2011–2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Stepping Up to the Dream
**Our Mission**

The mission of the “I Have a Dream” 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.

**Our 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 1981 by founder Eugene Lang. Once funding is secured, cohorts of approximately 50 elementary school children on the free or reduced lunch program 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 and a fulfilling career.

**Our Impact**

The “I Have a Dream” Foundation of Boulder County reduces high school drop-out rates and creates a clear pathway to college and a brighter future for children from low-income communities.

- “I Have a Dream” Boulder County is one of the largest affiliates in the country with six active and six graduated Dreamer classes. Since 1990, the organization has provided services to over 600 low-income youth, impacting over 2,000 individuals, including Dreamer Parents and Dreamer Guests.
- “I Have a Dream” dramatically increases graduation rates of Dreamers with over 90% graduating from high school compared to 50-60% of their peers. Additionally, 86% of Dreamers go on to college or vocational school, a rate five times that of low-income graduates nationwide.
- “I Have a Dream” impacts the entire community. According to statistics from the local housing authority, crime and vandalism reports decreased 50% in public housing neighborhoods where “I Have a Dream” is present.

**Our Challenge**

In the St. Vrain and Boulder Valley School Districts, more than 14,000 students (nearly 1 in 4) qualify for free or reduced lunch based on their family’s income—a number that has more than doubled over the last decade. Studies illustrate that many of these youth are at greater risk of dropping out of high school, resorting to a life of crime, and developing unhealthy behaviors. Over the past 21 years, “I Have a Dream’s” long-term focus on educational support produced, on average, a 90% high school graduation rate for the Dreamers. In contrast, the graduation rate for all students eligible for free or reduced lunch in St. Vrain was 62.6% and 59.9% in Boulder Valley. In addition, at least 86% of those Dreamers who graduate from high school pursue post-secondary education.

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"Students are arriving to school, from the earliest stages, with fairly large gaps in language acquisition and school readiness...Responsibility for closing the [achievement] gap does not sit solely on the shoulders of the school districts. Challenges associated with living in poverty are the main drivers of academic achievement failure. Unstable housing, inconsistent access to healthy foods, parents with less capacity to help with homework, and a lack of summer reading all contribute to lost ground outside of the classroom."

– Boulder County TRENDS 2011

Cover photo by Casie Zalud Photography
September 2012

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are proud to share our 2011-12 annual report with you, commemorating the 21st year of the “I Have a Dream”® Foundation of Boulder County. Since our inception in 1990, we have served more than 600 low-income youth and their families in Boulder County, dramatically reducing the high school drop-out rate and increasing college attendance for these low-income youth.

We are proud to announce that we have distributed a total of $1,103,656 in college and vocational school scholarships for tuition and books for 233 graduated Dreamers, thanks to the generosity of our class sponsors. With six active classes, we remain one of the largest and most successful “I Have a Dream” affiliates in the country.

In spring of 2011, we celebrated the high-school graduation of over 90% of the 40 Pioneer Dreamers in Lafayette. We also celebrated 12 Dreamer graduates from the Casa Dreamer Class in Longmont. We recruited, interviewed, and trained 182 volunteer tutors and mentors to work individually with Dreamers to provide academic, social, and personal support.

Among this year’s highlights, and one of our proudest moments, was a visit from national “I Have a Dream’s” founder, Eugene Lang. Mr. Lang attended and spoke at a VIP donor appreciation event for our class sponsors and Dream-Builder Circle members and the following day spoke at our 14th Annual Dream-Maker Luncheon, inspiring our 500 guests in attendance to follow in his footsteps and sponsor Dreamers as he did back in 1981. Over 36 people “stepped up” to sponsor a Dreamer at this luncheon.

Thanks to community support from throughout Boulder County, we enjoyed two additional successful events: the 9th Annual Golf Tournament and 2nd Annual Kitchens Are Cooking tour that showcased the work of interior designers and builders in private homes. We are grateful to the many underwriters, donors, volunteers, and participants responsible for these successes.

For the 11th consecutive year, the Notre Dame Mission Volunteer Program and the Corporation for National and Community Service awarded funding which allowed us to recruit 19 AmeriCorps members to work with our Dreamers and volunteers.

The “I Have a Dream” Board of Directors continues to work toward its long-term strategic goal of launching five new classes of Dreamers over the next five years. Thanks to the success of our annual luncheon and donors who “stepped up” to sponsor a Dreamer, we launched two new classes in 2012! To add the remaining three classes in the years 2013 through 2016, we will rely on the participation of new donors and volunteers. You can help us reach this goal by introducing more people to our work and sharing your commitment to “I Have a Dream.”

