

# Visitor

Summer 2010



[www.childabuse.org](http://www.childabuse.org) or [www.tennysoncenter.org](http://www.tennysoncenter.org)

## 2010: LOOKING FORWARD TO UPCOMING EVENTS...

**FORE! Our Kids Golf Classic**  
*Monday, August 9*  
Sanctuary Golf Course in Sedalia.  
For information, call 720-855-3316.

**2010 Colorado Springs Dinner**  
*Friday, September 10*  
Cheyenne Mountain Resort. For details, call 720-855-3307.

**Red Lion Run**  
*Sunday, July 25*  
Fruitdale Park in Wheat Ridge. For details, call 720-855-3307.

**"A Night at the Oscars" 2010 Denver Dinner**  
*Saturday, October 23*  
Marriott City Center, Denver. For details, call 720-855-3316.

For detailed information on all upcoming events: [childabuse.org/events](http://childabuse.org/events)

303-433-2541

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## A deeper kind of expression / Dave Sevick

Critical to the success of our students is providing a well-rounded educational experience that is carefully designed to integrate with treatment and therapy for every child in our care. And the art program at Tennyson Center for Children is a key component of both the academic curriculum and the therapeutic protocol.

Lucas Magnuson, the art teacher at TCC, understands not only the importance of a student's creative expression but also how to use such expression to better comprehend what a child is feeling. "Of course, these kids need to express themselves in a creative environment. It's part of what being a kid is all about. But here at Tennyson, it goes beyond being simply an outlet for creative expression as part of our curriculum. It acts as a window into what they're feeling— what they're trying to communicate—and that's so important as we work to help them get back on track," said Magnuson.

Prior to taking over the art program, Magnuson worked as a Youth Treatment Counselor (YTC)



TCC students are encouraged to express their personalities in their artwork.

at Tennyson Center so he has a deep understanding of the emotional challenges many of the children face.

"As a YTC, I got to see how the kids deal with their emotional pain, so I'm very aware of how they deal with their day-to-day challenges. For some of these kids, the simplest tasks which we take for granted can be such a

struggle. I try to give them projects which will help address that. But at the same time, as an art teacher I also want them to learn about art. I want them to appreciate the role art plays in our culture and how, throughout history, art has been such an important part of every society in the world."

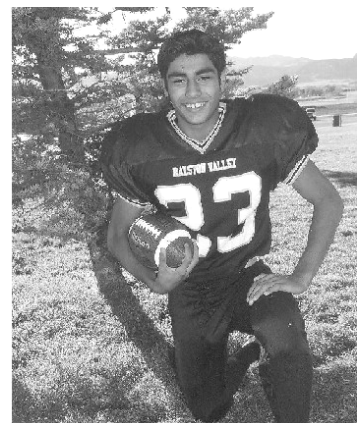
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## Alumni Update: History of Me / Carlos

Carlos is a Tennyson Center alumnus who is a shining example of what's possible when we, as a caring and dedicated community, work together to help kids reclaim the spirit which was taken from them. Carlos is now 15 and is just finishing his freshman year at Ralston Valley High School. He has been the recipient of the Youth Who Overcome Adversity Award and in April of this year, he received the Arvada-Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Below is part of his award-winning essay entitled, "History of Me."

"I have overcome so many adversities in my life. I moved more than 20 times before the age of 5. I was not allowed to stay with my mom because of her drugs and drinking problems. I went to live with a relative and was always getting into trouble. One time I was thrown down the stairs in our basement and left there.



**Continued on page 5**



**Bob Cooper**  
President/CEO

Does your business want to PLAY an important role in the lives of kids? Help us launch our new corporate mobile giving campaign! Encourage your employees to text the word PLAY to 50555 to make a \$10 donation billed to their mobile phone and PLAY a big part in the life of a child!

