

**Our Mission**

Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home is a community of people dedicated to breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect, serving and strengthening children and families. As professionals and concerned citizens, we strive to provide competent and caring treatment, educational and advocacy services that are community-based, family-focused and child-centered.

# Visitor



The official newsletter of Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home

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## And a Good Mime Was Had by All

A unique, new approach to children's theatre was recently presented at Tennyson Center, at least new and unique for the stars of the show. Complete with costumes and make-up, the one thing that made this event different from a traditional school play was that there were no lines to learn. It all came together one afternoon in March as staff and supporters were treated to an afternoon of mime, starring the budding, young thespians of Tennyson Center for Children.



The project, part of Tennyson Center's Recreational Therapy Electives program, was the brainstorm of staff Youth Counselor Jamie Bonnema, who saw this as an opportunity for the children to express themselves in effective non-

verbal ways while learning to work collaboratively as a team. To help them realize their artistic talents on the literary side, the kids were given creative license in the development of the scripts.



*Continued on page 5*

## New Website Puts Tennyson Center in Spotlight Over One Million Hits Worldwide in First Three Weeks

It has been in the planning stages for over a year, but Tennyson Center's innovative, new website is finally up and running. The site, a merger of [www.tennysoncenter.org](http://www.tennysoncenter.org) and [www.childabuse.org](http://www.childabuse.org), features in-depth information about the programs and services offered by Tennyson Center for Children as well as information on child abuse, including the prevention, recognition and

reporting of abuse and neglect. Designed and constructed by Tennyson Center Director of Marketing & Communications Dave Sevick, the site offers a unique melding of corporate structure and children's themes in an easy-to-navigate format. Complete with Flash animation and interactive features, the site is designed with bright, child-like colors

amidst images of Colorado landscapes.

"We're not only proud of the work we do, but we're also equally proud of our Colorado location", said Sevick. Along with all the other values which we instill in the children we serve, we want them to appreciate the beautiful

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**Bob Cooper,**  
President/CEO

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solution to child  
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Editor: Dave Sevick

## A Message from the President / Bob Cooper

Each year, April 1 marks the beginning of “National Child Abuse Prevention Month”. There are rallies held on the steps of state capitols, discussions with panel guests on a few talk shows, blue ribbons worn to symbolize one’s support for the cause, and generally a slight bump in the recognition of the general public of the fact that we as a society need to attend to this problem.

There is tremendous competition for our attention in the media with very important issues from major conflicts and death in the Middle East to immigration, economic, and environmental concerns closer to home. Sprinkle those with a few political and celebrity scandals and child abuse is once again quietly moved to a back burner or off the stove all together. After all, the solution to child abuse seems so simple...never hurt a child physically, sexually or emotionally. Of course the solution to child abuse isn’t so simple or we would have found the cure and administered the vaccine. The

complex issues of family history, stress, financial struggles, and depression sometimes combined with problems of addiction all come together to create an environment ripe for abuse to occur.

We’ve all probably heard it said that, “We don’t teach people how to become parents or that being a parent ought to require a license.” Given how I’ve observed a significant number of drivers on the road, I’m not sure issuing a license would make much difference up front. I do know that at least 80% of our parenting skills are the result of how we were parented... good, bad or indifferent, which makes the “bad or indifferent” part more understandable and even offers a clue to the intervention.

Child abuse doesn’t happen just across town in some other neighborhood. It happens across the street, down the block, next door and maybe even somewhere in your own family. These are our children being abused, not someone else’s. Maybe that’s why they

get quietly moved to the back burner, because it really is too close to home.

Those of you reading these few paragraphs really aren’t my intended target. You already get it. You know that we need to think about and discuss this problem year-round, instead of just during one designated month each year. You know that the problem continues to grow. You know the solutions to child abuse aren’t simple. You are drawn to the stories in the media about the death of an infant. You read and wonder what more you can do. You act on your concern through your volunteerism and donations and you make a difference! You know these are “Our children”! April has come and gone. The rallies are over and the media hype surrounding “Child Abuse Prevention Month” has subsided. I’m asking you, during the months of May, June, July and beyond, to share what you know with someone who, perhaps, doesn’t get it yet.

