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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 12<sup>th</sup> –  
Education Salon  
**CHRISTOPHER CROSS**  
Education and public  
policy expert – Nevada  
Cancer Institute  
Auditorium. 11:30 – 1pm
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> –  
**ANNUAL AWARD  
LUNCHEON**  
In celebration of our  
2009 winner: Legal Aid  
Center – Wynn Las  
Vegas. 11:30 – 1:30 pm

## LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA WINS 2009 NWP GRANT OF \$325,000

Wow! What a year we've had! Despite starting 2009 with a bit of trepidation, we concluded our 4<sup>th</sup> NWP grant season on a most happy and positive note. Our finalists, Legal Aid Center and Three Square, gave compelling and passionate presentations at our October 13<sup>th</sup> Grant Hearing, leaving members with a tough choice to make. We held our first Annual Meeting after the Grant Hearing and provided "state of the business" reports.

We ended 2009 with 77 members, which allowed us to grant \$325,000 to Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and a \$50,000 runner-up award to Three Square. I salute both our winner and our runner-up and look forward to a bright future with Legal Aid Center and encourage Three Square to apply to us again in time.

For the past two years, we've given \$30,000 to our runners-up as a Founder's Grant in recognition of their effort and participation in our grant process. This year, the award got even larger due to an anonymous \$20,000 gift made by an NWP member. To this "angel" member, I say "thank you, thank you, thank you!"

This year we implemented our succession plan, which led to the ratification of our President-Elect, Susie Lee, and Vice-President, Carrie Henderson. I look forward to their astute leadership and guidance and thank them for their dedication! I'm also proud to say that our 2009 expenses came in at 4.29%. It's been my operational mission to keep expenses below 5% so every dollar possible can go towards our grants.

To date, the women of NWP have given \$1,390,000 in grants to improve the lives of Southern Nevadans. This impressive sum is a testament to the power of our pooled-fund giving model and the philanthropic impact we can make. Each of our \$5,000 makes a profound difference and represents a smart, sustainable philanthropic seed investment that will truly yield benefits for years to come. We've accomplished so much together, yet have much more yet to achieve. I believe we're all up for the challenge.

With sincere appreciation,  
Dana Lee – NWP President



## Grant Monitoring Committee

Grant Monitoring Committee (GMC) chair, Susie Lee, provides the following report:

**After-School All-Stars (ASAS):** Our monitoring team, Sandy Hardie and Tedi Ann Templeton, most recently met with Roundy Elementary principal Rod Knowles September 25<sup>th</sup>. Out of the \$320,000 granted to ASAS, \$192,488.40 has been distributed thus far for math and reading lab materials for Roundy Elementary and for computer, reading and math lab materials for Wynn Elementary. Additionally, as per plan, funds have been spent for personnel, equipment and general supplies. Out of the funding that was allocated, \$24,000 was earmarked for a Parent Lounge at Roundy. Half of the money was spent to outfit the lounge; they will hold-off on the remainder and re-evaluate what materials are necessary to complete the lounge. As with all agencies, ASAS is experiencing budget constraints, but programming will not be cut. And as with all ASAS locations, demand is high for programs and both the Wynn and Roundy Elementary School ASAS programs are fully subscribed.

**Public Education Foundation (PEF):** The PEF subcommittee, consisting of Susie Lee (Wendall P. Williams Elementary), Trina Pascal (Staton Elementary), and Marcelle Frey (Chaparral High School), attends regular Empowerment Team Meetings at their respective schools.

*Chaparral H.S.* – Funding went towards support of the Band and Mariachi programs, the creation of an NWP Computer Lab, and funding for a late bus program. To date, the band and mariachi programs are the largest in Clark County. The computer lab is up and running with 93 classes served so far; and the late bus program has allowed 193 students to access after-school programs.

*Staton Elementary* – Staton has applied our funding to transform themselves into a school of excellence. Initial funding went towards

support of an August staff training; student assessments to identify those in need of tutoring; the creation of a Research/Media center; and support of Science Explorations classes taught by Palo Verde H.S. teachers. Parents are enthusiastic about the changes provided by the school's Empowerment status.

*Wendall P. Williams* – Similar to Staton, Wendall Williams started the year with teacher training in August. The main focus for improvement is reading and as such, our funding went towards the purchase of a comprehensive program called Lexia. The school also started a tutoring program, with NWP members Judy Cebulko and Whitney duBoef serving as reading tutors. Volunteers are encouraged and welcome. If you are interested in becoming a tutor, please email Susie Lee at [smlee4@me.com](mailto:smlee4@me.com).

NWP members also contributed to fund school uniforms, a new initiative. Susie is happy to report that they reached their goal and received funding to provide two uniform shirts for every student.

## Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee (OC), led by Heather duBoef and members Leslie DeVore and Whitney duBoef, held their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Grant Symposium on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. Open to all interested non-profits that might consider applying for our grant, the symposium was well attended and well received.

