

Dreamer Digest

A Publication of the "I Have a Dream"® Foundation



FALL 2000

"I Have a Dream"® Foundation Launches Professional Development Program for Project Coordinators

August 2-6, 2000, marked the inauguration of the "I Have a Dream"® Project Coordinators Professional Development Program. Forty Project Coordinators (PCs) from locations across the country gathered at the Harrison Center in Glen Cove, New York, to begin collaboration focused on developing their skills and knowledge, and forming a network that will join them in their common purpose—service to Dreamers.

The program, called *Focus 2000: The "I Have a Dream"® Learning Community*, recognized that PCs in all "I Have a Dream"® Projects share a common interest in better serving Dreamers, that using one's knowledge and skill effectively is fundamental to the effort, and that every PC can learn from and share knowledge and experience with each other. The national "I Have a Dream"® Foundation is fortunate to have received grants from the U.S. Department of Education and the Tudor Foundation to support the effort.

Phase I: Summer Institute. Each morning an expert provided background and information on a new topic: Alternative Child Assessment, Not-for-Profit Planning and Implementation, and Working Successfully with School and Community. Each afternoon, members of the "I Have a Dream"® community presented examples from their projects: Acquiring and Using Dreamer Data Effectively, Strategic and Day-to-Day Planning, and Developing Resources in the Community. The Project Coordinators then separated into groups and applied the ideas presented earlier.

Phase II: Guided Practicum. On the fourth day, PCs moved to Teachers College at Columbia University to learn about Phase II, the Internet-based continuation of the program. Teachers College has created an on-line course titled "I Have a Dream"® Foundation. Project Coordinators who took part in the training are registered for the course. They can take part in biweekly on-line "chat sessions" on topics of general interest. They can also post, read, and download articles on topics related to their

projects' needs, and join in chat sessions with experts from Teachers College.

In preparing for the Summer Institute, staff at National created a set of materials for Project Coordinators to use at the training session and continue to use throughout the year. These materials will be sent to all Project Coordinators so that they can keep themselves up to date. In January, the training will reconvene at Harrison for *Phase III: Winter Institute*,



PCs and National Staff convene at the Harrison Center in Glen Cove, New York.

which will begin with reports by PCs on the progress they made in accomplishing their plans. The results of this training will also be distributed to all Project Coordinators. We hope to be able to offer another round of training beginning in the summer of 2001.

Seventh Annual Project Coordinators Conference

Prior to attending the August Training, PCs gathered for their annual Project Coordinators Conference on July 28-31, in New Jersey. Project Coordinators from 21 cities attended the

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From the President's Desk

As the new President and Chief Executive Officer of the "I Have a Dream"® Foundation, I am delighted to be a part of this growing and inspiring organization. During this past year, the Foundation has experienced a number of transitions begun by our Board of Directors and my predecessor, Eileen Goldblatt. New funding has been secured to support new initiatives such as the Professional Development Program for Project Coordinators and the creation of a dynamic and accessible national database.

These ventures are central to the growth of "I Have a Dream"®, and all of our efforts as we continue to grow and change will build on our established strengths.

In this *Dreamer Digest*, you will read of our early strides in these initiatives and ongoing achievements of our long-standing programs. Included are:

- The inaugural seminars of the Project Coordinators Professional Development Program;
- The creation of a national communication network;
- The growth of the Alumni Network;
- The creation of nine new Projects;
- The renewal of our AmeriCorps funding;
- Individual and whole class success stories from across the nation.

The initiatives you see unfolding in this *Dreamer Digest* are a part of an extraordinary organization we can be proud to support. Through conversations with many of our key stakeholders, I have quickly learned about the elements of our program model that are both unique and special, from our focus on early intervention and "whole child" development to the community involvement in a blend of services, all brought together by the personal commitments our Sponsors and Project Coordinators make of their time and caring to Dreamers.

I am personally dedicated to the national Foundation's supporting and strengthening every one of our Projects' efforts to serve their Dreamers, to increasing the number of Dreamers nationwide and the number of places we reach them, and to broadening the public awareness of the "I Have a Dream"® program.

