

Vistas for Children, Inc.
Minutes for General Membership Meeting
March 24th, 2021 9:30AM
Via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5292568118>

Presidents Report

1. Welcome and Thank you(s) Josephine Balzano
Josie started the meeting at 9:32am by giving a big thank you to the VP's of Fundraising for amazing job with the Walk for Wellness. It was an incredible endeavor.
2. Calendar
No tennis tournament, instead there will be a fun shopping day. There will be an in-person meeting on May 26th at the Palos Verdes Golf Club. Please invite prospective members.
3. Nominating Committee – Lets gets our Co-VP's slated
Nominating committee has been communicating via email. They are making sure they are adding all the Co VP's to the required departments. Let them know if anyone would like to become a Co VP for one of the fundraising or philanthropy committees. There is an opening for a Vice President position, if anyone is interested please let them know.
4. IN Person Luncheon set at PVGC for May 26th
5. WOW, what a spring Fundraiser!!!!!! Incredible

Philanthropy VP

1. Guest Speaker – Andrew Nishimoto Family Promise
Catarina Jang introduced Andrew Nishimoto, Executive Director at Family Promise. Family Promise provides short term shelter to families experiencing homeless in the South Bay. They believe no child should have to sleep in a car, park, or under a bridge. Every family should be whole and have a roof over their head. Family Promise provides short term shelter, meals, case management and hospitality. They work with 29 congregations that help them with gifts cards for gas and food. Their services have been expanding. In 2017 they helped four families, 2018 six families, 2019 sixteen families, and 2020 twenty families. They have expanded their programs to service children that really needed support. They added an early intervention and stabilization program so they were able to help over 100 kids in the South Bay that were living in the housing and security. They also hired a Children's Coordinator in February 2020 specifically to help develop programs for the kids. The timing was perfect since the pandemic hit the Coordinator was able to help the kids transition to online learning and implemented the Distance Learning Program. They provided school supplies, internet, computers, tutors, and technical & academic support to help them with their learning. No one missed a day of school. During the summer staff was able to so virtual classes, art, cooking, sports. In the Fall the kids were ahead of the where they were because they were already set up for distance learning and there were no technical glitches. Andrew gave a huge thank you to Vistas for the support they receive. Vistas support allowed them to hire Children's Coordinator and offer all the programs to help the kids with the distance learning.
Question asked if the same facilities are used all the time: Pre-pandemic the overnight shelter was rotated but the day center was always in the same spot. With the pandemic families are staying at the day centers all the time. Normally the congregations set up the spots on a weekly basis.
Question asked on how long do they help a family: they try to keep it under 90 days but there is no limitation. In 2019 the average time spent was 85 days, in 2020 it was 120 days but they try to keep it under 90 days. It's a crisis center and they want to move families into permanent shelter. The kids can continue with the distance learning once they leave.
Video – Brenda Chandler speaks about her success story. Brenda and her daughter went to Family Promise 3 years ago seeking shelter. After several months of counseling, budgeting, and encouragement from the

staff/volunteers they were able to get into a place of their own. Since Family Promise gave them so much to her, Brenda joined the Board of Directors.

Question asked on how many applicants do they get: They are a part of LA County Homeless Service Provider. They can be reached by calling 211 or go to 211.com online. Families that are being evicted or losing their home are referred to Family Promise. They also partner with cities in the area. Last year there were about 335 people that called in, this year there were close to 400. They can't help everyone so aside from offering shelter they offer Diversion & Prevention Services. For those that are close to eviction they have funding, counseling services, and mediation to help keep them in their house. For those that have been evicted they can get them connected to family members or find them a temporary space until they can get them permanent housing.

Question asked about resource for the families they cannot help: They have other partnerships including Harbor Interfaith. They cross refer to each other. Family Promises focuses on families close to sustainability while Harbor Interfaith focuses on those that needing ongoing government assistance. They also partner with Communities Child that service mothers with young children, newborns, and infants. The Salvation Army that helps with food. There are times where they do not have the funding to help families.

