



NEWS

Centinela Youth Services, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CENTINELA YOUTH SERVICES TO OPEN THE EVERYCHILD RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTER

HAWTHORNE – Centinela Youth Service is pleased to announce the award of a \$1 million grant by Everychild Foundation to Centinela Youth Services, Inc. (CYS), a non-profit organization that provides mediation services in the South Bay and South LA County. The funding will be used to open and operate the *Everychild Restorative Justice Center* in 2012, located across the street from the Inglewood Juvenile Courts, to coordinate with the Courts, LAPD, Inglewood PD , Hawthorne PD, LA County Sheriffs and Probation to divert more than 1,200 south LA teens from the juvenile justice system into rehabilitative programs. The Center will operate under the principals of restorative justice, which are proven effective in reducing recidivism through mediation services that bring victims, youth offenders and community volunteer mediators together to learn from and repair the harm caused by crimes. Other services will include counseling, job training and academic assistance to place teens on a pathway to success at school, at home and in their communities.

Jan Vogel, CEO of Centinela Youth Services explained, “This very generous grant from Everychild Foundation will bring desperately-needed resources for programs and services that are proven effective in changing delinquent behaviors and attitudes and, ultimately, reducing repeat offenses and re-arrests.”

Established in 1975, Centinela Youth Services serves more than 3,000 children annually throughout south Los Angeles County by providing a unique combination of family and victim/offender mediation, restitution and conflict resolution services that have established the agency as a nationally recognized leader in restorative justice programs. *The Everychild Center* will be operated under the auspices of Presiding Judge Michael Nash of Los Angeles Juvenile

Court, an innovate leader in juvenile justice and child welfare reform. According to Judge Nash, “There is no other program like this here in LA... it will save the courts time; it will save court costs and most of all it will save lives of the most vulnerable youth”.

Everychild Foundation is a nonprofit group of over 200 Los Angeles women who each contribute dues of \$5,000, which is pooled to make a single annual \$1 million grant to an agency serving children facing disease, abuse, neglect, poverty or disability. Award-winning projects must be innovative new models directly serving children with tangible results. Everychild’s goal is to launch new prototypes that can inspire replication across the nation and even worldwide, thus leveraging the grants. In 12 years, the group has awarded nearly \$10 million in grants across Los Angeles serving over half a million local children. According to Foundation President, Jacqueline Caster, “The Foundation also advocates for legislative and public policy changes to assist at-risk youth. Everychild is an entirely volunteer organization funded by member dues. Everychild pays no salaries, no rent, and does not host fundraising galas and the grants are closely monitored. Everychild has inspired the creation of 10 other similar groups, some as far away as London.”

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