Chevron Richmond Today

The Official News Magazine of Chevron Richmond

Chevron

Human Energy™

Nonprofits and Volunteers Lift Up Community

Science Is Cool; So Is Kaisaiah Clark
Volunteering a 'Sweet' Tradition
Hoop-la in Richmond: Welcome Rockets!
2011 Chevron Grant Winners

Volume 1 Issue 1 | Q1 2012

A Message from Operations Manager of Chevron Richmond Refinery

Bruce Chinn

Welcome to *Chevron Richmond Today*, our quarterly news magazine for residents, businesses and other organizations in Richmond and Contra Costa County. In this edition we focus on Chevron's commitment to the local community and highlight some of the good work our partner organizations do in and around Richmond.

Chevron support comes in many forms, including millions of dollars in annual grants and other financial contributions to local nonprofit and civic organizations as well as the many volunteer activities and charitable contributions our roughly 3,500 Richmond-area employees and contractors undertake every day.

In this edition, you'll read about:

- The $3.8 million in contributions Chevron made to local nonprofit and civic organizations in 2011
- The recipients of our 2011 California Partnership grants
- Phil Sweet, a 30-year Chevron employee who volunteers his time with many local organizations, both individually and as part of Chevron's Black Employee Network
- The newly formed professional basketball team, the Richmond Rockets, and their efforts to boost community spirit and engage our youth
- Chevron's latest ad campaign called "Science Rules," which features a Richmond 8th grader demonstrating a wireless-controlled robotic machine

I am personally committed to volunteering in the local community to help make Richmond a better place for everyone. For example, since 2009 I have served on the United Way of the Bay Area's Campaign Cabinet. In that role, I reach out to leadership and employee groups at other key Bay Area businesses – not just asking for financial support but also explaining United Way's mission to promote economic self-sufficiency and cut poverty in half by 2020.

Another great organization I support by serving on its board is the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP). I see GRIP's mission as giving disenfranchised people a helping hand on their journey to provide for themselves and their families. It's sobering to read statistics on homelessness and how many children go without meals, which is why GRIP is so important: In 2011 alone it served over 67,000 lunchtime meals as well as 35,000-plus breakfasts and dinners to people housed in its facilities. GRIP provides basic services many of us take for granted like showers, laundry facilities and phone/Internet access as well as a year-old career skills training program called Career Pipelines that has already placed approximately 35 clients in jobs.

I grew up in Edna, Texas, and went to Texas A&M University where I earned a degree in chemical engineering. After working at DuPont for many years, I joined Chevron in 2006 as general manager for Global Manufacturing Reliability. Then in 2009, I became operations manager for the Richmond Refinery. In addition to managing our manufacturing processes, I also oversee the safe operation of everything from our state-of-the-art water recycling and electricity-generation plants to the safe handling of crude oil into and the products out of our Richmond Long Wharf.

To learn more about the local nonprofit and civic organizations Chevron supports, please visit our website at www.chevronrichmond.com.

On the cover: Kaisaiah Clark, Helms Middle School Student

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Chevron's Social and Economic Impacts on the Community

One of Chevron's core values is to be a good partner with the communities where we operate. Here in Richmond and West Contra Costa County, Chevron contributed more than $10.6 million in the last three years to nonprofit and civic organizations for programs and activities that focus on three main areas:

- Public safety, with an emphasis on at-risk youth
- Improving K-12 education, concentrating on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs
- Economic development, particularly job-creation and vocational-training programs

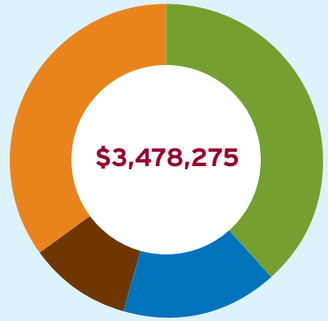
For a breakdown of how our contributions were distributed, please visit the "Community" page at our website, www.chevronrichmond.com.

