

Nevada Partners awarded \$50,000 from Sprint

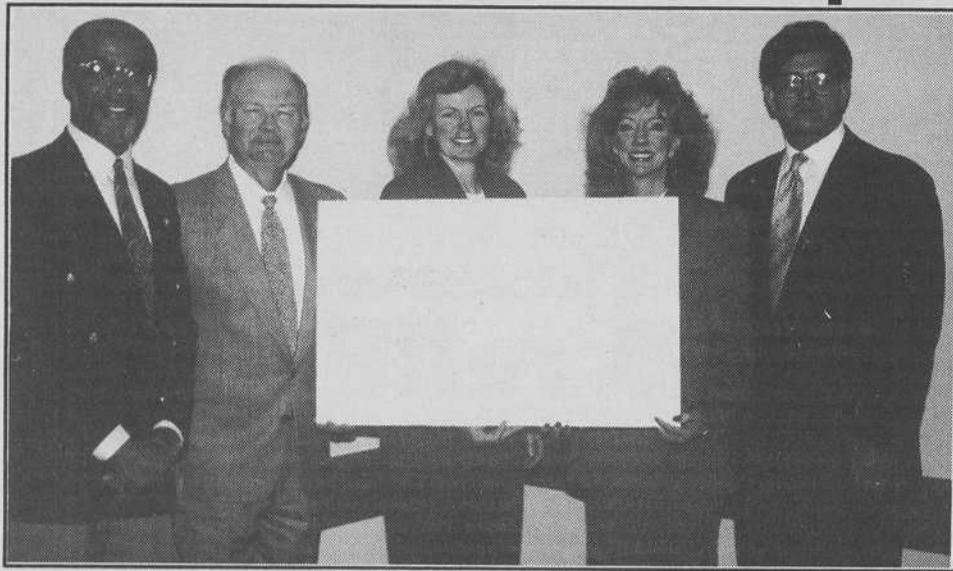
By Nichole Davis
Sentinel-Voice

Nevada Partners received a \$50,000 donation Monday from Sprint Central Telephone-Nevada to be used for a new computer program for teenagers and adolescents called Sprint to Success.

Although the program is still in the early planning stages, it is expected to provide additional computer training for teens in the form of a two-hour, four-day a week class held after school, said Mujahid Ramadan, executive director of Nevada Partners.

Mayor Jan Jones and David Griego, a buyer/minority business coordinator for Nevada Power, were among the board members who attended the presentation led by Diane Jett, president of Sprint Central-Telephone Nevada.

"It's very important for young people to have these skills so that they can have the ability to



Nevada Partners Executive Director Mujahid Ramadan (left) along with members of the board of directors Robert Maxey (2nd left), David Griego (right) and Mayor Jan Jones (2nd right) accepts the \$50,000 donation from Sprint-Centel president Diane Jett (center) on Monday.

be employed and be able to take care of themselves," Jett said.

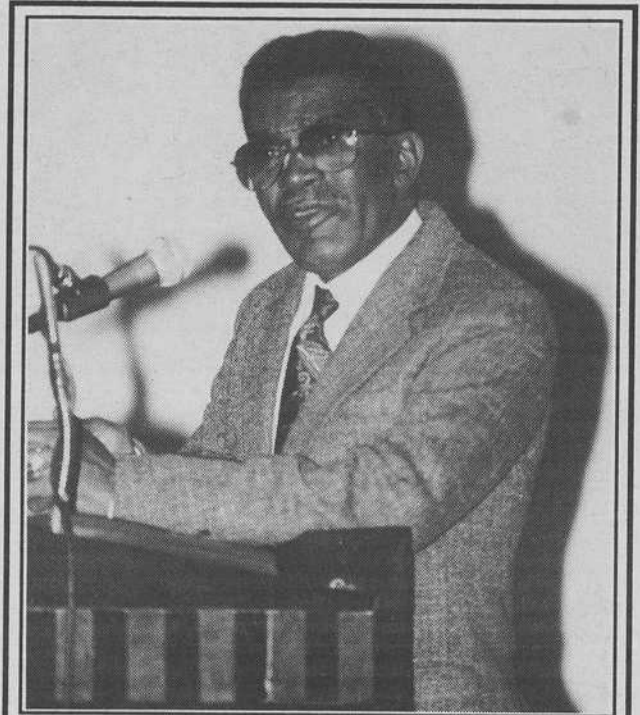
Nevada Partners is a privately funded non-profit organization that offers employment training to the at-risk and economically disadvantaged in Nevada. The program was started by Kirk

Kerkorian's Lincy Foundation after the 1992 civil unrest in Las Vegas as a summer youth employment program for teenagers.

According to board member and former-MGM Hotel and Casino CEO Bob Maxey, Centel is the first major contributor and

both groups hope for a long association.

"It seemed to be the time to go to the business community. They (Centel) were responsive and interested," Maxey said. "We're delighted that they have decided to become a part of our future."



Clarence Elliott, husband of still missing social worker Barbara Turner-Elliott speaks Sunday during a prayer vigil for his wife at St. James the Apostle Catholic Church.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Media

(Continued from Page 1)

if you don't like the way something is covered, call us," Zobell said. "I know some people think that their call won't make a difference, but I'm here to assure you that it will."

The audience was allotted 20-minute question and answer period in which area residents were allowed to voice their specific concerns. Unfortunately, some audience members thought it was too little time, too late in the program.

"I think the event's concept was wonderful, but when you have a two-hour forum and you allow the panelists to speak for one hour and 40 minutes and only dedicate 20 minutes to questions and answers, there's a problem," said Frantonia Pollins, a forum attendee. "The real issue here is the way we feel and we should have been given more time to express that to the media. That is the only way they can get an honest view and rectify the problem."

Juana Hart, LVABJ president and KLAS-TV 8 anchorwoman, acknowledged the forum's drawbacks and understood the participant's frustration, but said she was pleased with the overall outcome.

"I think it was helpful and we got something accomplished," Hart said. "The managers from major media outlets opened their ears and realized things could be done better, mistakes that have been made need not be made again and they made a commitment to work on those things."

Hart said she would like the forum to become an annual event in the least and has even considered an effort to hold quarterly discussions. LVABJ also has a variety of other events planned for the upcoming year, including a workshop designed to teach the community how to more effectively utilize the media.

Las Vegas resident, Franklin Simpson, applauded the efforts made, but said now that effort must translate into action with concerted efforts by the media to ensure continuation of representation from all minority groups. According to Simpson, the far-reaching influence of the media can have lasting effects.

"It's always good to heighten and discuss awareness about issues relevant to sensitivity, especially in the media because they have such a tremendous and profound influence over the masses," Simpson explained. "You can never have enough of these types of events."

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