“I Have a Dream”
Foundation of Boulder County

educate reform achieve

motivate empower

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009
**Mission**

The mission of the “I Have a Dream” program is to motivate and empower children from low-income communities to reach their educational 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.

**History**

The “I Have a Dream” Foundation of Boulder County was founded in 1990 as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The program follows the national “I Have a Dream” model established in New York in the mid-1980’s by founder Eugene Lang. Once funding is secured, groups of approximately 50 low-income elementary school children who are deemed at high risk for dropping out of high school are identified with the assistance of local school districts and housing-authority personnel. A learning center is established exclusively for that group to provide comprehensive long-term program support for every child from elementary school through high school. The ultimate goal of “I Have a Dream” is for each Dreamer to graduate from high school prepared for higher education or a fulfilling career. Since its inception 19 years ago, the “I Have a Dream” Foundation of Boulder County has grown from one Dreamer class consisting of 36 students to an organization supporting nine classes and 450 low-income youth and their families (1,000 individuals). “I Have a Dream” operates five year-round learning centers in Boulder, Lafayette, and Longmont.

**Unique Program Aspects**

- “I Have a Dream” is a long-term program that works with the same children from elementary school through college.
- One-hundred percent of the Dreamers are low-income (they live in low-income housing projects, or are eligible for free & reduced lunch.)
- “I Have a Dream” does not pick the “cream of the crop” or the children most “at risk.” Every project gives 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 relationships that often makes our staff the only safe harbor in our Dreamers stormy lives.
- Productive citizenship is the ultimate measure of success.

What I like best about “I Have a Dream” is all the activities and the community service projects. And that they’re always there to support you and want you to do better in school and to challenge yourself in things that you never imagined you could do. In other words they’re like my second family! - Dreamer
September 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2008 annual report for the “I Have a Dream”® Foundation of Boulder County. As we reflect on the past year, it was a year of change and growth – starting with the completion and graduation of the Kalmia Dreamer class, the high-school graduation of several Broadway and Casa Dreamers, the 8th grade graduation of the Sanchez and Columbine Dreamer classes and the adoption of the Iris Dreamer class.

We want to acknowledge the group of 10 Iris Class sponsors for their generous commitment to help us launch our newest class (see their names on the class history page.) Thanks to their support, 50 youth were added to our organization from the Broadway East and Iris/Hawthorne low-income housing sites. Thanks to our partnership with Boulder Housing Partners, a new 3,300 square foot community center was built for these new Dreamers. Foothills United Way Foundation and the Saint John’s Foundation also contributed funding for the center. IBM’s Teaming for Technology program provided a new computer lab for the students to use and many community members donated furniture and books to fill the center for the Dreamers to use on a daily basis.

In June of 2008, we celebrated the high-school graduation of 14 Dreamers from the Broadway and Casa classes and all of these graduates are using their “I Have a Dream” scholarship to attend college or vocational school! We have now distributed a total of $659,024 in college and vocational school scholarships for tuition and books for our graduated Dreamers. We thank our generous class sponsors for their assistance. We also recruited, interviewed, and placed 221 volunteer tutors and mentors with Dreamers who needed individualized attention.

We held several fundraising events this past year - the Dream-Maker Luncheon, the first annual Dream-Maker Breakfast in Longmont and the Golf Tournament which each raised a record amount of funds to support ongoing programs for Dreamers. We were also selected as the beneficiary of the Freeman Myre Corporate Challenge Race. We thank the committee members and attendees who helped make each of these events a success.

In appreciation of our sponsors, major donors and 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 held spring and summer donor appreciation events at the spectacular homes of Audrey Nelson/Geoff Simpson and Shari and Stephen Tebo.

The Notre Dame Mission Volunteer Program and the Corporation for National and Community Service awarded us another year of funding to recruit 14 AmeriCorps members and a VISTA member to provide a year of service to our program and the Dreamers.

Since our inception in 1990, we have served over 450 low-income youth and their families in Boulder County, dramatically reducing the high-school drop-out rate and increasing college attendance for low-income youth. We remain one of the largest and most successful “I Have a Dream” chapters in the country.

We couldn’t be this successful without the support, dedication and commitment of the many individuals and organizations that have become sponsors, donors, partners, and volunteers investing their time and financial resources in the lives of the young people in our community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rajul Pandya
Chair, 2008-2009 Board of Directors

Lori Canova, MSW
Chief Executive Officer
“I Have a Dream” provides the following programs to ensure academic & career success for each Dreamer:

**Year-Round Learning Centers and Study-Skills Classes**
Our five learning centers operate daily to provide comprehensive resources that are designed to improve literacy, develop math and science aptitude, assist with homework completion, increase school attendance and strengthen the connection to school. Each high-school Dreamer attends a Dreamer Study-Skills class taught by their Project Coordinator where they learn study-skills and receive tutoring.