Chevron Employees Step Up to the Plate

Chevron has been a proud member of the Richmond community since 1902. In the decades since, many generations of employees and their families have donated their own money, time and talent to local nonprofit organizations whose missions they support. Chevron supports those individual efforts through various Chevron Humankind program options for employees and retirees that include:

- Give and Match, where the company matches employee contributions to eligible nonprofits, dollar-for-dollar, up to $5,000 per employee and $2,000 per retiree, each year.
- Grants for Good, where eligible organizations get grants for up to $1,000 based on time employees spend volunteering with them.
- Volunteer Together enables employees to sign up for local company-sponsored volunteer projects – everything from reading to schoolchildren to walkathons to installing solar power systems for low-income families.

"I'm extremely proud of how our Richmond employees pitch in, year after year," states Nigel Hearne, Richmond Refinery general manager. "In addition to volunteering more than 8,400 hours of personal time in 2011, they also contributed over $670,000 of their own money to local nonprofits. Adding in Chevron Humankind matching contributions and Grants for Good, the total amount going to the community as a result of our employees' efforts was $1.42 million."



Key 2011 Contributions Went to:

Economic Development Programs – such as Catholic Charities Clinical Medical Assistant Bilingual Training Project (Project B-MAT), West Contra Costa Business Development Center Local Economic Development Initiative (LEDI), and the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program Career Pipelines Initiative.

Youth Services Programs – including City of Richmond YouthWorks Summer Youth Employment Program, YMCA Youth and Family Services Program, and Youth Enrichment Strategies Camp and Community Program.

Educational Programs – such as WCCUSD Mathematics Coach Initiative, Gooden College Connection STEM Mentoring Project and the American Chemical Society Project SEED.

Civic and Community Programs – including the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program's Project Homeless Connect, Richmond Neighborhood Council's Community Programs and Scholarships, and GRID Alternatives Solar Installation Affordable Housing Program.

Six Local Nonprofits Share $1 Million in Chevron Grants

Boosting employment is one sure path to strengthening a local economy – especially in communities like Richmond that have significantly higher than average unemployment rates.

"That's why in late 2011, as part of our long-standing commitment to support the Richmond community, we awarded $1 million in California Partnership grants to be shared among six local nonprofit organizations that either help residents train for and find jobs today or prepare middle and high school students for the technical jobs of the future," says Nigel Hearne, general manager of Chevron's Richmond Refinery.

"This was the third year in a row we distributed $1 million in local grants through California Partnership, Chevron's program to boost science and technology education and economic efforts in our home state," adds Hearne. "Because many of the jobs that will allow the U.S. to remain competitive internationally require a strong grounding in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), we view these grants as an investment in our children's future."

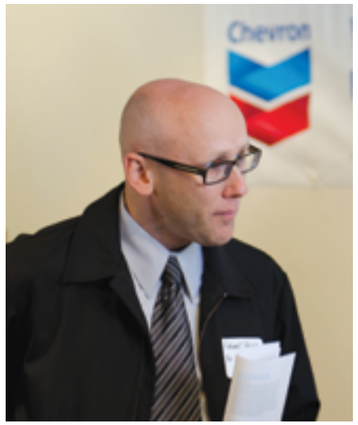
The grant recipients went through a rigorous selection process that evaluated their abilities to improve education, expand vocational training and increase job opportunities in Richmond and West Contra Costa County. Winners include:

West Contra Costa Unified School District

The grant to the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) will fund the district's grant will fund the district's "Algebra Initiative," a program that will train and place two full-time Algebra 1 coaches who will support math teachers in classrooms throughout the district. The Algebra Initiative's goals are to improve test scores and better prepare students to succeed in higher-level math courses.

Contra Costa Economic Partnership

This coalition of business, government and education leaders will use its grant to fund "Making the Real World STEM Connection." This program will develop high school curriculum and work-based programs (including summer internships) designed to prepare local students for post-secondary education, training programs and, ultimately, high-demand STEM careers.



