Dear Folks,

The Custody Project assists qualified mothers and their children with care, custody, and visitation expenses in recognition of the extreme hardships imposed upon some families as the children are growing.

TCP received many calls from mothers throughout the country for help with the complexities of their cases this year, and our response has included both telephone and financial support, as well as providing references and agency contacts which may be useful to them.

One mother assisted had always been the at-home parent of her young, special needs daughter, born prematurely. Under the mother's care, this little two year old was thriving and improving upon her developmental delays and speech impediments with the assistance of professionals. She was happy and safe. During divorce proceedings, however, the judge removed the supervised visits and awarded generous contact with the father, in large part based upon the incompetent and dishonest representation of mother's attorney. Counsel did not address the history of violence upon the mother by the father, diminished the resulting order of protection upon which the mother relied, causing it to be negated, and deceived the judge regarding facts significant to the welfare of both mother and child. Now, the daughter returns to her mother with bruises and scratches, exhausted, very anxious and tearful, and cries through the nights. She cries and screams and vomits upon departures with her dad, and her developmental delays and anxiety have deepened as her safety is imperiled. The mother hired a new attorney to address and protect the contact, health, and safety issues of her little girl, now three, but months later, very little is accomplished, the visitation schedule is unchanged, and the judge remains in the dark as to the controlling facts of the case. This mother plans to confront her present attorney, request another hearing, or search for an attorney who will protect her young child's best interests. To date, she has borrowed over thirty thousand dollars from family, and must rent two bedrooms in a relative's home and do household chores to make meager ends meet. When she requested help towards paying outstanding legal expenses and upcoming hearings to protect her young child, The Custody Project assisted.

For several years, a working mother had primary custody of her daughter, now eleven. But a few years ago, the father, who has another family now with a different woman and has moved several times, obtained 50/50 joint physical and legal. This forced the daughter to commute almost 4 hours daily to attend her school near her mother while her father worked close by. Then, the father sought primary custody and successfully removed his daughter to his jurisdiction. The mother is aware of no change in circumstance supporting this transfer. But she must now pay child support of $600 per month, and spends about $400 more monthly on traveling expenses after work to see her child for a limited 2.5 – 3 hour window. The father has blocked the mother's contact numerous times but the court, the guardian ad litem, and, at times, her own attorney, turn away from this significant censure of standing court orders. Relentlessly, over the last 8 years, the father has filed 10 contempt motions and 3 times for custody, including the three times he moved, trying to gain a foothold in eight different courts in two states. In defense, the mother has exhauste her savings, her retirement assets, her earnings, and has borrowed funds, hiring attorneys and going up on appeal to defend her custody of their child. But she now faces a gender-biased body determined to root this child and graft her to the father's subsequent wife and their children, and to exclude this daughter's mother from her young life. The daughter now attends school near the stepmother but many miles away from both of her parents, who still work within 15 minutes of each other. More hearings approach. The legal bills have topped over $100,000.
The mother is requesting more time with her daughter and that this youngster be allowed to return to her home. Although mother's present attorney has agreed to a reasonable monthly payment plan at 0% interest, she now faces significant shortfalls, is financially overextended, and cannot meet her upcoming rent payment. When she requested help with legal expenses and her rent, The Custody Project assisted.

Because they echo the plight and the extremes a mother can experience, these excerpts are shared yearly:

- TCP assisted a mom who, unreasonably denied visitation or custody of her child, said, “I have been unable to see my son for two years now. I owe tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees still…”
- Another mother, requiring the lifting of her children’s legal restraining orders, which were causing them to live in unnecessary and extreme poverty, stated, “To provide well for my children we should move, yet they are restrained by legal orders and we live in poverty as a result.”

Mothers commonly stretch dollars daily to feed, clothe, and care for their children and themselves, often working for $4 – $12 per hour, through babysitting, waitressing, piecework, and other occupations paying below or near minimum wage. However, when circumstances arise such as domestic violence, abuse, legal attempts to remove custody, absent or inadequate child support, or legal restraints that prevent mothers from improving the quality of life for their families, their lives are made extraordinarily more difficult and their economic challenges are made infinitely harsher. With attorneys requiring substantial retainers of $1,000-$10,000+, charging $25-$300+ per hour, and court and legal fees in addition, the overarching cost to mothers defending the custody and best interests of their children can seem insurmountable.

