CORPORATE CHALLENGE PROGRAM NETS \$26,750 IN FIRST QUARTER

VALLEJO – Businesses working in and with the City of Vallejo have donated \$26,750 to the City Manager's Corporate Challenge Program in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2003-2004.

The fund-raising is taking place on behalf of Fighting Back Partnership, a drug and alcohol treatment program in Vallejo, and the Vallejo Aquatic Club in an effort to keep Cunningham Pool open during the winter.

"We really appreciate it because we need somewhere to swim," said Brendan Kearny, 18, and captain of the Vallejo Aquatic Club team.



Council members present a key to the city to Jamie McCullough of Wells Fargo Bank.

The Corporate Challenge Program was created in June 2003 following the approval of the City's Fiscal Year 2003-2004 budget. Because of cutbacks in state funding an uncertainty with future state funding, the City was forced to reduce the level of funding it provided to various community-based organizations.

Wells Fargo Bank made a \$10,000 contribution to Fighting Back Partnership.

"We enjoy having the opportunity to help out the community," said Jamie McCullough, branch manager and vice president of Wells Fargo. "It's one of the truly rewarding parts of my job."

Fighting Back Partnership, which saw its grant for operations expire two years ago, was seeking \$180,000 this fiscal year. The City was only able to provide \$90,000, with a promise to try and raise the remaining \$90,000 through corporate giving.

To date \$22,750 has been raised for Fighting Back Partnership, while \$5,000 has been donated for Cunningham Pool.

"In this era of budget constraints and cutbacks at the state level, city governments can't do it alone," said City Manager David Martinez. "Corporate giving might be the trend of the future."