

Dreamers Biggest

A Publication of the "I Have a Dream"[®] Foundation  SPRING 2002

60 . . . 70 . . . 80 . . . 90%!

All across the country, Dreamers surpass their expected high school graduation rates!

2002 • 86% of this class will graduate from high school by June; the remaining will work towards their GEDs. This project started with the fifth grade in 1993. **Camden, NJ.**

2002 • 75% of these Dreamers will graduate from high school by June and 58 percent of the graduates will pursue higher education or seek employment. This project started with students from the second through the fifth grade in 1992. **Pasadena, CA.**

2001 • 70% of this class graduated from high school and went on to pursue higher education. This project started with the fourth grade in 1991. **Battle Creek, MI.**

2001 • 90% of the Ginsburg Family Dreamers graduated from high school. This project started with students from the fourth through the sixth grade in 1992. **Denver, CO.**

2000 • 89% of this class graduated from high school and 85 percent of these Dreamers sought higher education. This project started with the fourth and fifth grades in 1992. **East Palo Alto, CA.**

2000 • 87% of these Dreamers graduated from high school; 90 percent of these graduates enrolled in colleges and vocational schools. This project started with the fourth and fifth grades in 1992. **Boulder, CO.**

1999 • 93% of this class graduated from high school and 96 percent of these Dreamers pursued higher education. This project started with the fifth grade in 1992. **Westbury, NY.**

1998 • 66% of these Dreamers graduated from high school or earned their GEDs, and 78 percent of these graduates enrolled in colleges. This project started with the sixth grade in 1991. **Lawrence, MA.**

1997 • 90% of this class graduated from high school. In 2001, 50 percent of these graduates received their four-year college degrees. This project started with the fifth grade in 1989. **Boston, MA.**

1997 • 78% of these Dreamers graduated from high school or earned their GEDs. This project started with the fifth grade in 1990. **Des Moines, IA.**

1996 • 80% of these Dreamers graduated from high school. This is one of 11 projects where an aggregate of 83 percent of the Dreamers graduated from high school or earned their GEDs between 1993 and 1999. Of these graduates, 60 percent of them enrolled in colleges or vocational schools. These projects started with the fifth and sixth grades between 1987 and 1994. **Chicago, IL.**

1995 • 71% of this class graduated from high school; 88 percent of these Dreamers went on to college. This project started with the sixth grade in 1988. **Prince George's County, MD.**

1994 • 81% of this class graduated from high school; 68 percent of these graduates enrolled in colleges. This project started with the fifth grade in 1987. **Detroit, MI.**

1994 • 70% of these Dreamers graduated from high school or earned their GEDs. This project started with the sixth grade in 1987. **Washington, DC.**

1993 • 75% of this class graduated from high school. By 2001, 93 percent of the original class had earned four-year degrees or were employed. This project started with the sixth grade in 1988. **Hartford, CT.**

How I Will Achieve My Dream

by Albanidia Morales, 10th grade, New York, New York

My dream is to go to college in Oregon or Washington, and work with the Federal Bureau of Investigation as an undercover agent. The way I will achieve my dreams is to believe in myself throughout the good times and bad times in my life. I plan to work hard in school and look for opportunities in my life that can bring me closer to my dream of being an undercover agent. So far I think that I am doing great in working towards my goals. . . . I earned a full scholarship to an alternative boarding school. While there, I earned all A's and B's. I have made mistakes that have set me back, but instead of just giving up . . . I have stepped up to the challenge of life day by day and moved on. Every set back, I look at as a learning experience that will make me stronger.

Recently I made a big mistake . . . [and] my Project Coordinator, Hannah Wise and other volunteers, talked to me each day. . . . They gave me the support I needed to be strong. . . . Each day I remind myself of what my goals are and remember what makes me want to achieve those goals so much. I remember all that I have accomplished and think about how I can work towards achieving my dreams. Being proactive when times get rough gets me closer every day to achieving my dream.