If not broken by its financial crush, mothers must withstand relentless court and ancillary expenses to protect their children. Imposed upon the disadvantaged and overextended, such burdens cause unavoidable familial privation, and there remains a great need to be met. So, once a year, a letter is sent inviting your gracious donations, contributions, and services. It is an honor to stand with you and know that we help to make the way easier for families in need. Your generosity makes it possible for The Custody Project to help qualified mothers meet legal expenses and provide for their children, assisting with legal costs when they are defending the custody and visitation of their children, and providing funds for common necessities when such legal expenses prevent it and they are unable. It is your grants which have kept deserving families afloat, often at perilous junctures. And, although the daunting hardships such mothers face make complex stories where excerpts barely, or will not, do justice, this letter shares a little about our families so a light may shine on these cases, although confidentiality precludes names and pictures. (For more stories, see our site’s About Us: Case Excerpts and mothers, see our Services Section).

While most of the difficulties our mothers face are resolved with adequate funds for legal representation, there are very few resources nationwide responsive to the plight of these families. The Custody Project’s Heart to Heart Grant Program has been operational for over twenty years, and our revolving-door loan program serves when, as mothers repay their loans, the funds become available to help other families in need. TCP has also assisted in other ways including telephone support, brief lectures, information exchange, and meeting with mothers. Because of You, we have helped families in the U.S. Virgin Islands and all 50 states, with the exception of Alaska and Vermont, and our range continues to expand.

The Custody Project’s mission is “to promote the general welfare, both directly and indirectly, of women and their children as a unit, as related to care, custody, and visitation issues,” and TCP has been assisting children and their mothers for twenty-four years. Much remains to be done so that TCP can better assist these hapless families in need.

Your compassion makes the difference. As so many mothers are in great need of financial assistance to protect and sustain their children, please give generously. Help us shine a light on the difficulties these families face and join with others to play the numbers: We reach $2500 when 100 donors give $25 each; with 100 donating $100 each, $10,000 is raised; with $1 from every mother in America, millions would meet the needs of our families. Please visit Our Charitable News Flashes! (pp. 5-8), Happenings (pp. 3-4), and You Can Help on our site to explore many other ways that you can help, even at no cost when shopping. Download a current or prior Annual Appeal from our site @ About Us: Annual Letter / Annual Newsletter (Donors and Mothers), or receive it by email or during the year as postage becomes affordable, and share our information with interested donors and mothers needing assistance. The Custody Project is a 501(c)(3), charitable, tax-exempt, nonprofit organization, Fed. Tax ID #95-4521373 and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law (p. 8).

Acknowledgment Wall. We are especially indebted to our long-standing donors, our Board of Directors, and all of you giving of your time, money and/or resources. Your assistance to families in such adverse circumstances has been
essential since 1994, and your generosity to mothers and their children has made our continuing service possible. To the businesses, foundations, and service organizations benefiting the lives of families by supporting The Custody Project: you are listed on our site @ Contributors: Community Angels. Or, to be listed, please add a note with your donation or contact us @ 850.682.3460. In light of the worldwide need to assure those in tragic dilemmas, your compassion touches our mothers and children, who are often desperate and forgotten, and we thank all of you. And to the mothers who have allowed us to assist, we sincerely thank you, too.

Making the Holiday and Christmas Season merrier and Mother’s Day more cheerful, your gifts cover legal expenses for qualified mothers who must defend custody and visitation of their children in courts, and help those who can no longer provide the common necessities of life for their families due to the cost of defending the custody or visitation of their children. Thank you for your prior gifts, ongoing support, and quiet compassion to our families. May this New Year be full of wisdom and blessings. Best Wishes! Happy Holidays.

Donna Signorelli, for The Custody Project

The National Drive for The Voiceless. We want to thank all the donors who made The Winter Drive of 2016-2017 possible. TCP raised funds for the National Drive in support of the plight of those affected by custody, visitation, and move away issues, the complications of the family court system, inadequate child support, the inability to afford counsel and other hardships, to honor mothers relocating with their children, and to lift awareness for these voiceless families. We spoke with mothers receiving no child support, facing foreclosure, imminent removal, the stress of upcoming custody hearings, or had lost custody: all legal expenses and results stemming from the pitfalls of family law; we also met with friends, family, and colleagues who took video or film clips or arranged a speaking engagement along the way, and to professionals in the field who made time to consult as The Drive progressed. It was good to be on the road and to open the door to future endeavors and excursions.