A one-time donation of \$10 will be added to your mobile phone bill or deducted from your prepaid balance. You will also receive up to 4 msg/mo from Tennyson Center Alerts. Msg&Data rates may apply. All charges are billed by and payable to your mobile service provider. Service is available on most carriers. Donations are collected for the benefit of Tennyson Center by the mGive Foundation and subject to the terms found at [www.mGive.com/A](http://www.mGive.com/A). To unsubscribe text STOP to 50555, for help text HELP to 50555.

Editor: Dave Sevick

## A Message from the President/CEO

### *The Big Corporate Picture / Bob Cooper*

Something BIG is happening on our campus at Tennyson Center for Children and we couldn't be happier. Several corporations and their employees have taken Tennyson Center and the children here under their wings and are making a real difference. Corporations operate on a large scale, from the business they do to the amount of man power they utilize to get the job done. And they understand that the effects of child abuse on a community are long-lasting. They understand the role the entire community plays in the healing process of the kids we serve. They realize their support plays a BIG role in our mission to end child abuse and neglect. And they are up for the challenge.

Volunteers from the business sector are here on campus several times each month

making a very real difference in the lives of the children we serve. Sometimes they come in large groups, like just recently, where more than forty eager employees from an organization that helps out annually pitched in to help make our children's field day a huge success. Sometimes it is a smaller group who will help our Operations team with maintenance projects, like last summer when our drainage system needed to be fixed and new signage was added to our campus. Sometimes one or two individuals will come to read or play a game with a child, help in a classroom or play catch in the yard. Young business leaders from Leadership Denver have been here several times over the past year painting bedrooms, cooking, teaching life skills and shoveling playground mulch. We are grateful for their dedication!

Employee groups are always a fun and engaging way of getting involved with Tennyson and the children we serve whether it's for one-time event or an on-going relationship. We usually have some good "hard work" projects and some fun opportunities for a barbeque or game night with the kids. And remember, without the corporate philanthropic support we receive, it would be impossible to fulfill our mission. Yes, corporate partners have demonstrated that they can do it all and the staff and children are very happy they have chosen Tennyson as the place to do it!

To find out more about how your business, no matter how large or small, can get involved in support of Tennyson Center, call Tera Prim at 720-855-3316 and be a part of the BIG picture at Tennyson Center for Children!

### **Legislation goes far to protect kids / Becky Updike**

The 2010 legislative session concluded this month. Though the legislature had to make significant budget cuts, they were also able to make some great strides on behalf of children. Tennyson Center will be impacted some by budget cuts to provider reimbursement rates and to school funding, and we are actively working to compensate for those areas of loss. It's a challenging time for agencies like Tennyson Center, and we remain committed to finding solutions to maintain our levels of service to children and families in need.

One of the highlights of the session was the passage of SB 171, which creates an Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman. This bill allows Colorado to join 29 other states currently working with an

Ombudsman to help strengthen the safety net for children. The Ombudsman's Office will be an independent resource for anyone to call if they suspect or know about a situation where a child is endangered or being abused. It's another level of protection for children and families. The bill was extremely unique in that it passed the House and Senate with unanimous support in both chambers! We were honored to support the bill along the way, and recognize Senator Linda Newell for her leadership as the bill's primary sponsor.

Another success this session was an invitation for me to present to the Joint Legislative Committee on Child Welfare to discuss systemic issues and potential avenues for improvement in child protection. The bi-partisan committee remains dedicated to

working to improve child welfare in Colorado and seeks to further explore recommendations for potential legislation next session.

Even though the legislative session has ended, we are gearing up for a very busy year! The Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) here at Tennyson Center will continue to work with Every Child Matters which will take us all over the front range to educate voters and political candidates about important children's issues. We will also be hosting legislator and candidate tours of Tennyson Center throughout the summer.

For more information about OSI or any of these important activities, contact me at 720-855-3455.

## Community-Based Services: helping them be a family again

For 106 years Tennyson Center for Children (TCC) has evolved and expanded to meet the essential needs of our community. Programs such as residential treatment and education have long been in the forefront for successfully helping at-risk kids get back on track. Another less-known but critically important program to our children's success is our community-based family services division (CBS).