The only way I believe I will achieve my dreams is to surround myself with a positive and healthy lifestyle and always remember to be strong no matter what comes up in life. Throughout my whole life the "I Have a Dream"[®] Program has been there to reinforce that.



Left. Chairman and Atlanta Sponsor Llevellyn Haden, Trenton Sponsor Sandra Persichetti Roibe and Chicago Sponsor Irving Lewis at the Gala.



Right. Also at the Gala, LA's Executive Director, Harold Haizlip, Original Dreamer Zulma Hernandez and Founder Eugene M. Lang.

Letter from the Interim President

How do we measure success at the "I Have a Dream"[®] Foundation? One of the ways is to simply look at the numbers. The high percentages of Dreamers that have graduated from high school and gone on to pursue higher education speak for themselves. In the low-income communities that we serve, the expected high school graduation rate is a mere 20-40%. Yet our Dreamers have continually surpassed these bleak statistics and overcome these odds with 60-95% graduation rates. However, there are other ways we measure success that may be even more meaningful. We measure it by: the smiles on our Dreamers' faces and the pride they take in their accomplishments, both big and small; the commitment and determination of our Project Coordinators who work relentlessly to ensure that their Dreamers are equipped with all the tools they need to achieve their goals; the support of our Dreamer parents; and, of course, the extraordinary generosity of our dedicated Sponsors.

Serving as Interim President and CEO of the "I Have a Dream"[®] Foundation has been an incredibly exciting and inspiring experience. Working with the National staff and the field these past six months has been very productive. Together, we have launched many new projects such as: 1) The new and improved ihad.org website, 2) the National Partners Program, 3) a Public Relations Campaign for which we've raised \$150,000, 4) a National Dreamer Conference which will unite Dreamers from 20 different programs across the country, and so much more.

I am grateful to all of you who have helped make my brief tenure so remarkable. I look forward to welcoming our new President and CEO, Marina Winton, and the many more great accomplishments that lie ahead for the "I Have a Dream"[®] family.

Kara Forte

What Is A Dream?

by Adriana Rojas, 6th grade, Vancouver, Washington

What is a Dream? To me, it's one of the most important things in life. Nothing happens unless you first have a dream. For the last four years, I have had the same goal for my future. I want to be a lawyer. When I was little, like many other girls, I wanted to be a famous singer or dancer, but I have learned that for me it is only a fantasy. My real dream is to be a lawyer, and my dream will be accomplished, thanks to the "I Have a Dream"® Foundation.

I know that I have to do my part, to live my dream every day by doing my homework, and continually getting good grades. It seems to me that my Sponsors are not asking much from us. They just ask that we, the Dreamers, do well in school, which is something we already should be doing. The key is in our hands. It is up to us.

I know life gets harder as you get older, but I'm determined to be successful, in my life and in my dreams. I will aim high and accomplish all. I am constantly thinking about my future. You know, the best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time. Right now, I'm in the 6th grade, and I have a plan that I will use throughout my life. That is amazing.

When I go to high school I will work extremely hard to keep my grades up. Then, when I graduate I will apply to the University of Oregon, UCLA, Harvard and Yale. Right now, Harvard is the college I want to go to the most. I know Harvard is the best college for lawyers. I also know it will be hard work, but I believe there is always room at the top. I shall go confidently in the direction of my dream, and I will live the life I have imagined!



Left. Dreamers and essay winners Albanidia and Adriana with Cokie Roberts.



Right. National staff member Andrew Abrams and Dreamer Jasmyne Montague perform at the Gala.

An Evening to Remember

What a turnout! From California and Washington to Florida and New York—Sponsors (some who started their projects as early as 1987) Executive Directors, Dreamers, Project Coordinators, supporters, friends and family members came to celebrate our Anniversary with us. More than 160 people attended the "I Have a Dream"® 20th Anniversary Gala in Washington, DC, on November 15, 2001. The faces in the audience clearly reflected how far the mission of "I Have a Dream"® has spread—crossing barriers and encompassing all ages and backgrounds.

Attendees honored Eugene M. Lang as founder of the "I Have a Dream"® Program and CBS News for carrying the mission of the program to the world. One of the more poignant moments occurred as Dreamer Adriana Rojas began reading her winning essay, and faltered. Cokie Roberts of ABC News and emcee for the evening, stepped in and offered to read the first few lines with Adriana. Dreamer and fellow essay winner Albanidia Morales stepped up to the podium and held Adriana's hand. Encouraged by Cokie and Albanidia, Adriana gained confidence and her voice grew stronger as she continued reciting her essay. The audience responded with a standing ovation.

Dreamer Jasmyne Montague of Washington, DC, and national staff member Andrew Abrams, performed *I Have a Dream*, written in honor of the 20th Anniversary. Music for *I Have a Dream* was written by Andrew, with lyrics written by fellow staff member Nancy Raditz. During the evening, attendees also heard from Marc Racicot, Chairman of America's Promise and former Governor of Montana and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney of the 14th District of New York.

It was truly a enjoyable evening. We extend our deepest gratitude to all those who attended and our sincere thanks to those who assisted in planning this memorable event.

"I Have a Dream"

ARIZONA

Tucson

CALIFORNIA

East Palo Alto
 Los Angeles
 Oakland
 Pasadena
 Richmond
 San Francisco
