



Five nonprofits to receive Chevron job-creation grants

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Five community nonprofits are sharing \$1 million in grants from Chevron Corp. intended to focus specifically on job creation in Richmond and West Contra Costa.

The grants were formally presented Tuesday to Catholic Charities of the East Bay, The Latina Center, Lao Family Community Development Inc., Solar Richmond and the Stride Center at a ceremony at the Chevron Richmond refinery's Technology Center.

Nonprofits are accustomed to receiving corporate awards in small amounts, said Mary Fuller, communications and fund development director of Lao Family Community Development Inc. The \$250,000 for her organization "is such a big amount that can instantly make a huge impact," she said.

The money will help provide culturally and linguistically appropriate employment preparation support for the organization's diverse clientele of low-income Southeast Asian refugees in Richmond and San Pablo.

Catholic Charities, which serves immigrant and refugee communities in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, also will receive \$250,000. Its grant will go toward expanding its Project Access Job Training Program in partnership with RichmondWORKS and

West Contra Costa Adult Education.

"This is a great resource for Catholic Charities in terms of what we're trying to do with our new strategic plan, which really is to help people move out of poverty and into economic self-sufficiency," said Solomon Belette, chief executive officer of Catholic Charities, which has an annual budget of about \$5 million.

Project Access helps low-income West County residents with limited English skills land employment as clinical medical assistants.

Solar Richmond received \$150,000, which will be used to provide 10-week paid solar installation internships for low-income residents in partnership with RichmondBUILD, Rubicon Programs, YMCA of the East Bay, the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and the East Bay Center for Performing Arts.

The Latina Center will partner with the West Contra Costa Business Development Center in using its \$139,000 grant to offer personalized training and other support services to Latina women who aspire to start their own business.

A \$211,000 award will allow the Stride Center to provide focused technical and life-skills training and placement assistance for up to 75 Richmond residents in information technology careers.

The Stride Center will partner with Rubicon Programs, Richmond Children's Foundation, Opportunity West, Wardrobe for Opportunity, the RYSE Center, Niroga Institute and the Contra Costa County Employment and Human Service Department to provide focused services.

"I'm feeling so confident we're going to have an

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absolutely spectacular result, and we wouldn't be able to do it without this grant," said Barrie Hathaway, executive director of the Stride Center.

The recipients were chosen from 27 applicants that responded to a request for proposals by the Chevron refinery in September as part of parent Chevron Corp.'s new California Partnership initiative.

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**CHEVRON GRANTS, RECIPIENTS \$250,000 --
Catholic Charities of the East Bay \$250,000 --
Lao Family Community Development
\$211,000 -- Stride Center \$150,000 -- Solar
Richmond \$139,000 -- The Latina Center**

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