Mission

The mission of the “I Have a Dream”® (IHAD) program is to motivate and empower children from low-income communities to reach their education and career goals by providing a long-term intervention program of mentoring, tutoring, and cultural enrichment.

Upon graduation from high school, each Dreamer is eligible to receive a last-dollar, four-year tuition-assistance scholarship for college or vocational school.
December 2007

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is with great pleasure that we present our 2006-07 annual report for the “I Have a Dream”® Foundation of Boulder County, Inc. (IHAD). Our organization is one of the largest and most successful IHAD chapters in the country. We currently have five active classes and three classes that have graduated. Since 1990, we have served 400 low-income youth and their families in Boulder County.

Some of the organization’s highlights over the past year include:

- The high school graduations of seven individual Dreamers from the Kalmia, Casa and Broadway classes. All of these graduates are using their IHAD scholarship to attend college or vocational school! We have now distributed a total of $442,782 for college and vocational school scholarships and books to our graduated Dreamers. We thank our generous class sponsors for their assistance.
- We adopted 10 new Dreamers into our program and served an additional 27 students we call “Dreamer guests” thanks to funding from the Dakota Solomon Memorial Endowment Fund, the Boulder County Drop in the Bucket Fund and the Columbine, Pioneer and Sanchez class sponsors.
- We recruited, interviewed, screened, and placed 118 volunteer tutors and 71 mentors with Dreamers who needed our individualized attention and support. We also recruited 22 tennis volunteers.
- We held two extremely successful events this year. The Tenth Annual Dream-Maker Luncheon and the Fifth Annual Golf Tournament each raised a record amount of funds to support programs for Dreamers. We thank the committee members and attendees who helped make these events so successful.
- Jared Polis hosted our annual Donor Appreciation Event for the 46 members of our Dream-Builder Circle group (individuals or corporations who have made five-year financial commitments to support one or more Dreamers in the program.)
- We received funding to recruit eight AmeriCorps members through the National Notre Dame Mission Volunteer Program and two VISTA members through the Corporation for National and Community Service again this year.
- We received a $25,000 grant from the USTA National Tennis and Education Foundation to implement the “Aces for Kids” program. This provided tennis instruction and specialized tutors and teachers for the after-school programs.
- The University of Colorado Office of Financial Aid awarded IHAD another grant to implement the America Counts program in the community. We hosted 10 work-study students through this math tutoring program.
- Two Board members and a staff member received recognition for their efforts with IHAD and in the community: Kaye Howe received the “Pacesetter Community Service” award, Rajul Pandya received the “Multi-Cultural Award” in the Science Category from the Community Action Program and Molly Griffith, our Columbine Project Coordinator, received the “Make Time for Kids” Award from the City of Longmont and Assets for Youth Program.
- The Crayons to Calculators partnership that we helped establish with other area non-profits continued to grow, and provided 3,641 low-income students (including 250 Dreamers) with a new backpack of school supplies.
- The MentorsMatter collaboration that we helped found with several other mentoring programs and the Volunteer Connection, received a NOVA award from the Community Foundation serving Boulder County.
- IHAD’s Endowment Fund is currently $223,580. The interest income from this fund is used each year to award the Dakota Solomon Memorial Scholarship to a Dreamer attending the University of Colorado. Oscar Ponce was the most recent scholarship recipient.

We continue to be grateful to the individuals and organizations that have become sponsors, donors, partners, and volunteers investing in the lives of young people in our community. With your support, dedication and commitment, the “I Have a Dream”® Foundation of Boulder County continues to brighten the future of children in Boulder County. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter Braun
Chair, 2006-07 Board of Directors

Lori Canova, MSW
Chief Executive Officer
History
The “I Have a Dream”® Foundation of Boulder County (IHAD) was founded in 1990 as an independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our program follows the national “I Have a Dream” model established in New York in the mid-1980s by founder Eugene Lang (photographed above left). Once funding is secured, with the assistance of local school districts and housing-authority personnel, we identify groups of 50 low-income elementary school children deemed to be at high risk of becoming school dropouts. We establish a learning center exclusively for that group and agree to provide comprehensive long-term program support for every child from elementary school through high school. IHAD’s ultimate goal is for each Dreamer to graduate from high school prepared for higher education or a fulfilling career. Since its inception 17 years ago, IHAD Boulder County has grown from one Dreamer class and 36 students to an organization supporting eight classes and 400 low-income youth and their families (800 individuals). IHAD operates five year-round learning centers throughout the county—in Boulder, Lafayette, and Longmont.

