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 divorced her husband, initially agreeing to a default 50/50 custody arrangement for their young daughter and special needs son. However, concerns arose: under an emergency order 3 months later, no contact was granted the father, in part because he did not attend the hearing. During those same three months shortly after their divorce, the mother met and married a man with a child of his own. They began their marriage as a dual-state relationship until the mother realized the court had no geographically restricted her children. She requested her company transfer her to her husband's state and this was granted. They found a home for their blended family in a good school and special needs district, near the husband's work and extended family, and the mother and children moved to their new home. However, when their father filed custody and contact motions, the mother hired an attorney in her former state to help her retain custody in her new state of residence. Hearings spanned over a year. Legal expenses marched to over $70,000 to cover mediation, court, expert, evaluation, polygraph, testimony, deposition, and attorney fees, a required attorney retainer of $7500 at all times, expert retainers, and the traveling expenses necessary to attend hearings and evaluations in her former state. The court confirmed its prior decision upon the evidence, again awarding her young daughter and special needs son remain in their mother's primary care, in part due to long-standing, questionable, and inappropriate behaviors by her father targeted especially upon the youngest, the daughter. The father was ordered to pay child support which he has to date, and supervised contact was continued, but he has not exercised his rights to visit his children except on Skype. The attorneys are working out the details of supervised visitation with the children in a settlement agreement, hoping to avoid further motions and a trial as, by now, the father, too, has remarried, welcomed a child, and may have filed for bankruptcy – which may yet cost this mother. Exhausting many remedies to remain current on legal fees and required attorney retainers of $7500 at all times, she has used her earnings, charged legal expenses or credit cards, taken out a personal loan and another loan against her 401K retirement savings, all of which is being repaid with interest.

When she requested help towards paying outstanding legal expenses to protect her young children, The Custody Project assisted. Her attorney, to whom thousands are still outstanding, agreed to a $700/month payment plan at 0% interest, the suspension of further retainers, and to continue to carry the case, so long as she faithfully keeps their agreement. Easing her financial difficulties at a critical time in the protection of her children, this mother can honor this plan: The Custody Project grant award was sent: directly to her attorney.

When a working mother, a recipient of domestic violence, stalking, assault, marital cheating, negligence in paying bills and the disregard of their children, divorced her husband, she was awarded custody but not child support. She moved with her children (ages 15, 13, 12, and 3) for work about 2 hours away. Almost a year earlier, the father had kidnapped them, filing false claims against this mother and refusing her any contact with their children for almost a year. When the case came before the court, she was definitively awarded custody, and all went well for another year until the next judge obtained the case. The father's continuing behaviors were diminished, mother's attorney was not well prepared and did not present evidence, mother
was ordered to be the noncustodial parent, child support of almost $1500 was ordered monthly, and custody of all 4 children was transferred to the father, living 2 hours away. The father has since punched holes in the walls of his home, put his hands around the throats of two of the boys, and pushed one of them. Responding inadequately, Child Protective Services (CPS) spoke only of therapy for the children and anger management classes for this man who has since remarried, fathered another child, but continues his physical, emotional, and financial abuse of his first family. The mother intends to request her children be returned and child support be reduced, or eliminated if custody is restored, but the $1500/month child support payment has created a shortfall of $1200 monthly and child support arrears of $5400. Additionally, as her legal expenses and attorney fees amount to over $10,000 now, she must either wait until she can afford representation or represent herself. Further, facing significant shortfalls, and financially overextended, she could not meet her upcoming rent and past-due expenses, and was bracing for eviction. Yet, to ensure her stability and ability to offer her children a safe home when visiting was of paramount importance. When she requested help with child support, her rent, and a loan payment to cover prior attorney fees, 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, waitress, 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 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-five 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: together we are a force to be reckoned with. 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.

