



Philip Nappi, bottom, and Tony Callea, top, are volunteers from LV80, a group of participants of a Choice Center leadership workshop. Here they work to restore a Child Haven cottage.

JEFERSON APPLAGATE

## GOING FOR THE **big** give

BY SARA CURETON

### Group hopes to attract Oprah's eye

A group of strangers that came together to better themselves has vowed to change their entire community. Known as LV80, a leadership class of Choice Center Worldwide, set a goal to raise \$250,000 in two weeks for the Through the Eyes of a Child Foundation, a fund that supports former Child Haven residents as part of their course requirements.

"It's not a very big charity so I wanted to bring it to light so the community would want to get more involved," said Erica Knudsen, who suggested the project to her LV80 teammates.

In addition to the fundraising, group members signed on to remodel a cottage at the Child Haven site. Local Home Depot and Ace Hardware stores donated materials to aid the facility's restoration. With roughly 18 Las Vegasans from a number of professional backgrounds, committees were assigned within the project to get the most out of the volunteers in the small time frame.

"We have someone working on all aspects of the project at all times," said Kira Kader, another LV80 volunteer.

Choice Center Chief Executive Officer

Robyn Williams said giving back as individuals and in a group uses a "declare and deliver method," in which each group sets a goal of minimum goods and services for a local nonprofit.

"Each program we offer is threaded with community service," she said. "One hundred percent of funds and goods raised go to the project."

In 2007, Choice Center teams aided such groups as the Nevada Association of Latin Americans, the Boys & Girls Club of Las Vegas and the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation.

"A lot of it is just working to create new partnerships within the community," Choice Center Chief Operating Officer Corrine Clement said.

The group's motivation has led to a YouTube video pitch to attract the attention of Oprah Winfrey, who hosts "Oprah's Big Give," a prime-time television program involving charity-driven competition.

"We really wanted this to be huge and let everyone else know how important it was to us," Knudsen said of the Web video.

To assist, visit [www.lv80united.com](http://www.lv80united.com).

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## DONATIONS

Along with food and beverage partner Levy Restaurants, Las Vegas Motor Speedway officials donated more than a ton of unused food from NASCAR weekend this month to Three Square Food Bank in North Las Vegas.

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar sponsored a March 9 event at its restaurant and Badlands Golf Course to raise money for the REBELution scholarship fund, created by University Of Nevada, Las Vegas Alumni to benefit deserving students at UNLV.

Community One Federal Credit Union employees concluded their annual United Way of Southern Nevada campaign by donating more than \$5,600 to the charity.

The Achievement Academy, a nonprofit school being planned for elementary students with Asperger's syndrome, high-functioning autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and related learning disabilities,

received a donation of Rich and Sue Mirman.

Gina Jackson, vice president of development for Nevada Development in Las Vegas, was elected to chair the board of the Nevada Homeless

The Epicurean Charitable Foundation awarded a grant to the Foundation for a Child Tomorrow. The foundation will fund underemployed and underutilized Southern Nevadans for job stability. The grant will directly fund foundation client costs, which include training and employment

Spread the Word Nevada Kids, a local charity sponsoring an A-Thon and book drive for Reading Week, Feb. 25-29. Approximately 12,000 students participated in "Pennies for Pages Reading

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The College of Southern Nevada Foundation will recognize seven community leaders at its annual Legacy of Achievement Gala on April 26 at Caesars Palace. Recipients, who will have an endowed scholarship at CSN in each of their names, are selected based on the overall and lasting impact of their contributions locally, statewide and nationally.

Legacy honorees include: KLAS-TV, Channel 8 anchorwoman Paula Francis; civil rights activist James McMillan, (posthumous) and Marie McMillan, an aviation instructor and international flight-speed recordholder; Julie Foley Murray, CEO of Three Square; Nevada Cancer Institute; former Nevada Power Co. President Donald "Pat" Shalmy and CSN Professor Larry Tomlinson (posthumous).

UNLV men's head basketball coach Lon Kruger is hosting several of the nation's top basketball coaches and sports fans from all across the country for the first-ever Coaches versus Cancer Las Vegas Golf Classic,

May 13-14 benefiting Cancer Society and Nevada Institute.

The tournament kicks off May 13, at TPC Summerlin, the Pro Golfers Association Las Vegas.

Make-A-Wish Foundation Southern Nevada, the Charitable Foundation Hollywood Resort and Casino, are hosting the first Wish gala, on May 17.

The black-tie affair and awareness for the organization, which grants wishes to children with life-threatening conditions in our community. They celebrate the granting of wishes in the Las Vegas

Also, the event will honor Richardson, who has granted 100 wishes herself and hundreds of thousands of others. The organization over the years and her husband, Bill, annual Santa's Open House Party for "wish children"

Submissions should be sent to Business Press researcher Sara Cureton at [scureton@lvbusinesspress.com](mailto:scureton@lvbusinesspress.com). They should include the name of the donor company, the charity that benefits, and the size of the contribution. A date for the contribution or event should also be included.

Any questions should be forwarded to Editor Matt Ward, 387-5298, or [mward@lvbusinesspress.com](mailto:mward@lvbusinesspress.com)