell and Boys Hope/Girls Hope.

"Operation School Bell clothes kids from Clark County to go to school by providing clothing, hygiene items, back packs and school supplies. They clothe well over 3,000 Clark County kids and we support a large part of that budget," Pippenger said.

At Boys Hope, six boys who were homeless or from foster care environments live together in a family environment with live-in staff and attend school.

The children, ranging in age from 9 to 14, are chosen based on academic ability, leadership qualities and emotional and behavioral stability.

"The kids are just wonderful. When you look at where they came from and where they are going – it's truly a success, she said.

"They have had two boys graduate," she said, adding that both received full scholarships to St. John's University in New York.

The Girls Hope program is just getting started and will house eight girls, Pippenger added.

Pippenger said the staff of six at the foundation spends most of their time planning the Grand Slam for Children, which takes about nine months, as well as helping to organize the city's annual Muterspaw Championships national junior tennis tournament. They also keep in contact regularly with the organizations they support.

It's a great place to work, Pippenger said. "It's nice knowing that what we do on a daily basis really accomplishes something," she said. "That's just fantastic."

For more information on supporting the Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation, call (702) 227-5700 visit www.agassifoundation.org.



Celine Dion, above, and Usher performed at Andre Agassi's charity event — Grand Slam for Children — last year.



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Children make candy spines as part of Nevada Injury Prevention's ThinkFirst program.

ThinkFirst and survive

Startup nonprofit shares message, bike helmets

By Deborah Roush
Contributing Writer

When Bob, a volunteer with Nevada Injury Prevention's biggest program – ThinkFirst – shares his story at Green Valley High School, the students are captivated.

Wearing inappropriate head gear, Bob was involved in a motorcycle accident that left him mentally and physically impaired, and now, as a Voice for Injury Prevention, or VIP, with ThinkFirst he warns others not to make the same mistake.

Erin Hill, a health teacher at Green Valley High School, has had Bob visit her classroom several times with the program.

"He talks very slowly and you have to wait because he has to think about every word. To hear his story is pretty amazing. He was wearing a skullcap rather than a full helmet and the accident scrambled his brain. He wasn't supposed to walk. The first time he was here the bell rang and nobody moved a muscle. Bob talked another 15 minutes and most of the kids were supposed to be at lunch. That's how into it they are," she added.

"The kids can identify with him," Hill said.

The goal of Nevada Injury Prevention and ThinkFirst is to prevent unintentional injuries through education and awareness programs, advocacy efforts and collaboration with like-minded organizations.

"It's important because unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for people in this country ages 1 to 34. In Nevada, that extends to age 44," said Deborah Kreun, the organization's president, health educator and only staff member, who with volunteers works to spread that message in local schools and at health fairs.

"Among nonfatal injuries, about 11,000 people suffer spinal cord injuries each year and another 1.5 million sustain a traumatic brain injury. That's one person every 21 seconds having a brain injury," she said.

Those injuries – brain and spinal cord – are what the organization talks about the most. "Because unlike a broken arm or leg, torn ligament or terrible burns, injuries to the brain and spinal cord generally result in permanent disability. Doctors still cannot fix most brain and spinal cord injuries. The only cure is prevention," Kreun added.

"We exist to explain to people how easily they can suffer these devastating injuries and how just as easily they can choose to think first and make good decisions to prevent (them)," she said.

Bravo!

to
Volunteers



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but we make a life by what we give."*

— Winston Churchill

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Kreun, a physical therapist for 20 years, worked in facilities where she witnessed the devastating results of unintentional injuries.

"I can talk about the pain and suffering I've seen families go through when their son or daughter went from being a normal child or adolescent one day to being near death in a coma and may never be able to run, play sports, compete in college athletics or even finish high school academics," she said.

Hill said Kreun's program is powerful.

She learned of Nevada Injury Prevention's ThinkFirst Program after one of her students, Arthur, didn't return to school after the first week.

When she inquired about him she learned that he had been involved in a BMX biking accident, and not wearing a helmet, had a serious

head injury. Prompted to share the message that helmets save lives with her other students, she called Kreun.

"I made the assumption that it's high school, the kids are out there doing their bike and skateboarding tricks. They know to wear helmets. The bottom line is they are not. Luckily for Arthur he didn't have spinal cord damage and we're all thankful for that, but it could have been worse," she said.

"ThinkFirst has had a huge impact," Hill asserts. "It's very interactive and the guests are amazing people. I see the kids out there now and the ones who have seen the program have the (protective) gear on."

Kreun said she works hard to engage the students and keep their interest. "We use Fatal Vision goggles to simulate being under the in-

fluence of alcohol or drugs and we have them try to throw Velcro darts or walk the line as in a sobriety test.

