



Spring into the news

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**"I Have a Dream"[®]
Foundation of
Boulder County**

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Site Closures:

- * Pioneer—May 13
- * Columbine— May 30-31
- * Sanchez— May 13 & 30
- * Broadway— May 13, June 10, June 13-17
- * Casa— June 2-12, Summer program starts on the 13th.

Computer Dudes & Wired Girls at Pioneer

The Pioneer Dreamers are making huge strides when it comes to web development these days. Since November of last year the Dreamers have been working with “Computer Dudes and Wired Girls”, a program set up through a grant with the YWCA. Each week the boys and girls have separate classes taught by Gabriele Dichiaro where they have learned all the fundamentals of website design. In addition to learning HTML and Java commands, the Dreamers learned how to scour the internet searching for pictures as well as uploading information and pictures to a server. A digital camera was available for students to take home so they could take pictures of their families and whatever else they might want to highlight. The pro-

gram is nearing the end now which is both happy and sad. The Dreamers are über excited that their websites are soon to be broadcasted for the entire world to see, but sad that this exciting class is almost over. Let’s all give our IHAD web gurus a big round of applause and encourage them to keep on designing.



Cleaning Up for Community Service

Spring break for the Columbine Dreamers wasn’t all fun and games, as they took time to give back to the community too. After meeting up with Mary Weiner from Boulder Parks and Recreation at the Boulder County Fairgrounds Lake, the Dreamers formed groups of four and headed out with gloves, trash bags, and determination spurred by an ever-growing environmental awareness. Maria, a Columbine Dreamer, was heard saying, “So if I pick up this string, I’ll save a fish.” While walking around the lake and picking up garbage, the Dreamers were entertained by the ducks who were basking in the sun on the island in the middle of the lake. After filling 5 huge bags with the debris they had gathered, the Dreamers relaxed, had some snacks, and felt a great sense of satisfaction.

Sanchez cal-wood trip

The Sanchez Dreamers have been doing so much exciting traveling lately! On their latest trip they all ventured up to the beautiful mountain town of Jamestown, CO. Just a short drive into the mountains from Boulder brings you to Calwood; an amazing 1000 acre education center in the heart of the foothills. This trip was a neat experience for many Dreamers because it also included every other fifth grader at Sanchez Elementary School. It's not too often that they can take a trip with their friends who are not involved with Dreamers. During their three-day stay at Calwood the

Dreamers were able to hike around the trails on the property, learn about



all the cool animals that habitate the area, see a real mica mine, and participate in facilitated group team building activities. It was definitely a trip to remember. AmeriCorps member John Ciappa said, "It was an amazing experience to see all the Dreamers having so much fun in a natural setting. There were no computers or play stations and they still had a great time! Every Dreamer should have the opportunity to spend some time at Calwood."

Get your tickets here...For Free

IHAD has partnered with two programs that provide tickets to artistic, cultural, and sporting events for Dreamers, volunteers, families, and staff members. The ArtReach ticket program sends email updates every Monday that list specific events for which tickets are available during the upcoming week. Anyone interested in obtaining tickets for a specific event must then let Allison know, via phone or email, which event they would like to attend and how many tickets they will need. Because a large number of non-profit organizations have partnered with ArtReach, tickets are not guaranteed and tend to be snatched up quickly. The sooner you get your order into Allison, the better!

The Colorado Rockies Community Ticket Program provides bulk tickets to various Rockies games throughout the season. Many IHAD staff members have taken advantage of these tickets and brought several excited Dreamers to Coors Field. If you are interested in obtaining free Rockies tickets but do not receive the email updates, please contact Allison Fineberg, Allison.fineberg@ihadboulder.org, to receive them.

Much Adieu About Casa

As the spring has arrived, so has the busiest time of year at Casa. Many of the Dreamers are continuing to excel in their studies, and several Casa Dreamers have recently received some very prestigious awards. Maria was named student of the month at Central Elementary School, 8th grade Dreamers Monica and Columba, and 3rd grader Dulce have all had their artwork showcased at the Twin Peaks Mall in Longmont, and Elizabeth was named 'Colorado Migrant Student of the Year!' Great job, Dreamers! The 8th grade girls have been working especially hard to finish-up their big science project, which involves a research paper, lab procedure paper, and a visual presentation. Thanks to all volunteers who have helped the girls with their projects! When not hitting the books, the Casa Dreamers have been hitting the slopes for the past month. Through a program called Snowboard Outreach Society (SOS), Casa has taken their Dreamers to A-Basin three times so far, with two trips left to go. Through SOS, Dreamers receive lift tickets, instruction, rental gear, and snowboarding clothes, all for \$5 a day! AmeriCorps member Scott Parker commented that "The Dreamers are positive, excitable, well-behaved, and enthusiastic. All of them are coming along quickly, and some of the 2nd year riders are getting quite good." Attendance has been good, despite a few over-sleeping incidents, but that's not bad considering we're on the road by 6am! Thanks so much to SOS and the hard working staff at Casa for making the Dreamers' snow dreams come true.

School Supply Drive, already?

