

**The Custody Project**  
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Fed. Tax ID #95-4521373  
[www.thecustodyproject.org](http://www.thecustodyproject.org)  
August 31, 2013 [tcp14m01]

**Dear Folks,**

***Helping children and their mothers for nineteen years. 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.”

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

***If they*** are not broken by crushing legal and financial circumstances, mothers must relentlessly, continuously, withstand them to protect their children. Such burdens, imposed upon the disadvantaged and overextended, cause unavoidable familial hardships, 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. Through you, The Custody Project assists qualified mothers 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. Through you, grants have kept some of these deserving families afloat, often at perilous junctures. And, although the daunting difficulties such mothers face make complex stories where excerpts barely, or will not, do justice, here we share a little about our families, although confidentiality precludes names or pictures:

- ^ When a mother with primary custody sent her son on visitation, he was kidnapped by his father and forced to live with him. When the mother appealed for help to enforce the filed order, the illegal snatch was sanctioned by the judge and, now, her son must spend his time in another county. Since then, the little boy has suffered emotionally, medically, scholastically, and psychologically, and his custody and best interests remain in jeopardy. The mother has appeared in pro per and used all available monies to hire attorneys to help her resolve the custody, visitation, health, and child support issues, but many of these attempts have resulted in failure, incompetent representation, and in sanctions levied upon her by the court – which may be a partial and biased one. Fortunately, she found a young, passionate attorney who asked a small retainer and an affordable payment of her each month. Together, they went in to court on a motion to protect her son, and once again, the court levied sanctions upon her. Eventually, she declared bankruptcy, divesting herself of thousands of dollars of sanctions the court had imposed, and that the court knew she did not have the money to pay. She and her attorney continue to untangle the child support, medical, and visitation issues regardless, in preparation for the next steps to protect her little boy. With her finances excessively stretched by legal expenses, and unable to pay many of her basic necessities, when she requested assistance with attorney fees and common necessities, The Custody Project assisted.
- ^ The Custody Project received calls throughout the country regarding help with kidnapping this year. Typically, with a court order in place, the mother sent her child(ren) for visitation and they were not returned. She then went to court to have the order enforced and custody was reversed for no apparent reason, leaving the mother frantically facing an uphill and costly battle to retrieve her children, and sometimes traveling vast distances just to see them. Another nationwide set of calls dealt with domestic violence and endangerment of the children where the mother, trying to protect herself and her family, made little headway in the courts, if not suffering an outright refusal to assist. A third set, often interwoven within these two, comprised those mothers who, receiving no child support, requested help because they no longer had the funds to support their children, whether due to job layoffs or serious illnesses, such as cancer diagnoses. Instead of receiving healthy child support awards when most needed, the other parent, refusing to help, filed for full custody or disappeared. Whether the parents lived in the same state, or in different states or countries, these events trended in-state, out-of-state, and out-of-country, and it is hoped that our funding will dramatically increase so that TCP can better assist these hapless families in

need. Out of compassion, several attorneys stepped up and, in acknowledgment of the difficulties these mothers face, took cases, requiring small retainers and small payments per month without interest. And, to these attorneys, thank you. For such a family, part of the protection a mother can invoke is to contact the police and the district attorney(s), to communicate effectively, and to educate herself regarding the law. For many, this has helped. (See our site's Services: Tips /Testimonials).

Each year, these stories are given because they are representative of the plight of so many mothers:

- ▲ *A mother needed to move to provide for her children. This required the lifting of her children's legal restraining orders, which were causing them to live in unnecessary and extreme poverty. She 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."*
- ▲ *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..."*

**Your generosity makes it possible** for *The Custody Project* to help mothers meet legal expenses and provide for their children. Making the Christmas and Holiday Season merrier and Mother's Day more cheerful, you cover legal costs for mothers who must defend custody and visitation of their children in courts and, when legal expenses prevent her and she is unable to, you provide funds for basic living expenses and common necessities. In addition to TCP's grant program, which has been operational for over eighteen years, our revolving-door loan program serves when, as mothers repay their loans, 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 Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia, and our range continues to expand.

