

VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL neighborhood council COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT APPLICATION PACKET 2012-13 APPLICATION SUMMARY SHEET



PROJECT # (For Office Use Only)	APPLICATION SUMMARY SHEET	PAGE 1				
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Full Project Description

Safe Place for Youth (SPY) is proposing to create an annual Venice Volunteer Fair. Venice is an enormously eclectic and diverse community, well known as a bastion of well-organized and effective community based activists. For stakeholders, a volunteer fair is a great way to become familiar with different organizations, and to explore the wide variety of opportunities there are to make a difference in our community.

Venice nonprofits will introduce themselves to the community and offer various volunteer opportunities for stakeholders. A variety of organizations with different missions will be represented, such as children and youth, health, arts, and the environment. In addition, to make the day feel festive and to engage friends and families of all ages, planned activities include a performance by the SPY Youth Choir, an Improvisation Workshop, and Arts and Crafts. All activities will be open to the public and free of charge. Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

SPY is an all-volunteer organization. Alison Hurst, the Executive Director, along with a core of 20 or so pro bono staff and volunteers will all be participating in the pre-production and production of this event. We also hope to enlist the help of 10-15 of our clients, the homeless youth. We anticipate that there will be 15 – 20 Venice nonprofits who will be 'working' the fair, representing the organizations that are recruiting volunteers. In addition, approximately 15 Venice 'friends of SPY' have indicated to us that they would like to work on this project, helping to spread the word and provide resources on the day of the event. We will market the event via email and flyers posted all around Venice, plus via the participating organizations email lists and websites. Our hope is that 150 – 200 people will attend the Volunteer Fair.

We believe that this project is well suited to the VNC guidelines for the Community Improvement Grant, as the organizing process for the Volunteer Fair will build community while creating new relationships amongst organizations and individuals who are working on the project. Ultimately, the success of our project will be measured by the number of new volunteers recruited, and by dormant relationships rekindled.

In our experience with SPY and volunteer recruitment, many times people have told us "I would have done something, but nobody asked me!" With the First Annual SPY – Venice Volunteer Fair (a fun day that has a purpose)- we are going to ask folks to step up and help out. We believe that many will answer the call, and the community will be immeasurably enhanced.

To: Venice Neighborhood Council		*
BUDGET for SPY - Venice First Annual Volunteers Fair	teers Fair	To be held in November, 2012
Vendor, Materials, Services	Total Cost	Notes
La Pinata Party Supply		
1803 Lincoln Blvd, LA 90291		
310.306.3348, Rosa		
Rental of 20 6' folding tables (\$6.50 X 20)	\$130.00	.00
Rental of 80 folding chairs (\$.80 X 80)	\$64,00	.00
Rental of 8' X 12' stage	\$155.00	.00
15 - 20 EZ Up Tents (donation to Mar Vista	\$150.00	.00 Tents will be borrowed from
Elementary for 'rental' of tents)		Mar V
Rental of PA System	\$100.00	00
Glenn Berkovitz Sound 310.313.2776		
Volunteers' T-Shirts	\$200,00	00 Local vendor- may be VHS print shop
		if they
Marketing Materials- posters, flyers	\$200.00	Local v
Graphic Design	\$100.00	00
Karina Rivas krivas2389@gmail.com		
Food	\$500.00	00 We will try to get as much food + drink
Drinks- water, juice, coffee, tea	\$150.00	donate
Miscellaneous	\$250.00	00 Misc. items include event permits if
		needed, postage, art supplies for crafts
	\$1 000 DD	00

Page 2 cont'd

Description of Benefit to the Entire Community

Many different Venice nonprofit organizations will be present at one location. Community stakeholders will be able to chat with people from all of these orgs and learn about resources that are available in the community. The participating organizations will have the opportunity to network with each other, discuss community issues, and explore new partnerships amongst themselves that may help to improve certain situations. On the day of the event, Venice families, friends, and individuals will be able to volunteer for specific 'jobs' and projects-both short term and long term- with the agencies who need their help. Positive energy and constructive new approaches for personal engagement and community enhancement will ensue.