Contra Costa College Foundation

Contra Cost College Foundation's grant will fund the "20/20 Vision for WCCUSD Students" program, which will help WCCUSD enhance its STEM education program beginning in junior high school. The program's goals are to help students develop an early interest in STEM fields and to vastly increase the number of high school students who complete at least two college-level STEM classes and successfully pass the high school proficiency exam.

Catholic Charities of the East Bay

This organization will use its grant to fund the "Project Access Mentoring Program." Project Access will mentor low-income residents between 18 and 24 with limited English skills so they can find jobs as early childhood education associate teachers. It also will provide the mentors themselves with training for additional leadership and professional skills they need to advance in their own careers.

Solar Richmond

This grant will enable Solar Richmond's "Solar for All Small Businesses Initiative" to expand. The organization will develop new training programs to prepare Richmond and West Contra Costa residents for commercial solar installation jobs and business-ownership opportunities. Two- and six-month training programs will be offered, and many graduates will be marketed to commercial solar companies through Solar Richmond's own staffing agency.

Stride Center

This organization's "ReliaTech 3.0" program provides computer repair services, refurbished computers and e-waste recycling. The grant will create 76 technical jobs and paid internships for residents and businesses that have high barriers to employment and limited access to technology. This on-the-job experience will significantly improve participants' long-term employment prospects. The technological capacity of Richmond small businesses also will improve.

"We are grateful for Chevron's generosity," says Nia Rashidchi, WCCUSD assistant superintendent. "This grant will provide crucial help for coaching teachers in rigorous, standards-based mathematics content and instructional strategies. This will help to improve student mathematics achievement and better prepare students for success in higher level mathematics courses."

Since 2009, Chevron has expanded or deepened work with over 60 California nonprofit organizations focused on STEM education and economic development. Our investments have benefited over half a million K-12 students, contributed to job training programs for over 10,000 adults, and helped to create 1,700 new jobs through micro and SME (subject matter expert) program support.

For Phil Sweet, Giving Back Is a Family Tradition

For Chevron Capital Projects Construction supervisor and Safety representative Phil Sweet, giving back is a family tradition. "I first got involved with the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP) about 10 years ago after my mother told me her church group served meals at GRIP's Souper Center," Phil explains.

"Now, I'm trying to pass those same values on to my college-age kids," he adds. "They were home for the holidays recently and, like every year since they were little, we went to the Richmond/El Cerrito Firefighters Toy Program event to help assemble bikes and hand out gifts. We ended up staying about six hours because they were having such a good time."

Sweet, who lives in El Sobrante and has worked at the Richmond Refinery for nearly 32 years, has volunteered with many local organizations over the years, both as a member of Chevron's Black Employee Network and on his own. "Our network tries to help out at the Richmond Rescue Mission whenever we can," says Sweet.

"One of my most memorable experiences was when I used to help out with Christmas in April (now called Rebuilding Together of Richmond). One day each April, we would go to the homes of local senior citizens to do repairs and cleanup work. I loved the expressions on their faces – it reminded me of my grandmother's smile whenever she was proud of me."

For people who want to give back to their community but don't have a lot of money, Sweet says that the gift of your time can be even more valuable – and rewarding. "I like to volunteer because it shows my kids that when you give, you also learn valuable lessons. And deep down it just makes me feel good."

As they do every year, Phil Sweet (center) and his children and volunteered at last year's Richmond/El Cerritos Firefighter's Toy Program. Phil proudly notes that both are doing well in college: Jamie is majoring in environmental engineering at U.C. Merced and just made the honor role. Wes is a freshman at San Jose State and hasn't chosen his major yet.

Rockets Bring Pro Basketball to Richmond

Richmond's got game, thanks to the arrival of the Richmond Rockets, a new American Basketball Association franchise and the city's first professional sports team. The Rockets launched their first season on November 10, 2011, at their home court – the city's newly renovated Civic Center Memorial Auditorium.

