

Dreamer News

A publication of the I Have a Dream® Foundation of Boulder County

Winter 1998



How can I get what I want out of life? How can I make my dreams come true? People often ask them-

selves these questions at some point in life. Bookstores are filled with hundreds of "self-help" books that attempt to answer these questions, but until the book *GO FOR IT!*, not one had been written for teenagers. Realizing that most young people want to be successful but often lack training on how to get there, Judy Zerafa, wrote *GO FOR IT!*, a book which translates basic principles of success into a language teenagers can understand. These principles include:

- Positive Attitude
- Belief in One's Individual Importance
- Wise Choices
- Positive Habit Building
- Creative Thinking
- Persistence

The book brought Judy much success, including over 400 radio and television appearances and speaking engagements across the country. So you can imagine our delight when Judy Zerafa agreed to come to Centaurus High School to kick off the Lafayette College and Career Dreamer Meetings. On October 6, Lafayette Dreamers got a chance to get up close and personal with this critically-acclaimed author. Judy shared the powerful story of her life and that of others who have over-

GO FOR IT!

come great odds like Olympic Gold Medalist Scott Hamilton.

Judy encouraged Dreamers to follow their passion when making college and career choices. She asked each Dreamer, "If you had a million dollars buried in your back yard, what would you do with it?" Their responses varied from helping their parents to going to college. Then Judy pointed out that each of them already had a million dollars buried within them. According to Judy, each person's million dollars is measured in the potential that each has to succeed in life. Your potential is the combination of abilities and talents that you are born with. Judy then guided students through identifying their talents and abilities and discussing future dreams. The individual attention that each student received was truly valuable, considering Judy

is accustomed to speaking to thousands of people at a time. Moreover, the discussion she started with Lafayette Dreamers fits nicely with future "College and Career Meetings" as well as "Dreamer Success Plans" that project coordinators are currently designing with Dreamers and families.

All in all, it was a powerful time for both Dreamers and staff alike. We are fortunate to have Judy agree to come back and conduct another workshop for Lafayette Dreamers and one for Kalmia Dreamers, as well. We'll keep you posted on the dates. Until then, here's a question from Judy to keep you thinking: "If you could do anything for the rest of your life and money wasn't an object, what would **you** do?"

GO FOR IT!



Judy Zerafa shares principles of success with Dreamers.

“Successful people will do the things that unsuccessful people will not”

That was the opening message by Jamal Ward at the 8th annual Dreamer Day on November 7, which set the tone for this extremely helpful day of college planning.

Over 40 students and parents attended college preparation workshops while overlooking Folsom Field from the CU Athletic Center. Dreamers learned that their junior year is the most important year in this process,



Dreamers learn how to prepare for college from Rudy Curiel.

and received a month-by-month plan of what they need to do from now until high school graduation. The day comprised of college admissions and essay writing workshops, a residence hall tour, and a panel discussion of current college students, including Boulder Dreamers Shiuan Huang and GaoLou Yang. Jamal concluded the day by sharing how his determination to finish college, despite the challenges he faced, resulted in a happier and more successful life.

IHAD-Boulder is fortunate to be one of two IHAD chapters nationally chosen to be a pilot site for this college preparation partnership. The sponsoring partners are the University of Colorado at Boulder, NACAC (National Association of College Admission Counselors) and RMA-

CAC (Rocky Mountain Association of College Admissions Counselors). Presenters at the event included CU Admissions Counselors Jamal Ward and Rudy Curiel, as well as Sharon Alston, NACAC vice president for human relations and director of college counseling at The Bullis School (MD). Gary Kelsey, NACAC President-elect, gave a warm welcome to everyone who attended.

Greg Gibson and Tony Brown were the lucky winners of the donated Hewlett Packard graphing calculators, and all Dreamers received T-shirts, "The Road to College" videos from NACAC, and great food. Everyone who attended Dreamer Day did exactly what successful people do by taking an active role in planning for school after high school. IHAD-Boulder will continue to offer similar programs in the coming year, including a parent meeting to discuss the IHAD scholarship, an ACT/SAT workshop, and a more intensive 3-day college preparation summer camp.