**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, as you are the backbone of our work. Your generosity to mothers and their children has made our continuing service possible for years. Ranging from \$1-\$100s, your donations have been essential since 1994, and contributions received during the 2012-2013 fiscal year made possible our continued giving to families in difficult circumstances. Thank you, also, to the businesses, foundations, and service organizations which have supported *The Custody Project*: you are listed on our site @ *Contributors: Community Angels*. These include Target Stores, Wal-Mart Foundation, Bank of America Foundation, and Give Something Back for donating between \$1000-\$3500 each, over the years, and benefiting the lives of several families, too. In light of the worldwide need to assuage those in tragic dilemmas, your compassion touches our mothers and children, who are often desperate and forgotten. And to those who have allowed us to assist, to the Mothers, we sincerely thank you, too.

## HAPPENINGS

**To those visiting our website**, if you are a mother, please visit our *Services* section. For innovative ways to assist, please visit *You Can Help*. To donate by mail, online, when shopping, and for easy donate online instructions, visit *Donate*. To learn more about TCP, see our *Case Excerpts* and *About Us* sections, and to find us, use [www.thecustodyproject.org](http://www.thecustodyproject.org) or [www.tpcpaes.org](http://www.tpcpaes.org). Visit our site for more information, these pages for an overview, and contact us @ 850.682.3460.

**Our long-time friends will remember that in the Summer of 2008**, *The Custody Project* hosted a nationwide Caravan to honor mothers relocating with their children and those affected by custody, visitation, and move away issues, to bring attention and support to their plight. Visit our site's *Events: Caravan 2008*; on [Facebook](#), log in, type tcp in the search box: it may come up if not archived.

**Upcoming Summer Caravan**. We hope to conduct another Drive during the summer to raise funds for our services to mothers and children (see above). We need \$3500 – \$4000 to cover expenses to make it happen and have raised \$965 so far. As we anticipate a national drive will generate far more donations for our mothers and their families, Caravan monies will be preserved in our budget as a discrete line item and accrue until our goal is reached. If you would like to participate, sponsor our driver privately, or make donations in support, please visit our site's *Donate: Online* options, mail checks to *The Custody Project*, designate "For The Caravan" and, to sponsor our driver privately or volunteer, call 850.682.3460. (See, *Wish List* p. 6, and our site's *You Can Help: Services: Wish List; Events: Come Join Us; Donate: Online / Mail* sections).

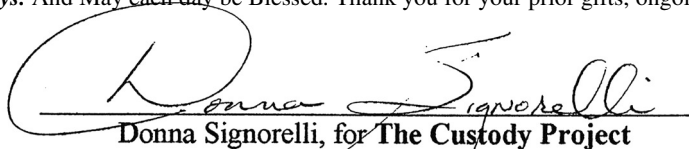
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**Our Charitable News Flashes!** (pp. 4-6) describe many ways that you can help, giving directly to *The Custody Project* (p. 6), or by donating online (pp. 4-5), or in other ways including at *Artisans of the Twelfth House, The Shops, and Donation Street* on our site, through online and on-street shopping, weddings, 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, sponsoring Donna on the Drive, by donating to the Summer Caravan Event, or by volunteering your time (p. 6). We do accept gifts and in-kind donations to our Annual Raffles and Fundraisers, with heartfelt thanks from the families you help. For more information about these and other ways to give, please visit our site's *You Can Help* section.

**Your compassion** makes the difference. Most of the difficulties our mothers face are resolved with adequate funds for legal representation, and sometimes goals are most easily achieved by teams, so please join with others and play the numbers: with 100 joining together to donate \$1 each, we've got \$100; when 100 join to donate \$25 each, we've got \$2500 for the needs of others; 50 donating \$100 each means \$5000, and 100 donating \$100 each, or more, yields \$10,000+ available to meet the needs of our families.

*The Custody Project* is a 501(c)(3), charitable, tax-exempt, nonprofit organization, Fed. Tax ID #95-4521373, and your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law (p. 6). You can download our Annual Appeal from our site @ *About Us: Annual Letter / Annual Newsletter*, receive it by email or during the year as postage becomes affordable, and share our information with interested donors and mothers needing assistance.