The driving philosophy behind community-based services is to provide prevention and intervention in the child's home and/or school to avoid more intensive, restrictive, and yes, more costly placements. Each day 130 children and their families are served in our off-campus programs and the improvements made in the lives of these families are nothing short of astounding. One of those families is the Martinez family...

By September of 2008, the Martinez family had been torn apart. In an attempt to keep the family together in some form, they were referred to Tennyson Center for Children by the Denver Department of Human Services (DDHS). In need of both family therapy and family support services following an unsafe history under the care of the estranged biological parents, the three young siblings were placed in foster care. Although not together as a family, the close proximity of the children's foster home placements enabled them to spend time together and afforded the biological mother the time to begin her own treatment protocol.

During the foster care placements the CBS treatment plan focused on stabilization of the children in their new home environments, strengthening of the relationships among the children, and continuing and supervised visitation between the biological mother and the kids. From the beginning of her



engagement in CBS services, it was clear that the mother was very committed to rebuilding her relationships with her children. Having been a victim of domestic violence and struggling with substance abuse herself it had been difficult for her to be an effective mother. But now she was taking control of her life while also taking advantage of the home-based services being offered through our CBS program. She obtained a new job and successfully received a promotion.

As the biological mother continued to demonstrate an increasing level of stability and responsibility, the treatment team began preparing the family for the eventual reunification of the two youngest children back home. Therapeutic visitation eventually moved from TCC's on-campus therapy center to the family home, where the mother began to learn more about creating appropriate rules, consequences, and rewards for the children. She learned to encourage and support the children's open expression of feelings of fear and anxiety related to past trauma which helped to re-build trust within family. In June of 2009, the court authorized the youngest two children to be permanently

placed and reunited with their mother. The Martinez family was once again united—at least almost.

The eldest child was not yet ready to transition into his mother's care as his emotional challenges had taken a turn for the worse and he needed more intensive treatment and therapy. But that has not hindered the family's progress. Today, the mother's commitment to all her children remains strong and she continues to be actively engaged in family therapy with her eldest son. She is confident that with patience, determination and with the help of the dedicated Tennyson CBS team, her family will soon be together again.



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*Above left: The Martinez family is happy to be reunited, thanks to the help of TCC's community-based services team.*

*Below: A TCC therapist helps a family on their way to reunification. Family therapy is a key component of the community-based services program.*

The Art for Kids Project hand delivered new backpacks for each of our students with an assortment of art supplies last year. In addition, the Art for Kids Project contributed an assortment of in-kind art supplies to outfit our entire education, residential and community-based art programs for 2010. The art supplies included the basics of paints, brushes, papers, pencils, markers, boxes and cases of supplies. Also donated were 18 potter's wheels complete with clay and carving tools, tie-die kits and a lamination machine. The Art for Kids Project was founded by renowned local artist Louisa Craft Jornayvaz.

### Deeper Expression (cont'd. from 1)

In the past, the TCC art program has always offered students an opportunity to work with the more traditional two-dimensional media. But recently, thanks to the Art For Kids Project led by Tennyson Center supporter Louisa Craft Jornayvaz, the art program got a significant boost with the donation of art supplies to cover our program needs throughout 2010. Most exciting was the donation of eighteen potter's wheels, clay and carving tools which allows the kids to work in a medium they might otherwise never have the chance to experience.

As one might expect, the tactile nature of the pottery projects is especially appealing to the kids.



Magunson helps a student feel the clay on the potter's wheel, one of 18 wheels donated by the Art For Kids Project.



TCC art teacher Lucas Magnuson works one-on-one with a student as the class begins a new creative project.

Working with clay gives the students a chance not only to dabble in a new medium, but also to work with their hands and get dirty. One child said, "I love it because it's like being told that it's OK to play in the mud!"

Tennyson Center principal Kelly O'Shea said, "Lucas has such a natural ability in helping the students better understand themselves and to tap into a hidden talent that many of them never knew they had. And as an educator, it's so rewarding to know that what we're doing is working."

"So many of these kids come from a background which causes them to doubt themselves," said Magnuson. "When they first come here, we see so many of them who function with the attitude of 'I CAN'T.' I love helping them turn that around not only into 'I CAN' but, more importantly into 'I CAN and I'm GOOD at it.' Watching them develop a sense of self-confidence from this experience is one of the most satisfying aspects of my job."

And from some of the comments of their students, it's evident that Magnuson's vision is being realized. "I think art is sort of like a diary. But I don't think I write very well, so sometimes I can't

put my feelings into words. But art lets me get my feelings out just like I was writing it in my diary," said one student. Another said, "Art is one of my favorite classes. It's fun and I never knew I could be this good at it. I think I might want to be an artist when I grow up."

In addition to introducing the students to the world of pottery, Magnuson has engaged them in the study and exploration of a variety of famous artists such as Dali and Picasso. One recent project gave the students a chance to create expressive self-portraits with the focus being not as much on accuracy of the physical representation of themselves, but rather on capturing their personalities and expressiveness. The results were amazing, although a few of the renderings revealed a darker side of their past.

And that's OK. Magnuson said, "Good or bad, this project was about seeing how the kids view themselves. We knew that with some of the drawings, there would be a few who would be ready to reveal some of the pain they've been dealing with for a very long time. And that's why we're here—to help them come to terms with that and to help them get past it."

**Carlos (cont'd. from 1)**

I did not attend kindergarten and missed much of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades. I was expelled from school in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. At age 9, I had to move to Tennyson Center. I was one of those kids who got in trouble a lot. I was full of anger.

Eventually my behavior at Tennyson Center started to improve more and more and I received more privileges. I learned that it pays off to be good. Then this family I had never met before started working with me and volunteering at Tennyson Center. They were the Cowling family - Keith, Karen and sons Nathan and Samuel.

After getting to know me, the Cowling's wanted me to come live with them. At first, I was afraid to leave Tennyson Center because it seemed I had been

there so long and it had become home to me. But I had to leave sooner or later.

I had a lot of difficulties in my new home. I wasn't ready to be with another family so I stayed in my room a lot. Learning in school had been very challenging for me because I missed so much education in my first 10 years just trying to survive everyday.

Things are so much better now. I on the football team, Gold Crown basketball, run track, snowboard and wakeboard. With hard work and support from my family and teachers, I have been able to maintain a 3.1 GPA.

So now I know anything is possible with persistence. And now I have hope that my future will turn out to be great."



Carlos has thrived as a member of the Cowling family. Above, they pose for a recent family portrait.

**Leadership Denver's commitment to kids / Dave Sevick**

In the non-profit world, partnerships with businesses and corporations are essential to an organization's success. Tennyson Center's strong corporate partnerships are sometimes the result of a few key connections made through a few of just the right people. And over the past year, Tennyson has been fortunate to have the support of a significant group of "just the right people" through its partnership with Leadership Denver (LD), a program of the Metro Denver Leadership Foundation.

LD is a 36-year-old program that develops community leaders and enhances the civic infrastructure of the Denver Metro region. This 11-month program brings together approximately 55 diverse leaders in the community to discuss and learn about the challenges facing the Denver Metro area and for the purpose of expanding their commitment to voluntary civic responsibility.

Each year, LD chooses one charitable organization where its upcoming graduating class can devote their time and energy for 12-month commitment. And over the past year, that commitment was given 55-fold at Tennyson Center for Children, where LD members have made a significant impact on the agency as well as the children. Fundraising projects included a wine tasting in cooperation with the Denver Bacchanalian Society which attracted 250 guests, while volunteering opportunities included painting and fix-ups in all five of the cottages which house the children in Tennyson Center's residential treatment program, holiday decorating and landscaping upgrades around the TCC campus.