For thorough SAT/ACT preparation, ask your project coordinator about discounted classes that are available. Contact Troy or Maggie to get any of the information given at Dreamer Day.



Parents discuss college preparation with Jamal Ward.

Welcome New Volunteers

Tutors:

Diana Baumann
Sarah Bay
Ginny Borst
Laurie Breeden
Lea Cady
Sarah Dougherty
Rusty George
Molly Gershone
Dave Granger
Kelly Martin
Mark Van Overbeke
Alia Royal
Michael Snyder
Sarah Stein
Susan Thomas
Christina Todd
Ryan Young

Mentors:

Nancy Cohen
Meridith Crowell
Jill Lucky

Office Assistant:

Mary Wilkes

Newsletter:

Michele Yamada

Marketing Committee:

Alexandra Ross

Personnel Committee:

Patti O'Connor

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

- Leo Buscaglia

Dreamer News, Winter 1998

Published quarterly

IHAD welcomes articles. Materials should be typewritten, double-spaced and sent to the IHAD office. IHAD reserves the right to edit all articles. Deadline for the next issue is February 20, 1999.

Editor: Lori Canova and Troy Kilen

Printing: Morrell Graphics

IHAD staff

Lori Canova, Executive Director
(303) 604-9070; canova@frii.com

Maggie Flack,
Lafayette Project Coordinator
(303) 413-2631;
maggieflack@hotmail.com

Caroline Haines,
Kalmia Project Coordinator
(303) 517-8219;
haines0047@hotmail.com

Troy Kilen,
Lafayette Project Coordinator
(303) 413-2636; kilen@frii.com

Angie Mediavilla,
Boulder Project Coordinator
(303) 413-2635; mediavil@bvsd.k12.co.us

Nicole Stewart, Office Assistant
(303) 604-9070

Featured Dreamers



Kalmia Dreamer
Jesus Amaro

Jesus Amaro

Jesus is a fifth grader at Sacred Heart. His favorite subject is math. Sometimes Jesus' parents talk to him about being a doctor, and Jesus likes the idea. Jesus also thinks being a professional football player would be a fun career, as he currently plays for the Blue Nights football team. His positions include defensive line, offensive line, and running back. Jesus scored a touchdown and extra point this season, helping his team achieve their 3 - 3 record. In his free time, Jesus enjoys other sports as well; he can be found playing baseball, tennis, golf, and Nintendo 64 NFL Blitz. The Dallas Cowboys and Green Bay Packers are Jesus' favorite NFL teams and he loves the rivalry between the Raiders and Broncos. As a Dreamer, Jesus enjoys the field trips and looks forward to assistance with college tuition. He also appreciates the homework help IHAD provides. Currently, Jesus is reading *Night John*, by Gary Paulson. The book is about slavery and how a little girl loses her mother, but is befriended by John who teaches her to read and write. Jesus hopes to go to CU, Boulder.



Angela Bellis volunteers at
Habitat for Humanity

Angela Bellis

In 1997, I went to school at Centaurus High School in Lafayette. I ended up dropping out that fall because my home life got really bad, and I had to move to my current home in Northglenn. I did not return to school until this past September, and now I attend Vantage Point Campus in Northglenn. I have to say that being back in school is definitely an experience, and I encourage all of you to keep your confidence and finish. After all, you've come this far, right? I attribute my return mostly to Troy, my project coordinator. Without his motivation and inspiration, I would still be doing absolutely nothing with my life. Instead, I have a 3.625 GPA and just received an award at my school for being the Student of the Quarter. If I continue my new-found success, I will graduate on time in the year 2000.