For the children, Thanks for all you do.

## Annual Car Show to Benefit Abused Kids

The North Denver Chapter of Italians of America have once again chosen Tennyson Center for Children as the beneficiary of one of the premiere car and motorcycle shows in the Rocky Mountain region.

The Red Lion Run will take place on Sunday, July 23, from 9am to 4pm at Maple Grove Park in Golden. Last year’s event raised nearly \$20,000 for

Tennyson Center and features nearly 600 cars, trucks and motorcycles, including street rods, classics, muscle cars, imports and race cars. Other highlights will include a Kids’ Korner where children can enjoy activities such as coloring contests and tricycle races. The event will also feature a variety of food vendors including an event favorite, authentic Italian

sausage sandwiches along with beverages available from the Budweiser and Pepsi booths.

Spectator admission is free and the entry fee for participants who wish to show their cars is \$20. For more information call Tera Boehmer at 720-855-3316 or visit [www.italiansofamerica.com](http://www.italiansofamerica.com) or [www.childabuse.com](http://www.childabuse.com).

## Girls With Promise Host Tea With First Lady

Imagine a group of young ladies hosting an afternoon tea with the First Lady Frances Owens. Young debutantes from one of Denver's more affluent suburbs, perhaps? Not quite. They're 9 to 13 year old girls and they're part of the inaugural "Girls With Promise", at Tennyson Center for Children.

One Tuesday in January, the library of Tennyson Center for Children was transformed into an English teahouse and Colorado's First Lady, along with some of Denver's most notable socialites, gathered with staff and guests to show their support and to see just what the "Girls With Promise" program was all about. The young hostesses rose to the occasion and greeted their guests with social graces that surprised even Tennyson Center staffers who had been mentoring the girls in preparation for the afternoon event.

"I can't believe I'm going to get to meet the governor's wife", said one of the girls as she nervously waited for Mrs. Owens to arrive.

The tea, in the planning stages since October of 2005, was a collaborative effort between longtime Tennyson Center supporters LaFawn Biddle and Carole Moore along with Chief Development Officer Lyn Woods. Intense planning involving the staff of Miller Cottage and several other key Tennyson Center staff members and volunteers, the afternoon event turned out to be a memorable and flawless production.

In addition to Mrs. Owens, Biddle and Moore, other



guests included Cille Williams, Barbara McTurk, Mary Moore, Judy Pree, LouAnn Benbow, Janet Manning and Vee Tooley.

The event was such a success that the girls have been invited to be guests at an upcoming tea and brunch hosted by the First Lady at the Governor's Mansion.

Girls with Promise is a comprehensive therapeutic program designed to meet the unique socio-emotional, academic, physical and spiritual needs of girls by valuing the female perspective, celebrating feminine experience and respectfully integrating the particulars of feminine development. The desired end result is self-discovery, self-expression and self-actualization of one's potential.

Inaugurated in 2005, this will mark the second year of operation for the unique program which is based on



similar programs in Oregon and Florida. Focusing on gender identity a variety of domains including physical, sexual, emotional, relational, intellectual and spiritual, the current program has demonstrated results worthy of continuing and expanding in 2006. Preliminary results show a reduction of physical restraints, non use of isolation and decline of run-away behaviors.

**TOP: (left to right) LaFawn Biddle, Carol Moore and Colorado's First Lady Frances Owens.**

**BOTTOM: Cille Williams (left) and Mary Moore at the Tennyson Tea.**

## Wining, Dining, Putting and Driving / Tera Boehmer

It's hard to believe we are already enjoying the warm weather and fresh days of Spring! The 2006 fundraising season has begun and we are so excited about upcoming events! Our first foray into the New Year, "Grape Expectations", the annual wine-tasting and strolling dinner buffet at Morton's, was a great success raising over \$30,000 and introducing us to many new, potential supporters! Attended by a prestigious crowd, this event boasted a phenomenal selection of wines and, of course, the fabulous Morton's fare.



