

Visitor

Mid-winter 2010



www.childabuse.org or www.tennysoncenter.org

2010: LOOKING FORWARD TO...

Northern Colorado Dinner Friday, April 30

Marriott Hotel, Ft. Collins
For information, call
720-855-3307.

2010 Walk of Faith Saturday, May 15

Join people of faith for
this wonderful event to
raise awareness for our
kids. To participate or
register a team, call
720-855-3317.

il Amore di Vino Monday, April 12

Morton's Steakhouse,
LoDo
Join us for an evening of
fine wines, food and a
silent auction in support
of Tennyson Center for
Children. For details, call
720-855-3316.

Bee-a-Sucker for Kids April 5 through May 2

Front Range area
Applebee's locations. For
details, call
720-855-3316.

www.childabuse.org
303-433-2541

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The Broncos are playing...playing Santa, that is! / Dave Sevick

The list of those who support Tennyson Center for Children (TCC) is as vast and varied as the kids we serve. Occasionally, that list will include a name which has some fame or notoriety attached to it when such a person will use that celebrity status for the greater good, not only with financial support but also by helping to spread awareness throughout the community of the wonderful work being done at TCC.

And it's even better when such notoriety becomes integral to the process of improving even just one of the lives of the children in our care at Tennyson Center. Such was the case recently with our beloved Denver Broncos.

By December of 2008, 12-year old Devante had been in various Tennyson Center treatment programs for nearly a year. As a client of TCC's residential treatment program, emotional and behavioral issues had made it difficult for him to live at home with his mother and siblings although he would be spending at least part of the 2008 holiday vacation at home with his family.



Devante with his new Bronco buddy, linebacker Wesley Woodyard.

TCC's Operation Santa program, which ensures that clients and their families have food and gifts for the holidays, was in full swing. However, on Christmas Eve it was discovered that a communication error had resulted in Devante's family not being adopted by a donor. Tricia Muniz, Operation Santa Director, scrambled to rectify the problem.

She remembered hearing how the Broncos organization was heavily involved in community philanthropy with several local charities, especially during the holiday season. So, with fingers crossed, she picked up the phone and gave them a call.

Continued on page 4

Tim McGraw: Givin' Where You're Livin' for Tennyson Center

Tim McGraw is setting an example by "Givin' Where You're Livin'!"

In the spirit of encouraging neighbors to help neighbors, country music stars Tim McGraw and Faith Hill created their foundation, Neighbor's Keeper Fund, in 2004 with the goal of strengthening communities by contributing to diverse projects with a primary emphasis on children's initiatives. In

partnership with the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, FritoLay and Propac Marketing, Neighbor's Keeper has selected Tennyson Center for Children as the sole local charity to benefit from Tim's upcoming Denver concert performance, part of his 2010 "Southern Voice" tour.

McGraw's involvement with children's charities across the country was a perfect fit for FritoLay's "Givin' Where You're Livin'"



Continued on page 4



Bob Cooper
President/CEO

“

In a tough economic year, these people have made it possible so that, even after they've passed on, they're still making a huge difference in the lives of so many children .

”

Editor: Dave Sevick

A Message from the President/CEO

Leaving a Legacy / Bob Cooper

This past year much has been written about everyone's struggles in this economy and the sacrifices people have made. It seems no one has been untouched by this downturn. The good news is we are having a different experience here at Tennyson Center! Yes, we are being stretched in many different ways like everyone.

But one very real blessing—or more accurately five real blessings—this past year made a significant difference in the lives of the children we serve. These blessings came in the form of estate gifts from individuals and couples who wanted to make an impact on the children we serve by leaving a legacy. One gift came from Emma Miller, who died just short of her 106th

birthday and had first planned for the children in her estate back in the early 1970s. Phillip Firebaugh had learned of Tennyson's work through his church many years ago. Lyle and Melvina Killion had been planning for the children for more than fifty years. Martha Dolan had never made a gift to Tennyson before, but knew of our work and left a wonderful legacy here. And Bernard Matthews knew of us through a family connection; he, too, left his legacy here. Each of these legacy gifts was the largest single gift these individuals had ever made and will benefit the children in perpetuity through our endowment fund. In a tough economy, these people have made it possible so that, even after they've passed on, they're

still making a huge difference in the lives of so many children.

I have said many times that we are here at Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home after 105+ years because many people have made Tennyson Center and the children we serve priorities in their lives. That includes the many people who have gone before us and wanted to make an everlasting gift to the children. I know many of you reading this have made a legacy gift plan that will someday benefit the children and I thank you so much. If this is something you would like to consider and you would like to learn more about legacy giving, please contact me at 720-855-3320.

Making Kids a Political Priority / Becky Urdike

The new year will be a very busy one for making kids a political priority! The Colorado legislature began the 2010 session this month with a full agenda including some difficult decisions around cutting approximately \$600 million out of this year's budget and another expected \$1.3 billion in cuts for next year's budget. For Tennyson Center and the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI), these cuts pose serious concerns about the viability and sustainability of important programs that serve Colorado's most vulnerable children including those receiving services at Tennyson Center. OSI maintains a regular presence at the Capitol, monitoring and weighing in on bills that impact children. This session, we are taking an active role in educating legislators about some proposals that might impact our child welfare system in Colorado, including one that might create an Office of the Child's Ombudsman. Other proposals

around redesigning and improving our child welfare system are also being discussed, with OSI engaged in leading and facilitating many of those discussions.

Aside from working in the Capitol this session, OSI continues to host the Every Child Matters Colorado Office, which is gearing up to educate and mobilize voters and candidates around the 2010 election. ECM/OSI will lead and host several educational forums statewide, to better inform voters about relevant issues and how to be a voice for children. ECM/OSI continues to partner with other children's organizations in Colorado around a media campaign that was kicked off in January. OSI also continues contracts in other areas that impact child well-being, including working with Colorado Council of Churches on health care reform and with Colorado Judicial Institute on projects impacting



children and families in the judicial system.

OSI leads Impact 105 into its second year in 2010. Impact 105 is a networking group for young (and young at heart!) professionals who are interested in learning more about engagement in child advocacy. These quarterly networking events began in 2009 and gained unforeseen momentum and popularity. You can find out more about Impact 105 events or other efforts of Office of Strategic Initiatives or Every Child Matters at www.childabuse.org.

Behind the angry eyes / Karen Wolf

Here at Tennyson Center for Children (TCC), we often wonder what hides behind the hurt and angry eyes of the children who walk through our doors. We wonder if they can learn and we hope they can heal. We wonder what it will take to bring these children's spirit to life again. Often love is not enough, but it is a great start.

In May of 2008, Alyssa walked through the door of Tennyson Center's Warren Cottage. She had plenty of reasons to be angry. Her situation offered little contact with either of her parents. She had been raised by the only true caregiver she had ever known: her grandmother. But now that she was in Tennyson Center's residential treatment program, it was difficult for Alyssa to understand that she couldn't be with Grandma whenever she wanted. Wearing her emotions clearly on her face, Alyssa communicated her anger and sadness through violence toward others. She did not trust anyone except her grandmother because she had been let down by those she was supposed to be able to count on.

Alyssa's father, Conrad, was a good man who, over the course of Alyssa's young life, had lost contact with her mother and grandmother; as a result, he had very little interaction with his daughter. Shortly after Alyssa's arrival at Tennyson Center, Conrad discovered where she was and asked if he could re-engage contact with her. He was determined to become the father she'd never had. Naturally, Alyssa didn't quite know what to make of it all. Conrad understood from the start that Alyssa had no reason to trust him and that he was going to have to earn her respect. Consequently, Conrad, his wife Lucia, and their other two children spent the next several months dedicating themselves to Alyssa and her treatment at TCC. They came for family therapy, took her on day and weekend passes, and began

to make a place for her in their home. Yet no matter how diligent the efforts of the family were, Alyssa struggled to integrate into this new life. She often wondered how she would fit into a family she'd never known and if it might all be gone the next day.

Alyssa pushed, pulled and withdrew. Yet Conrad stayed right there with her. Alyssa yelled and screamed, ranted and raved. Yet Conrad listened. Alyssa was desperately trying to find her place in this new setting and, finally, the scattered pieces of this messy puzzle slowly began falling into place. She was learning to accept the love being offered to her as well as the limits that Conrad and Lucia had set out for her.

Christmas of 2008 brought more than just toys and games for Alyssa. She was beginning to find a place in the world. Alyssa began attending school in her home district, although she continued her therapeutic protocol at Tennyson Center. She was keeping herself safe and discovering the joy in her new relationships. By the end of March, Alyssa successfully completed her treatment and graduated from TCC.

Though we at TCC knew it was Conrad's conviction and dedication that turned his daughter's life around, he insisted on giving all the credit to Tennyson Center. On Alyssa's discharge day in March, Conrad asked to have a moment to speak. Before he could utter a word, his eyes filled with tears. With a trembling voice and a sense of humility which few had witnessed before, Conrad reminded the children of Warren Cottage that they are fortunate to have such a great opportunity at a second chance in life.

As his voice choked and he fought to hold back the tears, he said, "Thank you...thank you to everyone at Tennyson Center.

You've given my daughter back to me."

Almost one year after completing the TCC residential program, Alyssa has just experienced the happiness and joy of her second holiday season with Conrad, Lucia, her half-brother and half-sister. She remained close to her grandmother and even spent this past Thanksgiving week with her. Unfortunately, Alyssa's grandmother passed away shortly before Christmas. Most expected such a tragedy to be a major setback for her, but Alyssa handled the situation better than anyone could have imagined she would.

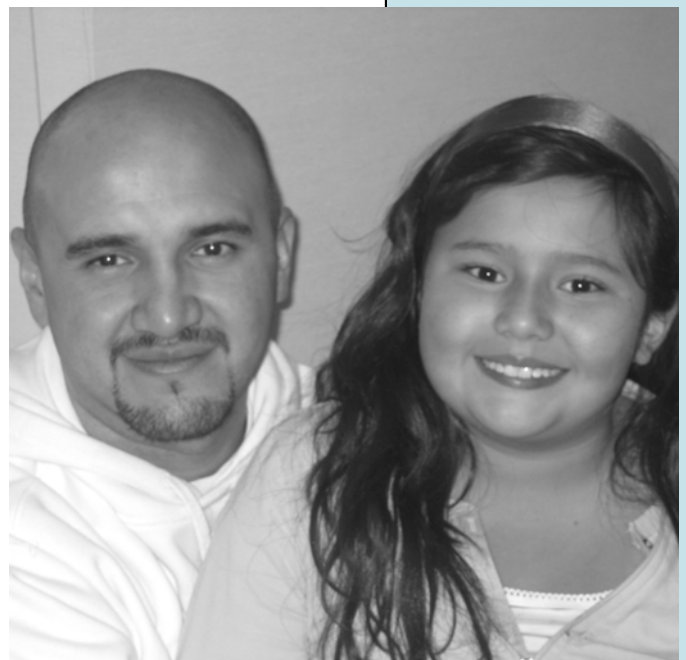
Alyssa is doing well in public school. Although she still struggles always to make the best choices, she knows that she has several people to steer her in the right direction. So, when we wonder what hides behind the hurt and angry eyes of a child who first walks through the doors of Tennyson Center for Children, we are reminded of Alyssa, knowing that those hurt and angry eyes are often simply the mask worn by a child looking to be a part of life again.

“

Thank you to everyone at Tennyson Center. You've given my daughter back to me.

”

Below: Alyssa's smile and her father's glowing pride help to tell the tale of a dream realized.



Broncos are playing (cont'd. from 1)

Within an hour, her call was returned and she was told that Bronco linebacker Wesley Woodyard had stepped up to sponsor the family. That evening, Tennyson staff delivered gifts for Devante, his mother and his siblings to the family home. They would awaken Christmas morning to discover that Santa really does exist, at least in the form of a caring and famous professional athlete.

The following spring, Woodyard invited Devante to the Broncos' Dove Valley training facility, where he got to see firsthand where Denver's NFL franchise practices. A friendship was

developing between the two and the encouragement Devante was receiving from his new friend was priceless, especially since it was coming at a time when the youngster was going through some rough times with his treatment protocol at TCC.

Several months later, there was an opening for a young football player on one of the fall youth leagues. Inspired and urged to join the league by his new Bronco friend, Devante expressed interest in giving it a try, in spite of the fact that he'd never played football. Throughout the summer months he not only played, but while picking up occasional tips from his new and famous friend, Devante thrived as well. He was experiencing the benefits of teamwork and, more importantly, gaining much-needed self-esteem. He learned about responsibility. He learned about self-discipline. And he learned that he had abilities he'd never even imagined.

By the time the league ended in October, Devante was ready to graduate from Tennyson Center's residential treatment program, which meant he would be returning home to live with his mom and his siblings, although

he would still attend school and receive therapy at TCC. It was one of the happiest times in his life.

