



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**VALERO BENICIA REFINERY ANNOUNCES \$375,000  
IN GRANTS TO LOCAL CHILDREN'S CHARITIES**

**Benicia, Calif.** – The Valero Benicia Refinery announced today, Sept. 28, that 31 children's charities nominated by refinery employees will be the recipients of grants totaling \$375,000. The funds were raised through the 2010 Valero Texas Open and Benefit for Children Golf Classic, held in San Antonio, Texas, last May.

“We want the organizations receiving grants to know how much we appreciate the work they do to improve children's lives” said Doug Comeau, vice president and general manager of the Valero Benicia Refinery. “With an uncertain economy and continued financial pressure around our nation, it gives us great joy to support the children of Benicia, Vallejo, Fairfield, Vacaville and other nearby communities.”

Since the Benicia refinery began distributing dollars from the annual golf tournament in 2001, nearly \$2.8 million in grants have been awarded to help Bay Area children. This figure does not include local charitable contributions and United Way contributions made by the refinery and its employees.

Thanks to the generosity of Valero's business partners and sponsors, the Valero Texas Open remains one of the most charitable tournaments on the PGA TOUR. Nationwide,

Valero will distribute \$8 million this year to children's charities in the areas where it does business from this single event alone.

The grants announced today, ranging in amounts from \$5,000 to \$30,000, will help agencies dedicated to enhancing children's lives by providing a variety of services and programs such camps for children with illnesses and disabilities, educational and recreational programs for at-risk youths, and resources for abused and neglected children.

The 31 Valero Benefit for Children local recipients for 2010 are:

**Bay Area Crisis Nursery – \$15,000**

The Crisis Nursery works to prevent the abuse and neglect of children by providing support to families who are in stress or crisis.

**Benicia Community Action Council – \$30,000**

The Benicia CAC provides disadvantaged youth an opportunity to attend a special summer camp program and receive vocational training support.

**Benicia Education Foundation – \$30,000**

Libraries and computer labs in all Benicia public schools, as well as early bird classes at the high school, will be supported by this grant.

**Benicia Historical Museum – \$15,000**

The museum offers fourth grade students, and other children, the opportunity to experience living history demonstrations, tours, and outreach programs that enhance the California history curriculum.

**Boys and Girls Club of El Sobrante – \$20,000**

After school and weekend enrichment programs like reading, math, art, technology, and sports help children succeed in school and in life.

**California Center for Civic Participation – \$10,000**

Benicia youth learn about state government through the annual Capitol Focus program held in Sacramento.

**Camp Taylor – \$10,000**

Camp Taylor operates free summer camps for children with heart disease. Complete, professional medical supervision is provided so special needs kids can participate in a wide range of traditional camp activities.

**Children's Network of Solano County– \$7,500**

Child abuse prevention and awareness programs offered by the Children's Network work to break the cycle of abuse.

**Children’s Nurturing Project – \$7,500**

Special needs children and their families from all of Solano County receive valuable assistance through the organization’s resource center.

**Continental of Omega Boys & Girls Club – \$20,000**

Kids have a safe and positive place to learn and play as they receive training in academics, technology, nutrition, sports and much more at the Vallejo clubhouse.

**Cornerstone Assisted Riding and Equitherapy (CARE) - \$5,000**

Disabled children who have conditions such as Autism and Down’s syndrome learn to overcome challenges and fears through learning to ride and care for horses .

**Court Appointed Special Advocates/ Solano County - \$10,000**

Abused, neglected, and other identified children navigate the court system with the help of the trained advocates of CASA.

**Covenant House - \$5,000**

Disadvantaged youth are offered a safe shelter, food, educational, and job opportunities to help them land on their feet and find purpose in life.

**Drowning Prevention Foundation - \$8,000**

Recognized both locally and nationally as a leading expert in drowning prevention methods, technology, policy and activities, the Drowning Prevention Foundation supports education programs in the greater Bay Area, as well as across the country.

