

# Visitor

Spring/Summer 2014



www.childabuse.org or www.tennisoncenter.org | 303.433.2541

## Special Commemorative Issue



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Hope Classic Golf Tournament

Mon., June 30  
Bear Dance Golf Club

#### 4th Annual Highland Running of the Bulls

Sat., July 12  
32nd and Tennison  
West Highland Area

#### Corks for a Cause Wine Tasting Event

Thurs., July 17  
Blanc, 3150 Walnut,  
Denver

#### 2014 Colorado Springs Dinner: Partner in Hope

Friday, Sept. 5  
Doubletree Hotel,  
Colorado Springs

For information on these or any other events, call Tera at 720.855.3316.

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## A Different Kind of Family Therapy / Dave Sevick

Tennison Center is well known for its residential treatment program as well as its day treatment and education program. But some of the most memorable successes with our clients have come from our Community-based services program—a newer and, perhaps, lesser known program that, ironically, serves even more clients than both our residential and day treatment programs do combined.

Robert, the father of two, recently said, “If it weren’t for this program, I’m certain I would not have my children with me any longer.”

Tennison’s Community-based services (CBS) program is unique in that, rather than working with clients in a more controlled environment (such as within a residential treatment facility), our clinical staff actually go into the home and work directly with the family within the setting in which they live. The thought behind this is that it is better suited for the clinical staff and the family to discover what, specifically within that environment, needs to be addressed in order to succeed.



Clinicians in the Community-based services program worked with Robert and his children to ensure their reunification was successful.

Another unique element of the CBS program is that the families being served by this program may receive in excess of 10 hours of counseling services per week with some families receiving up to 30 hours or more per week—with as many as 45 families being served. The hours can be grueling and since staff are constantly on the go heading to appointments with families, their office is contained in the driver’s seat of a Ford Focus with their standard equipment being a laptop and a cell phone. Even with a staff of eighteen, most are

required to work at least one day over the weekend and often work in teams of two or three.

The needs of the families often vary. Some require parenting skills; others, as in Robert’s case, require an adjustment after substance abuse rehabilitation so that the parent or parents can successfully reconnect with the family members they may have temporarily lost during their recovery.

**Continued on page 6**

## And We Don’t Look a Day Over 95

This year marks our 110th birthday and a century and a decade of serving the children and families of Colorado. There’s a lot to be said for making it that far and, in our case, we are bigger, better, stronger and healthier than ever before—in large part, thanks to you, our family of supporters.

We look forward to another 110 years of helping kids get a second chance at a happy childhood, of helping at-risk families get the skills they need to grow strong, and of making a difference in our small corner of the universe. And in that spirit, we have created a special commemorative section in this

issue with pictures of what was then Colorado Christian Home and what is now Tennison Center for Children. We’ve also included some of the thoughts from a few of the children currently in our care on what it must be like to be 110 years old.

**See special pullout section**



**Rod Witte,**  
President/CEO

“  
And with the  
continued  
support,  
guidance and  
prayers of all of  
you who  
continue to  
believe that  
kids deserve a  
chance to be  
kids, we will  
continue to do  
this for another  
110 years!

”

## A Message from the President/CEO

### Our Favorite “Kid Stories” / Rod Witte

Ten years ago Don Brewer published our 100-year commemorative book “A Century of Caring” where he highlighted the history of Colorado Christian Home, now called Tennyson Center for Children. In this book Don shared a favorite “kid story” of Mary Warren, the founder of Colorado Christian Home, as recited by Frederick Henry. “During my long acquaintance with the Warrens, I never saw them make any interested or affectionate demonstration over the children in the Home. A few days after writing that sentence, I saw Mrs. Warren and, as we talked, her mind harked back to one of the first boys we received into the Loveland Home. A joyous smile and a light came into her face as she said, ‘regarding Rufus, he sat on my knee and with his arms around my neck said ‘I love you a house full, a barn full, I love you a farm full!’”