This past December, Woodyard once again contacted Tricia Muniz to ask if he could sponsor the family for the holidays as he had done the year before. Thanks to his efforts, Devante and his family not only had a holiday season with ample food and clothing, but one where they'd be greeted by presents under a brightly-lit tree on Christmas morning.

Although that would be a fine finish to this story, it doesn't end there. A week before Christmas, fellow Broncos linebacker Mario Haggan, who had heard about Woodyard's involvement with Tennyson Center, also contacted Muniz, inquiring about any children or families who might need help. Coincidentally, there had been a late addition to the list of families in need of help. And on Christmas Eve, thanks to the generosity of yet another Denver Bronco, food, clothing and gifts for six children as well as their parents had been delivered so that they, too, could benefit from a Bronco's caring heart.

Below: A sampling of the items purchased by Denver Bronco Mario Haggan for one of the families in Tennyson Center's Operation Santa program.

**Givin' Where You're Livin' (cont'd. from 1)**

campaign, in which one local charity is chosen to benefit in each of the 53 markets where McGraw will play in concerts this spring and summer.

Tennyson Center for Children was selected after being recommended to the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, managers of the McGraw-Hill fund, by Jeff Hirota of The Denver Foundation. The two foundations have collaborated on community projects in the past.

As Colorado's selected charity, Tennyson Center will receive a gift of \$13,000 from Neighbor's

Keeper Fund to help stimulate and challenge local community giving, in addition Tennyson Center will be the highlighted local charity in a three-week media and point-of-purchase advertising effort for Tim McGraw and for Frito-Lay products in area grocery stores during the summer of 2010.

McGraw's "Southern Voice" tour will make its Denver appearance on Saturday, July 31 at Fiddler's Green Amphitheatre. Tickets will go on sale this spring. Go to www.childabuse.org for more information.



A whole new online experience / Dave Sevick

After many months of intense preparation and planning, the brand new Tennyson Center (TCC) website was finally launched this past November. With an entirely new look and feel, the redesigned website offers a wealth of information about Tennyson Center, its programs and services and the fight against child abuse and neglect. But it also offers a

variety of interactive applications designed to further engage Tennyson Center supporters as well as new visitors to the site, including discussion boards, forums and weblogs where readers can participate in ongoing dialogues and add their own thoughts and comments to a variety of featured topics, much as if an interactive conversation were taking place.

One of the most engaging aspects of the new site is The Tennyson Community, a special members-only section which offers specific or "targeted" content, personalized for different membership groups. Additionally, everyone who signs up as a Tennyson Community member will automatically be entered into a drawing for a luxurious one-night stay at any Magnolia Hotel in Colorado, Nebraska or Texas.

The new website also offers even more interactive features, such as the ability to send e-cards for almost any occasion as well as to create tribute or memorial pages which honor someone special in your life or a loved one who has passed on. These personalized pages allow you to post photos, stories and comments as well as raise funds for Tennyson Center in the name of the person you're honoring.

Tennyson Center events have also moved to the interactive level with online registration and team fundraising opportunities which allow you to invite friends to join your team to help you reach your fundraising goal in support of the work and mission of TCC and, ultimately, the children we serve. The upcoming Walk of Faith will be the first of many events to utilize the team fundraising application, while the Northern Colorado Dinner, held April 30, will be the first to utilize the new online event registration module.

You can check out all of the new features as well as the redesigned look and feel of Tennyson Center's brand new website at www.childabuse.org or www.tennysoncenter.org.

Left inset: A screen capture of the homepage of Tennyson Center's brand new website.



...everyone who signs up as a Tennyson Community member will automatically be entered into a drawing for a luxurious one-night stay at any Magnolia Hotel in Colorado, Nebraska or Texas.



TCC's 2-Day Spring Quilt Sale

Handmade Quilts from around the mountains and plains
Fri., April 16 (3pm-6pm) and Sat., April 17 (10am-2pm)

Tennyson Center Library, 2950 Tennyson St.