Indiegogo: The Drive for The Voiceless links below raised funds for The National Drive and its visuals, such as for photographs, artwork, and writings, to depict some of the difficulties these families experience. Pieces, including paintings, drawings, and writings accompanied The Drive. Visit https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/drive-for-the-voiceless#/ for Phase I and https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/drive-for-the-voiceless-our-traveling-art-exhibit#/ for Phase II. Phase III raises funds specifically for a documentary at https://www.generosity.com/education-fundraising/documenting-their-voice-drive-for-the-voiceless. Plans for a documentary are on hold until sufficient donations for it are raised. Phase I and Phase II visuals will soon be uploaded to Indiegogo.

As I drove and spoke with donors, volunteers, mothers, families, and colleagues along the way, several insights resulted:

1) Much remains to be done to assist these families, to lift awareness nationally, to elevate response to their plight, and to evoke compassionate remedies natural to our country's consciousness. It was beneficial to travel the states, educate, meet with mothers, share stories, give voice to their dilemmas, and post home-made YouTube clips during the journey. Take away: The Custody Project will continue to raise awareness nationally, such as through interviews, radio, television, film, and other visuals, regarding the difficulties families face when grappling with family law matters and expenses. (You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrx31SQT2ihmovANQAwONWg)

2) The Custody Project receives calls from mothers for assistance because they cannot find help elsewhere. Take away: Complex cases often find us, and we are in a unique position to assist.

3) The Custody Project recognizes the need for a National Pro Bono Alliance and is partnering with large law firms across the country to offer our qualified mothers assistance on a case-by-case basis. This extends our grants into gifts with far greater leverage. The corporate culture of large law firms includes short- and long-term pro bono work. Their attorneys are required to handle some pro bono yearly and they are paid to do so. Some of these firms recognize the dilemma occurring in family law, that representation is unaffordable to families earning common wages, that representation for custody matters is essential, and that remedies are needed. Unfortunately, attorneys required to do pro bono often have little or no experience with family law. But, some are willing to help and there are ways that they can. For example, a mother's family law attorney can co-counsel with pro bono attorneys or a pro bono attorney can volunteer, intern, or mentee under the lead family law counsel representing the mother. The mother's lead attorney
can attest to the financial and legal merits of the case, benefit from the additional legal assistance offered pro bono, mentor the volunteer attorney(s), and the mother benefits from competent legal assistance and a significantly reduced bill. TCP also welcomes partnership with family law firms willing to do the same. Take away: The Custody Project participates in the creation of a national pro bono / low bono alliance for family law matters.

4) The Custody Project has always helped qualified mothers with custody and visitation issues. Along the way, some cases have gone forward on appeal, opening a door of partnership with other organizations, attorneys, firms, and individuals seeking to assist these families with potentially precedent-setting cases. Take away: TCP assists with both common and precedent-setting cases.

5) Mothers, you must put skin in the game. It is essential that you galvanize into action and donate. This is a team sport, protecting children and handling an often protracted court case. Mothers need each other and need each others' financial support during the critical time when court expenses overwhelm the delicate economic architecture upon which each family relies. But the vast majority of mothers who reach out to us do not donate, do not invest in each other, do not stand together, although it is whispered, “Never Again” will a mother and her children go down. True, it is spoken; it is said. But words without action are not enough. Mothers know how important it is to have financial support when faced with custody and visitation legal expenses. Yet, the money flowing into tattoos, extended fingernails, coffee, hair-dos – not a dime appears to be deflected into donations to create a strong financial base so that families across the country are truly assisted. And if mothers do not help – who will? Guys understand team sports, team-tag together, cooperate together, strategize together, put their money on the table and in the pot for the benefit of the team – and they are more successful. But mothers appear – as a national group – neither able to help themselves nor each other and are flailing. Mothers appear to function as lone wolves and to implode – each woman on her own. The issue of the safety of your children and the need to have money to protect them legally is paramount which each family relies. But the vast majority of mothers who reach out to us do not donate, do not invest in each other, do not stand together, although it is whispered, “Never Again” will a mother and her children go down. True, it is spoken; it is said. But words without action are not enough. Mothers know how important it is to have financial support when faced with custody and visitation legal expenses. Yet, the money flowing into tattoos, extended fingernails, coffee, hair-dos – not a dime appears to be deflected into donations to create a strong financial base so that families across the country are truly assisted. And if mothers do not help – who will? Guys understand team sports, team-tag together, cooperate together, strategize together, put their money on the table and in the pot for the benefit of the team – and they are more successful. But mothers appear – as a national group – neither able to help themselves nor each other and are flailing. Mothers appear to function as lone wolves and to implode – each woman on her own. The issue of the safety of your children and the need to have money to protect them legally is paramount and mothers must help. It must be the preeminent priority. While we do have men and women who donate regularly, it is usually because someone they care about has been affected: Mothers, families need your steady donations. Count yourself in, roll your sleeves up, get your boots in the game, and pay it forward. We hope you will help yearly. Take away: mothers must actively birth this issue, help financially and donate.