We are extremely grateful for your support as we reaffirm our commitment to helping these young people rise out of poverty and achieve their dreams through education. Thank you for giving in so many ways.

Sincerely,

Lori Canova
CEO

Michael Greenwood
2011-12 Board Chair

2011-12 Board of Directors
Perry Ashley
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Elyana Funk, Sanchez Class
Francisco Mejias, Iris Class
Kristen Moegling, Columbine Class
Marissa Seuc, Ryan Class
Rigo Tostado, Casa Class
Jovani Valdez, Eagle Class

AmeriCorps Members
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Kelly Davis
Nathaniel Dray
Courtney Enix
Emily Felton
Lora Fike
Hanna Heuser
Ezra Huchter
Mikaela Madalinksi
Frances Menzer
Annabelle Merg
Rhianne Riccillo
Julia Sundermann
Laura Thompson
Erin Ulrich
Robert Wellington
Pioneer Class Graduation & Casa Class Graduates

“I Have a Dream” celebrated the graduation of the entire Pioneer Dreamer Class at the Lionsgate Center: Gatehouse in Lafayette on May 18, 2011. Ninety percent of the Dreamers graduated and 87% are pursuing post-secondary education. On May 25, 2011, 12 graduating members of the Casa Dreamer Class were celebrated at the Xilinx Retreat Center in Longmont, and 100% are pursuing post-secondary education. The organization continues to serve Casa Dreamers, a housing-based class, who range in grade-level from eleventh grade through college.

Visit from National “I Have a Dream” Founder, Eugene Lang

On October 6, 2011, “I Have a Dream” hosted its 14th Annual Dream-Maker Luncheon at the Omni Interlocken Resort in Broomfield, featuring special guest Mr. Eugene Lang, Founder of National “I Have a Dream” and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award. Attendees from the event helped sponsor 36 low-income youth for the new Eagle Dreamer Class at Escuela Bilingüe Pioneer in Lafayette. On the evening before the Luncheon, Class Sponsors, Dream-Builder Circle members, staff, and several Dreamers gathered at the home of Diane and Bob Greenlee to welcome and honor Mr. Lang and celebrate the accomplishments of the Boulder County program.

Thank you so much for sending the article about my father’s visit to Boulder, and the news about the success of the event. I can tell you that he was thrilled – and remains ebullient! – by the trip and the extraordinary reception you and your colleagues gave him. He couldn’t stop talking about how unique the Boulder program is and how genuine and committed the whole community is to “I Have a Dream.” It is everything he ever wished for the program to be.

– Jane Lang, Eugene Lang’s daughter
Three-Tier Mentoring Program Launched

A new three-tiered mentoring approach was launched to help create diverse opportunities to foster more positive youth-adult relationships. The three tiers include Dreamer Teammates, Sociocultural Mentoring, and College & Career Coaches. Each tier addresses a key element that supplements the academic achievement focus “I Have a Dream” is founded upon: athletics and healthy lifestyle development, civic and cultural engagement, and career preparation.

Parent Involvement Increased

To develop a stronger sense of ownership in the program on part of the Dreamer Parents, “I Have a Dream” created a new Parent Involvement initiative. Data demonstrated that Dreamers with less parent involvement were more likely to struggle over the course of the program, so Dreamer Parents are now required to sign a contract outlining their anticipated involvement in the program over the long term. Each class has established a Parent Council that meets monthly with the Program Directors in order to address their concerns and stay active and involved with the program’s activities.

Jason Vallery
Lafayette Class 2000

Jason Vallery says that when he was a Lafayette Dreamer he was exposed to opportunities that shaped his future. During high school and after he graduated, Jason worked as an intern with the University of Colorado through “I Have a Dream’s” College and Career program. His mentor was the Director of IT for the Financial Aid Office. He says that “I Have a Dream” gave him the ability to pursue his passion for computers and granted him the chance to gain invaluable experience for his future career. Today, Jason develops software for a large tech company. He credits “I Have a Dream’s” programs for his success.

“I know first hand what a difference “I Have a Dream” makes. It pleases me very much to repay the debt I owe the organization for the success it was able to bring me. I hope one day to be in a position to contribute much more. I’m very impressed with the way the organization has grown since I graduated. It was clear at the recent Dream-Maker Luncheon that the opportunities the children in the current classes have are immense. As a father I hope that those kids will have the same opportunities I am able to give my own son.”

