

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Services – Accept and appropriate a donation in the amount of \$30,000 from Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the City Council accept and appropriate a donation in the amount of \$30,000 from Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance to fund the Library's Live Homework Help program for fiscal year 2009-10, FEAP 622-Library on-line Live Homework Help program.

Funding

Funding is available from the \$30,000 donation from Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance.

BACKGROUND

In August 2006, the Torrance Public Library received a grant of \$19,548 from the California State Library that funded a portion of a subscription to **Live Homework Help** (LHH), which is provided by the vendor **Tutor.com**. Live Homework Help is an online homework assistance program that assists students in grades K-12 and introductory college level in core academic subjects - English, mathematics, science, and social studies - by connecting them with live tutors. Tutor.com also provides an on-line writing and skills center for school-aged individuals as well as adult basic education students.

The Friends of the Torrance Library provided \$5,000 for the first-year shared costs (contract with Tutor.com equaled \$24,548; the cost is based on service area population and usage). The program was designed as a three-year descending grant with participating libraries picking up a larger share of the cost in each successive year if they determined to continue the service. Funding from the State Library would cease in FY 2009-10.

Based on LHH's tremendous popularity and continued positive comments by the many students who use it, the Library determined to renew the contract with Tutor.com in years two and three with funding as follows:

<u>Year Two</u> (2007-08)	
California State Library grant -	\$18,411
Donation from the Torrance Public Library Foundation -	6,137

Year Three (2008-09)

California State Library grant -

\$12,274

Donation from the Torrance Public Library Foundation -

8,363

As noted above, there is no longer funding available from the California State Library for Live Homework Help, yet the need for the service, particularly in light of reduced school budgets, remains very high. Recent activity reports indicate high usage in the subjects of high school sciences, mathematics, and writing skills.

Any student with a Torrance Public Library card can use LHH either remotely via a PC or Macintosh, or from any Torrance Library computer. It is available seven days a week from 1pm to 10pm; Spanish language assistance is also available Sunday-Thursday from 1pm to 7pm.

ANALYSIS

Library staff, in collaboration with the Mayor's office, identified a potential donor to fund Live Homework Help in Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance. LCM has in fact committed to donating \$30,000 to the Torrance Public Library, the cost of the contract with Tutor.com for 2009-10.

So that students of the TUSD and other Torrance-area schools may continue to benefit from and have access to this extremely successful homework assistance program, the Library requests that the Council accepts this very generous donation from Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance.

Respectfully submitted,

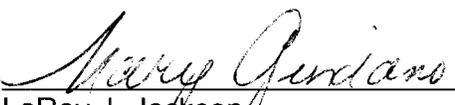
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