

Council Meeting of
June 28, 2011

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Services – \$17,500 donation from Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council accept and appropriate a \$17,500 donation from Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance to help fund the Library *Live Homework Help* program for fiscal year 2011-2012.

Funding

Funding is available from the \$17,500 donation from Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance. FEAP 622 – Library on-line Live Homework Help program.

BACKGROUND

In August 2006, the Torrance Public Library began offering the *Live Homework Help* service with a grant from the California State Library. Live Homework Help (LHH) is an online homework assistance program that assists students in grades K – 12 and college introductory level in core academic subjects – English, math, science, and social studies.

The program, provided by the vendor Tutor.com, connects students with live tutors via its Internet site. There is also a component where a user can request proofreading of documents, as well as a skills center. The tutors are available seven days per week from 1 p.m. – 10 p.m., and the skills center is available 24/7. Any student with a Torrance Public Library card can use LHH from a Library computer or from any computer with Internet access.

The State Library grant was a descending grant, providing financial support for three years: matching funding for years two and three was provided by the Friends of the Torrance Library and the Torrance Public Library Foundation. In FY 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance generously funded the entire cost of the program (\$35,000).

ANALYSIS

At the suggestion of Mayor Frank Scotto, Library staff approached Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance requesting support for FY 2011-12, and the Center committed to partially fund the program this year. An examination of vendors offering a similar service found only one comparable, and the cost was slightly higher.

Tutor.com has provided five years of excellent service to the students of Torrance, along with positive feedback from the majority of survey responders.

The Library and the Community Services Director therefore request that the City Council accept this very generous donation from Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance to ensure that Torrance students may continue to benefit from, and have access to, the extremely successful homework assistance program, *Live Homework Help*.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN JONES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By 
Hillary Theyer, Acting City Librarian

CONCUR:


John Jones
Community Services Director


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager