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The Whole Child – Mental Health & Housing

**The Whole Child Awarded \$1 Million Grant from the
Everychild Foundation to Address Homelessness**



The Whole Child, Key Community Members, and the Everychild Foundation Grant Screening Board

Whittier, California – November 12, 2015 – The Whole Child (TWC) awarded \$1 million grant from the Everychild Foundation to fund the *Everychild Foundation Family Housing Program*. The 2-year grant will go toward helping hard- to-place families with children, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with adequate, safe and affordable housing.

The *Everychild Family Housing Program* anticipates serving 672 children ages zero to 18 (approximately 168 families) over a two-year period. The program is aimed at achieving stability and emotional well-being for these children and their families.

“We are so very grateful for the exceptional generosity of The Everychild Foundation. Because a strong and nurturing family is essential to a child’s healthy growth and development, TWC’s commitment to children through this program extends to the parents as well,” says Charlene Dimas-Peinado, Chief Executive Officer. “The *Everychild Family Housing Program* will provide an array of services, including counseling, mental health and health care services, intensive case management and assistance connecting to other needed resources to help both the children and parents in the family.”

Through its new Family Housing Program, TWC will assist families in securing housing and provide help with move-in expenses. At the same time, TWC case managers will assess each family’s situation and develop an individualized service plan designed to achieve long-term stability.

“The Everychild Foundation has a deep and growing concern about the emotional impact on children living in traumatic environments,” says Jacqueline Caster, Founder and President of the Everychild Foundation. “The Whole Child’s mission, to give children of all ages the skills, support and security they need to build emotionally healthy lives fits with our mission to assist underserved Los Angeles children - our most vulnerable citizens.”

The program will target hard-to-place families – often headed by young, single females with several children – who are at the greatest risk of homelessness. Focus will be on the children in these families who can suffer from lifelong mental and physical health issues, exposure to violence and an increased probability of being placed in foster care.

The Family Housing program is based on the nationally acknowledged Housing First model. The model focuses on securing permanent housing, coupled with intensive support services, rather than placement in a short-term shelter. Homelessness in the TWC service area of Whittier and its surrounding communities has increased 47% as indicated in the recent 2015 Homeless Count conducted by Los Angeles Housing Services Authority. This homeless situation is exacerbated by a shortage of affordable housing and increasing poverty rates.

Founded in 1957, TWC is one of LA County’s premium nonprofit agencies, fostering the healthy development and emotional well-being of underserved children. The mission of the organization is to give children of all ages the skills, support and security they need to build emotionally healthy lives and become caring, responsible adults. For more information on The Whole Child, go to: <https://www.thewholechild.info/> or email dlee@thewholechild.info.

The mission of the Everychild Foundation is to ease suffering of children in the Greater Los Angeles area, whether due to disease, disability, abuse, neglect or poverty. For more information on the Everychild Foundation, go to: www.everychildfoundation.org or email info@everychildfoundation.org.

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