**TOP: Broncos quareterback Bradlee Van Pelt and guest Jessica McKane at "Grape Expectations".**

**ABOVE: Tennyson Center Director of Education Kathy Fisher (left) mingles with Susie Wargin, 9News sports anchor, and her husband Mike at Morton's.**

The Morton's event is the first to be highlighted in our new partnership with Black Tie Colorado. We will be featuring three events on their website and plan to take advantage of their online auction feature. Look for updates and more information related to specific events as they approach. If you attend one of our events covered by Black Tie Colorado, log onto [www.blacktiicolorado.com](http://www.blacktiicolorado.com) to see the wonderful pictures of guests and other event information.

We are thrilled to announce a new venue for the **Denver Dinner** in 2006! Special thanks to John & Jody Alderman and Mr. Jim Fricke for helping us secure the Colorado Convention Center! That's right, we'll be in the new Korbel Ballroom this year and it's going to be an amazing evening! Please put the dinner on your calendar now – Friday, October 27, 2006, and plan to be there with everyone you know!

The **Northern Colorado Dinner** took place on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and was a great success! Raising over \$67,000, the dinner took place at Fort Collins Marriott and featured a live band, *Board of Directors*. This was a new experience for the dinner guests and the swing music created such a fun and exciting atmosphere! Special thanks to the planning committee: Elaine Stahl, Kitty Moore, Connie Harbert, Dave Haughey, Elisa Patterson, Ron Weininger and Cherie Keeler.

Let the good times roll! We have TWO car shows this summer! This is our first year to benefit from the Spring & Clean Car Show, hosted by Glenn Underwood and Friends on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at the shopping center located at Kipling and Bowles. For more information contact Glenn Underwood at 303-549-0216. The Red Lion Run, hosted by the Italians of America, will be held on Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at Maple Grove Park in Golden. This show boasts nearly 600 cars and bikes and is quickly becoming a "must go" car show! We are thrilled to be the beneficiary again this year and invite everyone to join us

for the fun...lots of food and entertainment by KOOL 105. For more information, go to [www.italiansofamerica.com](http://www.italiansofamerica.com).

Last but certainly not least is our Chopper Travaglini Memorial Golf Tournament! We will be hosting this premier golf outing at Sanctuary on Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. The tournament, featuring the Children's Putting Championship and a stellar awards dinner, is one of the best golf outings in Denver and definitely a choice event to participate in! The VIP Dinner will once again be hosted by Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Winebar on Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will have an enticing silent auction and, of course, the fabulous food prepared by Fleming's top notch chefs! Foursomes are selling quickly and space is limited so if you are interested in participating, please contact us immediately.

Tours are a great way to get friends, family and other connections involved in our mission. Give me a call and let me know when I can show off our campus! The tour really instills a better vision of what we do to protect children and it illustrates how much we need support. Remember, any connection is a good one. Whether they are interested in helping us through the donation of money, time, talent or social connections, each introduction is a valuable one and we encourage you to share our mission with anyone who will listen.

Hopefully, I'll be seeing you at one of our wonderful events. Until then, I wish you a summer full of warm days, cool water, and incredible fun!

*Mime (cont'd. from 1)*

"I've always remembered how fulfilling the experience was from when I participated in mime back in high school and I thought it would be a fun, new way for the kids to express themselves, learn about a different kind of theatrical art and satisfy their love of drama", said Bonnema.

The children, who carefully chose the roles they would portray on stage, worked diligently for eight weeks to prepare for the performance. In addition to learning the fine art of miming, the kids also learned about costuming and make-up associated with the art form. Exhibiting obvious nervousness shortly before the curtain went up, the students left the jitters backstage and, once the performance began, appeared as if they were seasoned actors. The pride the children showed in



themselves was evident following the performance.

Regarding any clinical value in this kind of theatrical performance, Bonnema added, "Any time the kids get to express themselves in such creative ways, there is obvious therapeutic value. But best of all, they had such a great time and we love seeing them so proud and excited about something they've

created...they were totally pumped after it was over!"

"That was AWESOME!!!" shouted one of the young actors, giving an enthusiastic high-five to a staff member as he ran off stage.

As far as another performance next year, Bonnema says she'll do it again if the opportunity presents itself.