**Best Wishes. Happy Holidays.** And May each day be Blessed. Thank you for your prior gifts, ongoing support, and quiet compassion to our families.



Donna Signorelli, for The Custody Project

### **MOM'S CORNER**

If you or someone you know needs help or wishes to inquire about our grants, contact us. On our website, please visit our *Services* section for information and helpful resources. For quick reference, here are a few beneficial references, resources, and tips which may lead to others of use. Note: The Custody Project does not endorse, have any responsibility for, or exercise control over these organizations' and agencies' views, services, and information:

**ACES – Association for Children for Enforcement of Child Support**, [www.childsupport-aces.org](http://www.childsupport-aces.org), <http://childsupport-aces.org>, and see [www.cocommunity.net/agency/aces-assoc-children-enforcement-child-support.html](http://www.cocommunity.net/agency/aces-assoc-children-enforcement-child-support.html); **California Protective Parents Association**, [www.protectiveparents.com](http://www.protectiveparents.com) @ 866.874.9815; **California Women's Law Center**, [www.cwlc.org](http://www.cwlc.org) @ 323.951.1041; **Defenders of Children**, [www.defendersofchildren.org](http://www.defendersofchildren.org) @ 602.710.1903; **Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law**, [www.hbcfl.org](http://www.hbcfl.org) @ 213.388.7515; **Justice for Children**, [www.justiceforchildren.org](http://www.justiceforchildren.org) @ 713.225.4357; **Legal Momentum**, [www.legalmomentum.org](http://www.legalmomentum.org) @ 212.925.6635; **Legal Services Corporation**, [www.lsc.gov](http://www.lsc.gov) @ 202.295.1500; **Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice**, <http://www.laclj.org> @ 323.980.3500; **Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)**, [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org) @ 877.275.6233; **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**, [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com) @ 800.843.5678; **National Crime Victim Law Institute**, [www.ncvli.org](http://www.ncvli.org) @ 888.768.6556; **National Domestic Violence Hotline**, [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org) @ 800.799.7233; **National Organization for Women (NOW)**, [www.now.org](http://www.now.org) @ 202.628.8669; **Nolo**, [www.nolo.com](http://www.nolo.com) @ 800.728.3555; **Passaic County Women's Center Outreach Office**, <http://www.njaconline.org> @ 973.881.0725; **Pine Tree Legal Assistance**, [www.ptla.org](http://www.ptla.org) @ 207.774.8211/800.442.4293 [ @ Links, choose Legal Services/Pro Bono Links for your state's resources]; **Pro Se Hotline, The Family Law Hotline @ The Women's Law Center of Maryland**, [www.wlcmd.org](http://www.wlcmd.org) @ 800.845.8550; **Stop Family Violence**, <http://www.StopFamilyViolence.org>; **The Battered Women's Justice Project**, <http://www.bwjp.org> @ 800.903.0111; **The Liz Library**, [www.thelizlibrary.org](http://www.thelizlibrary.org); **The Loyola Law School Center for Conflict Resolution**, <http://www.lls.edu/ccr> @ 213.736.1145; **The National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith and Credit**, [www.fullfaithandcredit.org](http://www.fullfaithandcredit.org) @ 800.903.0111; **The National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women**, [www.ncdbw.org](http://www.ncdbw.org) @ 800.903.0111; **U. S. Dept. of State [The Office of Children's Issues]**, <http://travel.state.gov>, [http://travel.state.gov/abduction/abduction\\_580.html](http://travel.state.gov/abduction/abduction_580.html) @ 888.407.4747; **Women's Law Project**, <http://www.womenslawproject.org> @ 215.928.9801 x5760, 412.281.2892.