“I could not have asked for a better experience – the “I Have a Dream” staff are incredibly supportive and provide more than enough resources for wonderful activities to do with my Dreamer, and my Dreamer is one of the most amazing young women I have ever met.”

– Dreamer Mentor
BOULDER – Boulder Class – Sponsored by Diane & Bob Greenlee
The first sponsored Dreamer Class consisted of 36 students, ranging from third through fifth grade, from the San Juan del Centro low-income housing community in Boulder. “I Have a Dream” programs helped to double the graduation rate for these students, and 86% of the 1998 graduating Dreamers went on to college or vocational school.

LAFAYETTE – Lafayette Class – Sponsored by Dianne Ladd & Bruce Holland and Edie Ortega
This first Dreamer Class from Lafayette consisted of 79 students in the fourth grade eligible for the free and reduced lunch program at three elementary schools (Lafayette, Pioneer, and Ryan). In 2000, 91% of these Dreamers graduated and 87% continued on to pursue higher education.

BOULDER – Kalmia Class – Sponsored by Midge Korczak
This class was the first collaboration with Boulder Housing Partners, Boulder Valley School District, and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Students from three low-income public housing sites (Kalmia, Iris Hawthorne, and the Diagonal) in the third through fifth grades became Dreamers. Of these 31 Dreamers, 90% graduated in 2007 and 96% continued on to higher education.

BOULDER – Broadway Class – Sponsored by Linda Shoemaker & Steve Brett
With assistance from a Department of Education GEAR UP grant, this sponsored class of 41 Dreamers was a collaboration with Boulder Housing Partners, the Boulder Valley School District, and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Coming from three low-income public housing sites (Broadway, Kalmia, and Iris Hawthorne), these Dreamers ranged from third through sixth grade. In 2009, 90% of this Broadway Class graduated and 86% pursued higher education.

LONGMONT – Casa Class – Sponsored by Debra Lane & Steve Szabo and the Sturm Family Foundation
This class of 53 Dreamers (kindergarteners through eleventh grade) was sponsored in partnership with the Boulder County Housing Authority and the St. Vrain Valley School District. The organization continues to serve Casa Dreamers who range from eleventh grade to college.

LAFAYETTE – Pioneer Class – Sponsored by Brenda & Paul Lilly (The Lilly Foundation)
In collaboration with Boulder Valley School District, 45 Dreamers in second grade on the free and reduced lunch program were sponsored from Pioneer Elementary School, a dual-language school. Of these Dreamers, 90% graduated in 2001 and 81% continued to college or vocational school.

LAFAYETTE – Sanchez Class – Sponsored by Wilma & Mike Ormsbee and Dee & Tom Perry
Another school-based program created in collaboration with Boulder Valley School District, this Dreamer Class began with 53 second graders on the free and reduced lunch program at Sanchez Elementary School in Lafayette. In 2012, 90% of these Dreamers will graduate from high school and 94% plan to go to college or vocational school.

LONGMONT – Columbine Class – Sponsored by Catherine Ray
This class of 50 Dreamers was sponsored when they were second graders on the free and reduced lunch program at Columbine Elementary School in the St. Vrain School District. In 2012, 90% of these students will graduate from high school and 96% have plans to attend college or vocational school.
In the fall of 2008, this class of 50 Dreamers from the Broadway East low-income housing site was sponsored. Now in grades six through ten, the majority of students in this class attend Casey Middle School and Boulder High School. Thanks to a partnership with Boulder Housing Partners, a new community center was built to accommodate this Dreamer Class.

In April of 2010, the Phoenix Dreamer Class was officially launched, sponsoring 50 students in the second grade on the free and reduced lunch program at Columbine Elementary School in Boulder. These Dreamers are currently in the fifth grade.

This Dreamer Class was launched in April of 2012, sponsoring 50 students from the second and third grade on the free and reduced lunch program at Escuela Bilingüe Pioneer in Lafayette. These Dreamers are now in third and fourth grade.

This twelfth Dreamer Class sponsored 50 students from the second and third grade on the free and reduced lunch program at Ryan Elementary School in Lafayette. These Dreamers are currently in the third and fourth grade.
Dreamers participate in Tennis “Play Day” and Rally during summer programming. “I Have a Dream” Boulder County is a National Junior Tennis League Chapter.

Our Unique Program

The “I Have a Dream” Foundation of Boulder County achieves its extraordinary success by:

✿ **Beginning Early and for the Long-Term** – sponsoring entire groups of second and third grade students through college with 100% of the Dreamers from low-income communities – living in low-income housing or eligible for free and reduced lunch programs.