110 years ago our property was part of a farm with just a handful of houses in the area. When we purchased our current location, we built the first building and dedicated it in 1910. For many years we continued to farm our property on a share-crop arrangement with one of our neighbors. There was a rural atmosphere as we were in the middle of open country. Children would lie down in the fields, look up into the sky and dream about faraway places.

Today we are in the middle of town, surrounded by houses, streets, parks and businesses. The farm, the open country and the rural atmosphere are long gone. Although the farming in this area is over, kids still lie down in the grass and look up into the sky.

Recently I asked the staff here at Tennyson Center for Children to share their favorite “kid story”.

Within the predictable responses about how difficult it is to choose just one story as a favorite, they were nevertheless able to share some of their current favorites.

Our Manager of Volunteer Services Tia said, “One of my favorite memories of TCC is about an 8-year old girl we had in Tilsley when I was a Youth Treatment Counselor. She was many people’s favorite kid because she had a TON of personality, and when not in crisis was a lot of fun. Like many Tilsley kids, she had trouble managing her emotions and would become assaultive toward herself or others pretty easily because she could not calm herself down. Part of her blow outs usually included scratching herself or pulling her hair out. She would say that it didn’t hurt when she was mad because she couldn’t feel anything. We started working on being able to notice her senses. A song titled ‘Airplanes’ was popular then so we would go outside around dusk, lie in the grass on our backs and watch for airplanes. While doing this we would practice being in the moment, talk about where we thought the planes were going, how the grass felt cold on our arms, how fresh the air seemed and of course sing the song ‘Airplanes.’ We couldn’t do this every night but the nights that we could she never had trouble falling asleep.”

Sarah, one of our clinicians, shared, “I have a kid who lived here two and one-half years who was extremely physically aggressive, ran regularly, and was one of our ‘highest fliers.’ She was complicated because there were many parts to her that needed to be considered and nurtured. These included behavioral concerns, spirituality, puberty, diagnosis (she did not easily fit into a diagnosis box),

school, emotions, trauma, attachment issues, etc. I learned some things that generally worked better than others, but it was a constant juggling act of ‘will this work this time’ and thinking of new and creative ways to help meet her needs. By the time she was ready to leave, she was demonstrating *extremely* positive behaviors in the midst of all of the chaos. She has since been discharged to a family who is now in the process of adopting her”.

As my time here continues to grow, so do the memories and stories about the kids who continue to come here. Whenever a child discharges from here, whether it is the residential program or day treatment, we have a party for them. Each of the children in the cottage or classroom verbally shares two things with the departing child. First, they share a personal memory they have regarding that child. Second, they share a wish for that child’s future.

Changing lives. Giving hope. That’s what we do here. And with the continued help, support, guidance and prayers of all of you who continue to believe that kids deserve a chance to be kids, we will continue to do this for another 110 years!



## The Sounds of Emotion

Stephanie Bettman and Luke Halpin are certainly no strangers to Tennyson Center for Children (TCC). Their latest project has been the development of a series of music workshops with the kids in our residential treatment program, introducing music and theatrical movements as therapeutic tools.

Stephanie is an accomplished writer, singer, and fiddler; her lyrics are infused with wit and wisdom, poetry and insight. Luke is a renowned multi-instrumentalist on the guitar and the mandolin, impressive on fiddle, banjo, and adept at nearly anything he picks up. And the kids at Tennyson Center have developed something of a love affair with the duo.

The program they developed with the older kids in Stepping Stones focused on the power of music and emotion with the ultimate goal being a collaborative effort where they would help the kids write a new song. Stephanie explains that it grew out of a conversation she and Luke had with the kids one day in an attempt to help them give a voice to a variety of emotions they were dealing with.

"We talked about the power of courage and I asked them each to describe a situation where they were scared and, rather than run with fear, they faced the challenge with a sense of courage. Their answers completely blew Luke and me away and I knew almost immediately that this had the ingredients for a new song," she said.