The symposium is another example of NWP's efficiency. OC synthesizes all pertinent applicant information and in one simple session, presents and provides answers. Applicants for our 2010 grant will turn in their Letter of Inquiry (LOI) to the committee by end of November. OC will then evaluate the LOIs, cull them down, and provide the qualified applicants to the Grant Screening Committee for their grant evaluation process.



## Grant Screening Committee

Kudos to the 2009 Grant Screening Committee (GSC) and Chairs Robyn Manzini and Gail Poll for their astute work and their two outstanding finalists. This was a tough year for applicants as “sustainability” (a key criteria for our grant) became a very tough measurement to prove. Economically, many agencies were focused on maintaining general operations and “hunkering” down. This year even saw the closure of long-existing organizations, such as The Las Vegas Art Museum, due to the economic downturn.

However, in viewing the world through a “half-glass full” perspective, there is optimism in the air, and this Grant Screening Committee season concluded on a high note. Our 2009 grant award of \$325,000 (which exceeds the application amount by \$25,000) went to Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada to fund one new attorney within the Children’s Attorneys Project (CAP) Foster Care Early Intervention Program. This new program seeks to represent children from the first day they are removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect and will prevent children from needlessly languishing in the system for months or years without receiving the services and help they deserve. The grant will pay for a lawyer for three years, with an approximate reach of 414 children.

Further, we were able to provide a Founder’s Grant to our 2009 runner-up, Three Square. This grant, in the amount of \$30,000 to symbolize the six founders of NWP, has been given the last two years. We were not only able to give this same amount this year, but also an additional \$20,000 due to an anonymous gift made by an NWP member. This \$50,000 unrestricted gift to Three Square is well-deserved and honors their dedication throughout our process and their excellence of service to the community.

For 2010 GSC leadership will become a triad of Robyn Manzini, Gail Poll and Julie Robinson. This structure was established to provide an overlap of leadership for continuity. We

## Grant Screening Continued...

welcome Julie to the co-chair position and to the Executive Committee.

The three co-chairs are planning for 2010 and are looking for new committee members. GSC holds meetings on Tuesday mornings, and this coming year’s meetings will be: January 26<sup>th</sup>, February 9<sup>th</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup>, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and May 4<sup>th</sup> with site visits planned between April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you are interested in joining this dynamic committee that truly represents the heart of NWP, please contact Julie Robinson at [Julie@uplv.net](mailto:Julie@uplv.net).

## Membership

We ended 2009 with 77 members! We are so thankful for our new members who joined this fall and to our members who brought us these wonderful women. Membership, led by Dena duBoef and Denise Cashman, looks forward to expanding our ranks for 2010!

At the conclusion of this year’s vote count, the Executive Committee met and voted to cap NWP membership at 110 members. When we reach this number, NWP’s grants will be at a \$500,000 level. We feel this amount provides a rich and worthy grant while also being scalable enough for a volunteer-based organization.

Due to the cap, we ask renewing members to recommit by March 31<sup>st</sup> by submitting a \$1,000 deposit or remitting their dues in full. Further, we will move up the full payment date to September 15<sup>th</sup>, which coincides with our now annual “Welcome Back” social lunch. These changes allow us, most importantly, to give a firm grant amount to our finalists. Due to our former deadlines, the final grant amount was not known until after the Grant Hearing; these changes will now remove this uncertainty. Thanks to NWP Secretary, Mindy Hansen Oliveri, for suggesting these most logical revisions to our process!



## Education/Events Committee

### **SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 12, 11:30 AM, EDUCATION SALON FEATURING CHRISTOPHER CROSS – RENOWNED EDUCATION-POLICY CONSULTANT**

After receiving your feedback, we decided to hold our next Salon during the day and make it a “brown-bag” lunch discussion. We are honored to have Christopher Cross, a noted Bay area-based education and policy expert come to speak to NWP members and guests on January 12<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Nevada Cancer Institute auditorium. His talk will address the issues facing public education in Nevada.

Mr. Cross has consulted extensively on public education reform and currently serves as chairman of Cross & Joftus, LLC, an education-policy consulting firm. He has been a Senior Fellow with the Center for Education Policy and a Distinguished Senior Fellow with the Education Commission of the States and as president of the Maryland State Board of Education from 1994-1997. From 1994 to 2002 he served as president and chief executive officer of the Council for Basic Education. Before joining CBE, Mr. Cross served as Director of the Education Initiative of The Business Roundtable and as Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement in the U.S. Department of Education. Mr. Cross chaired the National Assessment of Title I Independent Review Panel on Evaluation for the U.S. Department of Education from 1995-2001 and the National Research Council Panel on Minority Representation in Special Education from 1997-2002 and was a member of the NRC panel on International Education and Foreign Languages, 2006-2007.

His book on the evolution of federal education policy, *Political Education: National Policy Comes of Age*, was published in 2004 by Teachers College Press. He has also written extensively in the education and public policy areas and has been published in numerous scholarly and technical publications.