✿ **Creating Total Immersion** – supporting Dreamers with an all-encompassing program, including adult guidance in one-on-one mentoring relationships, regular tutoring in six year-round learning centers in Boulder, Lafayette, and Longmont, family outreach and support, counseling and life skills services, and career and college preparation.

✿ **Building a Dream** – working with Dreamers to and through higher education by providing college or vocational scholarships and continued support for each student who graduates from high school – often opening the door to college for the first time in a family’s history.

“*Our summer intern exceeded all of my expectations. She was respectful, patient, eager to learn, and demonstrated an excellent work ethic. She asked lots of questions and showed a real interest in what she was doing.*” — CU Bursar’s Office

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“I Have a Dream” provides the following programs to ensure academic and career success for each Dreamer:

**Year-Round Learning Centers and Study-Skills Classes**

Six learning centers operate daily and provide comprehensive resources that are designed to improve literacy, develop math and science aptitude, assist with homework completion, increase school attendance, and strengthen Dreamers’ commitment to school. Each high school Dreamer attends a Dreamer Study-Skills class taught by the on-site Program Director. In these classes, they are taught invaluable study-skill sets and receive one-on-one tutoring and academic coaching.

**Tutoring and Academic Support**

Each Dreamer in need of special assistance is matched to a tutor who helps with homework and provides individualized attention on literacy, math, and science skills.

**Enrichment, Leadership, and Service Learning**

“I Have a Dream” believes opportunities for academic and career success are significantly enhanced through social confidence, cultural appreciation, commitment to good citizenship, and well-developed leadership skills. This includes weekly enrichment activities, teen nights, and monthly field trips to cultural and athletic events. Leadership activities include wilderness outings, speaking engagements at “I Have a Dream” events, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations. Service Learning projects include stocking shelves at Community Food Share, planting trees with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, and participating in CU’s Public Achievement Program.

**Mentoring Program**

Designed to create diverse opportunities to foster more positive youth-adult relationships, our three-tiered mentoring program helps cultivate long-term personal relationships between mentors and Dreamers by offering consistent and supportive one-on-one relationships. These relationships often result in lasting and profound bonds that help empower the Dreamers toward sociocultural enrichment and academic success. For the Dreamers, this might be the first relationship they have had outside of their family offering them the personal attention, guidance, counseling, and friendship of a trusted adult who truly cares about their welfare.

**Family Outreach Program**

The organization’s goal is to partner with each parent and to teach and inform those who may not fully comprehend or understand their role in their child’s academic development. Each bilingual Program Director establishes ongoing personalized relationships with families and conducts individual home visits, parent meetings, parent/teacher conferences, and family activities.

**Counseling and Life Skills**

Program Directors develop personal relationships with each Dreamer in their class to teach and model positive life choices and skills. Emphasis is placed on individual counseling, personal issue mediation, 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.

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**Viviana Saenz**

Columbine Class 2012

Viviana (Vivi) Saenz is the first in her family to go to college. Vivi is a Columbine Dreamer and recent graduate from Skyline High School, and is attending Metropolitan State College of Denver in the fall; she isn’t sure of what she would like to major in yet, but she is interested in studying criminal justice. Vivi says that if she were not a Dreamer, she wouldn’t know what she would be doing now: “I probably would have finished high school because of my mom, but I don’t know if I would be going to college.” She says that the “I Have a Dream” Foundation of Boulder County’s programs motivated her to continue her education and provided her with knowledge about scholarships and opportunities to achieve her dreams.
Summer Program

Throughout the summer, Dreamers engage in activities designed to build academic, social, and leadership skills through literacy, math, arts, recreation, and service learning projects.

Career and College Preparation

Dreamers are counseled with an emphasis on student motivation, academic achievement, and career exploration. As Dreamers mature, staff members help organize test preparation workshops, tours of schools and workplaces, job shadowing days, career mentors, paid summer internships, and visits to annual college fairs hosted for our Dreamers by Colorado State University, Metropolitan State University, Regis University, University of Colorado, University of Denver, and other institutions. As graduation approaches, Dreamers receive hands-on assistance and guidance in preparation for college or other post-secondary school admissions.

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. “I Have a Dream” also assists Dreamers in applying for their FASFA and other scholarships.

Crayons to Calculators

“I Have a Dream” played an important role in establishing the Crayons to Calculators partnership with other area nonprofits and continues to help provide over 14,000 low-income students (including 300 Dreamers) with a new backpack of school supplies each year.