"One boy talked about a struggle he had been dealing with for a while—whether or not to take his own life because of the pain he had experienced for so many years. But he said he realized that it took more courage to go on rather than to end it all. One girl talked about the courage it took turning herself into the police after having committed a crime, even though she knew she could get away with it and never be caught. It's hard for me to put into words how proud I was of them for being able to share those moments."

From these stories, they began to develop the lyrics of the song. Stephanie explains that while the verses of the song are taken from the experiences each child shared, the chorus of the song is



comprised of her and Luke's reactions and responses to such courage.

One of the kids in the program is a 14 year-old boy who suffers from mild autism. Shortly after the workshop began Stephanie and Luke learned that, with no musical training whatsoever, he is able to play the piano by ear, as well as many who have years of formal training.

About the boy, Luke explained, "He can't read music but he can hear almost any song and within a few minutes, he's got it down on the keyboard. He also creates his own music in his head and it's truly beautiful."

They tapped into the young man's talent to provide much of the music bed for the new song and the rest was a collaborative effort among the students, Stephanie and Luke.

And the entire experience was best summed up by one of the students in the program who said, "It's really cool to be working with professional musicians who really know what they're doing. This has made me feel like I can do anything!"

*Above: One of the students in Stephanie and Luke's workshop has had no musical training whatsoever, but displayed incredible talent at the piano. Far left: Stephanie and Luke perform for the children and staff.*



“  
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those moments.

”

*Right: Beth Bowlen-Wallace, daughter of Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen, delivered the keynote address at this year's volunteer awards luncheon.*

## 2014 Tennyson Center Volunteer Awards Luncheon

On Friday, May 2, we were honored to pay homage to so many who have given so much of their time and energy in support of the children we serve and who are so instrumental in helping us to fulfill our mission. With nearly 160 guests in attendance, our gymnasium was transformed into a beautiful banquet hall with a delicious lunch served before the program began. Longtime Tennyson Center board member and KUSA-TV/9News anchor Gary Shapiro was the emcee for the event, and the keynote address was delivered by Tennyson Center supporter Beth Bowlen-Wallace, daughter of Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen. Four major awards were handed out to people who have gone above and beyond to make a difference for the kids and families we serve.

**MAYALL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE:** Beth Adams. Beth is a lead volunteer and mentor to one of our kids. She leads the Sunday breakfast group, the bowling group, and was voted in by the cottage staff for her outstanding work with the children in the cottages.

**McKINNEY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER GROUP:** The Mile High Country Q & Brew Planning Committee. This amazing group of gentlemen has, for the past four years, produced one of TCC's favorite third-party events, and each year it has grown bigger and better. Over the course of those four years, the event has raised over \$500,000 in support of Tennyson Center.

**OUTSTANDING CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD:** Noble Energy (represented by Ted Brown). It's nearly impossible to put into words what Noble Energy has done for Tennyson Center. Their commitment to our mission and to the children we serve is beyond comparison. Every year



they are the lead sponsor of our annual golf tournament, the FORE! Our Kids Golf Classic which, last year, became the largest charitable golf tournament in Colorado that supports a single charity.

**TENNYSON CENTER CHILDREN'S AWARD:** Russ and Jan Stacey. Russ and Jan have served not only locally but also internationally. In addition to all their efforts at TCC, they started a nonprofit organization that provides medical services to people in rural Nepal, recruiting volunteers to assist them. Their

concern for the "whole child" led them to help establish the Chaplain's Endowment which provides spiritually integrated services at Tennyson Center. Russ served on TCC's board, and various committees, and spearheaded the Northern Colorado Dinner. The Children's Award is Tennyson Center for Children's most esteemed award, given only to those "community citizens who have enriched the quality of life for children and families through inspired compassion and dedication to the needs of young children."



Row One, left: Tennyson Center CEO Rod Witte with Jan and Russ Stacey, winners of the Children's Award; Right: Gary Shapiro, KUSA-TV anchor and longtime TCC board member, was the emcee for the event.