I would just like to say that I have learned so much about myself through my troubles. For those of you that hate school, hang in there and learn to enjoy learning like I did. You can't get anything out of school if you don't want it.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

--Margaret Mead

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Boulder:

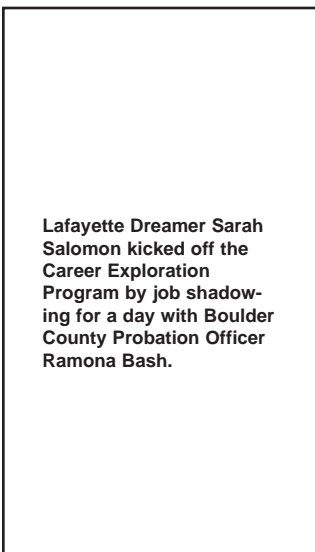
12/11/79 Reina Gomez
1/6/78 Baltazar Sosa
12/13/77 Lucy Borrego
12/30/76 Chong Xiong

Kalmia:

1/9/88 Terry Shoemaker
1/30/88 Melina Saiti
1/31/88 Omar Gomez

Lafayette:

12/2/80 Jose Jasso
12/16/81 Jamie McLerran
12/18/81 James Saunders
12/18/81 Francisco Bustamante
12/18/81 Greg Gibson
12/20/81 Dusty Fraker
12/23/81 Nick Ellis
12/30/81 Jason Vallery
1/5/82 Xang Yang
1/14/82 Gary Stringham
1/15/82 Jennifer Murphy
1/24/82 Angela Bellis
2/2/82 Benito Chavez-Perez
2/23/82 Jenni Heath



Lafayette Dreamer Sarah Salomon kicked off the Career Exploration Program by job shadowing for a day with Boulder County Probation Officer Ramona Bash.



The Light, the Darkness and Me



By: *Baltazar Sosa*

What is it like to be locked up? To be apart from your family, friends, and everything you love. To see your little brothers or sisters grow up before you. Knowing you can't be there to help them out with life or just to play with them. You feel your friends slowly become distant and strangers. They don't mean to, but they are a part of the light and you are the darkness.

When you're locked up, you can become a part of the masses or struggle to be much more than a number. A statistical gang member, it does not matter. Not to the gatekeepers or to me.

Why not me? You ask...because I am stronger than that. I'm an aspiring intellectual and a scholar. I'm still striving to learn because knowledge is power, in the light as well as the darkness. I have no desire to be a gang member. I would only end up dead. Just another "hard" statistic who could have been so much more.

Though I feel good whenever I help someone out, I also feel pity when I'm helping out a gang member who can't read or write a simple word like "cat". There are many more that should be at my level or higher, instead of just a few. It's sad that a lot of them gave up on their family, school, and themselves to be gang members with their so-called friends. Yet they are full of false pride. How many gang members do you know that graduated from Oxford? Or are locked up for what could be life...?

What is it like to be locked up? It is to be kept in the darkness amongst so much light.

There are rays of light in our lives that shine through the darkness. My rays are my family, friends, teachers of old and new, and God. As well as the people who care enough to give me hope, for I am a true dreamer. I will one day join the light again, because I'm a dreamer, an achiever, and I have hope.

I also know enough now to know that you don't have to be locked up to be kept in the darkness. The darkness is all around us, so reach for the rays of light that shine through like doves. Those rays of light will help you throughout life and always be there for you, especially when you need them the most.

Baltazar Sosa has completed three years of a six-year sentence with the Youth Offender System in Denver. Baltazar has received his GED and is currently at a sophomore level in college.

About Those Dreamers...

Angela Bellis earned Student of the Quarter at Vantage Point School, an award given to one student in the entire school.

LaoLeng Xiong worked on a team with four other students that earned second place for building a radio-controlled robot for the BEST (Boosting Engineering Science Technology) competition.

Melissa Morris did an excellent performance in the Drama Group at the Unitarian Church.

Angelica Ramirez, Mairela Ruiz, Raquel Lepure and Laura Colis - played on Casey's interscholastic girls basketball team. During the playoffs, Casey won the most games. Congratulations!