Richard Ungerer
President and CEO

AmeriCorps Enters 7th Year

The "I Have a Dream"®/AmeriCorps Program has entered its seventh year with robust funding, new leadership, and a clear vision for the future. This summer, after a rigorous competition, "I Have a Dream"® secured funding for an additional three years of AmeriCorps National Direct programming. With this renewed funding, the national foundation expects to offer more than \$3,000,000 in subgrants to local "I Have a Dream"® Projects, with over \$888,000 going to 12 sites in the first year alone. An additional \$165,000 will be distributed to 10 sites participating in the AmeriCorps Promise Fellows program, which is entering its third year of operations.

Through its two AmeriCorps grants, the national foundation has over the past six years provided more than \$6,000,000 in subgrants to local "I Have a Dream"® Projects in 19 cities across the country. These subgrants have enabled more than 600 AmeriCorps members to tutor and mentor some 2,450 Dreamers, recruit 3,000 community volunteers, organize hundreds of community service events, and forge dozens of new community partnerships.

"I Have a Dream"®/AmeriCorps' future is bright. With program focus on literacy tutoring, mathematics education, and mentoring to help Dreamers through difficult adolescent transitions, and bolstered by a strategic partnership with the expanding of the national program team, the program is more focused and better supported than at any other time. With three more years of funding secured and an energized, experienced new management team, "I Have a Dream"®/AmeriCorps is positioned to achieve at a very high level. The sky is the limit ☆

Leading the Dream in the Information Age

This year's National Sponsors Leadership Conference, made possible in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, was held October 26-28, 2000 in Denver, Colorado. Sponsors and Executive Directors from across the country joined in this exciting event which focused on technology, information and confronting the digital divide. Other valuable workshops included: Thinking Skills: Beyond Academics, Working Together: Sponsors, Executive Directors and Project Coordinators, Making a Fundable Case for "I Have a Dream"®, and Contending with Self-Esteem Issues. Special presentations were made by Sam Owen of Technology for All, Jewell Jackson McCabe, Verio, Inc., and HiFusion as well as staff, Sponsors and Dreamers of the Denver and Boulder Projects. ☆

“I Have a Dream”[®] Welcomes 9 New Projects, 620 New Dreamers

California–San Francisco

- ★ 60 third grade students from Marshall Elementary
- ★ Sponsors – Khira Adams, Tanya Capuano, Susan Krant, Carter Montague and Scott Parlee
- ★ Project Coordinator – Abby Rovner

Colorado–Boulder (*Two Projects*)

- ★ 34 kindergarten – eighth grade students
- ★ Casa del la Esperanza (Housing Development)
- ★ Sponsors – Debbie Lane, Susan and Donald Sturm
- ★ Project Coordinator – Jean Pierre La Faye
- ★ 38 second grade students from Pioneer Elementary
- ★ Sponsors – Brenda and Paul Lilly
- ★ Project Coordinator – Ginny Lopez de Holien

Florida–Miami

- ★ 100 first grade students from Charles R. Drew Elementary
- ★ Sponsor – David Ertell
- ★ Project Coordinator – Dr. Dorothy Perrin

Georgia–Greensboro

- ★ 60 first grade students from Greensboro Elementary
- ★ Sponsor – Thomas Kelly
- ★ Project Coordinator – Elizabeth Strickland Thomas

New Jersey–Plainfield

- ★ 55 first grade students from Clinton Elementary
- ★ Sponsor – Temple Emanu-El of Westfield
“I Have a Dream”[®] Foundation, Inc.
- ★ Project Coordinator – Arianna Granados

Texas–Fort Worth

- ★ 155 first grade students from Manuel Jara Elementary
- ★ Project Coordinator – Ingrid Shadow

Virginia–Charlottesville

- ★ 59 first grade students from Clark Elementary
- ★ Sponsors – Chris Poe and Jeff Gaffney
- ★ Project Coordinator – Beth Shapiro Huhta