Row Two, Left: Ted Brown, on behalf of Noble Energy, accepts the Outstanding Corporate Partner Award; Right: The Mile High Country Q & Brew Planning Committee receives the McKinney Award for outstanding volunteer group.

Row Three: Nearly 160 guests were in attendance for this year's event.

## Community-based (cont'd. from 1)

“  
Because of this  
program, my  
dream came  
true. I have my  
kids back and  
we are a family  
again.”

*Below: One of the most unique aspects of the CBS program is the ability of our clinicians to work directly in the home, which is often a more effective environment in helping families make the necessary changes to help them move forward.*

But the program also serves children who live with seemingly regular families, including kids coming out of hospitalizations due to mental health issues, behavioral problems and even suicide attempts. These families need the kind of attention that will help them deal with the crisis at hand along with inevitable crises or situations that will arise in the future. Tennyson's therapeutic team will, in turn, help the family with the coping skills and behavioral modifications that might be necessary to respond to stressful situations and learn how to move forward. The ultimate goal of the CBS program is to help the entire family to remain united and to avoid a possible out-of-home placement that may be the result of lacking skills to adequately cope with the needs of all family members.

Clients are referred to the CBS program from two primary sources. First, the county departments of human services primarily refer clients who have

been at-risk for a long-term out-of-home placement due to abuse, neglect or other situations that might put the children in the family at-risk, or they will refer foster and adoptive families that have taken in a child who has come from such a background. Second, mental health facilities will often refer families that may be dealing with post-hospitalization situations resulting from a variety of mental health crises. We have recently contracted with Kaiser Permanente, who also refers clients after an in-patient hospitalization. Some of those children are also temporarily placed in Tennyson Center's Special Services Unit prior to returning to their home, at which point clinicians will begin a carefully constructed treatment protocol within the family home.

In Robert's situation, the county department of child protective services had recommended the CBS program after his rehabilitation in order to reunify the family successfully. “Of

course, I was a bit scared because I didn't want to risk losing my children again and I was determined to do everything the right way this time around,” he said. “Tennyson's clinical team helped me do just that. They worked with us for several months, sometimes for 15 hours per week. It was the best thing that ever could have happened to us.”

Richele Newvahner, director of community-based services at Tennyson Center, says that it's simply about offering whatever services may be necessary with the ultimate goal of keeping families together. “By providing therapeutic tools and services that are proven to be more effective in a home environment, we've had incredible success helping families adapt to new situations and making the changes necessary that will help them continue to move forward long-term,” she said. “I'm honored to be a part of this amazing team and not a day goes by that I don't experience a sense of pride in the work we all do.”

The CBS program, which first began at Tennyson Center in 1990, has grown especially over the course of the past eleven years because it has proven that it works. The number of families served has more than doubled in that time. Newvahner says that's because the quality of care is top-notch and that the referral sources have seen the successful results of in-home therapy.

And Robert agrees. “Because of this program, my dream came true. I have my kids back and we are a family again. It's been two years since the CBS team worked with us. Sure, we still have our struggles just like any family. But now we know how to cope and how to work through any problems that may pop up. And that's what's important because I know we're going to be OK.”





Special Commemorative Section

# A Century and a Decade of Changing Lives, Giving Hope

## Then and Now: A Legacy of Caring



2014 marks the 110<sup>th</sup> birthday of Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home. That's a long time by anyone's measure. During that time, we've gone from being a respected orphanage, to one of the first nationally accredited treatment facilities for abused, neglected and crisis-affected children. It's no small accomplishment and we are so proud of the legacy we've created for "changing lives and giving hope" for the children and families in our care.