**Across the country**, some courthouses offer free pro per clinics at varying hours; some attorneys offer free consultation times in their offices, at libraries [Lawyers in the Library Programs], and/or at court offices. Some attorneys will take cases pro bono or at reduced rates through The Battered Women's Alternative, domestic violence agencies, shelters, and when you ask. For similar reasons, check your region/state for helpful organizations, nonprofits, attorneys, womens' law centers, law librarians, state bar associations, and paralegals. Check community colleges, colleges, university law libraries, and law departments as law professors, students, and law librarians may help with portions of cases, legal cites, and pertinent case law. If your finances are stretched, occasionally churches will help; sometimes private or individual sources will assist. ... **Aside** from the timeliness of filing dates, for those writing legal briefs, the correct legal points and case law must be cited and argued. Consult with attorneys, law professors, paralegals, and law librarians. Sample briefs (with names of the parties deleted), boiler plates, legal forms, legal reference books, and law books referencing the rules of court will be useful and keep you timely. For papers and forms, also check with the legal clerks at the courthouse. For sample superior, appellate, and Supreme Court briefs, ask attorneys or other mothers, with the request that the names of the parties be deleted. Sometimes, extra copies of unneeded briefs are disposed of at copy shops, courthouses, and law offices.

**Some hearings** are simple and you can save money by representing yourself. However, if at all possible, arrange to have an attorney represent you for custody hearings (and others of significant import). If you don't have enough money, see if you can work out a financial arrangement of payments over time so that an attorney can represent you for the custody hearings. Offer to do as much as you can, such as organizing your facts and exhibits, and doing your own copying and printing to help reduce costs. If any, ask that interest be forgiven. Later, if you have sufficient money, lump sums can reduce and zero out your bill in lieu of continued payments over time, as most people prefer some cash now to extended payments. Court transcripts can be half-price when requested prior to hearings and sometimes the Certified Shorthand Reporters Board can help you obtain them at no cost. Lastly, certain court expenses occur only if you agree to them: research the law so that you know what legal expenses you can refuse. (In some areas, stating that you cannot afford a special master precludes a judge from appointing one). ... **Misuse** usually occurs when isolated. For those faced with the abuse and/or molest of their children, you may be able to help your offspring by communicating effectively. Consider contacting your child's local hospitals, physician(s), nurses, teachers, principal, caregivers, coaches, therapist, church(es), police for both the mother's and father's jurisdictions, as well as other professionals, and your child's friends and neighbors. Bring your visitation/custody court order(s) with you, explain the danger your children are (or child is) in and how each person can help, should

your child or children disclose to him/her. Abuse decreases when people communicate effectively, when there are a lot of eyes watching children, and when a plan of action is in place.

**Whether** as mothers who have lost custody *simply* for asking to relocate, or for trying to *protect* their children from abuse, molest, and harm, and now, are reduced to supervised visitation, limited contact, and other severe and/or punishing court orders and developments, or for those experiencing legal punishments even as the custodial parents, know that you are not alone (See, **Mothers on Trial by Phyllis Chesler**). Nowadays, more people recognize retaliatory pattern and practice and will assist you in your quest to protect your children and give them better lives. For the difficulties you are going through, these *are* with you and your children: hold onto your faith, pray, and rely upon your spiritual strength. Please visit our site's *Services: Support Links, Tips, and Testimonials* sections for additional information.

#### GENUFLECTION

*Now, Will Fall On You*

In the darkness of the testing ground,  
I practiced, privately;  
And hundreds after, training,  
Practiced after me;

And in the burning –  
Trammeled – by the fires angels sow,  
We withstood those brothers  
When Life, they would not know.

Our mangled spirits tracing  
Wisdom's woven, patterned thread...  
Who fathomed joy arising  
From our ashen, ancient dread?

We, searching, raised redemptive eyes  
Borne of seared, and lacerated sight,  
To trued and deep perspectives,  
Built on Truth and Light...

Now: quiet, spied the footpath,  
Of sunlit earth and grass,  
As, sacred, shone its golden way...  
Our mystic future and our past.

And, genuflected on one knee,  
We, in homage, paid our dues,  
For the strength bestowed upon us,  
Which, now, comes, blessing you.

Now... it falls, on 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*

*For the ways to donate which follow, please visit our site's You Can Help section for step-by-step instructions.*

**Spontaneous or Planned: Direct Contributions.** Your straight-from-the-heart contributions are our simplest way to help our mothers and their children. Whether your help is 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, The Custody Project invites you to join our Dollar Campaign. Help us serve mothers and their children by donating \$1-\$20 per year or more. Checks and cash are best, and gift certificates are always welcome. Since our scope is national, 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. 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. For those interested in e-checks, electronic funds transfers (EFTS), direct payments, and automatic withdrawals, either one-time or on a recurring basis, please contact us @ 850.682.3460.