On the academic side, Leadership Denver members taught a series of life-skills training classes for Tennyson Center's middle and high school students. Classes included money management,

interpersonal communication, time management and President-for-a-day, which gave the students insight into how to be effective leaders. The dedication of these community leaders has been impressive, to say the least and has included people from all career paths, including Luis Benetiz, who teaches outdoor

**Continued on page 7**

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So now I know anything is possible with persistence.  
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Luis Benetiz, an outdoor adventurer and instructor, teaches a life-skills class to middle and high schoolers at Tennyson Center.



Top, l to r: Nick Schubert and Ted Brown with Shawn Yancey of title sponsor PCL Construction, enjoying the festivities of the evening at L'Amore di Vino.

Above: Tennyson board member Brad Anderson (left) with Morton's General Manager Joe Mirrelson at L'Amore di Vino.

Below: The 2010 Walk of Faith Planning Committee celebrates the success of this year's event, which raised a total of more than \$20,000 to support the programs and services at Tennyson Center. Great job, committee!!!



## Spring Season Events Update: Wine, Food & More!

### L'Amore di Vino: the Love of Wine.

Tennyson Center was honored to be partnered with our friends at Morton's once again for our premier wine tasting event, L'Amore di Vino. On Monday, April 12 guests enjoyed exclusive wines from premier vintners, a fabulous silent and live auction, as well as the fabulous fare only Morton's can provide. Thanks to our Title Sponsor, PCL Construction, the staff at Morton's and our wonderful event guests we were able to raise over \$57,000!

### Applebee's 'Bee a Sucker for Kids.'

Thanks to all of the Colorado Applebee's, who once again, stepped up to the plate to support the children at Tennyson Center through the "Bee a Sucker for Kids" campaign which happens every April - coinciding

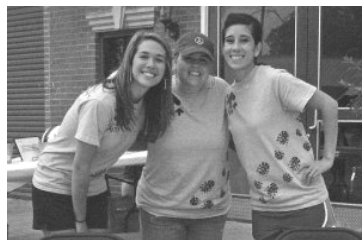
with National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since our partnership began, Colorado Applebee's have been raising funds for Tennyson Center since 2003 and have donated more than \$ 329,000 to the organization! Tennyson Center for Children would like to thank and give a shout out to this year's top fundraising stores: 1<sup>st</sup> - Bellevue, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Iliff, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Northglenn and the top server, Kris Diaz. Thanks for making the kids we serve a priority!

**Northern Colorado Dinner.** The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Colorado Dinner (NCD) was a huge success due to the support of the planning committee, table hosts, and guests. The event was held on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Fort Collins Marriott and raised over \$71,000!



Above: NCD committee chairs (l to r) Kitty Moore and Elaine Stahl with Tennyson Center's Bob Cooper and Aynsley Stephenson.

## Walk of Faith 2010 / Aynsley Stephenson



Above: Roanoke, TX was the home to the first-ever Walk of Faith satellite event which raised over \$5,000 for Tennyson Center. The Texas event was directed by the youth group from Cross Timbers Church in Argyle, TX.

"At sunrise, the faces of most sunflowers are turned towards the east. Over the course of the day they follow the sun from east to west, while at night they return to an eastward orientation." This Wikipedia description is why I chose the sunflower as the symbol for the Walk of Faith, held May 15<sup>th</sup> here at Tennyson Center for Children (TCC). These eye catching plants remind us to keep looking towards what is good and healthy and possible just as the staff at TCC tries to keep in mind each day. "Faith" has been on our minds over the past few months as we've planned this event. I believe is believing in something greater than us. Whether it's faith in a possibility, God, another person, a concept, it's about putting so much trust in something or someone. We ask the kids here at TCC to learn how to have faith in people and in themselves and we're setting an example through this event. The planning committee and those team captains, sponsors, walkers, and

volunteers who supported this year's Walk of Faith are also incredible examples. Because of them, we were able to raise nearly \$25,000 through this year's event, as well as continue to raise awareness about the issues we face at TCC! The route ran through the neighborhood and walkers stopped at "Inspiration Stations" to light a candle, pray or meditate for kids in crisis, add a word of gratitude or hope to the faith chain, or take a packet of sunflower seeds - a symbolic gesture to remind us to continue planting seeds of hope and faith.