According to Rockets owner Eric Marquis, "One of my goals in forming the team was to provide safe, affordable and family-friendly entertainment to the community.

"Our players and dance team members have already begun building a strong connection with the local community and will be hosting youth basketball clinics, attending fundraisers like GRIP's Harmony Walk and the Coronado YMCA Toys for Tots sign-up drive and participating in many other community activities."

"To show our support for the team and its community service goals, we purchased hundreds of home game tickets," notes Richmond Refinery general manager Nigel Hearne. "The tickets were given to our community partners, including Building Blocks for Kids, the YMCA and GRIP, to distribute among their clients."

Richmond 8th Grade Engineering Student Takes Hollywood by Storm

When you think of robots and Hollywood, big-budget movies with lots of special effects usually spring to mind. But for Helms Middle School 8th grader Kaisaiah Clark, it was a science project on a much smaller scale that led to his brush with stardom.

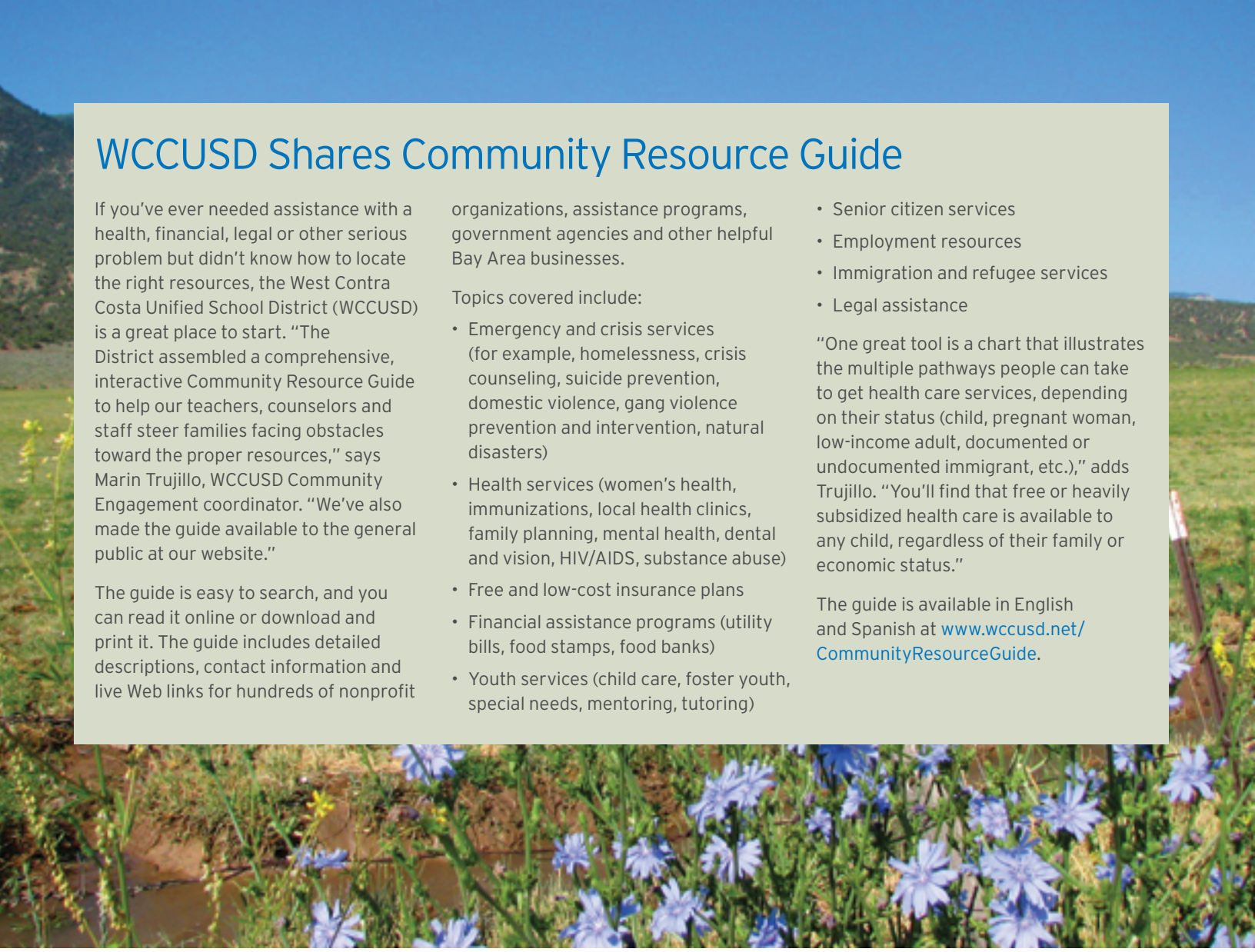
Clark is enrolled in the West Contra Costa Unified School District's (WCCUSD) Engineering Academy, which uses Project Lead the Way's innovative curriculum, supported by Chevron, to spark early interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Clark and four other semifinalists were chosen from an open casting call to appear in "Science Rules," the latest commercial in Chevron's We Agree national ad campaign.