Wish List & Volunteer Opportunities

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Have time but not cash? Volunteers can deduct mileage and other expenses incurred in conjunction with their work for The Custody Project to the extent allowable by law. And, although you cannot deduct the value of your time, we can provide you with a letter indicating your service, if this is advisable by your accountant.

- Attorneys and Experts: Please contact us to be on our resource referral list for mothers, or if you would like to volunteer time to assist them. [850.682.3460].

- Obtaining grants and matching gifts for The Custody Project through your company or place of work helps our families. Sharing TCP with service organizations, friends, businesses, and co-workers in person, online, and by email helps us to help others. To raise awareness, funds, and assist with or arrange speaking engagements, please contact us.

- To assist with updating, improving, and maintaining our website, brochure, and Causes/Facebook site, please contact us. To help develop and complete mail / email data capture tasks and to update these programs periodically, please visit the site @ You Can Help: Services: Website and Brochure for more information, and call us @ 850.682.3460.

- Program and Management Funding. To designate a donation for program and/or management work done in furtherance of The Custody Project’s mission, please specify this and make tax-deductible donations to The Custody Project, or make private gifts payable to Donna Signorelli for program and/or management expenses and send c/o The Custody Project. Tax-deductible donations and private sponsorships (not tax-deductible) allow the completion of tasks which serve our families and generate revenues for them, help us reach goals faster, and make continued assistance to families possible.

MOTHER’S CORNER

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For help or to inquire about our grants, contact us; visit our site's Services section for information, resources and tips. A few abbreviated resources listed here for quick reference may lead to others of use in your state. See our web site for more. Note: The Custody Project does not endorse, have any responsibility for, or exercise control over these organizations' and agencies' views, services, and information.

ACES – Advocacy, Coaaching, and Empowerment for Single Parents, https://aces-childsupport.org, assists with child support and related matters; and check this Aces alumni group link, too: https://www.facebook.com/groups/15708102429/?ref=ts&fref=ts.

Battered Women's Justice Project, California Protective Parents Association, California Women’s Law Center, Defenders of Children, Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law, Legal Momentum, Legal Services Corporation, Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice, Loyola Law School The Center for Conflict Resolution, National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith and Credit, National
The Custody Project encourages you to donate to us through the PayPal Giving Fund as 100% of your donation is tax-deductible. PayPal is a trusted and secure online platform that allows for easy and secure donations. For alternative and innovative ways to assist our families, please visit our site’s You Can Help section as well. Some permit recurring monthly, quarterly, and yearly donations, and most allow donors to specify which projects or programs within our organization their donations support. Donors can also choose to receive annual or semi-annual reports to track the impact of their gifts. For those who like using e-checks, electronic fund transfers (EFTS), direct payments, and automatic withdrawals, either one-time or on a recurring basis, visit our online donation buttons or call. Every donation allows our work to continue and when you contribute, you touch a family that might otherwise have been left without help or hope.

Charitable News Flashes: Ways to Give

Traditional, Online, Unusual, and Shop ’Til You Drop

For the ways to donate which follow, please visit our site’s You Can Help section also.

Our Charitable News Flashes describe many ways that you can help, giving directly to The Custody Project (p. 8), or by donating online, including instantly by text and email (p. 5), or through online and on-street shopping including at Artisans of the Twelfth House and The Shops on our site, Amazon’s Smile.Amazon, and GoodShop, through reward points, matching gifts, company grants, corporate giving, employee grant writing, stock, land, and vehicle donations, State and Federal Campaigns, the United Way, tax write-offs, eBay, Belk’s Charity Sales, by volunteering your time, or by donating gifts and in-kind donations (next paragraph), with heartfelt thanks from the families you help. For alternative and innovative ways to assist our families, please visit our site’s You Can Help section (https://thecustodyproject.org/help.php).

