



Save-the-Date
7th Annual Bike-a-Thon
Sat., April 2, 2011
visit: nvcsinc.org to register

laying a strong foundation for tomorrow's community

THE community VOICE

Issue I
Winter
2011

NVCS Launches new logo and website!

Notice anything different about this newsletter? Hopefully our new logo caught your attention. Terry Liquori, from theALMAgroup, not only joined our Board of Directors last year, but generously offered to redesign our logo and this very newsletter. Terry suggested our logo better demonstrate and convey what it is NVCS does for the community, so we worked with him to create the logo you see on this newsletter. We feel it expresses hope, joy, community, and, of course, caring. These are all critical to the work we do at NVCS.

theALMAgroup

Along with our new logo, NVCS is very excited to announce the launch of the agency's new website. This state of the

art site was made possible thanks to a grant from the Taproot Foundation and First 5 LA. Professionals from a variety of business and creative backgrounds donate their expertise as pro bono consultants to make Taproot grants possible, including our website project. Please take a minute to visit our new site at www.nvcsinc.org. You'll love the ease of navigation, the information about upcoming events, the ability to donate to NVCS on-line, and all the great photos from our events and programs. We'd also like to use the website to help others get to know about the good work we do at NVCS, so please encourage your friends to visit the site too. They can find lots of great opportunities for involvement on our volunteer page.



Executive Director's Message



Thank you for taking time to read NVCS' latest news. As you saw on the cover, we are very grateful to the Taproot Foundation for creating our beautiful new website. Next time you are on-line, be sure to check it out at www.nvcsinc.org.

“It is our community of donors that makes our work possible.”

Other exciting news is the addition of Terry Liquori to our Board. Terry is the Executive Creative Director of the ALMA Group and sits on the Platt College Advisory Board. I am excited to have Terry as part of the NVCS team, and know he will bring great things to our organization.

Finally, have you ever seen our good work first hand? Grab a friend and come down for a visit. I promise you will not be disappointed! Happy New Year, and thank you for your on-going support of NVCS. It is our community of donors that makes our work possible.


Ivette Pineda
Executive Director

Youth Development Program Provides Extra Support and Guidance That Makes the Difference

Alex* had difficulty sitting still. Instead of attending to his own work, he'd constantly bother his neighbor. He was struggling both socially and academically in school. Although he was enrolled in 3rd grade, he was reading at a kindergarten level.

NVCS' Youth Coordinator, Patricia, was determined to help Alex get on track. She started by giving him little jobs (i.e. like passing out papers or collecting pencils). These not only helped keep Alex busy, but showed him he could handle responsibility. Next, Patricia sat down each day to read and talk with Alex. This individualized assistance, combined with a book that really appealed to him, helped Alex make significant progress in his literacy and emotional skills. Alex also participated in afternoon exercise at NVCS, helping to "get his wiggles out." Soon Alex was reading on his own, doing better in school, and learning to navigate social situations with his peers.

This true story is a perfect example of our Youth Program's developmental philosophy of working with the whole child -- addressing their social, emotional, academic, and physical development. In NVCS' Youth Program, social and leadership development are encouraged by providing youth with opportunities to plan aspects of the program, by offering student government positions, through older youth mentoring younger youth, and more. Academic development is encouraged through daily tutoring, reading groups, and homework assistance. Physical



development is encouraged through daily exercise, including sports and aerobic classes. Youth also have the opportunity to develop science and art skills through weekly electives in gardening, arts and crafts, and a class about the environment. Most importantly, the program provides a safe, caring place for youth to spend their afternoons. Sometimes all it takes is someone like Patricia to get a student like Alex back on track -- someone who cares, and is willing to make the investment.

**Name changed to protect privacy.*

Youth Program costs each participant \$0. That's right, absolutely nothing. Want to make a difference? Consider supporting NVCS and its Youth Program today. You'll help dozens of youth build a better future for themselves and their community.

NVCS' Youth Program:

- Open year-round
- Serves a min. of 100 youth per year
- Open Monday through Friday, 1-6 pm
- Serves youth 6-18 years of age

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.nvcsinc.org

Wish List

The Early Childhood Education Center

- dramatic play items (kitchenware, food, costumes, dress-up locker)
- 10 piece puzzles, puzzle shape sorters, puzzle mats, blocks

Youth Program

- Spanish/English dictionaries
- healthy snacks (nuts, trail mix, individual bags of carrots, celery, etc.)
- pencils, pens, colored pencils, crayons, coloring books, arts & crafts supplies

The Breakfast and Food Pantry Programs:

- women's and men's socks (preferably new), men's T-shirts (medium or large), bath towels, blankets
- sample sized hygiene supplies (shampoo, soap, razors)
- canned food (soup, fruit, vegetables), coffee, sugar, and/or creamer, grain products (rice, oatmeal, pasta)



North Valley Caring Services' Mission

The mission of North Valley Caring Services is to empower neighborhood residents to build a vision of their community's future and to actively engage in solving local problems.

Many Different Ways to Make a Difference at NVCS

Sometimes people visit our facility and ask how they can help. For some it's as easy as writing a check, but for others that's either not a possibility, or they want to give in other ways.

Below are some different ways you can consider assisting NVCS. If you have questions about any of these, please call Ivette Pineda, NVCS' Executive Director, at 818/891-0481 ext. 24.

Donation of Cash – You can donate a cash gift via the mail or through our website at www.nvcsinc.org.

Donation of Stock – Give a gift of stock. Doing so can greatly benefit you and NVCS. For instance, if the stock has increased in value since the date of purchase, by donating it to NVCS you will avoid paying capital gains tax.

Matching Gifts – Does your company have a matching gift program? Check and see. If they do, they will often match, dollar for dollar, what you donate to NVCS.

Remember NVCS in Your Estate Planning – Including NVCS in your future estate plans not only benefits the agency down the road, but can provide you with significant tax benefits to enjoy while you are still living.

Volunteer – NVCS is always looking for individuals to donate their time in our various programs. In addition, we are also in need of professionals who would be willing to volunteer their expertise.

Current needs include: professional PR and/or marketing assistance and a professional photographer who would be willing to take photos once or twice a year for publications.

Board of Directors

Howard Fallman
Board President

Cynthia Mazza
Board Treasurer

Mary Endo
Board Secretary

Kenneth Ellis

Bernadine Gonzalez

Natacha Leighton

Terry Liquori

Ahmanson Foundation Grants \$25,000 to Youth Program

NVCS was very excited to receive a \$25,000 grant in late September from the Ahmanson Foundation in support of our agency's Youth Program. The funds will help us in our efforts to ensure local youth receive the academic, emotional, and physical support they need during their elementary, junior and senior high school years. Thank you Ahmanson Foundation for your support of and belief in our mission!