HAPPENINGS

Giving Tuesday! Watch for ways to give and take advantage of matching donations on Giving Tuesday – the Tuesday after each Thanksgiving. Check out The PayPal Giving Fund, Facebook, Amazon, and other sites/companies which may offer matching donations up to specified amounts. Mark your calendars, watch for alerts, sign up, log in, designate us, and visit them early on Giving Tuesdays! Dec. 3, 2019: Facebook’s $7 million match may be used to double your donations to our families!

The National Drive for The Voiceless. We 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, colleagues and professionals who took video or film clips, arranged a speaking engagement along the way, or 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. Funds were raised for The National Drive and its visuals, to depict some of the difficulties these families experience. Pieces, including paintings, drawings, and writings accompanied The Drive; promised perks as visuals and videos were uploaded to Indiegogo as a carousel at 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 These plans are on hold until sufficient time can be devoted and donations raised.

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 lift awareness nationally, to elevate response to the plight our families face, and to evoke compassionate remedies. 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, including through interviews, radio, television, film, and other visuals, regarding the difficulties families endure when grappling with family law matters and expenses. (You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrx31SQT2ihmovANQAwONW)

2) The Custody Project receives calls from mothers for assistance because they have not found 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 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 pro bono cases 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 mentor a pro bono attorney and a pro bono attorney can volunteer or intern 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, it is essential that you galvanize, act, and donate. Other mothers need your financial support during the critical time when court expenses overwhelm the delicate economic architecture upon which each family relies. Protecting children and handling an often protracted court case requires you view this as a team sport and put skin in the game. The vast majority of those who reach out to us do not donate, do not invest in each other, and do not stand together, although they invariably pray this will “Never Again” happen to another mother and her children. True, it is spoken; it is said. But words without action are not enough. Mothers, you acknowledge how important it is to have financial support when faced with custody and visitation legal expenses. Yet, the money flowing away, into tattoos, extended fingernails, coffee, hair-dos – are dimes and dollars deflected, instead of given to create a strong financial base so that families across the country are truly assisted. And if mothers do not help – who will? While, thankfully, we do have men and women who donate regularly, it is usually because someone they care about has been affected. Men 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; instead, they 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 each other. It must be the preeminent priority. 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.

Wish List & Volunteer Opportunities

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 tax professional.

- 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, Causes/Facebook site, and to help develop and complete mail / email data capture tasks and to update these programs periodically, please call us @ 850.682.3460.

- Program and Management Funding. To make private gifts payable to Donna Signorelli for program and/or management expenses, send c/o The Custody Project. 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

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.


GENUFLECTION

Now, Will Fall On You

In the darkness of the testing ground, Silent, lift redemptive eyes,
I practiced, privately; Raked by lacerated slight,
And hundreds after, training, To trued and deep perspectives,
Practiced after me; Built on Truth and Light...
And in the burning – We, quiet, spied the footpath,
Trammelled – by the fires angels sow, Of sunlit earth and grass,
We withstood those brothers As, sacred, shone its golden way...
When Love, they would not know. Our mystic future and our past.
Our mangled spirits tracing And, genuflected on one knee,
Wisdom’s woven, patterned thread… We, in homage, paid our dues,
Who fathomed joy arising For the strength bestowed upon us,
From our ashen, ancient dread? Which, now, comes, blessing you.

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Genuflection was written by a mom who successfully resisted eleven legal attempts by her ex, who attempted to take custody from her and failed every time. It is dedicated to mothers everywhere, and we hope it is an inspiration to you.

Charitable News Flashes: Ways to Give

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

Our Charitable News Flashes! describe many ways that you can help, by giving directly to The Custody Project (p. 8), by donating online, including instantly by text and email (p. 5), through give matches on Giving Tuesdays – the Tuesday after each Thanksgiving (i.e., see Facebook’s $7 million match on 12/03/19), 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, with reward points, matching gifts, company grants, corporate giving, employee grant writing, stock, land, and vehicle donations, State / Federal Campaigns, United Way, tax write-offs, eBay, by volunteering your time, and by donating gifts and in-kind donations (below), with heartfelt thanks from the families you help. For alternative and innovative ways to assist our families, 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. Occasional and recurring 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 donating instantly, visit our online donation buttons, especially The PayPal Giving Fund, which passes 100% of your donation to TCP. 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.