For info, call Nancy at 720-855-3317

**April is
Child
Abuse
Prevention
Month.**

**Make a
Difference.**

**Find out how at
childabuse.org.**

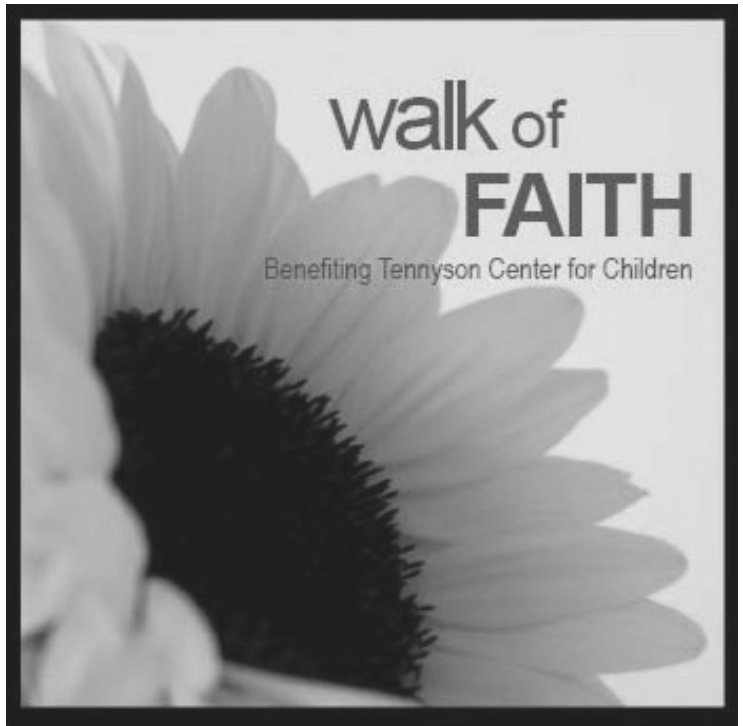


2010 Walk of Faith / Aynsley Stephenson

What does "faith" mean? Why is it so important? How do you foster it within yourself or in others? These are questions the kids and staff at Tennyson Center for Children ask themselves every day and they are the questions we are asking as we plan this year's Walk of Faith.

On May 15th, supporters of the Tennyson Center mission to protect and heal children will band together for a 5K (approx. 3-mile) walk through the beautiful West Highlands neighborhood with stops along the way aptly named "Inspiration Stations," designed to provoke and encourage thoughts and prayers based on their themes related to children's issues. Following the walk, participants will enjoy fun, food and music at an awards ceremony honoring the top fundraisers for the event.

One of the most anticipated aspects of this year's event is the launch of team fundraising through the Tennyson Center website at www.childabuse.org. Participants are encouraged to seek pledges from friends, relatives, co-workers and neighbors who have a heart for kids. The team fundraising option



allows participants to create personalized web pages to help them meet their fundraising goals.

In 2009 the Walk of Faith raised nearly \$15,000 with around 200 participants. This year we have set a lofty goal of raising over \$20,000 and having more than 500 walkers. The 2010 Walk of

Faith promises to be a fun, educational, inspirational experience that participants will long remember. For more information and to be a part of the 2010 Walk of Faith, visit www.childabuse.org/walk or contact Aynsley Stephenson at 720.855.3307 or aynsley.stephenson@tennysoncenter.org.



il Amore di Vino: the love of wine / Tera Prim

'il Amore di Vino' translates to 'the love of wine.' Combine that with our love of children, and we all win.

Morton's will once again be home to our annual wine tasting event to benefit Tennyson Center for Children on Monday, April 12, featuring not only exclusive wines from premier vintners but also the fabulous fare only Morton's can provide.

This treasured event has been dearly missed after having been cancelled in 2009 due to the sluggish economy and slow ticket sales. As we navigated that

challenge with Morton's at our side we determined that sometimes the toughest decisions are better in the long run and 2010 would be a great year to resurrect this event. Even better, il Amore di Vino will exclusively benefit Tennyson Center for Children. In past years, proceeds were split with another charity, but the 2009 cancellation resulted in some changes in the structure of this year's event. Determined to stay true to their commitment to children, Morton's invited Tennyson Center to return as a sole beneficiary of this year's event.

If you've never attended this incredible event, you will be amazed at the caliber of participating wineries along side of a variety of delectable culinary delights, courtesy of Morton's.

Tennyson Center is truly honored to be partnered with our friends at Morton's once again for what promises to be an evening to remember. Corporate Sponsorships are available for this VIP event and Individual ticket sales start at \$125. For more information or to make your reservation, contact Tera Prim at 720-855-3316 or tera.prim@tennysoncenter.org

You make this a better world for children/ Lyn Woods

Our at-risk children have some exciting new opportunities this year thanks to our community of support. During the holiday season, charitable giving surpassed our financial goals, and many donors also fulfilled some very specific requests for individual children and their families through Operation Santa.