**Tutoring & Academic Support**
We match every Dreamer in need of special assistance to a tutor who helps with homework and provides individualized attention on literacy, math, and science skills.

**Computer Technology Program**
“I Have a Dream” provides access to the Internet, daily guidance with educational software, and computer training at each learning center’s computer lab.

**Mentoring Program**
Dreamers receive personal guidance and academic support from volunteer mentors who are caring adult role models. For these children, the personal attention, guidance, counseling, and friendship of a trusting adult is invaluable.

**Family Outreach Program**
Our goal is to partner with each parent, and to teach and inform those who lack a full understanding of their role in their child’s academic development process. Each bilingual project coordinator establishes ongoing, personalized relationships with all of the families through individual home visits, parent meetings, parent/teacher conferences and family activities.

**Counseling & Life Skills**
Project coordinators develop personal relationships with each Dreamer in their class to teach and model positive life choices and resistance skills. 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.

**Crayons to Calculators**
The Crayons to Calculators partnership we helped establish with other area non-profits provides over 4,000 low-income students (including 250 Dreamers) each year with a new backpack of school supplies.

**Tuition-Assistance Scholarships**
Upon graduation from high school, each Dreamer is eligible to receive a four-year tuition assistance scholarship for college or vocational school.

**AmeriCorps Program**
Through a collaborative partnership with the Notre Dame Mission Volunteer Program and the Corporation for National and Community Service, “I Have a Dream” participates in the AmeriCorps program. The impact of this effort on our program is enormous—it provides 14 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. VISTA AmeriCorps members help with volunteer management and fundraising efforts.

**Enrichment, Leadership & Community Service**
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 enrichment days, teen nights, and monthly field trips to cultural and athletic events. Leadership activities include wilderness outings and speaking engagements at “I Have a Dream” events and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations. Community service examples include stocking shelves at Community Food Share and planting trees with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers.

**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.

**Career & 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 CSU, CU, DU, Metro, Regis and other institutions. As graduation approaches, Dreamers receive hands-on assistance and guidance in preparation for college or other post-secondary school admissions.
**Boulder-Iris Class**
*Sponsored by: Peter, Dina & Gail Aweida; Randy Bailey & Donna Werner; Nancy & Al Bogges; Steve Brett & Linda Shoemaker; Ayal & Jennifer Korczak; Kevin & Robin Luff; Lynn Morgan; Rajul & Amy Pandya/Wiener Family Futures Foundation; Kristen & Ariel Solomon (Dakota Memorial Fund); and Judy & Jim Warner. Scholarship contributors: Anthony Carter; Delta Kappa Gamma; Foothills United Way Foundation; and two Anonymous Donors.*

This new class of 50 Dreamers was adopted in the Fall of 2008 from the Broadway Housing Site in Boulder. Thanks to a partnership with Boulder Housing Partners, a new community center has been built to accommodate these Dreamers.

**Longmont-Columbine Class Sponsored by Catherine & Jim Ray**

This St. Vrain Valley School District class consists of 50 low-income students who were adopted while in the second grade at Columbine Elementary School in Longmont. They are now in the tenth grade at Longmont’s Skyline High School.

**Lafayette-Sanchez Class**
*Sponsored by Dee & Tom Perry and Wilma & Mike Ormsbee*

In collaboration with the Boulder Valley School district, this program selected 53 low-income second graders from Sanchez Elementary School in Lafayette. This year the Dreamers are in the tenth grade at Centaurus High School.

**Lafayette-Pioneer Class sponsored by Brenda & Paul Lilly (The Lilly Foundation)**

Working together with the Boulder Valley School District, 45 second grade Dreamers were adopted from Pioneer Elementary School, a dual language school. These Dreamers are now eleventh graders at Centaurus High School.

**Longmont-Casa Class Sponsored by Debra Lane & Steve Szabo**

In partnership with the Boulder County Housing Authority and the St. Vrain Valley School District, this class serves 53 children ranging from eighth grade to college. All children were chosen from the Casa de la Esperanza low-income housing site in Longmont and currently attend Sunset Middle School and Niwot High School.

**Boulder-Broadway Class**
*Sponsored by Linda Shoemaker & Steve Brett*

The Department of Education GEAR UP grant, Boulder Housing Partners, CU, and the Boulder Valley School District helped make the adoption of this class a reality. These 41 Dreamers, adopted as third through seventh graders were selected from three low-income public housing sites: Broadway; Iris Hawthorne; and Kalmia. In 2009, 90% of the Dreamers graduated high school with 80% pursuing higher education.

**Boulder-Kalmia Class Sponsored by Midge Korczak**

This project was the first collaboration with Boulder Housing Partners and the University of Colorado. These 31 high school and college-aged Dreamers were adopted when they were third through fifth graders from the housing sites Kalmia, Iris Hawthorne, and the Diagonal. In 2007, 90% of the Kalmia Dreamers graduated from high school and 93% pursued higher education.