Spontaneous or Planned: Direct Contributions. Your straight-from-the-heart contributions are our simplest way to help our mothers and their children. Whether occasional, monthly, quarterly, or yearly, your gifts make ordinary days extraordinarily special for mothers and children. For those donating FNSR, JB – “For No Special Reason, Just Because,” thank you. For those who are planned givers, thank you for helping mothers and their children with your regular donations. Checks and cash are best, and gift certificates usable anywhere in the USA, preferably with no expiration date from nationwide stores or for online shopping, are helpful when they can be used to buy food, clothing, or other necessities for mothers and their children wherever the families reside. For those who like using e-checks, electronic fund transfers (EFTS), direct payments, and automatic withdrawals, either one-time or on a recurring basis, visit our online donation buttons or call. Every donation allows our work to continue and when you contribute, you touch a family that might otherwise have been left without help or hope.

New! Text and Email Contributions through Your Bank. You can donate online instantly by text and email now via bank to bank send money transfer options using tcpcompassion@gmail.com (no correspondence) and cell number 850 597 0604 (no calls). Your bank's customer service representative can walk you through the steps. There are no fees through some banks, so check out these cost-effective and instant ways to help. (Call 850.682.3460 to contact TCP).

Online Donate Now Contributions. You can donate online instantly by using secure sites at PayPal Giving Fund, eBay For Charity, PayPal, Network for Good, GuideStar, GoodSearch/GoodShop, Just Giving, Causes/Facebook, and their partner sites, see below, or by using their Donate Buttons on our site. Some permit recurring monthly, quarterly, and yearly donations, and most allow donors to cover processing fees with minimum donations as low as $1 – $10. To find us easily, enter our Federal Identification Number, 95-4521373, in the site's search bar. Always use reputable sources when donating online or through companies, track and confirm to verify transactions are successful and, if you have concerns, please apprise us of your donations and we can track them, too. For the Donate Now Buttons listed here, contact their sites for detailed and updated information; find them on our site @ Donate: Online and You Can Help: Fancy: Online. The Custody Project encourages you to donate to us through the PayPal Giving Fund as 100% of...
your donation will reach TCP and help our families, as processing fees are not charged. Such is now the case via Facebook, too. Network for Good, PayPal, and Guidestar can send 100%, as can some other sites, when you cover the additional 3% - 5% (Network For Good, depending upon the donation site used), 2.2% + 30 cents (PayPal), and 4.75% (Guidestar via Network for Good) in processing fees. Just Giving lists a 5% fee for online donations, and may also charge a 2.90% transaction fee. At press, the information in this and in the following paragraphs was obtained either from their websites or their organizational contacts: visit these sites directly for fee updates and new information.

**PayPal Giving Fund** ([www.paypal.com/givingfund](https://www.paypal.com/givingfund), PPGF via PayPal Product Site Support/Tech, 888.221.1161). PPGF accepts $1 minimum one-time, recurring, and anonymous donations using your PayPal account, credit and debit cards, and PayPal Credit (see PayPal below). On PPGF, use [https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/2172](https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/2172), indicate the amount and follow the prompts. You can also log in to your PayPal account, on the Home page click the More Button, choose Donate to a Cause, type our name or 95-4521373, and Donate. PPGF also handles donations from **eBay For Charity** to us via [https://givingworks.ebay.com/charity-auctions/charity/the-custody-project/2172/](https://givingworks.ebay.com/charity-auctions/charity/the-custody-project/2172/) or [https://bit.ly/1alF5eE](https://bit.ly/1alF5eE) (See pp. 6-7). **TCP receives 100% of your donations from the PayPal Giving Fund as fees are not charged, so please use this button as the preferred choice!** Note: E-commerce partners may choose to charge fees on donations made through their platforms, which they will disclose on their websites.

**PayPal** ([www.paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com), 888.221.1161) requiring $1 minimum donations to cover processing fees and send approximately 50 cents, accepts one-time, recurring, and anonymous donations using national and international Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover credit cards, debit cards with Visa and MasterCard logos, and PayPal e-checks. When using their Donate Now button on our site, enter the amount, donate by credit card or, for checks drawn on your US bank accounts linked with your PayPal checking account, log in, verify the payment and one-time / recurring donation screen, and follow the prompts to Donate Now. You can also log in to your PayPal account and go directly to our donation page by clicking on the “More” Button on the Home page, choosing Donate to a Cause, typing our name or 95-4521373, or using [https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/2172](https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/2172).