Text and Email Contributions through Your Bank. You can donate online instantly by text and email via bank to bank send money transfer options using tcpcompassion@gmail.com (no correspondence) and cell number 850 597 0604 (no calls). Your 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.
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 - $15. 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 may be the case at times on 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, including Guidestar @ 4.75%) and 2.2% + 30 cents (PayPal) in processing fees. Just Giving lists a 5% fee for online donations, and may also charge a 2.90% + 30 cent credit/debit card transaction fee. At press, the information in this and 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, to contact: try via PayPal Product Site Support/Tech: 888.221.1161), PPGF accepts $1 minimum one-time, recurring, and anonymous donations. Use https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/2172 on their site or type our name or 95-4521373 to find us. PPGF also handles donations from eBay For Charity to us via https://bit.ly/1aF5cE or https://givingworks.ebay.com/charity-auctions/charity/the-custody-project/2172/ (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 a 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, 888.221.1161) requiring $1 minimum donations to cover processing fees and send approximately 50 cents, accepts one-time, recurring, and anonymous donations. 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.

Network for Good (www.networkforgood.org/donate, 888.284.7978) accepts $10 minimum one-time and recurring monthly, quarterly, and yearly donations. 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?ORGID=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), 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 and its partners for new info:

American Express Members Give (https://amex.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=95-4521373) try a $5 minimum one-time or recurring donation using dollars or membership rewards points with 2.25% applied to process fees.


Causes/Facebook (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 or https://www.causes.com/profiles/188010239 and follow the prompts to the Donate Button. Facebook may waive fees so that 100% of your donations are received by us via network for Good.

Smile.Amazon (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.

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.goodshop.com/ and https://www.goodsearch.org/ and designate TCP, or use our direct links: https://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=898522 and https://www.goodshop.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://www.charity.ebay.com/charity/The-Custody-Project/2172 or https://bit.ly/1aF5cE 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%, 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: Charity Shop (https://www.ebay.com/rrpp/charityshop), scroll down and, on the left, choose Find A Favorite Charity, and at Charity Search type in The Custody Project, click Search to go to our page, or use the direct links here and above, https://www.charity.ebay.com/charity/The-Custody-Project/2172, 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).


Matching Gifts Programs and Giving Tuesdays. Watch for ways to give and take advantage of matching donations on Giving Tuesday – the Tuesday after each Thanksgiving on sites like Facebook and The PayPal Giving Fund. When you give and your employer matches you dollar for dollar, you double the power of your gift, too, so ask your company about it! Some cover administrative fees, 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 UW or go to www.unitedway.org. Scroll down, type your zip code and submit. Below contact details click the UW web site listed, then GIVE, 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 (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, page 8). International donors: on the Home page, either click Donate, then United Way Worldwide, and follow the prompts or click Take Action, Get Involved, and trail the prompts to United Way Worldwide. For 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 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 an investment counselor or your tax professional for information and updates as needed.

Moving Vehicle and Land Donations. You can benefit TCP by donating your used moving vehicles and land. If you donate through towing companies, your church and other forums, 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.carshelpingpeople.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 updates, verification, and 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. Verify their 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 over 75% in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and 75% in FY 2018-2019.

* 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, 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

Received from ___________________________ Amount $ ___________

Address ___________________________________________ Date ___________________

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).

Watch for matching gift opportunities on Giving Tuesday – the Tuesday after each Thanksgiving – on Facebook, The PayPal Giving Fund, and other sites! 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, Causes/Facebook, and Just Giving. Put 95-4521373 in 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. Your compassion becomes the difference. Thanks for helping as you can!

Mail Donations To: The Custody Project Donate Today!