After the walk, the Red Hot Blues Catz and the beautiful dancers of Mudra put on a great show! Boulder Sausage, Quiznos and Chipotle provided food and the kids stayed busy with snocones, face painting, giant bubbles and the bounce castle. Thanks again to all involved in making the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Walk of Faith a success. Stay tuned for details regarding next year's event!

### The Power of Your Cell Phone / Lyn Woods

I remember when I first heard about the Red Cross relief efforts for the Haiti earthquake victims this past January. I found it fascinating that I could help make a difference in so many lives by simply using my cell phone. I began to realize the power of a brand new kind of philanthropic effort: mobile giving. With a few text message keystrokes and the simple push of the 'send' button, I had made a difference by making a \$10 donation to help change someone's life.

I knew this would quickly become the next generation of philanthropy, or at least a significant part of it.

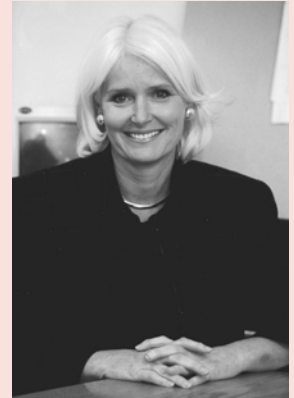
Well, I'm happy to announce that just five months after most of us first learned about this new marvel of modern, charitable technology, we have launched our own mobile giving campaign here at Tennyson Center for Children.

We call it "Ten for Tennyson" and it works exactly the same as the Haiti earthquake relief fund did. But in this case, you'll be using your cell phone to change the life of an abused, neglected or at-risk child.

Simply text the word CHILD (you can use caps or lower case) to the number 50555. You'll get a reply and a prompt to text the

word YES to confirm your donation. Without that confirmation reply, your donation won't be complete.

Your \$10 mobile donation will help to feed, clothe, educate and provide therapy for the children we serve. But more importantly, think of the difference we can make if everyone reading this — over 17,000 people—were to pick up their cell phones right now and make a \$10 donation! That would be \$170,000...a mere ten dollars at a time. Don't have a cell phone? You can still help out with a donation or find out more about our mobile giving program on our website at [www.childabuse.org](http://www.childabuse.org).



**Lyn Woods**  
Chief Development Officer

### Leadership (cont'd. from 5)

adventure skills through Outward Bound Professional. Benetiz has climbed to the summit of Mt. Everest three times and shared his adventures with the kids.

Ramonna Tooley, LD graduate and Vice-President of GroundFloor Media, said, "This has been an incredible experience partnering with Tennyson Center on this project. We've been fortunate to have the opportunity to take on a year-long project, and our work with

Tennyson Center provided such a wide variety of opportunities for classmates to participate in, from painting cottages to teaching life skills. We are proud to play a small role in support of Tennyson Center's very important mission."

Tennyson Center is certainly a better place because of Leadership Denver's commitment, but it is evident that LD members have also been profoundly affected by their year-long involvement with the

agency. Several of Leadership Denver's class of '09 have professed a desire to remain involved with Tennyson Center for Children.

"Tennyson has had a profound impact on me," said Tim Gaudette, of H.M. Brown & Associates. "Other community projects were proposed by some of the members but ultimately, we selected Tennyson Center for Children. Whereas those projects may have allowed LD 09 to get to know a family or two, by being involved with TCC we saw our impact affect multiple kids and families this year—and perhaps beyond, as many of us are interested in staying connected."

*Below left: Leadership Denver graduate Ramonna Tooley of GroundFloor Media steers the tractor filled with mulch around one of the playgrounds on the TCC campus.*

*Below right: One of three semi-truck loads of mulch is dropped off for Leadership Denver members to gather and place on campus grounds.*





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## Summer 2010

[www.childabuse.org](http://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.

Colorado Combined Campaign (CCC): #0955  
Combined Federal Campaign (CFC): #38586



**Foursomes are still available but they're going fast.  
For information, call 720.855.3316.**