Washington State–Longview

- ★ 59 fourth grade students from Wallace Grade Elementary
- ★ Sponsors – Karen & Bill Boehm, B. Jo Brewer, C.C. & Kay Bridgewater, Ann & Dan Burns, Jackie Burns, John Crook, Jackie & Dan Evans, LaVina & Bob Jones, Jill Johanson & Pat Kubin, Dottie Koontz, Sue & Cal Lantz, Margaret Lopic, Dee & Tom O’Neill, Jeanene LeRae & Tom Thompson, Terry & William Shepp, Patti & John Shmilenko, Roxanne & Bob Stuart, Rae & Sam Wardle
- ★ Project Coordinator – Skip Mezger ☆

Alumni Network on Fast Track

Building Networks, Fostering Leadership, and Promoting Service are driving forces behind the “I Have a Dream”[®] Alumni Network initiative to keep Dreamers connected and to provide ongoing support services.

Since its inauguration in November 1999, the Alumni Network has organized a series of Leadership Development Training workshops in collaboration with the Fund for the City of New York. The series focused on preparing graduate Dreamers to meet the challenges of their futures. The workshop components addressed Professional Development facilitated by Parrish Management Consulting, Financial Planning with American Express Financial Services, and Building Communication with WorkSmarts Staff Development Services. The workshops also provided Dreamers with an opportunity to network and reunite with their peers.

Among the Alumni Network’s other important achievements this year were:

- ★ Leading an Alumni panel discussion with younger Dreamers at “Take Your Dreamers to Work Day”,
- ★ Establishment of the first Regional Alumni Council in New York, with Juan Martinez, a Dreamer from the original Eugene M. Lang class, serving as Interim Chair, and,
- ★ Launch of the Alumni News Bulletin.



Project Director Yolonda Thompkins (third from left) with Dreamer Alumni.

The Alumni Network has been funded by the Altman Foundation, the Chase Manhattan Bank Foundation, the Jean and Louis Dreyfus Foundation, Inc., the Salmon Foundation, the New York City Council, and the City of New York Department of Youth and Community Development.

We look forward to expanding our Alumni services to “I Have a Dream”[®] Alumni across the country this year ☆

Dreamers across America

Arizona Tucson's ninth grade Dreamers had a busy summer seeking employment or attending school to get a head start on their sophomore year. Dreamers also took advantage of a goals and incentives program, which will run through their high school years. Through a point system based on academics, citizenship and positive behavior, a few Dreamers earned \$75-\$100.

California East Palo Alto's Class of 2000 has graduated. Thirty-four of the original 38 Dreamers (adopted in the fourth grade in 1991) are heading off to colleges and universities, including Stanford, UC-Berkeley, and UCLA. Two more Dreamers are scheduled to graduate from high school in December 2000. Next year, a second group of Dreamers will be high school seniors, and they have already begun researching the college application process. Congratulations "I Have a Dream"®—East Palo Alto!



Boulder Dreamers painting a local bus shelter.

Connecticut Hartford's Asylum Hill Congregational Church celebrated many successes this summer. The class was adopted as sixth graders in June 1988 and was the first "I Have a Dream"® Project undertaken by a church. More than 75 percent of the original 79 Dreamers graduated from high school on time. Fifteen Dreamers have graduated from college, one Dreamer earned his master's degree in teaching, while others are enjoying fulfilling jobs such as high school math teacher, paralegal, therapist, and stockbroker. Congratulations "I Have a Dream"®—Asylum Hill!

Stamford's summer program "The Dreamers have landed" represents weeks of dedication and hard work by Dreamers. The program incorporated art and culture into the Dreamers' daily lives and provided them with an opportunity to express themselves through visual arts, poetry, percussion, and dance under the guidance of various artists and volunteers. The program was funded in part by a grant from the Community Art Partnership Program administered by the Stamford Cultural Development Corporation.