*Website (cont'd. from 1)*

landscapes by which they're surrounded every day, so we thought it only fitting that we incorporate that sense of Rocky Mountain pride into our new website design", Sevick explained.

The new site was launched in conjunction with National Child Abuse Prevention month, which occurs every April. "Timing was crucial for the launch of the new site" Sevick added. "We want to present one of the most advanced and informational sites on the world wide web so that people have a new and valuable internet resource on child abuse and neglect, particularly during the National Child Abuse Prevention campaign."

One of the most exciting new features with the new site is the ability for online giving so that people can make donations to support the mission, programs and services offered by Tennyson Center for Children. Website visitors will have the opportunity to make one-time, recurring or long-term donations through the site's secured online giving pages, as well as receive online information on planned giving and incorporating Tennyson Center for Children into their estate plans.

Tennyson Center Executive Director Bob Cooper said, "We just broke the one-million mark for the number of hits on the new site. Until now, there has been no venue

for those internet visitors to make a donation via the old websites. We're confident that, with even more monthly hits on our new site, we'll now realize a substantial increase in donor revenue to help fund our programs and services." Other interactive features will eventually include the ability to register for fundraising events, refer potential clients to various programs, apply for volunteering opportunities and peruse through and apply for available job openings at Tennyson Center for Children.

The new site was launched in late March. You can visit the new website at either [www.childabuse.org](http://www.childabuse.org) or [www.tennysoncenter.org](http://www.tennysoncenter.org).

**“ We want to present one of the most advanced and informational sites on the web... ”**

**Painted Reindeer****Artists:**

Richard Pena  
 Derik Cadena  
 Gloria Vialpando  
 Mike McClung  
 Scot Lyon  
 Paul Potts  
 Steve Rozic  
 Rebecca Romero  
 Michael Keyes  
 Colleen Paul Hoerner  
 Chris Anthony  
 Bunny Rubin  
 Elizabeth Jenny  
 Dvora Kanegis  
 9News Morning Crew  
 Susie Wargin  
 Dr. Stephanie Clements  
 John Hickenlooper,  
*Honorable Mayor of Denver*  
 Pete Coors  
 Ed & Lisa McCaffrey  
 Bruce Tilsley  
 Kim David Cooper  
 Kelley MacGregor  
 Kristine Wolfe

**Special Thanks to:**

Target Stores  
 Kronke Sports  
 Anjie Meyer  
 Laura Love  
 GroundFloor Media  
 Christine Serr  
 Gallery 1261  
 KUSA-TV/9News  
 Red Robin  
 Gourmet Burgers  
 ViCorp  
 (Village Inn Corporation)  
 GMAC Capital  
 Chrysler Financial  
 Legacy Christian  
 Fellowship  
 All God's Children  
 Church Choir  
 Dougal's Catering

**Santa Brings Joy to Children and Families**

Most of us had barely switched gears from summer to fall when Tennyson Center's Operation Santa team was already well into the holiday spirit. Plans had actually been underway since last June, but by late September the annual holiday fundraising and wish-list campaign was in full swing. The 2005 season, however, took on a bit of a different look from past Operation Santa drives.

The most notable addition to this year's holiday line-up was the Painted Reindeer Festival, where local professional artists, dignitaries and celebrities donated their talent and time to transform 30 hand-crafted paper mache reindeer into unique works of art. The event also garnered a media sponsorship from KUSA-TV/9News, Colorado's number one television outlet. From early November through the first week of December, the festival was featured and promoted on several programs on 9News as well as on the station's website. The finished sculptures, in a variety of poses and sizes, were then displayed and sold at a silent auction at the Reindeer Roundup, a showcase reception and gala at Denver's Gallery 1261 on December 7. The auction brought in over \$2,000.00 for Tennyson Center with the sale price of individual works of art ranging from \$25 to \$300.

For the first time in the history of the agency, the campus of Tennyson Center took on a new look during the holiday season as lights were strung along with frosted trees, wreaths and illuminated candy-canes on the outside and grounds of the main building.



Target employees help with the wrapping of gifts during the annual "Santa Shop", where Tennyson Center children get to pick out gifts for their families.