 Vallejo

COLORADO

Boulder
 Denver
 Lafayette
 Longmont

CONNECTICUT

Hartford
 New Haven
 Norwalk
 Stamford

DELAWARE

Wilmington

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington

FLORIDA

Boca Raton
 Boynton Beach
 Delray Beach
 Miami

GEORGIA

Atlanta
 Greensboro

ILLINOIS

Chicago
 East St. Louis
 Elgin
 Evanston
 North Chicago

INDIANA

Indianapolis

IOWA

Des Moines

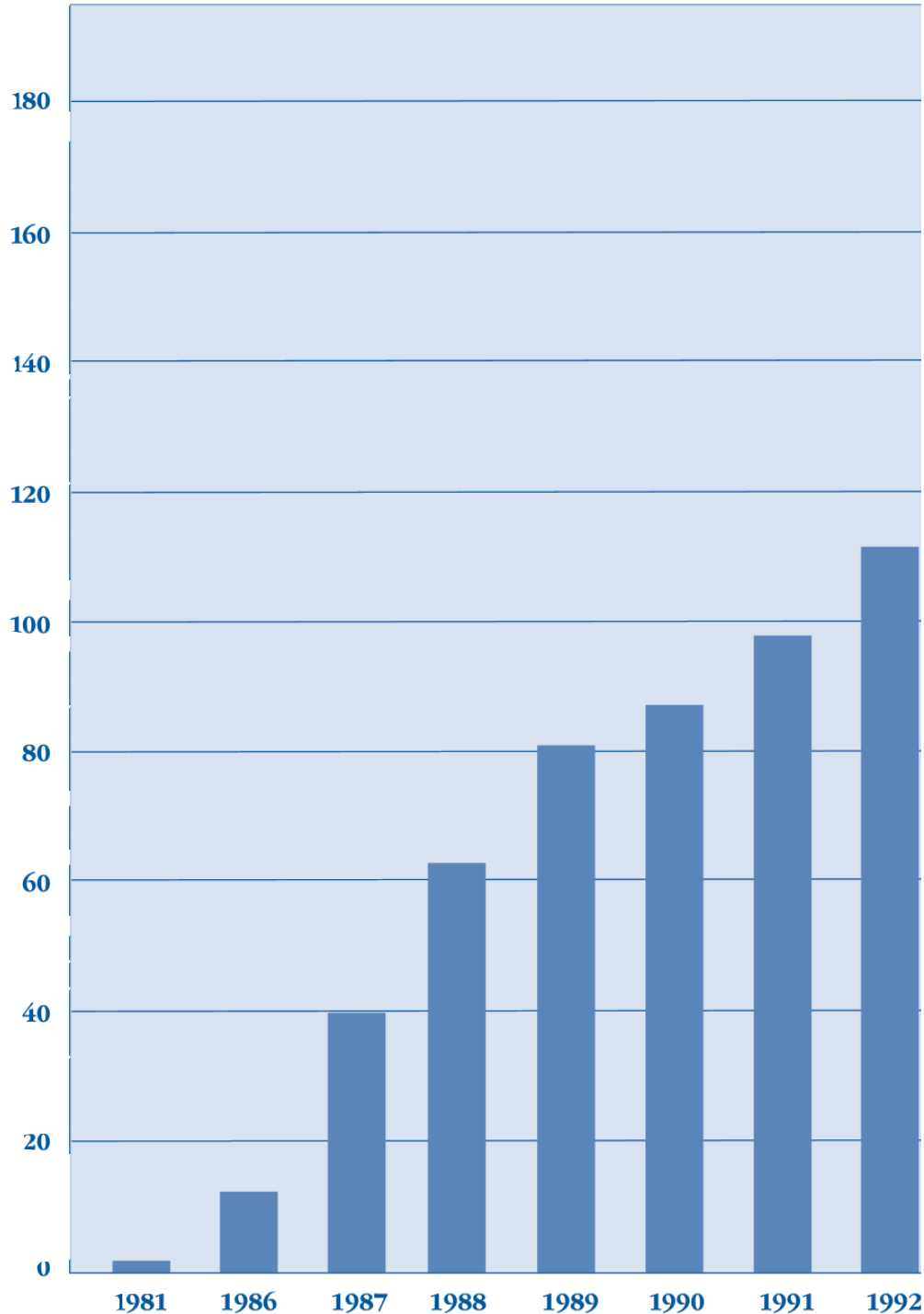
KENTUCKY

Louisville

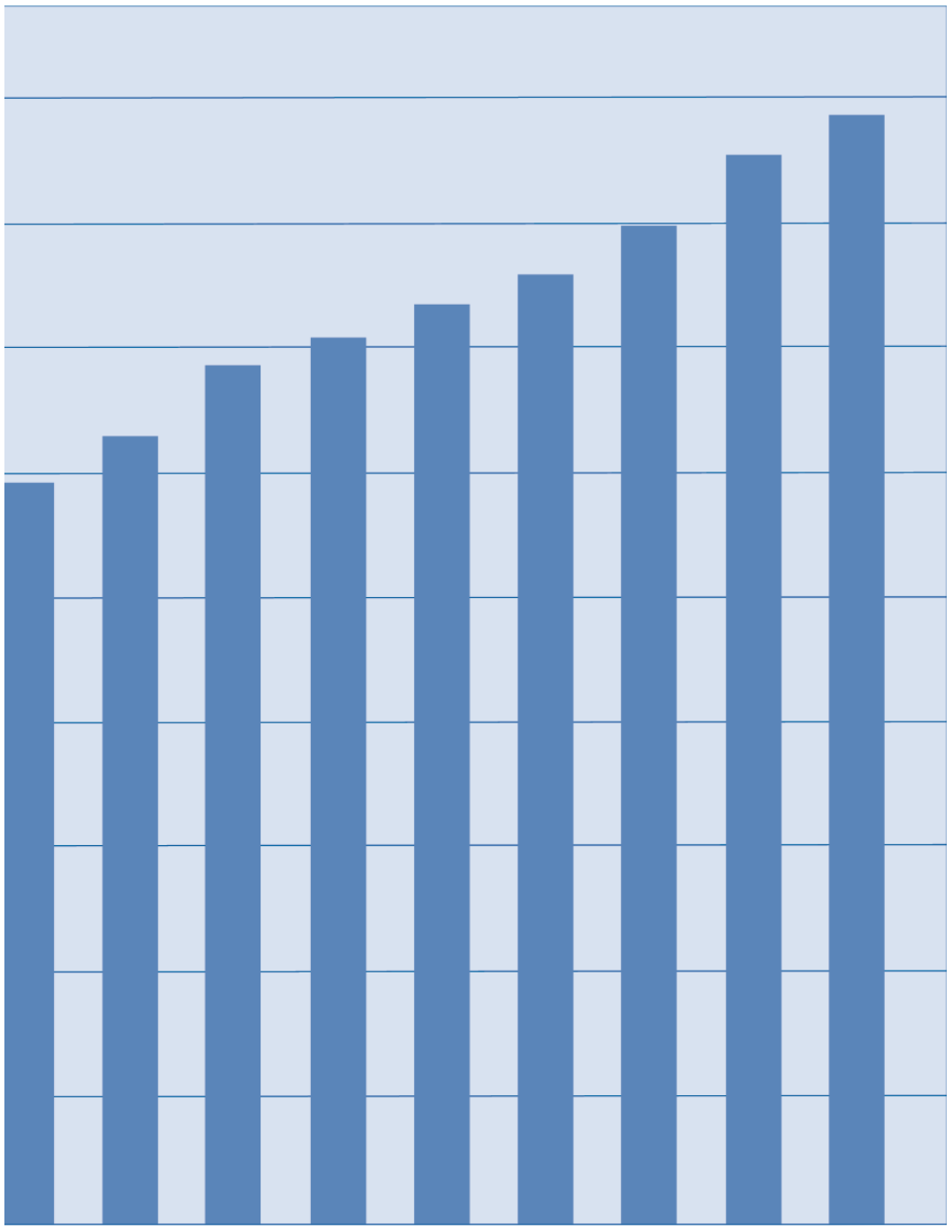
MASSACHUSETTS

Boston
 Lawrence
 Springfield

Number of "I Have a Dream"® Projects



"® across America



1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001

MARYLAND

Prince George's County

MICHIGAN

Battle Creek
 Detroit
 Port Huron

MISSOURI

Kansas City
 St. Louis

NEVADA

Las Vegas

NEW JERSEY

Camden
 Paterson
 Plainfield
 Trenton

NEW MEXICO

Santa Fe

NEW YORK

Albany
 Mount Vernon
 New York
 Westbury

OHIO

Cleveland

OREGON

Portland

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

SOUTH CAROLINA

Clio

TEXAS

Beaumont
 Dallas
 Fort Worth
 Houston
 San Antonio
 Simonton

VIRGINIA

Charlottesville

WASHINGTON

Longview
 Seattle
 Vancouver

65 Cities

27 States

"I Have a Dream"® 2002 Project Coordinators' Institute *by Ray Llanos, Project Coordinator, Washington, DC*

This year "I Have a Dream"® hosted its third successful PC Institute, the professional development program for Project Coordinators. The Institute was held from February 2-7, 2002 at the Harrison Conference Center in Glen Cove, NY—an excellent facility conducive to the various sessions formats used throughout the conference. The unique sessions on Sunday were conducted by Executive Directors and Project Coordinators using the Open Space Technology (OST) concept. OST allowed participants to initiate and control the material discussed throughout the day. Self-selected participants presented topics and served as the mediators of the sessions. OST also involves the "Law of Two Feet" which permits participants to freely move from one session to another. The "Law of Two Feet" allowed everyone to contribute to and gather information from sessions that ran simultaneously. Some of the topics covered in these sessions were Retention of Dreamers in the New Millennium, Increasing Parent Participation, and Hosting a Dreamer Conference. At the end of each session, the mediators were responsible for summarizing the information and generating reports which were distributed to everyone on the last day of the conference.

In the evening, we were given the option to retreat to our rooms for a little R & R, or reconvene for some NFL. Most chose the NFL—after all it was Super Bowl Sunday. During the exciting game, conversations which would foster closer relationships between "I Have a Dream"® colleagues continued throughout the evening.