Project Planning Sheet

Work Plan for Safe Place for Youth - Venice First Annual Volunteers Fair

August 2012

- SPY meeting- call for volunteer organizers
- Call to participating organizations
- Project Managers and SPY volunteers reach out to sponsors
- · Create marketing materials

September 2012

- Organizing committee continues to meet, go over all TO DO lists for prep and day of event, and post-event activities
- Begin marketing the event locally, via social media and email
- Continue to sign up participating organizations

October 2012

- Organizing committee continues to meet
- Distribution by hand of flyers in Venice
- Finalize all agreements with vendors for food, tents, tables and chairs, sound equipment, etc.
- Finalize entertainment for day of event

November 2012

- Final committee meetings, go over check-list of all pre-day and day-of-event activities, all responsibilities and "who is doing what" clearly outlined.
- · Continue marketing event via email, social media, and in person
- The SPY- Venice First Annual Volunteers Fair takes place at 685 Westminster Avenue, LA 90291 on Saturday November 17, 2012
- Post event- wrap up of all details, pay bills, return rentals, event de-briefing with organizing committee, final newsletter blast.
- All activities to be completed by December 7, 2012.



There are over 40,000 homeless people in Los Angeles, and around 10,000 are youth ages 13 – 25. Very few resources exist to help these young people reintegrate into society; it's a population that is disconnected and whose most basic needs are barely recognized.

Alison Hurst is the executive director of Safe Place for Youth (SPY). The mission of the organization is to help end the cycle of youth homelessness. Our volunteers conduct outreach on the streets of Venice in order to find, stabilize and provide a caring connection for homeless youth. In addition, we run a safe haven/drop in center in Venice that is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 430PM –730PM.

Safe Place for Youth is a project of Community Partners (http://www.communitypartners.org/), a California 501(c)(3) founded in 1992 that supports, encourages and nourishes people with good ideas and aspirations to improve their community.

During one three month period in 2011, we served 2,062 hot meals and distributed 1,374 hygiene packs. Volunteers gave out over 2,000 bus tokens so that the youth would not miss doctors' appointments, job interviews, and court dates- all critical activities that the youth must engage inif they are to break their cycle of homelessness. Young people feel welcome at our Safe Haven, where Hurst and other volunteers provide services with low barriers for participation. The kids open up to the volunteers, and often we find that we offer the first caring, supportive adult relationship that many of the youth have ever known. The program is designed to help youth reduce the amount of time that they spend on the streets, and wherever possible, help the youth return to their families.

SPY has developed strong bonds with the local community in addition to the youth we serve. We are one of the few programs that provide critical services specifically to this underserved population, and the work that we do is highly regarded by local elected officials, law enforcement, and neighboring community groups.

Currently our organization is entirely volunteer run. In January 2012 we moved to the First Baptist Church of Venice. At this location we have office space, a counseling room, storage, and parking, in addition to the use of a large community room space where the youth come for meals and make their first contact for supportive services.

To help support the growth of SPY, and to enrich our service to the Venice Community, we are organizing the First Annual SPY-Venice Volunteers Fair. Nonprofit organizations who work to serve the myriad interests of Venice stakeholders will be invited to set up a table at this all day event, and introduce themselves to community stakeholders who want to serve in some way.

In the past, SPY has organized several local events that have helped to raise people's consciousness about homeless youth in Venice, and about the work that we and other nonprofit organizations do to make our local world better. These events have been attended by 25 - 350 people, depending on the venue and time of day. We would be happy to provide you with more info about these events. Venues included the G2 Gallery on Abbot Kinney and Bergamot Station.

www.safeplaceforyouth.org

Thank you very much for this opportunity to submit for the community improvement project grant!



VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT APPLICATION PACKET 2012-13



PERMISSION FOR USE OF PROPERTY SHEET (If applicable)

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Use this form to show the approval of the use of the project site from the property owner, school principal, city agency, etc. Attach as many as necessary.

PROJECT NAME	SAFE PLACE	FOR YOUTH (SPY)	1st Annual Venice	Volunteer Fair
APPLICANT Hiso	n Hurst / Jill	Frank Esafe	Place For Youth	>

ENTITY OR NAME O	F PERSON Pastor Horace Allen SE OF THE PROPERTY	TITLE Pastor
FACILITY/BUSINESS	NAME First Baptist Church of Venice	PHONE 424 · 228 · 0462
SITE ADDRESS	685 Westminster Are, LA 9029	, ,

DESCRIPTION OF USE AND PERMISSION NEEDED FOR THIS SITE

Permission of Property Use

Safe Place for Youth (SPY) is a regular tenant of the First Baptist Church of Venice. SPY conducts regular drop in sessions for homeless youth on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at the church. In addition, pro bono staff and volunteers of SPY have offices at the church that they access on an as needed basis.