Although most people are thinking about the last day of school and the fun summer before us, IHAD is moving full steam ahead with it's annual fall school supply drive. This year IHAD has collaborated with a few local organizations to expand the drive to help more Dreamers. The four organizations involved in the partnership are: Impact on Education, Extras for Education, IHAD, and the Family Learning Center. The group has been meeting monthly to work out the logistics as well as develop a "brand" for the collaboration. Although a name

for the group has yet to be decided, huge strides have been made. The group secured Corporate Express as their main sponsor which includes a monetary donation as well as the ability to purchase school supplies at cost. This alone is going to allow us to purchase close to double the amount of supplies as last year at about half of the cost! The Daily Camera has donated multiple full and half page ads for us through the months of July, August, and September. We are really excited about this new combined initiative and hope to have the contin-

ued support from our volunteers as well as the community. If you would like to have a collection bin at your workplace please contact Jason Giguere. 303.444.3636 x 11 or Jason.Giguere@ihadboulder.org.



All About Broadway

On March 11th students from Boulder High and the University of Colorado at Boulder came together for a panel discussion hosted by the Broadway Class. Over fifteen CU students, all involved in Latino student groups, shared their personal stories and inspiration. All the Latino Boulder High students were invited to come and there was a great turnout! The CU students told all about their lives and experiences in high school, their family life including stories about their hometowns, GPAs, ACT/SAT scores, and hardships they endured. The students especially discussed the language, cultural, and financial barriers, in addition to the peer pressures they overcame in order to go to college.

The CU students talked about many of the fun aspects of college life, including their student groups and fun cultural activities. They even invited the Dreamers to an up-coming salsa dance one of the groups was hosting. The panelists also spoke of the hard work and sense of pride they possess by knowing that they are the first in their families to go to college. The organizer of the event, AmeriCorps member Megan McCarty said, "I was so incredibly impressed with this group of students and I could see the faces of the Dreamers overcome with all this great information and encouragement." The Dreamers seemed so inspired by these successful role models; we hope they begin to visualize themselves in college after hearing these students' stories.

Rob Rabolt

The "I Have a Dream"[®] Foundation would like to introduce Rob Rabolt, our new Director of Finance & Operations, who started with us on May 2nd. Rob comes to us with a Bachelor's degree in Finance and Accounting from Rider University, and an MBA from the University of Colorado. For nine years he owned his own business (RK & Associates) where he and his partner provided financial and computer consultation in seven states. His areas of expertise include: auditing,

financial planning, budgeting, cash flow management, business set-up, computer systems and data processing, installing and operating time and billing systems, policy and procedure development and regulatory compliance. Previously Rob worked for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston for 5 years as a Planning Analyst and Financial Institution Examiner. Most recently he was the Office and IT Manager for the law firm of Rechlitz and Senior, LLC. We are all super excited to

have Rob working for us and look forward to all the new ideas that he has for our organization. When not working Rob enjoys cycling, hiking, music and traveling. He has spent a great deal of time in Africa, South and Central America, and Europe exploring the more hard to reach places on each continent. Welcome to the team Rob!

**"I Have a Dream"®
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Cheers for Senator Wayne Allard!

Thanks to Senator Wayne Allard, one Dreamer was able to do something that was very important to him, and also something that he had never done before: meet his father. Sen. Allard and his wife donated the mileage needed to fly the Dreamer to California, where in addition to meeting his father, the Dreamer also met members of his extended family, the Dreamer also met time. We at IHAD are so impressed by AmeriCorps member Jon Ciappa's efforts as he sought out donors who could make this possible. We are also very grateful to Sen. Allard for making a very special meeting reality for this one Dreamer.

Dinner and a Meeting

The IHAD Mentor Program held its first "official" Mentor Meeting/Dinner on Monday, May 2nd at Café Gondolier in Boulder. The evening was a huge success due, in part, to a high attendance rate (30 people), as well as the overall enthusiasm of the group!

The point of the meeting was to give mentors and IHAD staff the opportunity to meet each other and engage in meaningful conversation. Mentors were able to ask questions of staff members and of each other, share stories, get advice, and even trade contact information. Some mentors that have struggled in dealing with certain issues with their Dreamers were able to express their concerns and get some great advice. Other mentors were able to meet mentors at their same site and make dates to go on outings with their Dreamers together!

During the wonderful conversations around the tables, the Café Gondolier wait staff served garlic bread and bruscetta, took drink orders, delivered salads as appetizers, and finally, presented the group with 3 different types of delicious gourmet pizzas.



Before the end of the evening, mentors were asked to fill out a brief questionnaire that asked for suggestions regarding the next Mentor Meeting. Mentors gave suggestions regarding meeting locations, indicated whether or not they would be interested in hosting a meeting at their home, how

often they thought meetings should take place, and whether or not they would like to bring a friend interested in the program to the next meeting. Mentors were also asked whether or not they would be interested in having a speaker from the Mental Health Association of Colorado attend a meeting and if so, what specific topics they would like addressed. Mentor responses were overwhelmingly positive and informative and will certainly help in shaping successful Mentor Meetings in the future.

Thank you to all the mentors and IHAD staff members that were able to join us and participate in the first of many great Mentor Meetings. Planning for the next Mentor Meeting is in the works so mark your calendars for an evening during the second week of June 2005. More information to come soon!