Question asked on education provided: 3 main focus outside of providing shelter are Employment – resume writing to help them get employed or advancing their employment by going back to school and getting certified.

Relationships – helping them build their support system with family and friends

Budgeting and Finance – teaching them to have a plan in prioritizing their finances and offering them credit repair classes so they can be successful once they leave the program.

Question asked on what measure were taken during Covid: They eliminated volunteer interaction between families which is a huge part of their program. Families at rotational shelter in Torrance of families at the transitional shelters in San Pedro Wilmington, and Long Beach stay at those shelters and exist as one household. Outsiders must wear masks, shields and social distance.

2. Philanthropies – Grant window open

Gail Marcone, Catarina Jang

The Grant Application is open until April 1st. If you have someone that wants to apply, have them submit their application online via Vistas website.

10 application have been received to date. Last year Vistas granted 22 organization. Hope more organizations apply.

3. Grant Survey! March 1st

Reminder – the Grant Survey was sent out to everyone. How would you rate them based on your perspective? How would you rate them from 1-10? Your feedback is important. We want the grants to go to the organizations we support.

Catarina and Gail are working on the documents for the grant review meeting set for May 7th. The next two speakers are Pediatric therapy Network (PTN) for April and Happy Trail for Kids on May 1st which hopefully will be in person.

Secretary Report

1. Minutes for February 10th, 2021 Board Meeting

Claudia Dickins

A motion made by Claudia Dickins and seconded by Marica August to accept the minutes was passed.

2nd VP Spring Fundraiser

1. Highlights about Wellness Walk

Rene Mizaguchi, Nadia Elgraby

Rene thanked everyone for being able to generate dollars from nothing based on our cause. We had no entertainment, giveaways or goody bags.

2. Virtual Walk Platform Progress \$ Raised

Susan Ramirez

Suzy thanked everyone for their support. As of today, \$43,000 has been raised and more donations coming in. Top amazing fundraisers:

3rd place – Team Melia raised \$2,680 with 23 participants

2nd place – Team Marcia raised \$3,200 with 24 participants

1st place – Team Berliner/Bobbit raised \$7,225 with 57 participants

Donations are still be collected. The site will be open for donations until April 1st.
Josie thanked everyone for showing up and the outstanding support.

Treasurer

1. Financials, Current Balance on Hand Dawn Anfuso
Numbers are estimates. Since expenses were low, we are netting approx \$40,000
Balance - \$117,000
Net profit - \$105,000

Other Business

1. Corporate Sponsorship – Suzi Winkler/Julie Christian
Julie and Suzi have done an amazing job with Corporate Sponsorship in getting bank support.
2. In person shopping and luncheon date at Riviera Village! (April 15th– Julie Christian)
Participating business: Lollipop, Alandrea, Beauty Treat, Fringe, Creative Designs, ActiveFever, Abbracci, and Bettolino. Bettolino will offer take-out and delivery. ActiveFever, Beauty Treats, and Bettolino will have online shopping as well. Everyone else will be open for in person shopping. Participating business will donate 15-20% of the sales. Reach out and meet as a group. It will be a fun event.
3. PTN Easter Egg Drive by and PPV June event sensory gift baskets- Goli
Last year there was no Easter Egg Hunt due to Covid. This year PTN asked us to do something a little out of the box and do a drive by event. So, this year Goli and Jr Vistas made 200 gifts items for the children, which will say we did not forget about them. Pictures will be posted in the newsletter.
4. New Member Wine Night April 29th Balzano Home outside – Kim Bright
Wine night from 4-6pm at Josie's backyard – last year's Provisionals, all Actives, recent members, and anyone looking to join is invited.
5. Marcia August has been teaching American Mahjong over the last 3 years. She is starting a new group of Vistas' members on June 3rd. If you are interested in learning or know of anyone that would be interested please let Marcia know. She teaches on Thursday afternoon from 2-5pm at her home. The money she earns from this is donated to Vistas. People donate what they can, there is no set cost. The amount donated from this is around \$500.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23am.