Ray Aldaco, Robbie Morris, Pablo Garza, Christain Preston and Jermaine Rodriguez participated in Casey's Football Team this fall. The team enjoyed a tremendous amount of support from parents and mentors. Great job in football guys!

Roberto Carranza, Omar Gomez and Jesus Amaro played football with the City of Boulder Football Program. The Dreamers did very well in their respective teams!

Orlando Chavez and his family have purchased a home in Broomfield. We will miss Orlando, but look forward to seeing him for special occasions.

IHAD Seeks an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow

We are pleased to announce that the I Have a Dream® Foundation of Boulder County has been awarded one AmeriCorps Promise Fellow position through a grant from the National I Have a Dream® Foundation. IHAD is currently accepting applications for this new position, which will begin on January 1, 1999 and commence on December 31, 1999.

The corporation for National Service (CNS) recently added a new initiative to their portfolio: AmeriCorps Promise Fellowships. This new initiative was designed to allow groups such as IHAD to recruit people to work on activities related to the Presidents' Summit for America's Future that was held last spring in Philadelphia. These Fellows, who will serve as "AmeriCorps members," will be charged with working to promote one or more of the five Summit goals: Children and young adults should all have (1) caring adults in their lives, as tutors, mentors, coaches, (2) safe places with structured activities in which to learn and grow, (3) a healthy start and a healthy future, (4) an effective education that equips them with marketable skills, and (5) an opportunity to give back to their communities through their own service.

To be eligible to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow, you must be at least 17 years of age; be a U.S. citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien; and have a high school diploma or GED.

During their required one-year full-time (40 hours a week) term of service, Fellows receive a living allowance stipend of \$13,000 and health care benefits. In addition, at the end of one year of service, Fellows are eligible to receive a National Service Trust Education Award of \$4,725 which can be used for post-secondary education, vocational school, graduate school, or to pay back student loans.

Specific duties and goals for this position include, but are not limited to: recruiting and supporting volunteers to serve as tutors and mentors; developing structured co-curricular or enrichment activities for Dreamers and their families; organizing workshops that promote the physical or psychological well-being of Dreamers and their families; developing job skills and job readiness programs; and developing structured service-learning opportunities for Dreamers.

Anyone interested in applying for this AmeriCorps Promise Fellow position should send a cover letter and resume to Lori Canova, Executive Director, IHAD, 400 E. Simpson Street, Suite G-5, Lafayette, CO 80026. Resumes will be accepted until position is filled.

Assets for Youth

At a time when many people feel overwhelmed by the problems and challenges facing children and adolescents, hundreds of communities across the country are discovering new energy by working toward a positive vision for young people. At the heart of this vision is a research-based framework of "developmental assets," factors that are critical for young people's successful growth and development.

Ideas for parents:

- Stay in contact with teachers about your child's progress; don't wait for a report card.
- Turn off the television and limit hours on after-school jobs.
- Help your teenager learn to talk about his or her beliefs, then listen.
- Regularly do service projects together as a family.
- Involve your children in family decisions and planning.
- Give your child opportunities to get to know people from other backgrounds.
- Talk with your teenager about life goals, priorities, values, and dreams.
- Model mutual respect in the family. Do not tolerate put-downs.
- Challenge people who stereotype youth as negative.

From the Boulder County Prevention Connection, Assets Newsletter



Lafayette Dreamers and families at the Fall Picnic.

And the Results are in...

The 1998 Dreamer and parent surveys have been completed, and the responses tabulated. Thank you to the 182 Dreamers, parents and teachers who took the time to give us feedback about the IHAD program. The results are generally positive. When asked to rate the overall quality of the IHAD program, 94% of both Dreamers and parents responded "Excellent" or "Good."

Specific programs receiving particularly high marks include: Tutoring (Dreamers 89%, parents 94%), Project Coordinator (PC) Meetings (Dreamers 83%, parents 90%), IHAD Newsletter (Dreamers 88%, Parents 92%), CU Dreamer Day (Dreamers 84%, parents 85%), and Summer Internships (Dreamers 88%, parents 80%).

