

Vistas for Children, Inc.
Minutes for General Membership Meeting
January 20th, 2021 9:30AM
Via Zoom Recorded
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5292568118>

1.

Presidents Report

1. Welcome and Thank you(s)

Josephine Balzano

Josie welcomed everyone attending the meeting at 9:32 and thanked those that joined the wine tasting event.

2. Guest Speaker – Friendship Foundation– Nina Patel invites Kathy Crawford

Katarina introduced Nina Patel, Managing Director from Friendship Foundation. Nina joined Vistas 6 years ago as it is an impressive group that supports children's lives. The Friendship Foundation supports youths with special needs. Having Vistas support meant being able to meet the challenges during Covid. All programs are offered free to all families. During the pandemic it became a national organization offering programs to kids via zoom. The Friendship Foundation provides vocational training and job placement giving students with special needs the tools to transition into the workforce and find a life long purpose.

Video experienced technical issue and we were not able to hear it. The video was about how you can see it in someone's face when you touch their lives. When see the smile and joy that you bring you feel it in your hearts. The Friendship Foundation connects people, everyone has a place and they welcome everyone to join in their efforts.

In the second video a parent spoke about her son and daughter who volunteer for the program. Her son met Joe. Meetings were one on one and were done through Skype once or twice a week depending on schedules. During the last 8 months her son Jack and Joe have become close friends. Jack will drop anything he is doing with his other friends to spend time with Joe. The parent was expressing her gratitude to Vistas as it has changed her son. Joe and Jack will be friends beyond the Friendship Foundation.

During the pandemic 20 new programs have been added and they will continue to add more. If anyone is interested in their newsletter let them know.

Andrea Lynch was introduced. She is one of the parents at the Friendship Foundation. Her son Shawn is now 27. He was diagnosed with Fragile x syndrome. He went to Redondo Beach High School where he was introduced to the Friendship Circle. It was small with a few activities but it was growing. A few years later Nina and Rabbi Yosi took over and it became the Friendship Foundation. They had bowling, movie night, bingo and worked with the community. Shawn's favorite was camping. He would help set up all the tents. Once Covid hit they had zoom programs up and running right away; which was great because it gave Shawn something to do. Andrea is very grateful for all that The Friendship Foundation and Vistas has to offers. Nina would like to return in the future to do a presentation on the new campus that will be coming up that will focus on vocational training and job placements. The campus will be located on Inglewood Ave & 190th.

3. Calendar – May 19 meeting to be May 26 and in person at PVGC discussion

Possibility of holding an in-person luncheon outside in the Rose Garden at Palos Verdes Golf Club. Josie will present to the Executive Board for approval. Keep in mind it will be on May 26th.

4. Nominating Committee for 2021-2022 Board

Josie thanked everyone that answered the survey. The nominating committee is as follows:

Gail Marcone, Teri Carpenter, Roxan Bakerjian, Dawn Anfusio, Priscilla Hanudel, Josephine Balzano
The nominating committee will schedule a meeting. A spreadsheet was created and is ready to add names. Anyone that is interested in being on the board reach out to anyone listed above. A spring fashion show is foreseen for the next fiscal year in March 2022, so hope we have our fashion show Chairs. For the fall we are not sure what will be done but we will figure it as we go.

Please note that the Bylaws state that you can continue in your position as long as there is a position and the board is in agreement.

Secretary Report

1. Minutes for November 11th, 2020 General Meeting Claudia Dickens
Motion to pass the minutes as written for the November 11th General Meeting was accepted.

2nd VP Spring Fundraiser

1. A Walk for Wellness Rene Mizaguchi, Nadia Elgraby, Melia Ewing
Since Covid has made matter worse and having to pivot in a new direction we will be have a virtual walk (no physical walk). It will be called "Walk With Your Heart". You will be able to join a team, create a team, or make a donation.

2. Invitations

Invitation was created by Nadia. It's a 5x7 card that opens like a book. When opened on the right side is the Palos Verdes Estates map with peacocks and palm trees. On the left is the ready set go page, it engages guests and members to go online and register alone or as a team. The backside reflects the grant recipients for 2020. The righthand side has an insert which reflects the prizes for the opportunity drawing, Terranea Resort Spa, Apple watch, \$250 gift card to ActivFever in Redondo Beach. The drawing will be live and tickets will be \$25. The other side of the insert will have Vistas mission statement.

Suzy Ramirez explained the next steps:

- 1 – Join the walk individually or as a team
- 2 – Join by becoming an event sponsor
- 3 – Donating

The more people you reach out to and add to your team the bigger the impact. Think about a team name. Member obligation will be \$300. You can either sell tickets at \$25 to reach the \$300 or donate the full \$300. More details to come on how to sign-up or donate.

Membership VP

1. 18 provisional possible board people Brenda Beatty, Ellen Tuberosi
Please reply to the survey and give consideration to being on the board.

Marketing VP

1. Website Lisa Lazar
Website is up and running, check it out. You can show the website to anyone that wants to know about Vistas. Keep a look out for log in information which will be created for each member.

Sponsorship Corporate and Members

Nothing to add on this.

Lisa Lazar, Susan Ramirez, Rene Mizaguchi

Treasurer

1. Financials, Current Balance on Hand & Dawn Anfusio,
\$500 donation came in at the end of the month. Payment for the upcoming event have started.
Balance \$76,458
Profit \$65,711
Fall event profit \$49,227

Expenses for the fall event were a little higher but we raiser over our goal. If we shut had to shut down today we would be able to give \$60,000 - \$65,000 to the kids.

We were fortunate to receive the \$10,000 Morgan Stanley Grant

Dawn would like to do something different so we are looking for someone to step up to becoming Treasurer. You don't need to have a financial background. Dawn will be there to show you the ropes.

We started receiving donations from Facebook. We received \$50.

Philanthropy VP

1. Update on Philanthropies

Gail Marcone, Catarina Jang,

Consider joining the committee, it is the heart and soul of Vistas.

2. Granting Committee

Application process starts February 1st. A question was added to the application asking the organizations how they operated during Covid? Emails will be going out to the organizations letting them know the process is opening and the process closes on April 1st.

Grant review meeting will be held on May 7th. It's a 4-step process:

1 – Collecting general information about the organization

2 – Determining the grant amounts

3 – Approval from the Board

4 – Approval from the general membership

It's exciting to grant the funds. Hopefully this year we will be able to do it in person.

Other Business

1. Morgan Stanley Grant received!

2. Chosen Families was a success. All the gifts requested by the families were provided (63 gift, 16 gift cards totaling \$950)

The Richman Family Center is grateful for Vistas commitment. The families were overjoyed with love and gifts given during these trying times.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40am