Colorado Boulder Dreamers had an intensive summer program with two-week camps in sports, literacy, and art, and additional programs for recreation and computer training. These events were made possible by Sporting Chance, the University of Colorado, the Boulder Public Library, Target Stores, and the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department. In an ongoing relationship with the University of Colorado (CU), Dreamers have once again worked as paid interns during the summer. A highlight of this relationship: Dreamer Heidi Whitley, who worked at CU for the past four summers, will enter CU in the fall as a student and work part-time as a Financial Aid Counselor. In addition, the Minority Arts and Sciences Program (MASP) at CU has formed a mentoring partnership with Dreamers of the Kalmia Project.

Boulder's Lafayette Dreamers graduated last June and more than 90 percent will be enrolled in colleges and universities such as Northwestern University, University of Colorado at Boulder and University of San Diego. Congratulations "I Have a Dream"®—Lafayette!

Florida Boynton Beach's ninth grade Dreamers hailed their



Boynton Beach Dreamers.

summer program, "Financial Wizards," as the best so far. Dreamers learned about financial management as they worked their way through *The Future Belongs to Dreamers: A Personal*

Finance Guide. The guide was donated by the National Endowment for Financial Education and was created specifically for the "I Have a Dream"® Foundation. In addition, Dreamers successfully completed an exercise in filling out college applications and schedules and learned to balance their checkbooks.

During the summer, Dreamers in Delray Beach, who will soon enter the tenth and eleventh grades, were introduced to the PSAT. A tutoring company specializing in SAT preparation was hired to conduct a four-week course for the Dreamers. During the spring, Dreamers spent six days visiting colleges in four states—Florida's Agricultural and Mechanical University and Florida State University; Morris Brown, Spelman and Moorehouse Colleges in Georgia; Miles College and

Dreamers across America

Tuskegee University in Alabama; and Fisk University and Meharry Medical School in Tennessee.

Miami's Third Annual Jimmy Johnson "I Have a Dream"® Golf Classic, held in May, was a huge success, raising more than \$120,000. In addition to wonderful golf and lots of food, there were special performances by Dreamers at the event, which was hosted by Williams Island with Union Planters Bank as title sponsor. Dreamer Sammy Bush has become an enormous hit in the music world after competing at the Apollo Theater in New York. Recently, he was approached by Capitol Records and recorded his first album; the song "I like it" went gold. Sammy has appeared on the Jay Leno Show and attended the Grammy Awards. But even with Sammy's growing popularity, nothing matters more than the time he spends with his fellow Dreamers.

Iowa For two weeks this summer, 34 Dreamers from the Oakridge Project in Des Moines (who will be entering fourth and fifth grades this fall) and three siblings attended a college camp at Drake University. Some Dreamers also attended a summer program at the Des Moines Playhouse, took overnight trips to St. Paul, Minnesota, to see the new Science Museum, and participated in

a basketball camp, thanks to the employees of Atlas Companies. In addition, Dreamers formed small groups to learn how to use educational

software and build race tracks, to prepare special foods, to plant and maintain a garden, to visit the library and to create an art project. In recognition of the Dreamers' efforts and positive attitudes in school, Jacobson Companies of Des Moines donated space on the sides of their semi cabs. Dreamers have added their names to the semi cabs and hope that they will be seen by Dreamers all across the country.

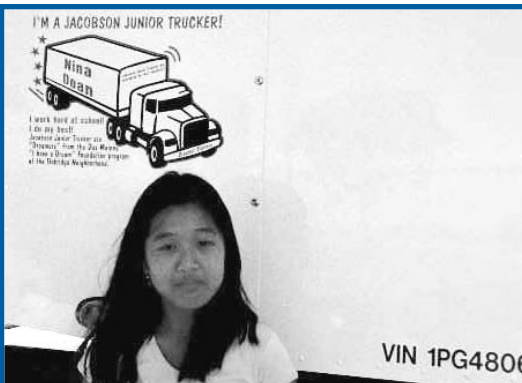
Kentucky Louisville's Dreamers graduated in June. These 58 fourth grade students were adopted in March 1992. More than 50 percent of the Dreamers are enrolled in community colleges, vocational schools, and universities including Belarmine and Spencerian Colleges, and Kentucky State, Purdue

and Vanderbilt Universities. Congratulations "I Have a Dream"®-Louisville!