Unique program aspects:
• The “I Have a Dream” program is a long-term and year-round program that works with the same group of children from the elementary school years through college.
• One-hundred percent of the Dreamers are low-income: they either live in low-income housing projects, or they are eligible for the federal free and reduced lunch program at their school.
• “I Have a Dream” does not pick the “cream of the crop” or the children most “at risk.” Every project casts a broad net, giving each child, regardless of ability, an equal opportunity to achieve his/her academic and career goals.
• “I Have a Dream” provides more than just academic enrichment to help our students achieve their dreams. We know that relationships and life skills make the crucial difference. We build a bond of trust and friendship that often makes our staff the only safe harbor in our Dreamers stormy lives.
• Children are taught at an early age that college is possible for them. As they mature, they receive extensive career and college preparation guidance, visit campuses, and are assisted throughout the application process.
• Our staff works with parents to encourage greater understanding of and support for their child’s academic development. Staff serve as a liaison to teachers, counselors, neighbors, and community leaders.
• Productive citizenship is the ultimate measure of success and is measured individually. “Helping Dreamers become Achievers, One Child at a Time.”

“Thanks to the Dreamer program my child will have the opportunity to go to college and be someone” -Parent

Results
“I Have a Dream” has dramatically increased graduation rates of Dreamers.
• 66% of the first class of Dreamers graduated from high school when only 34% were expected to graduate (according to the local high school statistics), doubling the expected graduation rate.
• 90% of the second and third classes of Dreamers graduated, in a school district with peer group graduation rates of less than 60%.

Dreamers have exceptionally high rates of post-secondary attendance.
• 86% of the Dreamer graduates have enrolled in college or vocational school, a rate much higher than that of low-income high school graduates (only 22% enroll statewide.)

“I Have a Dream” impacts the entire community.
• According to statistics from Boulder Housing Partners (the local housing authority), over the past seven years, crime and vandalism reports have been reduced by 50% in the low-income public housing neighborhoods where “I Have a Dream” has been present and has provided services.
Boulder Class Sponsored by Bob and Diane Greenlee
The Boulder Class was our first group (36 Dreamers) adopted from the San Juan del Centro housing development in Boulder in 1990 as third through fifth graders. We doubled the expected graduation rate for the known Dreamers from this group, and 86 percent of those graduates went on to college or vocational school.

Lafayette Class Sponsored by Dianne Ladd & Bruce Holland and Edie Ortega
Our first Lafayette Class of 79 Dreamers was selected in 4th grade from the free and reduced lunch program from three elementary schools—Lafayette, Pioneer and Ryan. Ninety-one percent of the known Dreamers from this group graduated in 2000 and 87 percent of those graduates have gone on to higher education.

Boulder - Kalmia Class Sponsored by Midge Korczak
The Kalmia Class was our first collaboration with the Boulder Housing Partners (City of Boulder Housing Authority) and the University of Colorado. These 31 high school and college-aged Dreamers were adopted when they were third through fifth graders from three of the City of Boulder low-income housing sites (Kalmia, Iris Hawthorne and the Diagonal.) Eighty-four percent of these known Kalmia Dreamers graduated in 2007!

Boulder - Broadway Class Sponsored by Linda Shoemaker and Steve Brett
Established with a Department of Education GEAR UP grant, this class is a collaboration with Boulder Housing Partners, CU, and the Boulder Valley School District. Our 41 Broadway Dreamers, adopted as third through seventh graders, are now in high school and college and reside in three of the City of Boulder’s low-income housing neighborhoods (Broadway, Iris Hawthorne and Kalmia.)

Longmont – Casa Class Sponsored by Debra Lane and Steve Szabo
In partnership with Boulder County Housing Authority and the St. Vrain Valley School District, this class is at the County’s Casa de la Esperanza low-income housing site in Longmont and serves 52 children, fourth grade through college. We adopted all the children from this low-income housing community.

Lafayette – Pioneer Class Sponsored by Brenda and Paul Lilly (the Lilly Foundation)
In collaboration with Boulder Valley School District, 45 Dreamers were adopted from Pioneer Elementary School, a dual language school in Lafayette in the second grade. These Dreamers are now ninth graders at Centaurus High School.

Lafayette – Sanchez Class Sponsored by Dee and Tom Perry, and Wilma and Mike Ormsbee
Another school-based program in collaboration with Boulder Valley School District, this program selected 53 low-income second graders at Sanchez Elementary School in Lafayette. This year the Dreamers are in the eighth grade and attend Ancevine Middle School.