**Network for Good** ([www.networkforgood.org/donate](https://www.networkforgood.org/donate), 888.284.7978) accepts $10 minimum one-time and recurring monthly, quarterly, and yearly donations on Visa, MasterCard, and American Express using USA credit and debit/credit cards with U.S. addresses. International and domestic donors can give by accessing their PayPal accounts via the PayPal option on NFG (5% fee). To find us quickly, use [https://www.networkforgood.org/donation/MakeDonation.aspx?ORGID2=954521373](https://www.networkforgood.org/donation/MakeDonation.aspx?ORGID2=954521373) or our NFG Donate Now button or, on NFG, enter 95-4521373 or our name in the search box, and Donate Now. To check out its many partner sites, call NFG.

**Just Giving** ([www.justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com)). No phone listed) offers several giving options. To help our families, find us on Just Giving and Amex. Try entering 95-4521373 in their donation search bars or use their Donate Now buttons on our site found under our Donate: Online section. Check directly with Just Giving (try: [support@justgiving.org](mailto:support@justgiving.org) or [support@justgiving.com](mailto:support@justgiving.com)) and its partners for new info:

**American Express Members Give** ([https://amex.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=95-4521373](https://amex.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=95-4521373)) accepts $5 minimum one-time and recurring monthly and annual donations using dollars or membership rewards points with 2.25% applied to process fees.

**Guidestar** ([https://www.guidestar.org/home.aspx](https://www.guidestar.org/home.aspx), 757.229.4631/800.421.8656, NFG: 888.284.7978) accepts $10 minimum one-time, recurring, and anonymous donations on Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Put 95-4521373 in the search box, click our name, Donate Now, or use our links: [https://www nrfgive.com/guidestar/95-4521373](https://www nrfgive.com/guidestar/95-4521373) and [https://www2.guidestar.org/profile/95-4521373](https://www2.guidestar.org/profile/95-4521373)

**Causes/Facebook** ([www.causes.com](https://www.causes.com)) accepts your donations, and to find us, type The Custody Project or 95-4521373 in the search box or, in the url box at the top of your search engine page put [https://www.causes.com/causes/363225-the-custody-project](https://www.causes.com/causes/363225-the-custody-project) or [https://www.causes.com/profiles/188010239](https://www.causes.com/profiles/188010239) and follow the prompts to the Donate Button. Facebook waives fees so that 100% of your donations are received by us via Network for Good.

**Smile.Amazon** ([https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-4521373](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-4521373), 866.216.1072). Amazon's charity pathway allows you to help our mothers when shopping! Designate TCP, shop as usual (same Amazon, same products) and, on the Review Your Order page, view below the total, “You are supporting The Custody Project.” The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5%, or $0.50 cents of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to TCP for every accumulated $100, at no cost to you. Log in on their site, and select The Custody Project. Please call Amazon if you need help designating us.

**GoodShop/GoodSearch** (No phone listed. Visit the FAQs). When you designate The Custody Project, searches and a percentage of your purchases will benefit our families. Visit [https://www.goods shop.com/](https://www.goods shop.com/) and [https://www.goodsearch.org/](https://www.goodsearch.org/) and designate TCP, or use our direct links: [https://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=898522](https://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=898522), and [https://www.goods shop.com/?charityid=898522](https://www.goods shop.com/?charityid=898522) or their Donate Button on our site, then shop and search. Save money with coupons and deals offered through Goodshop while automatically raising money for TCP. Make GoodSearch your Internet home page and pennies are raised for TCP with qualified searches. These easy ways to give help our mothers and children without a coin leaving a pocket, as long as you list us as your benefiting charity!

**eBay For Charity. Buyers / Auctions** (866.540.3229). There are three ways to benefit The Custody Project via direct donations and purchase percentages. Use [https://charity.ebay.com/charity-auctions/charity/the-custody-project/2172/?favorite=link](https://charity.ebay.com/charity-auctions/charity/the-custody-project/2172/?favorite=link) or [https://bit.ly/1alF5eE](https://bit.ly/1alF5eE) to go directly to our page (log in, if needed). See the eBay For Charity icon, scroll down to shop to support us where items benefit TCP up to 100%, read descriptions, purchase or, if an auction, bid. Next (same page), to make donations, click Learn More under Make a Donation, and follow the prompts to donate via the PayPal Giving Fund. Lastly, add TCP as your favorite nonprofit on eBay. Under your name choose Account Settings, click Donation Account at left, look for the Favorites tab, search for TCP, select us a favorite and follow the prompts. Each time you purchase items through eBay's Give at Checkout, you will see an
auto-prompt inviting you to donate $1 or more to TCP. To find us on eBay’s Charity Shop (https://www.ebay.com/str/charityshop) to enjoy one-stop charity shopping, scroll down and on the left, under Shop By Charity, choose Find Your Favorite, and at left, choose Charity Search, type in The Custody Project in the search bar and click Search to go to our page, or use the direct links above to find items for sale to benefit TCP and to Donate. Visit our site's You Can Help: Fancy: Shop 'Til Drop: eBay, and eBay directly.