Massachusetts Boston's Dreamers, now college juniors and seniors, held a reunion with Sponsor Jamie Bush in June. They spent their summer working in establishments such as the courts, the Children's Hospital, the Alvin Ailey Foundation, and an Internet consulting company. There was also an internship at the White House, which involved one Dreamer in the coordination of the statewide Democratic campaigns in Montana. Dreamer Richard Futrell was named National Entrepreneur of

the Year by the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, Inc., and was also accepted at Babson College in Massachusetts. PC Marian

Turenne now works full-time for the Boston 10 Point Coalition, where she is helping to coordinate the efforts of colleges and churches in encouraging minorities to attend college. Thank you Marian for all your hard work and dedication to "I Have a Dream"®-Boston.



Des Moines Dreamer Nina Doan adds her name to a Jacobson Truck.



Miami Dreamers at their Annual Golf Classic.

Missouri Ninth grade Dreamers of St. Louis enjoyed a five-week summer program packed with stimulating activities. While spending a weekend at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, Dreamers learned about college, and they participated in job readiness workshops and internships at Harris Stowe State College. Dreamers also took part in community summer programs such as SLATE, Weed and Seed, and Operation Brightside. Dreamers Tiffany and DeMarcus Caesar attended the Ontario Wooded Hills Workcamp in Aylmer, Ontario, Canada. Tiffany and fellow Dreamer Marquita Young have been honor roll students for the past four years! Dreamer Sol Byrd, a freshman at Riverview High School, plays as a power forward on their varsity basketball team. Sol has already traveled across the Midwest with the St. Louis Fliers and the St. Louis Eagles, and he has been scouted by coaches from several universities. Congratulations to PC Lisa Tate on earning a Master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of Missouri at St. Louis.

Dreamers across America

New York “Design a School” captivated the fourth grade Dreamers from Melrose “I Have a Dream”® Program this summer. Groups of Dreamers came together to build a miniature model of their dream school, visiting colleges to get a look at various rooms, then taking measurements, sketching floor plans, and building the model. The Dreamers learned to listen to each other, to value group discussions, to take responsibility for making decisions, and to compromise, in addition to sharpening their math skills.

Chelsea-Elliott’s seventh and eighth grade Dreamers spent the summer participating in a wide variety of activities, from employment and academic classes to learning about gardening and photography. More than 30 Dreamers were employed by companies, including accounting firms, animation studios, and even photographers. Several Dreamers have been retained as part-time employees for the rest of the school year. Academic programming included a Job Reflection class where Dreamers shared various aspects of their experiences as first-time employees. Dreamers who participated regularly in the summer program were treated with overnight retreats to Vermont and Maryland. As the Dreamers head into the new school year, a significant number are either starting or continuing their education at boarding schools.

Our warmest congratulations to Dreamer Eddie Vasquez (Ashley Project) who graduated in spring with a Bachelor’s degree in Theatre Production from Lehman College, New York.

“I Have a Dream”®–Westbury organized “Keep in Touch” dinners for Dreamers who are attending college. More than 20 Dreamers attended recent dinners. Dreamers Flor Luna and Tabitha Bell, who graduated from high school a year early, have completed two-year degrees from community colleges. They are now attending four-year colleges. Congratulations to PC Rafael Santiago and his wife Shirley on the birth of their son, Jared. Rafael is now a high school guidance counselor.

Kara Forte has been hired as Executive Director of the “I Have a Dream”®–New York Foundation. We extend a very warm welcome to her.



Chelsea-Elliott Dreamer Ariane Fuentes says farewell to PC Hannah Wise, before heading off to boarding school in Montana.

Ohio Cleveland’s Dreamer London Fletcher beat the odds; he is now a linebacker for the St. Louis Rams after graduating from John Carroll University. London was part of the graduating sixth grade class, adopted by Sponsor Charlotte Kramer in 1987. London’s road to fame was not easy. He had to overcome a string of personal tragedies, but his desire to help his family has been the driving force behind his success. Way to go London, we are proud of you!