**Lafayette Class Sponsored by Dianne Ladd & Bruce Holland**

The first Lafayette Class of 79 4th grade Dreamers was selected from the free and reduced lunch program from three elementary schools – Lafayette, Pioneer, and Ryan. In 2000, 91% of the Dreamers graduated from high school and 87% pursued higher education.

**Boulder Class Sponsored by Bob and Diane Greenlee**

The Boulder Class was our first group consisting of 36 Dreamers adopted from the San Juan del Centro housing development in Boulder. We successfully doubled the expected high school graduation rate, and 86% of the graduates went on to college or vocational school.
ACHIEVING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

♦ 100% of the Dreamers scored higher than the Hispanic/Limited English Proficient population in three CSAP areas (reading, writing and math) and improved in both the reading and writing CSAP areas.

♦ The average daily school attendance for Dreamers was 90%.

♦ The average GPA for middle-school Dreamers was 2.62 (31% received a GPA of 3.0 or higher.) The average GPA for high-school Dreamers was 2.24 (20% received a GPA of 3.0 or higher.)

♦ The Columbine Project Coordinator helped develop and taught a WIRED curriculum for a pilot freshman class at Skyline High School. The Broadway Class held an ACT prep class for the juniors and seniors, which significantly increased their scores.

♦ All five of the high-school classes (Broadway, Casa, Columbine, Pioneer and Sanchez) taught a study-skills class for Dreamers at their respective high schools and utilized resources from College in Colorado, CU’s Public Achievement program and Junior Achievement.

ATTAINING RESOURCES AND ATTRIBUTES NECESSARY FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY

♦ 95% of Dreamers reported that they feel good about their future and 93% of the Dreamers reported that they have a caring and trusting relationship with an adult in “I Have a Dream”.

♦ 92% of the Dreamers reported that they are making positive life choices and learning positive life skills.

♦ Each Dreamer class implemented Girls and Boys Clubs to address issues such as gang prevention, teen dating, conflict resolution and more.

PREPARING FOR MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

♦ 100% of Dreamers reported that they realize the connection between getting good grades and having a successful career.

♦ 95% of Dreamers reported that they have learned skills needed for employment and 95% reported that they have been exposed to career options.

♦ Dreamers toured Children’s Hospital, Google, KGNU, Denver Courthouse, a veterinarian and graphic designer’s offices and others to learn about different career opportunities.

♦ We formed a collaboration with CU, Workforce Boulder County and the Boulder Chamber’s Leadership Boulder group to form the “SEEDing the Dream” internship program which placed 32 Dreamers in summer internships at CU, Boulder Community Hospital, “I Have a Dream”, City of Longmont, and other businesses.

CONNECTING TO THE COMMUNITY

♦ 90% of the Dreamers reported that they feel better about themselves because they help others and 87% of Dreamers reported that they are more interested in their community and world problems.

♦ 81% of Dreamers reported that they are volunteering and 98% of Dreamers participated in extra-curricular activities.

♦ Dreamers planted trees for Wildlands Restoration Volunteers; collected aluminum tabs to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House; wrapped gifts for a women’s shelter; stocked shelves for Community Food Share; marched and carried the torch during MLK Day; and sorted recyclable items for Eco Cycle.

“I Have a Dream” dramatically increases high-school graduation rates and post-secondary attendance.

⇒ 66% of the first class of Dreamers graduated from high school in 1998 when only 34% were expected to graduate (according to the local high school statistics), doubling the expected graduation rate. 86% went on to attend post secondary education and so far 72% have graduated from college/vocational school.

⇒ 90% of the second, third and fourth classes of Dreamers graduated (in 2000, 2007 and 2009), in a school district with peer graduation rates of less than 60%. Of the 90% that graduated, 86% went on to attend post secondary education (22% of similar populations attend post secondary education in Colorado).

“I Have a Dream” impacts the entire community.

⇒ According to statistics from Boulder Housing Partners (the local housing authority), over the past eight 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.
Profiles of a few 2008 Graduates

We had 14 Dreamers graduate in 2008 from the Broadway and Casa classes. These Dreamers have battled statistics all of their lives. It is estimated that only 50-60% of these low-income students would graduate from high school. Despite language barriers, peer pressure, problems at home, and struggles with academics, the Dreamers have far surpassed the expected statistics with 90% of the Dreamers graduating from high school and 86% continuing on to pursue higher education.

Elizabeth Vasquez
(Broadway Class)
Elizabeth is a graduate of Boulder High School. She attends Front Range Community College and plans to transfer to CU to study biology.

Diana Morris
(Broadway Class)
Diana is a graduate of Arapahoe Ridge High School. She is studying political science at Metro State College in Denver.