When asked how helpful their PCs had been to them, 97% of Dreamers and 90% of parents responded "Very Helpful" or "Helpful". Many also praised their PCs when asked what they liked best about the IHAD program.

Areas that could use improvement include: making Dreamer meetings more enjoyable; rescheduling parent

meetings so they are easier for busy parents to attend; helping Dreamers with science coursework; and helping Dreamers learn about computers. The IHAD staff is hard at work to make these aspects of the program even better - keep an eye out for notices in future newsletters.

Best of all, 100% of the Dreamers who responded are planning to go to college, and 88% of the parents believe that their Dreamers will pursue a higher education. Congrats to Lynne McKeever, parent of Lafayette Dreamer Greg Gibson, and Kalmia Dreamer Jacklin Jiminez winners of the survey drawing.

"What I really like about IHAD is that it encourages me to keep moving forward and to keep my dreams alive. It has given me lots of support and motivation." -- Dreamer

"I think it helps him feel more confident about his future, so he works harder now. He thinks about long-term goals and not just about today." -- Parent



On Make A Difference Day, Lafayette Dreamers painted a youth shelter (top) and Kalmia Dreamers (bottom) learned about plant ecology with the CU Community Relations Department.



HOPE for Siblings

Tuition can be virtually free for the siblings of Dreamers who attend community college through the federally authorized HOPE Tax Credit. The tax credit covers the first \$1,000 of tuition and half of the second \$1,000. A full-time community college student would pay \$1,300, but get back \$1,150 in reduced tax liabilities. The ultimate cost to the student, or the parents, would be \$150. The tax credit also helps students in four-year colleges, but because of the higher tuition, plus room-and-board costs, it won't cover as much of the total bill. The HOPE tax credit applies to the first two years of post-secondary education. There's an income ceiling for the person paying the tuition of \$50,000 a year for a single person and \$100,000 for a married person. In addition to the HOPE Tax Credit, Boulder Class siblings should contact the Greenlee Family Foundation or their PC for information about a scholarship through the Share the Dream Program.

Thank You!

To Eileen Saunders, Boulder County Social Services, for a child abuse and neglect training for IHAD staff
To Bank of Boulder Staff for preparing the holiday mailing
To Ben and Jerry's for free ice cream at the Lafayette Fall Picnic
To Vail Resorts for \$448 worth of lift tickets
To NACAC, RMACAC, and CU for Dreamer Day, especially Jamal Ward, Rudy Curiel, Sharon Alston, and Gary Kelsey
To Hewlett Packard for donating calculators for Dreamer Day
To Leopard Communications for designing the new agency brochure
To Dennis Lane Photography for taking photographs for the brochure
To Communigraphics for printing the brochure
To Expedex for discounted paper and envelopes for holiday mailing
To Wendy Dickie and Dr. Diane Hodges for the Career Portfolio Information
To Eve Bat Shalom for hosting the Mentor Feedback Session
To Dr. Joey Lerner, Louise Alderson and the Colorado Mental Health Pro Bono Program for free counseling and support.
To All Kalmia Volunteers Tutors and Mentors - nearly 60 volunteers contribute to the programs for the Kalmia Dreamers! Thank you for your unyielding support, we could not do this without you.
To Andy Bachmann, Rocky Net, and Boulder Community Network for all of your help setting up the Kalmia Community Center's Computers and Internet connection
To BECC and Janaki LeFils at Gabriel Farms for a great weekend on the farm
To Premier Car Rental for reduced rate van rental (for Cleo Parker Robinson's fall show)
To University of Colorado Career Services for tickets to the fall semester Etiquette Dinner
To University of Colorado Community Relations for Make A Difference Day which offered excellent, hands-on, interactive programs enjoyed by all and free tickets to a CU football game
To DreamCatchers Direct Instruction Centers - for providing scholarships for Chris Preston, Jackie Jimenez and Roberto Carranza
To Castle of Fear for haunted house tickets