In the coming months, new high tech SmartBoards (interactive, electronic whiteboards that enhance instruction and learning) will be installed in our classrooms. The art room, school and cottages were outfitted with an array of educational materials and art supplies including potter's wheels, paints, books

and curriculum materials, and area rugs and essential kitchen items for the residential cottages. Our Education and Community-based programs received GPS navigation systems for our vehicle fleet. The recent charitable support provides our children with added advantages in their daily and educational lives that are often atypical of non-profit schools and residential programs. Today, we are providing program excellence and expanded opportunities to Colorado's most at-risk children thanks to this community of support.

And we are grateful to the many supporters who joined our Cottage Sponsorship program by

becoming monthly donors in 2009. This segment of donors gives monthly to help support the care and daily needs of the children who live on campus. In 2009, the Tennyson Center thrived while some child protection agencies were forced to close. For those of you just learning about Tennyson Center, please consider joining our efforts. You may want to call and arrange to take a tour of our campus or you may decide to jump in headfirst by becoming a Cottage Sponsor or first-time donor. For a tour, simply call me at 720-855-3340 or e-mail me at Lyn.Woods@tennysoncenter.org. You can also go to our website at www.childabuse.org and make an online gift.

For Colorado Residents: What's the future of the Colorado Child Care Tax Credit?

The Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit has been of immeasurable benefit to Colorado's at-risk children and children's charities like Tennyson Center. The Tax Credit has encouraged and enabled donors to increase their annual giving. As of this writing, the future of the tax credit is tenuous.

Tennyson Center's Director of Strategic Initiatives Becky Update is keeping a watchful eye on the current legislative session. Our goal is to provide the most accurate and updated information to our donors regarding this tax credit so that you might maximize your gift planning in 2010. Tennyson

Center will provide periodic updates on the Tax Credit on our website www.childabuse.org, and if you would like to be included in e-mail updates regarding the latest tax credit information, please contact me at Lyn.woods@tennysoncenter.org.

Applebee's: 'Bee-a-Sucker for Kids' 2010

Tennyson Center for Children is once again proud to have the support of Colorado Applebee's restaurants as they help us kick off Child Abuse Prevention month in April with a long standing fundraising tradition. The annual 'Bee-a-Sucker for Kids!' campaign, which runs from Monday, April 5 through Sunday, May 2, lets Applebee's locations throughout Colorado offer their guests an opportunity to make a donation to Tennyson Center for Children. In return, each guest making a contribution will receive a sucker along with a unique

commemorative disc on which they will write their name before hanging it on display for all to see in the restaurant.

Recently, our local Applebee's locations went through a change in corporate ownership. The new Applebee's leadership has pledged their commitment, energy and efforts to the kids being served at Tennyson Center for Children. This new direction in which Applebee's is heading brings the winds of change to our efforts as well and we look forward to continuing the growth

of a long standing partnership, one which we are confident will bring in even more support than ever before.

Be sure to stop in for lunch or dinner at your neighborhood Applebee's during the month of April and look for the 'Bee a Sucker program! For more information, call 720-855-3307.



Lyn Woods
Chief Development Officer



Today, we are providing expanded opportunities to Colorado's most at-risk children thanks to this community of support.



Help us go green!

As part of TCC's efforts to reduce our paper usage, we need your email addresses! If you want to help us out in this endeavor, please email: Nancy.slyter@tennysoncenter.org



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www.childabuse.org

Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home

Tennyson Center works with children, youth, and their families to overcome a variety of life crises, including abuse and neglect.

Tennyson Center is a community of people dedicated to serving children and youth and strengthening families. As professionals and concerned citizens we strive to provide competent and caring treatment, education, and advocacy services that are community-based, family-focused, and child-centered.

The agency provides services to children and families regardless of religion, creed, age, race, color, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, disability status, or military status.



...FOR THE LOVE OF CHILDREN

A BENEFIT FOR TENNYSON CENTER FOR CHILDREN

**MONDAY,
APRIL 12, 2010
6:00 PM**
ENJOY AN EVENING
OF INCREDIBLE
FOOD & WINE
CALL 720-855-3316
FOR DETAILS



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