**eBay Sellers.** (866.540.3229). When selling an item on eBay, you can donate a percentage (or $1 minimum) of your sales to The Custody Project and eBay will give a credit on insertion and final value fees, based on the percentage donated, once the item sells (i.e., donate 10% and receive 10% of fees back). List the item, select The Custody Project to benefit, and choose the percentage. When your item sells, eBay or PayPal will send us your donation and provide you with a tax receipt. To sell an item on eBay to benefit TCP, for further direction, and for receipts, see above, or visit eBay (866.540.3229) or PayPal (888.221.1161).

**On-Street and Online Shopping, Credit Card Donations, Paying Bills.** When shopping off-street and online merchants, auctions, and services, and when paying utility or other monthly bills, some companies allow you to donate a percentage of purchases, payments, and reward points to your charities of choice. GoodShop (www.goodshop.com), GoodSearch (www.1800flowers.com, www.eBay.com, www.Dell.com) and countless other merchants encourage charitable giving, and you help mothers and their children by designating The Custody Project everywhere you shop. Your compassion generates effortless donations without cost to you and our families benefit when you designate TCP and shop. Check out EBay's Artsisans of the Twelfth House as it lists a painting donated to The Custody Project and other items by Dancing Dog Mining Company. Use the url, https://stores.ebay.com/Artisans-Of-The-Twelfth-House, to find them directly. Visit our site's You Can Help: Fancy: Shop: Artsian, and Donate: The Shops (see New Lift Walker there); for help on eBay, call 866.540.3229.

**Matching Gifts Programs.** When you give and your employer matches you dollar for dollar, you double the power of your gift, so please ask your company about it! Some companies will cover administrative fees, too, even United Way's, so that TCP can receive 100% of your matching donations. Let us know if your gift is being matched by your employer, if any documents are needed from us, and remember to enclose the matching gift form with your donation to us.

**United Way Worldwide** (800.892.2757, 0). You may be able to make a gift to The Custody Project through a workplace United Way Campaign or on your own. Contact your local United Way or go to www.unitedway.org. Scroll down, put in your zip code, then submit. Below contact details click the United Way web site listed, then GIVE, Make an Impact Donate, at Give by Mail click Pledge Form, indicate your pledge on the UW form, check Other Investment near the bottom, and put our name, address and Fed. Tax ID #95-4521373 there (See, p. 1). TCP can receive 100% of your donations when your companies pay the administrative fees, otherwise a percentage (i.e. 10-12%) is kept to recoup campaign costs. Local United Way policies vary so, if unable to donate this way, you can send your donation directly to us (See, p. 8). International donors: on the Home page, either click Donate and follow the prompts or click Get Involved, then Worldwide Giving. In the Bay Area of CA, use www.uwba.org (415.808.4300).

**State and Federal Campaigns.** Federal and State employees may designate a gift to TCP through the campaign at your place of work. If your campaign allows write-ins, designate The Custody Project, our address, and Fed. Tax ID #95-4521373 (see page 1).

**Employer Fund Drives.** Some employers manage employee fund drives without the United Way and others allow employees to organize workplace fund drives. If that is the case where you work, please contact your employee representative to find out how to donate to us.

**Grants, Corporate Giving.** Some companies offer grants to nonprofits that their staff support, nominate, or volunteer with. Please check your company’s possibilities.

**Stocks, Options, Investments.** You can donate stock, stock options, other securities, and investments to TCP. To the extent provided by IRS tax laws, you benefit by being able to deduct the full market value while at the same time avoiding capital gains taxes. TCP benefits by receiving property that will generate funds for our services. Tax laws are subject to change so speak with your investment counselor, contact your tax preparer, call us, or contact Susan Harding at Morgan Stanley @ 510.891.0555 and 800.755.1579 for updates, information, and questions.