Longmont – Columbine Class Sponsored by Catherine Ray
This St. Vrain Valley School District class of 50 low-income students was in second grade at Columbine Elementary School when they were adopted. They are now in eighth grade and attend Trail Ridge Middle School in Longmont.

“The greatest factor in helping kids rise out of poverty is education. Providing an education, either high school completion or college, to a low-income child is the single most important gift one can give that will truly “make a difference” to the child and the society as a whole. Providing a chance for these children to attend post-secondary school means the difference between a life of opportunity and one of hopelessness. They already know hopelessness. Now you can give them the chance to know a brighter future. The personal satisfaction from watching these children grow and thrive cannot be equaled.” — Midge Korczak, Kalmia Class Sponsor
“I Have a Dream” provides the following programs focused on specific outcomes to each Dreamer to ensure academic and career success:

**Outcome #1: Dreamers achieve academic success**

### Learning Centers

Our five learning centers operate five days per week after school to provide comprehensive resources that encourage academic success and healthy social development—ultimately to prevent students from dropping out of school. Activities are designed to improve literacy and develop math and science aptitude, assist with homework completion, increase school attendance, strengthen the connection to school, and enhance social skills.

Accomplishments this year include:

- 98% of Dreamers stayed in school.
- Average cumulative GPA for Dreamers was 2.5.
- Dreamers increased their CSAP scores in reading and writing.
- Two hundred fifty Dreamers received school supplies from the *Crayons to Calculators* program.
- Seventeen Sanchez Dreamers participated in a five-week multiplication class led by Angevine Middle School teacher Dr. John Lamb. The class used pneumonic devices to help students retain information while studying.
- Columbine Dreamers participated in the *Reading Around the World* program where they met in book groups of five to eight to read together and discuss their books.

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### Tutoring and Academic Support

More than 100 community volunteers served as tutors during the last school year, providing assistance with homework and individualized attention on literacy, math, and science skills.

- We received a grant from *Dreamcatchers* to provide a 10 week Critical Thinking Skills Reading Program for 19 Dreamers.
- 100% of Dreamers surveyed report that IHAD helps them get better grades.
- 95% of Dreamers surveyed report that IHAD helps them improve their study skills.

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### Computer Technology Program

Each learning center is equipped with a computer lab. “I Have a Dream” provides access to the Internet, daily guidance with educational software, and general computer training.

- Special computer technology sessions were provided through the *YWCA Wired Girls & Computer Dudes* program. Dreamers attended a digital camera workshop where they learned how to download pictures from a camera and design photos using Photoshop.

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“I feel that education is the key to having choices in your life and the Dreamer program stresses this.” - Parent

“Tutoring and Academic Support”

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― Parent

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“But I like best about Dreamers is the tutors because they are so nice and they help me with my homework.” - Dreamer

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― Dreamer

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“I like that they care about me and they want me to do the best I can. I get lots of motivation.” - Dreamer
Outcome #2: Dreamers attain the resources and attributes necessary for self-sufficiency

Mentoring Program—Developing caring relationships with positive adult role models
Seventy-one children were paired to a personal adult mentor. For these children, the personal attention, instruction, counseling, and friendship of an adult is invaluable. These children not only benefit from the guidance and instruction, but also find each adult to be a wonderful role model—usually a college graduate who is committed to the community and to a career, and focused on education.

- IHAD is a founding member of MentorsMatter, a collaborative effort to promote the benefits of mentoring and educate the community about the needs of at-risk youth in Boulder County, including the need for Latino and male mentors.
- In a recent survey, 92% of the Dreamers who responded said that they had developed a caring and trusting relationship with an adult role model.

Family Outreach Program - Increasing parental involvement and educational expectations in Dreamers’ lives
Each bilingual project coordinator establishes ongoing, personalized relationships with all the Dreamers and their families (a total of over 800 people) through individual home visits, parent meetings, and family activities.

- Through the Feeding Families program, IHAD parents can shop at Community Food Share for groceries with a voucher they earn for participation in IHAD programs. This program has been extremely successful in increasing parental involvement.
- More than 200 people participate each year in the Adopt-a-Family program, which provides Dreamers and their families with gifts during the holiday season.
- 92% of Dreamer parents reported they are now more involved in their child’s academic development and extra-curricular activities because of IHAD.

Counseling & Life Skills—Gaining the knowledge that enables positive life choices and resistance skills
Project coordinators develop personal relationships with each Dreamer in their class. Emphasis is placed on individual counseling, help with personal issues, academic motivation, and referrals to other support organizations when appropriate. Regular Dreamer meetings focus on a variety of life-skills issues, including nutrition, peer pressure, and the decision-making process. All project coordinators are bilingual.