Over that period of time, what used to be known simply as Colorado Christian Home has been transformed, physically, figuratively and within the scope of our mission. From our beginnings in 1904 as a small facility in Loveland, CO. to the time when we finally moved to our current location in 1910, we have literally built an entirely new campus. and, in 1996 opened up a new building that today represents everything for which we stand. In just the past 40 years, we've served thousands of children as well as their families while we have continued to expand our programs and

services to offer treatment and care to children who not only have fallen victim to abuse and neglect, but also to children who experience a variety of other kinds of mental health and emotional-crisis situations. We have become one of the most respected institutions of its kind, not just locally, but nationally as well. Our visibility within the community has grown to the point where the name Tennyson Center for Children is no longer only recognized within our own neighborhood. On the contrary, from Ft. Collins to Pueblo...from Grand Junction to Burlington... people have learned of the work we do and have stepped up to support our mission. THAT—because of people like you—is one of the primary reasons we have built this legacy and why, 110 years later, we're able to celebrate what we have created together and the work that has changed so many lives and given hope to so many more.

But imagine what that number—110 years—means to the children in our care? As you might imagine, their concept of a century and a decade is a bit different from that of an adult.

So we asked several of the kids in our classrooms to describe for us what they thought life might have been like 110 years ago.

Eight year-old Haley said, "I think that a hundred and ten years ago, they didn't have cars or computers or anything like that. And my grandma told me that they had dial telephones where you had to stick your finger in a hole of the number you wanted to call—well, nowadays, we'd just push that number. I really don't know how it all worked." We realized it was too complicated to explain to Haley that although there were telephones 110 years ago, you had to rotate a crank mechanism to get Mable, the local operator, in order to place a call.

Nathan, a sharp 6 year-old, asked, "Were there dinosaurs back then?" Not quite, Nathan.

But 12 year-old Selena got it pretty much right when she said, "Well, I know that cars were invented right around then but they weren't the kind of cars

*Photos above: On the left is the original building as it appeared shortly after Colorado Christian Home moved to its new location at 29th and Tennyson in 1910. Dormitory wings were later added in the 1920s. On the right is the main building as it appears today, although now known as Tennyson Center for Children. While both buildings sit on the same campus, their orientation is slightly different. The old building, which was torn down in 1972, faced 29th Avenue. The new building, which opened in 1996, faces Tennyson Street.*

**Continued on 110 Years-4**

**THEN AND NOW: Colorado Christian Home to Tennyson Center for Children**



Above: The conference table in the original old building (left) is still in use today (right) in one of our conference rooms.

Row Two: (Left) The front yard of the old building, close to where the new Tennyson Center sign (right) now sits, facing 29th Ave.



Row Three: The original outdoor grill from the late 30s (left) and our new outdoor grilling space that was completed in 2011.



Bottom Row: One of the old dormitory wings (left) of Warren Hall, compared to the warmer environment (right) of one of the bedrooms in the cottages on our campus today—freshly cleaned by its proud occupant even before he learned his room would be featured.





Above: Christmas time in the old building (left) was a very special time of year, just as it still is today in one of the cottages all decked out for the holiday season (right).

Row Two: One of the playgrounds on campus as it appeared in 1929 (left) and one of the playgrounds on campus as it appears today.

Bottom row: The library in the old Warren Hall (left) was quite small in comparison to the library in the new administration building today (right).



Photos below: The old grandfather clock in the background of the top photo has been part of the Tennyson family for roughly 80 years. It used to reside in the main living area of the old building and now it sits in the reception area next to the executive offices of the new building. Despite the fact that it doesn't work as well as it used to, it still stands proud.

### Continued from 110 Years-1

everyone has today. And most people still drove a carriage with a horse and buggy. And what we know as technology today wasn't even an idea in anyone's head yet. I mean, they had no idea that, today, we'd have cell phones and computers and Facebook and all that kind of stuff, did they?" Absolutely right, Selena. Sharp girl.

Then we asked some kids, quite simply, how large the number 110 is for them.

Sam, who is 7 and has been at Tennyson Center for almost a year, said, "I think there are a lot of zeros in there somewhere."