Children scramble to get the goodies from a piñata at the holiday Posada party, an annual favorite for children and families served by Tennyson Center's Community-Based Services program.

As Operation Santa came to a close, the campaign concluded with a touching and heartwarming feature story airing Christmas weekend on 9News at 10pm. The story, produced and written by Tennyson Center board member and 9News anchor Gary Shapiro, offered a unique perspective on "a day in the life during the holiday season" for one of the children in Tennyson Center's Residential Treatment program. Santa made sure that every child received all the items on

their holiday wish-lists. Kids in Tennyson Center's Day Treatment program were given their gifts on the last day of school prior to the holiday break and the children served by the Residential Program received their gifts and stockings on what turned out to be a magical Christmas morning.

We're grateful to everyone who helped make this year's Operation Santa the most successful yet.

## Tax Incentive Helps Children / Lyn Woods

Life is rich when you extend a helping hand to a child in need. And Colorado donors are experiencing how doubling their giving makes them feel even richer. Few have the wealth of Ted Turner but many have access to the Colorado Child Care Contribution Credit which allows donors to double their charitable giving because 50% of their gift comes back to them in the form of a tax refund. And who doesn't love a tax refund? What's even better is that this credit allows some donors to recycle those dollars back into next year's charitable giving.

For many, this credit allows donors to give more financial support to Tennyson Center and other charities, more than imagined possible! And it's easier to support emergency situations like the tsunami and hurricane relief efforts because the tax credit allows you to expand your giving.

For anyone receiving a 2005 tax refund attributed to the tax credit, please consider recycling some or all of those dollars back into charitable giving. Recycling those dollars recognizes the intent of the Colorado Child Care Contribution credit, a credit

created to serve as an incentive to encourage more giving to charity.

Should you like to receive our brochure on the Colorado Child Care Contribution Credit, please call me directly at 720-855-3340. And if you plan to take the credit when you send in your gift, please indicate on your check that you would like your gift to support programs that qualify for the tax credit. Thank you for taking this opportunity to stretch your giving. Many more children are benefiting thanks to you!



**Lyn Woods,**  
Chief Development  
Officer

### Girls With Promise (cont'd. from 3)

members and volunteers, the afternoon event turned out to be a memorable and flawless production.

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Preliminary results show a reduction of physical restraints, non use of isolation and decline of run-away behaviors.



**The desired end result is self-discovery, self-expression and self-actualization of one's potential.**



## We Need Vans!!!

**Our "Needs List" is growing, and new vans for our transportation fleet are at the top of that list. The cost of repairs and maintenance with our old 12 and 14-passenger vans is skyrocketing and it won't be long before the vans are no longer safe to transport the children we serve. We need your help! Perhaps you know a local auto dealer who might be willing to donate a new or pre-owned van; perhaps you have a slightly used van in GOOD condition that you might consider donating. Our fleet of vans helps many of our day-treatment kids to and from school as well as provide transportation to field trips and outings for kids in our residential program. If you know of someone who can help us acquire new or slightly used, reliable, safe additions to our fleet, please call Lyn Woods at 720-855-3340.**

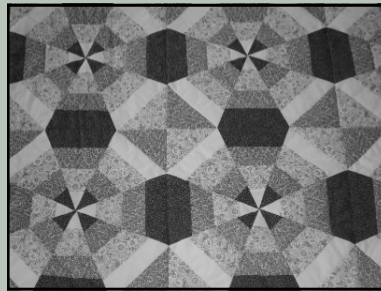
**Tennyson Center for Children  
at Colorado Christian Home**

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Tennyson Center for Children,  
Denver, CO.

To protect our children's privacy,  
in most cases pseudonyms  
are used.

# Quilt Sales!!!

## Tennyson Center's Benefit Quilt Sales



**Tennyson Center Library  
2950 Tennyson Street  
Denver**

**Handmade quilts from  
around the  
Rocky Mountain West**

Proceeds from Quilt Sales will benefit Tennyson Center for Children

**For Dates and information, call Lindsay Morgan at  
720-855-3317**



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