**Online Contributions.** You can donate online instantly using secure sites at **Network for Good** (<http://www1.networkforgood.org>, 888.284.7978), **PayPal** ([www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com), 888.221.1161), **Causes/Facebook** (<https://www.causes.com/causes/363225-the-custody-project>, [www.causes.com](http://www.causes.com), NFG @ 888.284.7978), eBay's **PayPal Giving Fund** ([www.paypalgivingfund.org](http://www.paypalgivingfund.org), Ebay: 866.903.3229, PayPal: 888.221.1161), **Guidestar** ([www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org), 757.229.4631, 800.784.9378), **GoodSearch** ([www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), 877.466.3004), and **Just Give** ([www.justgive.org](http://www.justgive.org), 866.587.8448), and their partner sites, or by using their *Donate Buttons on our site*. Some permit recurring monthly, quarterly, *and* yearly donations, most allow minimum donations as low as \$.50 – \$15 (GoodSearch is free) and, ranging from 2.2% + 30 cents to 5%, all allow donors to cover processing fees except PayPal (PayPal, sending 100% intended when you calculate and cover their fees [Give \$103, Fees = \$2.57, TCP gets \$100.43], *always* sends 97.8%, applying 2.2% + 30 cents). 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. You can find the Donate Now Buttons listed here, detailed information, and easy step-by-step instructions on our site @ *Donate: Online and You Can Help: Fancy: Online. The Custody Project* encourages you to donate to us through **eBay's PayPal Giving Fund** this year as 100% of every donation will reach TCP and help our families, as processing fees are not charged. Download the **GoodShop To Go Button for The Custody Project**, or click or copy and paste this link, <http://www.goodsearch.com/goodto-go/the-custody-project>, and a percentage of each online purchase at over 4000 companies will benefit TCP. It works with any browser and search engine to provide donations from

participating stores. Download their **Toolbar** ([www.goodsearch.com/toolbar](http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar)) for easy searching and shopping on Internet Explorer and Firefox, shop the merchants @ their **GoodShop** online shopping mall, and **Spread the Word** with their email options. 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 with GoodSearch. Couples and guests making wedding-related purchases (invitations, gifts, honeymoons, favors @ Buy Favors) can help TCP without a dime leaving a pocket: designate us with the Charity Registry @ [www.IDOFoundation.org](http://www.IDOFoundation.org) (Just Give: 866.587.8448).

**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 <http://www.unitedway.org> or <http://www.liveunited.org> (for international donations: <http://worldwide.unitedway.org>), put in your zip code to find your local UW, and provide our address and Fed. Tax ID (95-4521373). On the local United Way card, list us in the Donor Option, provide our contact information, and indicate your pledge on the UW form. TCP can receive 100% of your donations when your companies pay the administrative fees to United Way, otherwise UW keeps a percentage to recoup its campaign costs. Local United Way policies vary so, if unable to donate this way, you can send your donation directly to us (See, p. 6). In the California Bay Area, use [www.uwba.org](http://www.uwba.org) (415.808.4300 / 800.273.1779).

**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 small grants to nonprofits that their staff support, nominate, or volunteer with. Please check your company's possibilities.

**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. (Matching Gifts Program, Macy's Inc., 800.838.2063).

**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. Speak with your investment counselor, call us, or contact Susan Harding at Morgan Stanley @ 510.891.0555 and 800.755.1579 for information.

**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 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. Contact VOA's national office at 800.407.2600 / 877.721.4862 for national car donations, or online @ [www.carshelpingpeople.org](http://www.carshelpingpeople.org), and designate TCP as your nonprofit beneficiary. For more information, visit our site's *You Can Help: Fancy: Vehicle and Land Donations*. The VOA will pick up your car, boat, RV, or motorcycle for you at no cost. For property donations, please contact us but for VOA property donations, contact John Bindas @ [jbindas@voami.org](mailto:jbindas@voami.org) / 800.407.2600.