To Housing Authority - City of Boulder for a new atlas and desk reference
To the law firm of Hutchinson, Black and Cook for pro bono legal advice
To IBM "Connect with Kids" program for Rockies tickets

To the following donors for their generous financial contributions:
Phillip and Leslie Aaholm
Aronow Enterprises
Andy Bachmann
Bank of Boulder
Boulder Valley Rotary Club
Rabbi Deborah Bronstein
City of Boulder, Housing Authority
City of Boulder, Human Relations Commission
TM Franklin Cownie
Dr. Warren V. DeHaan
Jean Dubosky
David Eisenstein
Janice and Lewis Effenberger - in memory of Claire Greenbaum
David B. Frost
Edward and Martha Greenberg
Edward T. Gruidel - in memory of Claire Greenbaum
Midge Korczak
Learningworks
Bev Noun
Edie Ortega
Cheryl Owens
Murray Richtel
Linda Shoemaker
Arthur Stein, III
Mary Jo and Carl Tiampo-Oskarsson
Mrs. Alex Warner - in memory of Alex Warner
US West Communications

Mark Your Calendars

Career and College Meetings continue in the Centaurus library on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, during 5th and 6th hour.

December:

15th, Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Party

19th, 9 am - 1 pm, **Lafayette Dreamers and families** are invited to visit Troy and Maggie in the IHAD office for pastries and hot cocoa before the holiday rush. Lafayette Dreamer families that participated in the Adopt-a-Family program can pick up their gifts at this time.

January

18th, 1:30-3:30 pm, "**Keeping the Dream Alive**" **Martin Luther King Celebration**

25th, **Engineering Day at CU**

Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Party

All volunteers, Dreamers, and their families are invited to dinner at Casa Alvarez on December 15 from 5 to 7 pm. This is our opportunity to show our appreciation for all the incredible work of the volunteers. Please RSVP to Caroline (303-448-0047), Troy, or Maggie (303-604-9070) by December 10.

Keeping the Dream Alive

Martin Luther King Day will again be celebrated in Boulder by a public event sponsored by the I Have a Dream® Foundation of Boulder County. The 2nd "Keeping the Dream Alive" will be held on January 18, 1999, from 1:30-3:30 pm. A variety of performers will build on the successful event attended by over 200 people last year. Look for details in the mail in early January, or visit the IHAD website: <http://bcn.boulder.co.us/human-social/ihad>. This event is made possible from a grant from the City of Boulder Human Relations Commission.

I HAVE A DREAM® FOUNDATION OF BOULDER COUNTY INTEREST FORM

- I am interested in becoming a **volunteer tutor** for the Dreamers. Please send me more information.
- I am interested in becoming a **volunteer mentor** for the Dreamers. Please send me more information.
- I am interested in becoming a **board member**. Please call me.
- I am interested in **sponsoring a new class** of Dreamers. Please call me.
- I would like more information about including IHAD in my **estate planning**.
- I am unable to volunteer my time, but would like to make a **financial contribution** to the program.
- (Make checks payable to I Have a Dream® Foundation of Boulder County.)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Date _____

Please return this form to I Have a Dream® Foundation of Boulder County, 400 E. Simpson St., Suite G-5, Lafayette, CO 80026. Thank you!



400 East Simpson St., Ste. G-5
Lafayette, CO 80026
Phone (303)604-9070
Fax (303) 664-5818
Web <http://bcn.boulder.co.us/human-social/ihad>
E-mail canova@frii.com

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Edie Ortega, President
Peter D'Jay, Vice-President
Ron Jung, Treasurer
Midge Korczak, Secretary

Members

Sam Appleby
Manuela Chavez
Kim Felton
Bob & Diane Greenlee
Kaye Howe
Steve Jones
Dianne Ladd
Jill Marce
Kathleen Oliver
Linda Shoemaker
Annette Taylor

The I Have a Dream® Foundation of Boulder County is committed to promoting educational success and self-sufficiency for children from high-risk, low-income backgrounds by providing comprehensive support services to complete high school and assistance for further education.