"We have some fun and I'm able to make the point that unlike with the goggles, where they can take them off and the impairment goes away, when they are out making choices to drink or use other drugs they cannot just take off the impairment when they go to leave the party and get into the car.

They listen and I believe the message gets through to some of them," she said.

When she's not teaching in a classroom with a VIP at her side, Kreun is overseeing another one of Nevada Injury Prevention's big programs – free helmet events.

Sponsors such as Rhodes Homes, Land Rover Las Vegas and Cold Stone Creamery have stepped up to fund and host events where kids receive free helmets, and just as important – are fitted with them.

They also host a four-hour workshop on careers in rehabilitation where they highlight nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and other related medical careers.

"The participants hear a modified ThinkFirst message on injury prevention and meet a VIP," she said.

Unfortunately, the results of that program, as well as the ThinkFirst and helmet giveaway programs, are hard to quantify, so companies responding to grant requests often turn the agency away.

"It's hard to say I've prevented three kids from being killed; it's hard to put a number on what we do. Still, we know we're out there making a difference," she said.

"We are solely supported by grants, corporate donations and donations from private individuals. We receive in-kind gifts as well and currently operate from a home office to keep expenses minimal.

"Our budget has been holding at \$150,000 for the last two years, however we are not yet meeting that, so at this time no salaries are being paid and all funding to date has gone to program costs purchasing helmets and very basic office expenses," Kreun said.

Still, Kreun, who started the nonprofit just two years ago, is thrilled about what has been accomplished to date. "I haven't been this excited about something since I became a therapist," she said.

"I am a cancer survivor and part of what I was struggling with in my career was that I wasn't using my life for what really matters.

"Now every day I can make a difference," she said.

Our charities need you now more than ever.

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For more information about getting involved with Nevada Injury Prevention, call Kreun at (702) 596-8660.



Lending a helping hand

A look through photos
at the efforts of a few
Las Vegas-area groups

Workers donate their time to build houses as part of the Habitat for Humanity program. Each year, scores of companies and their employees donate time and money to build new homes as part of the program.



Habitat for Humanity



KB Home

KB Home presented \$60,000, at right, to the Make A Wish Foundation following the company's 4th annual Charity Golf Classic. Since 2004, KB Home has donated \$140,000 to the foundation. At left, Tonia Hontoon and her children were part of the HACA Back to School Celebration. At far right, KB Home Las Vegas Division President Don DelGiorno hangs a plaque above a room the company sponsored in the new HACA Family Resource Center.

Wells Fargo Bank



Wells Fargo Bank partners with Channel 13 each year to hold a food drive. Bank employees also participate in Pet A Palooza, an event to support pet adoptions. Additionally, Wells Fargo employees volunteers their time to help collect school supplies for Clark County schoolchildren.





I Have a Dream Foundation



Dreamers from the "I Have a Dream Foundation" spend time together at the Dreamer Station, an on-site learning center. Computers are available at the center for children to work on homework. Additionally, the dreamers made an outing to a Las Vegas 51s baseball game.



Employees of Southwest Gas volunteer for a food drives and the fixing up and painting of

Southwest





variety of good causes. Their work includes area homes.

st Gas



A group of sisters pose for a photo at St. Rose Dominican Hospitals' new San Martin campus.

St. Rose Dominican Hospitals



Lona and Jerry Blank pose in front of some of the artwork for the San Martin campus. Lona is the owner of Bluestone Gallery in The District.

Bishop Joseph A. Pepe blesses the doors of St. Rose's San Martin campus.





Rhodes Homes



Rhodes Homes, backed by the efforts of Jim and Glynda Rhodes, lends support to such groups as the Make A Wish Foundation and the Public Education Foundation.





Positive Impact dental program



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St. Rose Dominican Health Foundation making a difference

For nearly 60 years, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals have been Southern Nevada's only not-for-profit, non-tax supported, mission-driven hospitals. That simply means our operating margin goes back into the community, through building additional hospital beds or providing millions of dollars annually in medical services to our community's residents.

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- Will Bequest & Living Trust
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- Real Estate & Life Insurance Gifts
- Retained Life Estate
- Charitable Remainder & Lead Trusts
- Tangible personal property

SPECIAL EVENTS (Sponsorships and Underwriting)

Events such as the upcoming 50th Annual Mardi Gras Ball or the 11th Annual Charity Golf Classic offer public recognition, social connection and community networking opportunities.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (Major Gifts Naming Opportunities)

With the opening of the third St. Rose hospital, the San Martín Campus, along with expansion and renovations at two existing facilities, extraordinary naming opportunities within the hospital exist to honor and recognize individuals, families and organizations.

GRANTS Private Foundation and corporate grants enhance hospital operations and support community outreach programs.

FRIENDS OF ST. ROSE Annual contributions fund a variety of special projects and equipment needs for each of our three acute-care campuses.

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