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” is an AmeriCorps site. The impact of this effort on the program is enormous – it provides 19 AmeriCorps service members for a year of full-time direct program service with the Dreamers. AmeriCorps members are college graduates and are wonderful role models for at-risk youth.
Dreamers feel a strong connection to their community 90%
Dreamers feel good about their future 98%
Dreamers feel better about themselves because they help others 94%
Dreamers are exploring career interests 98%
Dreamers reported they are learning skills needed for work 94%
Dreamers want to go to college 98%
Dreamers are interested in their community and world issues 93%
Dreamers have developed a caring and trusting relationship with an adult in “I Have a Dream” 94%

Over 90% of Dreamers graduate from high school and 86% attend college or vocational school.

As told from the Dreamers – WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT BEING A DREAMER?

- That we get help with college things, because otherwise I wouldn't know what to do
- Having someone to talk to about school, family, friends, and about myself
- How they care about me personally and help me get through tough times
- Spending time with my mentor
- Learning new things when we go on field trips
- How supportive everyone is
- Knowing that I have financial aid for college to help me succeed
- They help me get on the road to my dreams

Adrian Cottmeyer was part of the Lafayette Dreamer Class and attended Centaurus High School, where he chose to earn his GED and graduate early to join the United States Air Force. After graduating from the Community College of the Air Force in Alabama, where he studied transportation management, Adrian moved around before settling in Honolulu. In Hawaii, Adrian works for the Air Force and also manages a successful independent rock band called FallsStart; he is also FallsStart’s lead guitarist and music producer.

“It was nice knowing someone cared,” says Adrian. He felt supported by “I Have a Dream’s” programs and appreciated knowing that there was a community of people who cared about the quality of his future. Coming from a family that often struggled financially, Adrian credits “I Have a Dream” with providing him with opportunities to succeed. “I was very poor growing up,” he says. “It was a relief knowing that there were options for my future.”
Operating Statement of Activities

2011 Operating Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations and Corporations</td>
<td>$171,083</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Support</td>
<td>$566,224</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
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<td>AmeriCorps and In Kind</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous and Other Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve Funds</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,277,639</strong></td>
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2011 Operating Expenses

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
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<td>84.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support</td>
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Temporary Restricted Activity

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Temp Restricted Operating Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship Investments</td>
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<td>Scholarship Funds Distributed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Temporary Restricted Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,575,367</strong></td>
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Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2011

**ASSETS**

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<td>Total Fixed Assets</td>
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<td>Temp Rest Program Investments</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,331,789</strong></td>
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**LIABILITIES AND EQUITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total Equity</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,331,789</strong></td>
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The “I Have a Dream” Foundation demonstrated sound fiscal management and accountability measures in 2011, 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.

“A child who doesn’t finish high school will earn an average salary just 28% of their peer who completes a graduate degree. That’s down from 36% just five years earlier.”

– Boulder County TRENDS 2011
I can remember the dedication ceremony just like it was yesterday. We walked on the stage and said our dream. We are living testimony of our dreams to go on to college, and make it BIG!

– Dreamer Graduate

Many thanks to all our 2011 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 40 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. The organization acknowledges and appreciates the time and energy they devote to the Dreamers. More help is needed in the following areas:

**Tutors:** Make a difference by helping students with their homework and study skills in a classroom setting. Tutors meet with Dreamers at least once per week at one of our learning centers or at school or local libraries.

**Mentors:** Adult volunteer mentors are needed to provide Dreamers with long-term, reliable relationships, and to serve as positive role models. Mentors see their Dreamer at least twice per month for a minimum one-year commitment.

**Dreamer Teammates:** Adult volunteer sports mentors are needed to provide Dreamers with athletic support in the sports such as baseball, soccer, basketball, football, wrestling, and tennis. Dreamer Teammates see their Dreamer once a month for at least six months.

**College and Career Coaches:** Support Dreamers with college admission essays, scholarship searches, and federal funding applications.

**Job Tours, Job Shadows, and Summer Internships:** Businesses and individuals can offer quality work-based learning experiences through tours of the workplace, job shadowing days, career mentor relationships, and paid summer internships.

**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 (Kitchens are Cooking tour, Golf Tournament, Dream-Maker Breakfast & Luncheon), finance, and program evaluation.

**Adopt-a-Family Program & Crayons to Calculators School Supply Drive:** Each year corporations and community members sponsor Dreamer families to provide gifts to those most in need during the holiday season and provide backpacks filled with much needed school supplies.