**Farm2Kids/Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano - \$20,000**

Free, fresh produce is distributed to children attending schools located in low-income neighborhoods in order to both support their nutritional health and to help teach them good eating habits to help fight obesity and childhood diabetes.

**Fighting Back Partnership - \$15,000**

Underserved youth in Vallejo receive support through a variety of youth initiatives that strive to reduce alcohol and drug use among young people, and work to instill a sense of family and community.

**Foster A Dream - \$8,000**

Foster A Dream provides programs and resources that build the hopes, dreams and futures of Bay Area foster children, and serves as a guiding source their successful transition into the adult world.

**Impacting Communities of Tomorrow (ImpACT) - \$5,000**

Weekly academic enrichment classes in biology, music, history, and art, along with a strong mentorship program for youth, are the core of this all-volunteer led program.

**Junior Achievement of Northern California- \$5,000**

Junior Achievement programs in Benicia help prepare young people for the real world by showing them how to manage money and apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace.

**Lindsay Wildlife Museum - \$7,500**

Thousands of children learn about the environment in their classrooms through the museum's traveling education programs and on-site tours.

**Loma Vista Farm - \$15,000**

Over 18,000 kids visit the Loma Vista Farm annually to learn about nutrition, earth science, and the importance of caring for others.

**The Matt Garcia Foundation - \$10,000**

The dream of creating a positive and safe environment for youth continues through this organization's efforts to support youth, stop crime, and strengthen the community of Fairfield.

**Reach Out in Benicia - \$10,000**

As the only alcohol and drug program for youth in Benicia, Reach Out offers individual counseling, a crisis hotline, weekly group meetings, treatment referrals, and job assistance.

**Royal Family Kids Camp - \$7,500**

This unique weeklong camp is dedicated to children in foster care, many who have experienced hardships and health issues in their young lives, which the new mentoring program addresses.

**Solano Coalition for Better Health (Solano Kids Insurance Program - SKIP) - \$15,000**

Disadvantaged children receive comprehensive medical, dental and vision benefits through Solano Kids Insurance Program.

**Solano County Coats for Kids - \$9,000**

Hundreds of kids throughout Solano County are gifted coats and jackets to keep them warm and healthy.

**SonRise Equestrian Foundation - \$5,000**

This program makes a positive difference in the lives of youth living with social, emotional, or physical challenges, helping them develop confidence, integrity and responsibility.

**Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club - \$20,000**

Children are better able to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring individuals through after school and summer enrichment programs.

**Vacaville Public Education Foundation - \$10,000**

Science and math programs in Vacaville public schools will be enriched through a teacher mini-grant process for innovated classroom projects that would otherwise go unfunded, including the repair of a science department telescope.

**Vestia/Specialized Placement Program - \$10,000**

The Specialized Placement Program provides care and services for adolescent foster youth who are unable to be cared for in a traditional foster home due to increased behavioral or emotional issues.

**Watershed Explorers -- \$10,000**

Children from Fairfield-Suisun and Travis USD public schools will learn the local watershed and learn about the creatures that inhabit it through this field experience coursework.

“Without the generosity of Valero’s many business partners and sponsors, Valero would not be able to provide this level of financial support for children’s charities,” said Mike Ciskowski, Valero’s Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and the company executive overseeing the 2010 Valero Texas Open. “This is a true partnership among Valero employees, our sponsors and the PGA TOUR. Together, we are able to *Make Hope Happen* in lasting, impactful ways.”

**About Valero:**

*Valero Energy Corporation is a Fortune 500 company based in San Antonio with approximately 21,000 employees. The company owns or operates 15 refineries with a combined throughput capacity of approximately 2.8 million barrels per day. Valero is also a leading ethanol producer with 10 ethanol plants in the Midwest with a combined capacity of 1.1 billion gallons per year, and is one of the nation’s largest retail operators with approximately 5,800 retail and branded wholesale outlets in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean under the Valero, Diamond Shamrock, Shamrock, Ultramar and Beacon brands. Please visit [www.valero.com](http://www.valero.com) for more information.*