All five finalists and their parents or guardians got an all-expenses-paid trip to Los Angeles for the final auditions. Clark nailed the role, in which he demonstrates a wireless-controlled robotic machine. Clark loves to build things in his spare time and hopes someday to become a mechanical engineer.

Clark and his fellow finalists also had an opportunity to meet U.S. Congressman George Miller during his recent tour of Helms Middle School. Rep. Miller, who represents California's 7th District and serves on the House Education and Workforce Committee, was born in Richmond, where he once worked at the Chevron Refinery.

According to Rep. Miller, "I believe that STEM education efforts like the Engineering Academy at Helms Middle School play a crucial role in assuring the future success of our children, our communities and our nation as a whole. I'm very encouraged that companies like Chevron are helping to change the way students learn math and science by funding organizations like Project Lead the Way."

To see the "Science Rules" commercial, visit the Richmond Refinery website, http://richmond.chevron.com/home/news.aspx.



WCCUSD Shares Community Resource Guide

If you've ever needed assistance with a health, financial, legal or other serious problem but didn't know how to locate the right resources, the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) is a great place to start. "The District assembled a comprehensive, interactive Community Resource Guide to help our teachers, counselors and staff steer families facing obstacles toward the proper resources," says Marin Trujillo, WCCUSD Community Engagement coordinator. "We've also made the guide available to the general public at our website."

The guide is easy to search, and you can read it online or download and print it. The guide includes detailed descriptions, contact information and live Web links for hundreds of nonprofit organizations, assistance programs, government agencies and other helpful Bay Area businesses.

Topics covered include:

- Emergency and crisis services (for example, homelessness, crisis counseling, suicide prevention, domestic violence, gang violence prevention and intervention, natural disasters)
- Health services (women's health, immunizations, local health clinics, family planning, mental health, dental and vision, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse)
- Free and low-cost insurance plans
- Financial assistance programs (utility bills, food stamps, food banks)
- Youth services (child care, foster youth, special needs, mentoring, tutoring)
- Senior citizen services
- Employment resources
- Immigration and refugee services
- Legal assistance

"One great tool is a chart that illustrates the multiple pathways people can take to get health care services, depending on their status (child, pregnant woman, low-income adult, documented or undocumented immigrant, etc.)," adds Trujillo. "You'll find that free or heavily subsidized health care is available to any child, regardless of their family or economic status."

The guide is available in English and Spanish at www.wccusd.net/CommunityResourceGuide.

Resources, Links and Feedback

To learn more about Chevron in Richmond, please visit www.chevronrichmond.com.

To share any comments or concerns you may have, please send an email to info@richmondrefinery.com, call 510-242-2000 or send correspondence to:

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For noise and odor complaints, please contact Chevron directly at 510-242-2127.

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