First Baptist Church has given SPY permission to organize and convene a 1-time Volunteer Fair on the Church premises. All local community members will be invited to attend and participate in this event. No admission will be charged. SPY volunteers will be responsible for set up, management, and clean up after the event. We anticipate that the Volunteer Fair will take place mostly outside, in the parking lot. The public will have access to the bathrooms on the first floor of the church, immediately inside the front door.

BY SIGNING BELOW, I declare in good faith that I own or am responsible for the named property. I understand that the applicant is seeking funding through the Venice Neighborhood Council. I grant the applicant permission to use the property for the implementation of the above named project. I understand that the project will begin after August 1, 2012.

SIGNATURE

DATE



COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT APPLICATION PACKET 2012-13 VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SHEET

PAGE 9

Points will be deducted during the review process if this sheet is not completed Use this sheet to establish the involvement of Venice stakeholders in this project. It may also be used to document pledges of volunteer hours.

Attach letters of support from the community behind this page. Letters that state something unique about the project or from people who will be directly affected by the project will have a greater impact.

From: Bob Zaugh To: Venice Neighborhood Council

Alison Hurst works DIRECTLY with homeless throwaway youth who seem to fall between the cracks of programs. She goes to areas where the homeless congregate, in Venice and Hollywood and informs them of services available and guides them to those services. She provides meals, takeaway food, personal items, sleeping bags, and access to long term programs to help them get off the streets and on with their lives.

Alison is a force in the community and has a rare combination of effective organizing skills to build Safe Place for Youth and its team of volunteers, and the direct communication skills that cause the kids to trust her quickly. I have worked for over twenty years with two such forces. Lois Lee, Children of the Night, and Debra Constance of A Place Called Home. Both are Presidential Award winners. I have introduced Alison to both of them and they see that she is one of those rare people that IS going to build a permanent community resource.

I must state the personal here. A year ago my son asked me to take in a homeless teen from Venice High. It turned out he was black and gay. I had no clue what to do. I remembered Alison was working with homeless teens. I called her at 9:30 PM. She came right over and sat down with the boy. She knew every program, every possible resource and worked on the best solution, which was to get him back with his family. She worked separately with me, with the boy, and with his mother. I saw her in action one on one. And I see her in action with groups when I go to her drop in center.

I have no doubt that Alison and her cadre of trained volunteers will organize a terrific volunteer fair at First Baptist Church, and she deserves your support.

To: Venice Neighborhood Council From: Ezekiel Rubottom, stakeholder

Alison Hurst's project Safe Place for Youth (SPY) is a very special outreach program geared towards providing services and hot meals for homeless kids ages 14 – 25. In addition, Alison and SPY provide a friendly atmosphere, and volunteers to communicate with the young people in their time of need. Alison does this work at the outreach center in Venice, as well as street outreach in Venice and Hollywood.

From a personal perspective, I can truly say that Alison and the SPY staff are 100% effective in their approach. I have been on the streets of Venice Ca. for a several months now, and have found that I now anticipate Mondays and Thursdays knowing that I will be greeted by warm hearted people with true intentions. Often times the meal I receive from SPY is the only meal I will have for that day. Anyone can provide essentials ie. toothbrush, socks, and food. Though there is a much more essential need that few today can provide and that is love. When SPY staff speak to you, you can tell that their intentions are true and righteous. As a homeless person a constant feeling of rejection can really break your spirit therefore it is a true blessing to be acknowledged and loved.

I have no desire to be living on the streets but know that SPY will be there to comfort me through it and assist me in getting out of it as well. SPY is not a rarity in outreach standards but, separates itself through the quality and effectiveness at which they approach outreach. I commented that my prosthetic leg was troubling me and a volunteer found a prosthetist to fix it that night when she left! It is rare that someone's charity goes home with them at night. It is a fairly slow process to develop such an outreach however Alison has proven to be steadfast and tenacious in the endeavor. As someone who has been on the receiving end of what Alison and her crew can do, I can truly say that Safe Place for Youth is a standup organization with a bighearted staff. I am certain that if given the necessary funds this outreach will grow into something incredibly beautiful and essential for the lives of young people on the streets of Los Angeles.

Ezekiel Rubottom 3913 Sw. moundview drive. Topeka Ks 66610 zeke31903@yahoo.com