David Meza
(Broadway Class)
David is a graduate of Boulder High School. He attends DU where he is pursuing a degree in business while playing soccer.

In addition to the class graduations, two additional milestones were accomplished in 2008. We adopted our ninth Dreamer class and a brand new community center was built for programming for this new class.

Thanks to 10 class sponsors and several scholarship donors (see page 5 for a listing of their names), 50 third through sixth grade students living at the Broadway East housing site in North Boulder (see photo on front cover) became inducted as the new “Iris” Dreamer class. One hundred percent of these students qualified for the free and reduced lunch program. Board Chair Rajul Pandya, Denver Nuggets Point Guard and Alumni Dreamer Anthony Carter, Congressman Jared Polis, BVSD Superintendent Chris King, University of Colorado Vice Chancellor Dr. Sallye McKee, Boulder County “I Have a Dream” CEO Lori Canova, and National “I Have a Dream’s” CEO Iris Chen all welcomed the Dreamers. Francisco Mejias was appointed as the Project Coordinator for this class.

Funding from Boulder Housing Partners, the St. John’s Foundation and the United Way Foundation resulted in a two-story community center that was built at the Broadway East housing site where Iris Dreamers reside. The community center’s facilities include a full computer lab (donated by IBM’s Teaming for Technology Program), classrooms and office facilities. “This really is a dream come true for us”, said Lori Canova, CEO. “The center is a great space that will be a lot more conducive to the learning environment for the Dreamers for many years to come.”
The “I Have a Dream” Foundation demonstrated sound fiscal management and accountability measures in 2008, as shown in the audit completed by Haynie and Company. The financial statements shown are consolidating statements that represent the “I Have a Dream” Foundation of Boulder County. A full audit report is available upon request.

**Operating Statement of Activities**

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<td>Support</td>
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<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
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**Scholarship Statement of Activities**

| Scholarship Investments                  | ($96,872) |
| Scholarship Funds Distributed            | 66,045    |
| Scholarship Income/Loss                  | ($162,916) |

**Statement of Financial Position**

As of December 31, 2008

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<th>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</th>
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<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</td>
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**The Economic Impact of Low Graduation Rates**

- Nearly one-third of all public high school students—and nearly one half of all African Americans, Hispanics and native Americans—fail to graduate from public high school with their class. Here in Boulder County, 40 percent of Hispanic students in the Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley School Districts fail to graduate with their class.

- If the students who dropped out of the class of 2008 had graduated, the nation’s economy would have benefited from an additional $319 billion in income over their lifetimes.

- Dropouts earn $9,200 less per year than high school graduates and more than $1 million less over a lifetime than college graduates.

- Dropouts are more likely than high school graduates to be unemployed, in poor health, living in poverty, on public assistance, and single parents with children who drop out of high school.

- The government would reap $45 billion in extra tax revenues and reduced costs in public health, crime, and welfare payments if the number of high school dropouts among 20-year olds in the U.S. today, which numbers more than 700,000 individuals, were cut in half.

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“I would say that the Dreamer students at Casey consistently meet high expectations in class. They are prepared and achieve in math and other subject areas. It seems that “I Have a Dream” can help students who sometimes represent the "achievement gap" move above and beyond. It is the one program that I have seen in the schools work 100% of the time in helping students do better in school and life.” - Schuyler van Zante, Casey Middle School Mathematics
A tutor assists a Dreamer with her homework assignment.
Many thanks to all of our 2008 donors and volunteers.
We apologize for any errors or omissions.
If you would like more information, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 303-444-3636 x 19, OR fill out a volunteer application form on our website at www.ihaveadreamboulder.org. Thank you!

Volunteer Opportunities

More than 200 community members are involved in some level of volunteer assistance at “I Have a Dream” in Boulder, Lafayette and Longmont. We acknowledge and appreciate the time and energy they devote to the Dreamers. More help is needed in the following areas:

Tutors
Volunteer tutors are needed to provide individualized tutoring and assistance with homework once a week for a minimum of one semester.

Mentors
Adult volunteer mentors serve as positive role models and provide Dreamers with long-term, reliable, one-on-one guidance and support. Mentors see their Dreamer twice per month for a minimum one-year commitment.

Career Mentors/Job Shadows
Businesses and individuals can offer quality work-based learning experiences through tours of their workplaces, job-shadowing days, career mentor relationships, and paid summer internships.

Technology Volunteers
Volunteers are needed to assist in one of our after-school computer labs or central office.

Board and Committee Members
Our board of Directors and Committee members are very active in numerous agency support functions including strategic planning, fundraising, special events, finance, and program evaluation.

Adopt-A-Family Program & Crayons to Calculators School Supply Drive
Each year corporations and community members “adopt” Dreamer families to provide gifts to those most in need during the holiday season and provide much needed school supplies.