

**East Valley Family YMCA**  
5142 Tujunga Avenue, North Hollywood CA 91601  
(818) 763-5126 Fax (818) 763-0393

September 21, 2010

Request: Youth & Government Program Scholarship Funding  
Tax ID # 951644052  
Amount Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Valued Community Member:

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. Your commitment to our community and all its inhabitants is highly valued by the East Valley Family YMCA. With this letter, we are respectfully requesting a donation to support scholarships for disadvantaged youth to participate in our Youth & Government program.

The Youth & Government participants learn about the roles and responsibilities of government leadership and learn the political process experientially, from the role of a Senator to a Journalist. Your gift will allow a larger number of teens to participate this year by covering the program costs, approximately \$1,400 per student, which includes the expenses associated with the statewide trip to Sacramento.

These teens, like many of the youth who participate in our programs, do not have the financial means, nor would they otherwise have an opportunity to participate, in an initiative like this. The teens receiving scholarships have the potential to become future leaders of tomorrow. These youth are our hope for tomorrow.

The primary goal is to educate teens in our community about our state's political process. We accomplish this by, exposing the teen delegates to a Model Legislature and Model Court featuring California's executive, legislative, and judicial government practices. With a motto of "Democracy Must Be Learned by Each Generation," the program sets out to achieve just that.

During a six-month period, delegates write bills, prepare briefs, select governmental positions to role-play, attend statewide training conferences, and run for various elective offices. In February 2011, high school aged youth from the North Hollywood, Studio City, Toluca Lake, Universal City, and Sun Valley communities will participate with other YMCA youth in a statewide conference held in Sacramento at the State Capitol building. The other YMCA youth include Youth & Government delegates from YMCA's throughout the state of California. There, real government moves over and the teen



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government “takes over” using the historic halls, chambers, and offices of our State Capitol, Supreme Court, and Governor’s office.

The basic principle of the Model Legislature is to bring each delegations bill through the legislative process toward enactment into law. The teens create a mock government where they stand on the floor of the state house and present bills that they write with their fellow delegates, based on issues of crucial importance to them and their community.

The YMCA’s Youth & Government Program exemplifies the diversity of our community, and it epitomizes the values set forth by the YMCA’s Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. The teen delegates who complete the program walk away with a clear understanding of our political process, and learn valuable team building, leadership, and speaking skills which will empower them throughout the rest of their lives. As these teens transition into adult hood, they learn to make decisions as educated, politically conscious and active adults.

Thank you for your consideration or our request. A proper recognition of your support will include posting your name on a plaque which will be displayed at our YMCA facility in addition to a press release and a photo in the local newspapers, your name displayed as a program sponsor in all Youth & Government information, and an article in our Y Newsletter.

Sincerely,

Casey Banks  
Youth Development Specialist  
**East Valley Family YMCA**