- Older Dreamers from the Broadway class have prepared a prevention training addressing the dangers of drunk driving which will be presented to younger Dreamers as part of our Hindsight program.
- Access Counseling and the Mental Health Association provided counseling and groups to our Dreamers.
- 93% of Dreamers reported that IHAD helps them make better life decisions.

“It’s such a positive place to be, with many people to look up to. The opportunities the Dreamer program has given to my child has really had a positive effect” - Parent

Elyana Cohen, Sanchez project coordinator, has a long history with IHAD. Beginning as an AmeriCorps member seven years ago, Elyana has grown with both IHAD and the Dreamers she has inspired and guided. Being a project coordinator requires many roles: teacher, counselor, disciplinarian, parental figure, tutor, mentor, taxi driver, and diplomat. Elyana is one of five project coordinators at IHAD juggling multiple tasks throughout the day. This year, Elyana and her Dreamers reached their half-way point in the program. “This year I have done a lot of case management, and worked through some very difficult situations with Dreamers. My long term relationship with each Dreamer enables me to have a meaningful impact in their lives.”

Jared Polis shares gifts through the Adopt-a-Family program.
Outcome #3: Dreamers are prepared to achieve meaningful employment

Career Choices & College Preparation
Dreamers are counseled with emphasis on student motivation, academic achievement, and career exploration. As children mature, staff members provide tours of schools and workplaces, job-shadowing days, connection to career mentors, paid summer internships, and visits to annual college fairs hosted for our Dreamers by the University of Colorado, Colorado State, Metro State, and other institutions.

- We developed a new partnership with Workforce Boulder County which provided job-skills workshops, employment fairs and summer internships for our Dreamers.
- 99% of Dreamer parents who responded in a recent survey think their child will go to college and 100% of Dreamers surveyed reported that they attend IHAD activities because they want to graduate from high school and attend college.

AmeriCorps Program
Through a collaborative partnership with the Notre Dame Mission Volunteer Program and the Corporation for National and Community Service, IHAD participates in the AmeriCorps program. The impact of this effort on our program is enormous – it provides eight AmeriCorps service members for a year of full-time direct program service to the Dreamers. AmeriCorps members are college graduates and are wonderful role models for at-risk youth. Our two VISTA AmeriCorps members help with volunteer management and fundraising efforts.

Outcome #4: Dreamers are connected to the community and participate in activities that reflect an understanding of citizenship

Enrichment and Community Service
Although success in school is our primary focus, we believe opportunities for academic and career success are significantly enhanced through social confidence, cultural appreciation, commitment to good citizenship, and well-developed leadership skills. Our programs include weekly Friday Enrichment Days, Teen Nights, and monthly field trips to cultural and athletic events. Leadership activities include wilderness outings and speaking engagements at IHAD events and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations. Community service examples include stocking shelves at Community Food Share and planting trees with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers.

- 87% of Dreamers reported in a recent survey that they spend more time looking for opportunities to help others in the community.
- 87% of Dreamers reported that they are more interested in their community and world problems.

Summer Program
Throughout the summer, we keep Dreamers engaged in activities designed to build academic, social, and leadership skills through literacy, math, arts, recreational, and community service projects.

- This past summer Dreamers planted native Colorado plants in the St. Vrain State Park, attended a two week pre-collegiate science camp, participated in an art enrichment program through the Old Firehouse Art Center, enjoyed a rafting trip through the City Wild program, participated in the Open Fairways golf program, attended a National “I Have a Dream” Conference in Denver and much more.
- 91% of Dreamers surveyed report that IHAD helps them stay out of trouble.

“I love the summer program. I know that my kids are involved in an active and positive manner while I am at work”—Parent
### 2006 Financial Information

**2006 Revenue - $1,244,208**

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<th>Category</th>
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**2006 Expenses - $1,008,636**

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### 2006 Revenue - $1,244,208

11% 4%

18%

24%

43%

81%
Pioneer Dreamers get ready to play a match of tennis as part of the “Aces for Kids” tennis program.

“I Have a Dream teaches my child to focus on the future and shows her that dreams can come true.” - Parent

Margaret McCollan
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in memory of Dakota Solomon
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Stacey Blakely
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City of Longmont Youth Services
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Hilwaukee College
Lafayette Lions Club
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Notre Dame Mission
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Notre Dame Mission
Wyoming Services, Inc.
with AmeriCorps VISTA member, Doug Davis.

Dreamers run in the Bolder Boulder marathon with AmeriCorps VISTA member, Doug Davis.

2006 Contributors

Many thanks to all our 2006 donors and volunteers. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

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