Texas Fort Worth’s fourth through ninth grade Dreamers kept busy this summer through employment, culture, and study. Dreamers held jobs at the local antiques and books store, the community YMCA, and an equestrian center that focused on therapeutic horseback riding for children with physical impairments. Dreamers visited a number of museums, including the Dallas African-American Museum, the Modern Art Museum, and the Vintage Flying Museum. On the academic level, Dreamers learned about newsletter writing and using the Internet as a resource tool. The summer reading program, sponsored by Fort Worth’s Central Library, used prizes as incentives to promote reading.



Fort Worth’s Program Director Dustin Weekes supervising Dreamers.

Dreamer Thuy Nguyen surpassed her fellow Dreamers by reading 15 books and received a \$25 certificate to a bookstore. Dustin Weeks is now Fort Worth’s Program Director. Previously, Dustin served as a counselor to the Dreamers.

In Houston, the new AmeriCorps Promise Fellow is Andrea Broadway—one of Houston’s Dreamers. Andrea is a senior at Texas Southern University, majoring in Administration of Justice with a minor in Child Care, and is scheduled to graduate in December 2000. In June, ten companies in the Houston area came out to participate in the Corporate Sports Battle event. All proceeds went to “I Have a Dream”®–Houston. Earlier this year, Dreamers created lampshades, clocks, boxes, and mirrors which were sold at their annual gala, “Cirque des Songes.” This year’s gala was the largest ever—raising more than \$200,000 ☆

Contributions: September 1, 1999–August 31, 2000

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*The "I Have a Dream"® Foundation
is grateful to our friends for their
generosity and continued support☆*

Hello and Goodbye

We are pleased to announce and welcome new staff members:

- **Richard Ungerer**, *President and CEO*
- **Joe Edwards**, *"I Have a Dream"®/AmeriCorps Program Director*
- **Philip Hawkins**, *Director of Programs*
- **Maya Lampson**, *Resource Specialist*
- **Janulyn McKanic**, *Director of Finance*
- **Jacqueline Ruiz**, *Education Specialist*
- **Alisa Zelman**, *"I Have a Dream"®/AmeriCorps Assistant Program Director*

We look forward to a long and fruitful working relationship ☆

We say farewell and wish you the very best:

- **Donald Hatcher**, *former Program Director, "I Have a Dream"®-NY and Resource Specialist, "I Have a Dream"®-National*
- **Robin O'Brien**, *former "I Have a Dream"®/AmeriCorps Program Director*
- **Aishah Miller**, *former "I Have a Dream"®/AmeriCorps Assistant Program Director*

Thank you for your dedication and hard work ☆

Thank You

The "I Have a Dream"® Foundation, its staff, and the Board of Directors would like to express our deep appreciation for the devoted work of **Eileen Goldblatt** in service of the Foundation, its affiliates, and the thousands of disadvantaged children we serve.

Her vision for "I Have a Dream"® has helped the Foundation find new ways and means to expand its programming, to broaden its reach, and to strengthen its national network. She leaves us a legacy of extraordinary achievement ☆

Seventh Annual Project Coordinators Conference

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conference—Dreaming Outside the Line—which was hosted by "I Have a Dream"®-Camden at the University of Rutgers.

Steps were taken to ensure that each workshop offered a very different twist on some familiar topics including Leadership, Advocacy, Networking, Self Awareness and Community Awareness. The workshops were well received and a number of PCs wanted further information on either the facilitator or their specific topic. PCs also heard from National's new President and CEO, Richard Ungerer, who reiterated National's commitment to increase support and services for PCs ☆

"I Have a Dream"® Foundation
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Llewellyn P. Haden, Jr.
Chairman and Treasurer

Richard Ungerer
President and CEO

Eugene M. Lang
Founder and Chairman Emeritus

The "I Have a Dream"® Program helps children from low-income areas become productive citizens by providing a long-term program of mentoring, tutoring, and enrichment, with an assured opportunity for higher education.

For information on the "I Have a Dream"® Program, details on becoming a Project Sponsor, or to make a donation, contact:

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