



The Community Foundation
Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund Grant Evaluation Form

Grant Period:
Nov. 15, 2012 – Nov. 30, 2013

Organization: Union Rescue Mission

Contact Name: Rachel Repko

Title: Grant Writer

Phone Number: 213-316-2753

Grant Period: Nov 15, 2012 – Nov 30, 2013

Award Amount: \$25,000

Grant Number: 2012882

This report outlines progress made as a result of the generous \$25,000 grant awarded to Union Rescue Mission by The S. L. Gimbel Foundation Fund in 2012. This grant was instrumental in helping us navigate difficult economic times and we are deeply grateful to The Gimbel Foundation Fund for your on-going commitment to helping us serve women and children experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County.

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

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEASUREMENTS	GOAL	OUTCOME
Provide on-site daycare/ preschool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide full-day onsite PEEPS childcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 55 preschool aged children will be served over the coming year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschoolers ready for school • Day-care provision so moms can be in school or work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal achieved: at least 60 children between the ages of 0-5 years old served
Provide transitional housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll mothers from downtown shelter into Hope Gardens Family Center • Accept referrals from partner agencies • Move new families into Concord Lodge by January 2013 • Provide private rooms and 3 meals daily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve at least 60 mothers and their children annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of families on Skid Row • Women adjust to living in a positive, family community • Family relationships are strengthened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 90% achieved: 55 families were enrolled from downtown shelter into Hope Gardens • Goal achieved: Renovation of Concord Lodge completed. New families moved in October 2013
Provide case management and supportive services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management • Create individual goals and action plan • Life-skills training (19 classes including such as parenting, anger management, addiction recovery classes) • Mental health counseling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve at least 60 mothers enroll in case management and access services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access resources • Establish action plan • Healthy environment to address parenting and generational patterns of abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal achieved: 100% of the mothers of preschool children receiving case management services and are enrolled in or have graduated from life skills classes.

- **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?**

During the grant funding period, Hope Gardens Family Center has experienced a period of tremendous growth and change. Accomplishments include the opening of a new living facility (Concord Lodge) with the capacity to serve another 12 families, as well as the hiring of a new program director, Dr. Paulette Melina. Foundation grants helped fund the completion of Concord Lodge, as well as the repair of the sewer system and the completion of the community kitchen.

The main challenge encountered this year was the increase in the number of women served who are domestic violence survivors – about 40% of the women served. The problems encountered by these women are complex – most of whom have children with the abuser – leaving a trail of legal, financial, psychological and security issues to be addressed as part of their life-transformation process. Through therapy and referrals to outside organizations specializing in serving DV survivors, this issue is being addressed. In response, staff is looking to strengthen this component of their outreach through education and referrals to specialized agencies, to ensure the safety of mothers and children long after successful graduation from the program.

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

The quality and effectiveness of our children's and youth outreach has improved through the introduction of a number of new activities including a mommy and me class, a children's exercise class, and an exciting training partnership with a local Montessori school. During the grant funding period a youth supervisor was hired to lead a fully-staffed team of 7 youth case managers who oversee after-school tutoring, recreational, and social activities for the children and youth living at Hope Gardens.

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

Quality childcare is a critical need for mothers working themselves out of homelessness, and is a core component of our transitional housing program at Hope Gardens, provided from 9am to 5pm, 5 days per week. Without childcare, these mothers could not finish school, look for work, participate in mental health counseling and life-skills classes developed to equip them with the tools to transition out of homelessness and into work and housing.

The \$25,000 grant from the The S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund helped pay for childcare costs for more than 60 children served at Hope Gardens during the grant funding period, supporting salaries of childcare workers and food costs for children enrolled in the program. In addition, this grant has helped leverage funding from other foundations, including the following grants secured specifically for Hope Gardens over the last 10 months:

Ahmanson Foundation (\$100,000)
 Confidence Foundation (\$100,000)
 Gladyce Foster Family Foundation (\$180,000)
 Ralph M. Parsons Foundation (\$100,000)
 Green Foundation (\$100,000)
 Marisla Foundation (\$40,000)
 Doheny Foundation (\$26,000)
 George Hoag Foundation (\$120,000)

Thank you for the important role The S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund has played in helping to transform the lives of women and children struggling during these tough economic times.

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

As a result of the generosity of The S.L Gimbel Foundation Fund, more than 60 preschool-aged children have been given excellent care and nurture. Your support has given young mothers the chance they needed to get their lives back on track so they can support their families – as well as provided young mothers who have never been mothered themselves a chance to learn from experienced childcare workers how to care for their little ones.

Once such mother is Tiffany - a single mother of 3 children who is currently living at Hope Gardens Family Center. Please find her story attached.

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

Grant funding was used to cover the following expenditures:

Childcare supervisor: 20 hrs per week for 12 months (20 hours x \$14.87 x 52 weeks = \$15,465)	\$15,465
Meals for women and children (4,584 meals at \$2.08 per meal)	<u>\$9,535</u>
TOTAL	\$25,000

Please return the completed form to:

Penny Beauliey, Manager, Grant Programs
The Community Foundation
3700 Sixth St., Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501 or fax to 951-684-1911
Or email to: ccudiamat@thecommunityfoundation.net



Tiffany's Story – Hope Gardens Family Center, Fall/Christmas 2013

All my life, I've loved singing *Joy to the World* at Christmas. How can anyone sing that carol and not feel happy? It always reminds me that God and my kids are my true joy.

But my life hasn't always been filled with joy. I got married when I was 21 and we had three beautiful daughters. But despite our kids, we spent 13 rocky years fighting and quarreling until I couldn't take it anymore. After we divorced, the girls and I struggled financially. I finally got a good job working as a bus

driver. But then in the span of a couple years, my mother and father died, then two of my uncles and a nephew passed away, and I fell into a depression. I found it hard to keep working.

Life was so difficult for me — but it was especially hard at Christmas. Instead of feeling joy, I just cried. Then we started having problems with our apartment manager, who was breaking into our home and was making my daughters feel afraid. The police wouldn't do anything about the manager, so I had to leave with my kids. But I didn't have the money to move into another apartment, and we had no place else to go. Thankfully, when I called emergency services, they referred us to Union Rescue Mission and their Hope Gardens Family Center.

We've been here since April 2012. They say every gray cloud has a silver lining, and Hope Gardens has been that for me. Not only have they provided me and my kids with meals and shelter, they've given me the chance to go back to school. And today I'm in the process of starting my own private bus business.

This Christmas, *Joy to the World* means something special again. I may be down, but I'm not out. I have my kids, we're safe, and we have a future. I may not always feel it, but joy is a real possibility again. I know it. I feel it. And there's no better Christmas present than that.