**Belk Charity Sale.** Belk Department Stores hold charity sales every year from 6am-10am on a Saturday in April / May and October / November. The Custody Project plans to participate in the upcoming 2013-2014 Events. When you purchase your tickets from us *prior* to the sale, TCP receives each \$5 in full as a charity donation. For more information, visit our site's *You Can Help: Fancy: Shop 'Til Drop: Belk*. 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.

**On-Street and Online Shopping, Credit Card Donations, Paying Bills.** When shopping personally in stores or online, 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.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)), Donation Street ([www.dscoupons.com](http://www.dscoupons.com)), Amazon.com, Dell, eToys.com, 1-800-flowers.com, eBay.com, and countless other merchants encourage charitable giving, and you help mothers and their children by designating The Custody Project. EBay's **Artisans of the Twelfth House** lists a painting donated to The Custody Project and other items donated by **Dancing Dog Mining Company**. Use the url, <http://stores.ebay.com/Artisans-of-The-Twelfth-House>, to find them directly (eBay @ 866.903.3229). Visit our site's *You Can Help: Fancy: Shop: Artisans*, and *Donate: The Shops* for more information.

**eBay Buyers, eBay Auctions** (866.903.3229). There are three ways to benefit The Custody Project via purchase percentages and direct donations. To find us, follow the instructions on our site's *You Can Help: Fancy: The PayPal Giving Fund* ([www.paypalgivingfund.org](http://www.paypalgivingfund.org), 888.221.1161), see the Giving Works icon, scroll down to shop to support us where items for sale benefit TCP [up to 100%], click to read descriptions, and purchase. To auction or sell items in our name, see eBay Sellers below. Next, to make donations through *The PayPal Giving Fund*, enter the amount and click Donate Now. Lastly, you can add TCP as your favorite nonprofit on eBay. Use this link, <http://bit.ly/1aIF5cE>, and follow the prompts. Each time you purchase items through eBay Checkout, you can donate \$1 or more to TCP. For more information, see our site's *You Can Help; Fancy: Shop 'Til Drop: eBay*. **eBay Sellers.** (866.903.3229): 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, *The PayPal Giving Fund* will send us your donation and provide you with a tax receipt. To sell an item on eBay to benefit TCP, for further directions visit eBay or our site @ *You Can Help: Fancy: Shop 'Til Drop: eBay Sellers*. (PayPal: 888.221.1161).

**Raffles.** Occasionally TCP conducts Raffles, and your contributions make them intriguing. To donate cash, gift certificates, or items of value, contact us. Winners like to have 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.

The Custody Project is a charitable nonprofit organization and donations are tax-deductible, as allowed by law. We assist mothers and their children yearly through your grass-roots generosity. Use us for tax write-offs, put coins in a giving jar and send the sum, donate the proceeds of bake sales and yard sales to us, share our flyers, send your prayers. Thank you.

### **Volunteer Opportunities and Wish List**

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. Please visit our site @ *You Can Help: Services* for Volunteer and Wish List Opportunities, including spreading the word, volunteering your expertise, and generating donations. Our site lists 4 Projects that would assist our mothers and can be funded by nationwide Caravan drives and donations. These include the Yale Project, National Nonprofit Days, Federal Witness Protection, and The Land Projects. Please visit our site @ *Events and Visions* (and: *You Can Help: Service*) and contact us if you would like to help.

### **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* always receives 75% or more each year and received 75.3% of every dollar in FY 11-12 and 76.1% of each dollar in FY 12-13.
- \* **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. *Summer Caravan*: \_\_\_ Yes
- \* **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**

**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).*

Money orders, certified, cashiers, and personal checks make payable to **The Custody Project**. Donate online instantly, or without cost by shopping at our website below, or through on-street and online merchants. Assisting mothers and their children yearly through your grass-roots generosity, your compassion makes the difference. Thank you for your support and for giving as you can.

**Mail Donations To:**

**The Custody Project**  
 PO Box 20753  
 El Sobrante CA 94820-0753 USA  
[www.thecustodyproject.org](http://www.thecustodyproject.org) / [www.tcpcare.org](http://www.tcpcare.org)

**Thank You!**