

BREAKING NEWS-Contact Dave Sevick 720-855-3326

Local Philanthropists Ensure Strong Future for Children's Home

Thanks to the generosity of a local philanthropic foundation, the future of one of Colorado's landmark children's organizations has been secured, proving that miracles really do happen, especially at the Tennyson Center for Children.

The Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home was recently entangled in the bankruptcy court proceedings of the National Benevolent Association (NBA), the former parent company of the Tennyson Center and legal owner of the campus where the century-old school and residential treatment center now resides.

On March 18, 2004 the NBA filed an expedited motion with the bankruptcy court to sell the Tennyson Center for Children property at 2950 Tennyson Street, giving the organization's management just four working days to come up with over \$4 million in order to participate in the auction.

According to Tennyson Center President Bob Cooper, "We could not participate in the auction... we filed an objection to the motion to sell because we needed more than four days to pull together four million dollars." Three additional objections were also filed in court by the Colorado, Missouri and Texas Attorneys General, but the objections failed, leaving the future of the home in question.

The auction for the property in question took place on March 23, 2005 in the Bankruptcy Court of Judge King in San Antonio, TX. The highest bidder was Lance Slayton of New Leaf Properties, with a proposed purchase price of \$4.5 million. New Leaf, whose intended use of the campus was for a profitable business development venture, had scheduled to close on the property on March 29, 2005 but failed to complete the process at which time the next highest bidder, the Urban Land Conservancy, stepped in to acquire the property.

Ron Williams, Chairman of the Urban Land Conservancy, had already contacted Tennyson Center President Bob Cooper to offer his support on March 22, just hours prior to the San Antonio auction. Williams and the Conservancy's board of directors were concerned about the future of Colorado's premiere residential and day treatment program for abused and neglected children, ages 5-14. Consequently, the Urban Land Conservancy offered to become a friendly bidder so that this important mission may continue.

Supported by the Gary-Williams Foundation, the conservancy is a newly formed local not-for-profit foundation whose sole mission is to help preserve important community assets. The Urban Land Conservancy purchased and closed on the Tennyson Center property on April 1, 2005, after which Ron Williams and board members from the philanthropic foundation met with leadership of the Tennyson Center for the first time to discuss the next steps.

Williams said, “Our goal is simple. We are aligned with the Tennyson Center’s mission and want to insure the continuation of these important services to children in our community.

Tennyson Center President Bob Cooper added, “This is the very best news possible for the Tennyson Center and for the children of Colorado. We look forward to working with Ron Williams and the Urban Land Conservancy. Thanks to the Conservancy, we expect to be serving children for another 100 years.”

During its century of service to countless children throughout Colorado, the staff at the Tennyson Center has witnessed the miracle of healing time and time again, as the children served by this cherished organization once again become whole, prepared to realize fulfilling lives as adults. However, this latest miracle may be the most important of all, as it has ensured that the legacy of healing will continue to benefit abused and neglected children for years to come.

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