## Treasury

Laura Smith-Trampler has once again done a stellar job as NWP treasurer. This role requires not only financial acumen and accounting knowledge, but also tremendous attention to detail. Laura is our perfect treasurer, and we are most grateful that she’s agreed to serve another 2-year term, effective December 1<sup>st</sup>.

We ended 2009 with 77 members for a grant fund of \$385,000. In addition, we received an extra \$20,000 to go towards the runner-up gift. With interest and other contributions to our operating account, our 2009 fund balance came to \$405,417.33. Our total 2009 expenses were \$16,529.39, which is 4.29% of intake.

Although we are allowed to spend up to 10% for expenses, we strive to keep expenses below 5%. Comparatively, our 2008 expenses were \$25,936.40 or 5.7%. With each year, we have developed an understanding of what our budget allocations need to be, which areas we can save, and what we can do differently to save money and further maximize dollars for our annual grant.

Unless there are extraordinary circumstances, we can expect our expenses to stay below 5% or under \$20,000 for the foreseeable future.



## In Our Own Words – By Whitney duBoef

*Whitney duBoef is a dedicated and passionate supporter of NWP and Opportunity Village, among many organizations. She is a member of the Outreach Committee and a Public Education Foundation Empowerment school volunteer at Wendell P. Williams Elementary School. Whitney shares her first impressions as a tutor at Wendell Williams Elementary.*

### **The First Days of School**

It was my first day of school. I laid out my clothes the night before out of habit. When I worked, I always did this so I didn't have to think about it in the morning. Old habits die hard! I just couldn't decide if I should "dress up" or not. I wanted to make a good impression on the principal and the teacher. I opted for a skirt and "crisp" white shirt and very high heels. You know: those platforms we've all been wearing to keep in step with the current styles!

Upon arrival I was told to meet with the principal, Ms. McKinney. Had I done something wrong already??? Apparently not, just a kind of "touch base". She even walked me to my classroom. There I met my teacher: Miss Baker! And there I also met my new "classmates". Fifteen of the most precious second graders you have ever seen. They were bright-eyed and full of wonder at this very, very tall woman who had come to visit and tutor them. "Are you really that tall?" one asked. So I had to take off those platforms and show them my real height. Well they loved that, and I introduced myself (at the school all teachers are addressed as Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms. and their last name). I thought it would be easier for them to use my first name, so we decided on "Miss Whitney". Now let me tell you, when that class said "hello Miss Whitney", I thought I would just soar right out of the building!!!

I was given four children that day to tutor. Two of whom were quite slow in staying with us reading-wise. It was painful, but we completed the task at hand. Since I was the first NWP tutor to volunteer, things were a little disorganized. But by the next time, everything was in place. Miss Baker pulled the two children who were a little behind, and I was left with Davaria and Jorge. Davaria is a ball of energy, well behaved and willing to learn. Jorge speaks perfect English, although Spanish is his first language which he translates at home for his parents. Both students were very bright, but needed extra attention on their reading and spelling.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00, Miss Baker has our daily lesson prepared. We go to another room where we are alone and work on reading, spelling and writing. Sometimes it's just a matter of keeping them focused on what they are doing. We sound out words that seem unfamiliar and when they realize they DO know the word, that little light bulb goes off! It's just a priceless feeling!

Last week after tutoring, I stayed in the class for awhile. Each child read to me their own specially designed "Halloween House for Sale": fifteen students all possessing terrific imaginations! What a treat....no pun intended!

In a couple of weeks, I'm taking them on a class trip to the magical forest at Opportunity Village. The magical tour bus will pick them up at school and bring them to the OV campus. They will be able to enter the magical forest, ride the train and experience the beauty of the forest. The class will be given lunch, and each child will receive a gift of a toy, game or book. They will have a tour of the work rooms where the clients do their exceptional work for the community, and a tour guide will answer their questions and talk to them about people with special challenges that are making an independent life for themselves. And this particular class has NEVER been to the magical forest!!! Nor, for that matter, have I. So we will have another experience together, learning as we go.

So now you know about my first days of school - certainly the most important school I've ever attended. Lucky me!!!!



## October 1<sup>st</sup> “Welcome Back From Summer Lunch”



NWP President, Dana Lee, hosted a “Welcome Back from Summer” lunch at her Summerlin home. Over 50 NWP members attended and enjoyed a lunch buffet of poached salmon and chicken roulade by Stacy and Dan Shannon of P&C Catering. It was such a fun lunch that it’ll become an annual event for NWP members to get to know each other better or simply to catch up in a casual, social atmosphere.

**Above:** Dee Berkley and Denise Walsh; **Right:** Robyn Manzini and Stacy Shannon ; **Below:** Heather duBoef and Judy Cebulko.





**Right:** Top row – Dana Lee, Jodi Fonfa and Hilary Heard. Seated – Cindy Ellis, Hillary Westrom, Winnie Schulman, and Lily Chu.

**Below:** Nazanin Ford, Shelly Gitomer, Joyce Sherman, Marianne Lane, Sonja Saltman, and Whitney duBoef.