**Moving Vehicle and Land Donations.** You can benefit TCP by donating your used moving vehicles and land. To donate through towing companies, your church and other organizations, please designate us as the nonprofit beneficiary on intake forms and contact us as needed. The Volunteers of America (“VOA”) accepts moving and non-running vehicle donations and property in some states. When you donate your vehicle either through the VOA or online @ www.carselpinepeople.org and designate TCP as your nonprofit beneficiary, we receive 50% of the net proceeds (or 50% of the gross minus towing and processing fees – ask.). They handle the sale, the paperwork, help determine the deductible amount, and will provide you with a written statement for tax purposes while you help The Custody Project and receive tax benefits. The VOA will pick up your car at no cost and some boats, RVs, and motorcycles.

Contact VOA’s national office at 877.721.4862 for national car donations and, in the San Francisco Bay Area, CA, 800.552.1515. For property donations, please contact us but for VOA property donations to us: 800.407.2600.

**Belk Charity Sale.** Belk holds charity sales twice yearly. You must buy a $5 ticket but you receive the $5 back with your first $5 purchase, good towards most items store-wide (check out their hold options prior to the sales). When purchasing tickets from The Custody Project prior to the sale, TCP receives each $5 in full as a charity donation. Call your local Belk to verify the sale date and
time and help us help others while you shop. When mailing your donations, specify the amount enclosed for Belk Tickets and we’ll mail them to you, or call us @ 850.682.3460. [Visit our site's You Can Help: Fancy: Shop 'Til Drop: Belk].

**Raffles.** Occasionally TCP conducts Raffles, and contributions are welcome. To donate cash, gift certificates, or items of value, contact us. Winners like cash options, transportable prizes are useful, and cash and gift certificates travel best. Thank you to Dancing Dog Mining Company for contributing cash awards and its “Silver Hearts of Love” Newborn Medallions over the years. To distribute raffles in your area, to purchase them, and for additional information, contact us.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The **Custody Project's (TCP)** mission is to promote the general welfare, both directly and indirectly, of women and their children as a unit as related to care, custody, and visitation issues. Your charitable contributions will be applied to support the programs, services, and activities of The Custody Project including:

- **Heart to Heart**, assisting qualified mothers with care, custody, and visitation expenses, including reference, consultation, and caseload costs, via grants and the revolving door programs. Heart to Heart received 75% or more since 1994 up to FY 2015-16, 55% in FY 2016-17 due to the costs of The Drive, & over 75% in 2017-2018.

- **Fund & Friend-Raising, Public Awareness Actions**, including raising awareness about the issues and hardships affecting mothers and their children involved in custody and visitation proceedings.

- **Educational Outreach**, including teaching mothers about custody and visitation proceedings, preparing and filing legal briefs, gathering exhibits, discussing individual cases, and protecting children.

- **Property & Program Grants**, including for event expenses, teaching fees, land acquisition, capital, building, renovation, program development, and technical assistance.

- **General Purposes and Overhead**, including for general operating support to continue and to expand the operation of The Custody Project.

- **Where Most Needed**.

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

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<th>Received from</th>
<th>Amount $</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Date</th>
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City __________________________ State _____ Zip __________

Phone(s) (___)____________________ Fax (___)____________________

Email __________________________ Web Address __________________

The Custody Project is a 501(c)(3), charitable, tax-exempt, nonprofit organization, Fed. Tax ID #95-4521373, and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. (Make a copy for your records as receipts may come once a year).

You can send instant contributions by email and cell phone via bank to bank send money transfer options using **850 597 0604** (no calls) and tcpcompassion@gmail.com (no correspondence), or via secure sites including PayPal Giving Fund, Network for Good, PayPal, eBay for Charity, Guidestar, Just Giving, and Causes/Facebook. Put 95-4521373 in their search boxes to find us or use their Donate Now Buttons on our site at Donate: Online or You Can Help: Fancy: Online. Money orders, certified, cashiers, and personal checks make payable to The Custody Project.

Through your kindness, our assistance to mothers and their children continues.

Thank you for helping as you can! Your compassion becomes the difference.

**Mail Donations To:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Custody Project</th>
<th>Donate Today!</th>
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<tr>
<td>PO Box 20753</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850.682.3460 [Info]</td>
<td>Thank You.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Sobrante CA 94820-0753 USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thecustodyproject.org">www.thecustodyproject.org</a> / <a href="http://www.tcpcares.org">www.tcpcares.org</a></td>
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