



**The
Community
Foundation**

Serving the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino

**S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund
Grant Evaluation Form
Holiday Grant**

Grant Period:

January 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013

Evaluation Due Date:

July 15, 2013

Date: **July 15, 2013**

Organization: **Downtown Women's Center**

Contact Name: **Jasmina Zuljevic**

Title: **Foundation and Corporate Relations Manager**

Phone Number: **(213) 680-0600**

Grant Period: **Jan. 1, 2013 – Jun. 30, 2013**

Award Amount: **\$10,000**

Grant Number: **2012993**

- Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.

In great part to the S.L. Gimbel Foundation's support, the Downtown Women's Center's (DWC) meals program has made substantial strides toward helping women end the cycle of homelessness. We are pleased to report that in 2012, DWC served over 92,000 meals to over 4,300 chronically homeless and low-income women. In 2013, we expect to do the same – 92,000 meals to 4,300 women – and are on track to meeting this goal. Additionally, of the 92,000 meals served in 2012, 55,200 (60%) were prepared and served by volunteers – a vital part of our efforts to build cross-community relationships and utilize existing resources to serve our organization's greatest needs. In the first six months of 2013, we have served 48,767 meals, and are on track to reaching our goal of 92,000 meals served.

- What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned?

One challenge our meals program encountered during our grant period involved the transition of a new head cook, as well as a temporary shortage of kitchen staff. The head cook was promoted into her position after the previous head cook left the organization much earlier than anticipated. In becoming accustomed to the position, the new head cook was faced with managing the kitchen's numerous daily operations without any assistance. This involved coordinating and cooking three meals a day for over 200 women, carrying out administrative duties, and managing and mentoring participants. Fortunately, DWC was able to hire two kitchen assistants to share responsibilities and our head cook has successfully transitioned into her new role.

One significant lesson learned is the importance of resilience and patience, especially when working in a field where resources are sometimes scarce. Our head cook was able to learn the duties of her new role – and carry them out on her own – until new staff members were hired. Another important lesson that was learned involves the significance of DWC's family of supporters. Even when it seemed as if certain resources, such as meal ingredients, would be lacking, partners in the community would consistently offer their generosity and support to address our meal program's needs. Our focus on engaging all members of our community has made our mission to end homelessness for women a truly united effort.

- Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.

As mentioned, volunteers are a significant part of our meal program's daily operations. We are thrilled to share with you that in May of 2013, DWC was named the Nonprofit of the Year by Governor Jerry Brown and California Volunteers -- the state's highest award for innovation in service and volunteering. We could not have done this without the support of partners such as the S.L. Gimbel Foundation -- once again, thank you!

- Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.

DWC's meals program is often the entry point for a chronically homeless woman's relationship with our organization. When one is homeless for multiple years, one's daily priorities are focused on survival and meeting basic needs. Once these basic needs are met, through services such as our meals program, our participants are more likely to achieve more intermediate and long-term goals, such as improving mental and physical health, vocational and educational training, seeking permanent housing, and more.

Additionally, our kitchen serves as the focal point of our Day Center, in which participants, staff, and volunteers work together to cook and serve meals, as part of DWC's commitment to creating a warm, welcoming environment for all who enter through our doors. The barriers to ending homelessness are often related to an individual's reluctance to engage in services; thanks to our meals program, which is made possible, in part, by the support of the S.L. Gimbel Foundation, these barriers are eliminated and more women are able to begin their paths to personal stability and ending the cycle of homelessness.

- Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.

Before becoming a participant at DWC, Ms. E struggled with drug abuse and committing crimes to support her drug habit. Upon becoming involved at DWC through our meals program, she began to engage in DWC's services and build community with staff and other participants, eventually becoming a participant leader. After just 4 months of volunteering in the kitchen, Ms. E remained sober, gained essential food preparation experience, created a resume, and found employment at a restaurant.

Another participant, Ms. S, shared with kitchen staff that she used to work at a foster home, preparing meals. Unfortunately, she found herself on the streets due to drug abuse. She was inspired by the examples set by ladies at DWC who have remained sober and were able to turn their lives around, and Ms. S soon began volunteering in the meals program. After a few months of working in the kitchen, Ms. S enrolled in school, and, encouraged by kitchen staff who had become mentors for her, achieved perfect attendance.

These examples truly illustrate that DWC's meals program is more than just providing for our community's greatest needs -- it helps to develop essential skills, build community, encourage leadership, and ultimately, support each participant on her path to personal stability and ending the cycle of homelessness.

- Provide a financial report on the use of your grant funds (expenditures).

Line Item	Line Item Description	Funds Expended
Purchase of Food Items	Includes dollars spent on produce, grains, legumes, and meat utilized to cook and serve three meals per day.	\$10,000

- ❖ Please send copies of publicity and other promotional materials.
- ❖ All variances or time extensions must be approved by The Community Foundation's Grant Committee. Please contact us at 951.241.7777, ext. 114 immediately if a variance or extension becomes necessary.

Please return the completed form to:

Penny Beaulieu, Manager, Grants Programs
The Community Foundation

3700 Sixth Street, Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501 or fax to 951.684.1911

Or email to: pbeaulieu@thecommunityfoundation.net

Karen Lampert

From: Gail Pansacola <gailp@dwcweb.org>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 10:44 AM
To: Penny Beaulieu
Subject: Downtown Women's Center - Grant Evaluation Form - Holiday Grant
Attachments: Downtown Women's Center - Grant Evaluation Form 2013.docx

Dear Ms. Beaulieu,

It is my pleasure to submit to you the Downtown Women's Center's Grant Evaluation Form, detailing the achievements of our meals program. The completed evaluation form has been attached to this e-mail message. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions. We are so grateful for the S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund's support!

Warm Regards,

Gail Pansacola, MSW
Grants Coordinator
DOWNTOWN WOMEN'S CENTER
442 S. San Pedro Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
213.213.2835
GailP@DWCweb.org
www.DWCweb.org