Left. Project Coordinators pose for a photo during a lunch break. Ray Llanos, back row, far right.



Right. Project Coordinators during the OST session. Pearlle Lawson of Clio (front) and Cyndi Salazar of Houston.

On Monday, we continued with a more conventional format. Engaging sessions were presented by a variety of professionals, including Judith Gold and Judy Jablon of Bank Street University who discussed Dreamer Transitions and Javier Francisco Diaz of Educators for Social Responsibility who facilitated a session on Conflict Resolution. The night brought Dreamer Transition Improvisational Skits presented by conference participants. The skits showed project elements such as the dedication and persistence which PC Ginny Lopez de Holien uses to encourage parents to participate in the program. National's Director of Programs, Philip Hawkins, delivered an unforgettable portrayal of "Rashawn," an inner city Dreamer who was sometimes reluctant to participate in program activities. The skits were hilarious, yet provided a very insightful glimpse into our work.

As the Institute continued, we learned about FANS, a training course in Math workshops designed to encourage parental involvement. This course was presented by Kathleen Kalena of Rutgers University. We also received training on the Data Management System (DMS) from National's Marquetta Drakes and heard about the new DMS extraction tool from Nancy Raditz, also from the national office.

Wednesday, Marquetta hosted a Tech Fair to share a plethora of software ideas for us to take back with us. In the afternoon we visited New York City for some sightseeing, shopping and dinner.

On the final day, Philip introduced Dreamernet, the messaging system to be used by the "I Have a Dream"® family. During the "chat room" demonstration we had a live online chat with Nancy, hard at work at her desk back at National. Dreamernet promises to be a very resourceful, user friendly, networking tool for the entire "I Have a Dream"® family.

The 2002 PC Institute was a complete success for all who attended and promises to impact even those who could not attend. We learned a great deal and the experience of networking with colleagues always proves to be an invaluable one. Everyone should look forward to the next PC Institute and plan to attend.

From Fights and Tears to Building Teamwork, Trust, and Peace

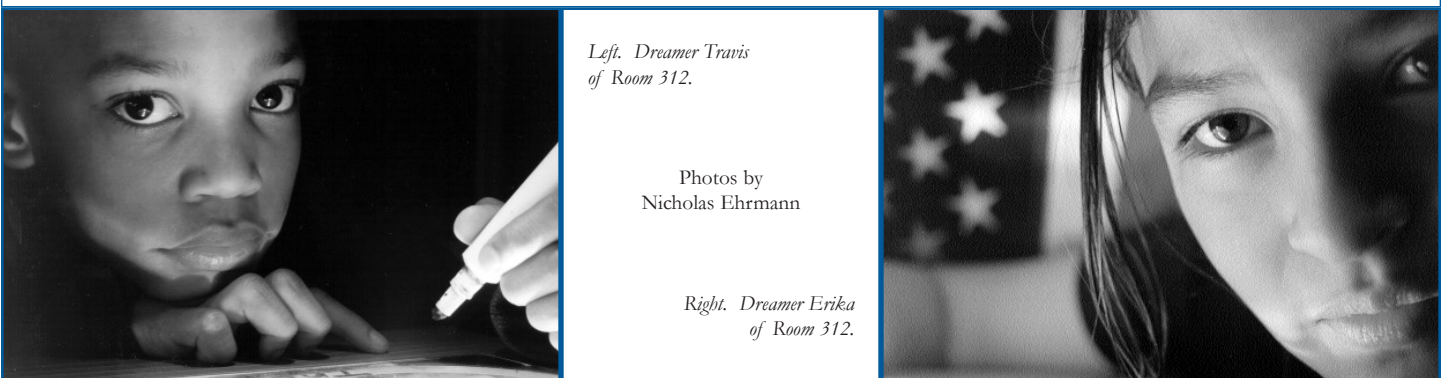
The Story of "I Have a Dream"®/Project 312

Photography inspired the mission of "I Have a Dream"®/ Project 312—to transform predominantly negative perceptions of urban minority youth, and to engage thirty elementary school students with an eight-year, comprehensive program of tutoring, mentoring, enrichment, and family outreach through an unique collaboration with the national "I Have a Dream"® Foundation.

Nicholas Ehrmann hails originally from Indiana, and he double-majored in History and American Studies at Northwestern University. In June 2000, he joined Teach for America, a nonprofit organization that encourages recent outstanding college graduates of all academic majors to commit two years to teach in public schools in low-income communities across the country. This affiliation took Ehrmann to Room 312—a fourth grade classroom at Emery Elementary School in Washington, DC, in the fall of 2000.

The first few months of teaching were an incredibly challenging time filled with chaos, fights, insults, and tears. Ehrmann was painfully aware that such a negative environment would never inspire student achievement and growth. During the difficult autumn months, he realized that producing a classroom full of inspired learners would never occur until he found a way to connect with his students.

After only three of his students purchased school pictures, he began to take photographs in place of the costly service offered by the school. "Through my lens, I saw powerful, graceful, extraordinary children," Ehrmann recalls, "not hopeless,



hardened, incorrigible kids, as they are too often portrayed." When he showed the students these remarkable images of themselves, something magical started to happen: Room 312 began to smile.

As Ehrmann improved as a teacher and bridges of trust grew stronger, fights, insults, and tears gave way to teamwork, trust, and peace. Amazed at the difference he witnessed in the students' attitude and performance, he was encouraged and even more motivated to help his students. He decided to start a long-term scholarship program to further the success of Room 312. Most of the elements were already in place; all he needed was a Sponsor. Ehrmann began putting the word out. He told friends and associates about his mission.

In May 2001, he was introduced to Chris White, an "I Have a Dream"® Sponsor from Washington, DC. Chris introduced Ehrmann to "I Have a Dream"® and to Harry Nick, Bob Pincos, and Laurence Siegel. Impressed by Ehrmann's drive, talent, and tenacity to make a difference, Harry, Bob, and Laurence joined him by becoming the Sponsors of his mammoth undertaking—one that promises to be a rewarding experience for Sponsors, Dreamers and their families, program staff/volunteers, and the community. After completing his two-year teaching commitment, Ehrmann will become the Project Coordinator of "I Have a Dream"®/Project 312.

The Board of Directors, Sponsors and Dreamers of the "I Have a Dream"® Foundation of Washington, DC, have embraced the new Dreamers, Ehrmann, and Sponsors Harry, Bob, and Laurence by making an official announcement of the newly-formed project at their annual gala, hosted at the Russian Embassy on March 21, 2002. The local foundation is elated with its newest addition and looks forward to expanding and adopting more classes that will enrich the lives of more children. "I sincerely hope that these powerful images continue to inspire us to commit our energies, talents, and resources to benefit deserving students," said Ehrmann. "I Have a Dream"®/Project 312 officially kicked off on June 1, 2002.

New and Noteworthy

April

***www.ihad.org Launched!
Re-vamped, Re-designed,
Updated and User-friendly***

2

June

***Road Show hits the highway.
Includes Data Management System
Training and Technical Support***

0

National Public Relations Campaign Kickoff

0

July

National Partners Program Initiative Pilot Phase

2

August

Dreamernet Launch

at the

Project Coordinators' Conference
August 1-4 • Boulder, Colorado

National Dreamer Conference
August 12-15 • Kenilworth, New York

November

National Sponsors' Conference
November 14-16 • San Francisco, California

If you would like to receive future publications via electronic mail, please contact Nicola Ramotar at 212.293.5480, extension 17, or e-mail her at nramotar@ihad.org.

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Llewellyn P. Haden, Jr.
Chairman and Treasurer

Kara Forte
Interim 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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