While 11 year-old Lindsay—apparently wise beyond her years—told us, "Well, we just learned some of this stuff in my math class a few months ago. I remember that 'deca' means ten, so we know that the word decade means ten years. And 'cent' is a prefix for anything to do with one hundred, ya know, like century, which means one hundred years or like centennial, which is a

celebration of a one-hundredth birthday or something like that. But when you put it all together, I'm not sure if there is a term for a 110 year birthday, but I'd call it a centenniadecade." Ya know what, Lindsay? We'll go along with that. If it wasn't a word before, it is now. Besides, it sounds as if someone has been paying very close attention in math class. Well done.

Possibly our favorite answer came from 6 year-old Daronte, who said, "I know it's a long time and anyone who lives that long is old. I think my grandmother is that old, but since she's so good to me and she's pretty for an older lady, I only think of her as younger...ya know, like maybe only 90." We'll be sure to share with your grandmother only the best parts of that wonderful yet slightly back-handed compliment, Daronte. For the record, we know Daronte's grandmother and, to the best of our knowledge, she's nowhere near 90! But we're pretty sure she'll understand.

Finally, 13 year-old Makenna said, "Anything over a hundred is really old. But the fact that Tennyson Center has been around that long must mean it's doing something really good." Couldn't have said it better ourselves, Makenna. Thank you!

### It's Because of YOU.

We cannot celebrate the legacy of care that we've built nor can we reflect positively upon the past 110 years without realizing that we only got to where we are today because of the support from a very caring community. It's because of people like YOU who have chosen to be a part of our family. And for that we are truly grateful.

So we invite you to enjoy the photographs within this section and we hope that you will truly appreciate the legacy YOU helped to build. On behalf of all of us at Tennyson Center for Children—and on behalf of all of the children we have served and will continue to serve in the future...thank you!



## Where Spiritual Touches Clinical

**“The mama goat ate right out of my hand!”**

Tennyson’s Chaplaincy began nearly 33 years ago with John Cook as our first Chaplain. It continued to grow under the guidance of Niki Jorgenson, who was first introduced to Tennyson Center through her mission experience here as a teenager. For nearly two years now after coming to Tennyson, Angela Sanders has continued to build on the foundation laid by John and Niki. Starting long before the Chaplaincy formally began in 1981, Tennyson’s leadership has believed the spiritual needs of the children and families in our care can be as important as any other needs.

Angela Sanders, Tennyson Center’s chaplain, has a dual Masters of Divinity and Masters of Social Work, and a certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy. The chaplaincy program utilizes an interdisciplinary approach that allows the chaplain to work with our clinical team to offer a holistic approach to treatment and assists in integrating our client’s spirituality into their treatment if desired.

Angela says there are so many moments to cherish, but the ones that stick closest to her heart are when our children learn their worth and are inspired by a spirit of hope that turns their life story around.

She develops a different theme for each month and designs a curriculum of activities to fit that theme. “Respect Life” was the theme for April and the annual Tennyson Center petting zoo was one of the highlights not only of that month, but of the entire year. On that afternoon, part of the Tennyson Center staff parking lot is transformed into a small farmyard filled with goats, baby pigs, chickens and mules and the kids have the unique opportunity to interact with the animals, which helps teach them importance of respect while learning ways to show compassion and respect for life

in all its forms. And for some of the kids who have never been out of the city, it’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“The mama goat ate right out of my hand!” said one young girl. “I petted her and I can tell she really, really likes me.”

This past winter, Angela began holding weekly moral development groups in the cottages, and the children embarked on a journey of identity and self-love. With fun activities, crafts, games and discussions, the children learn a variety of strength-based, character traits including a moment when they are asked to describe how they see themselves by using “inside” character traits instead of external facts like age, appearance, or behaviors. Angela says that the older kids seem to struggle the most with this task and that even though they want to have pride in themselves, sometimes that’s very difficult for them to do.

After spending four weeks learning about character traits and doing activities where they had to describe themselves using positive character traits like witty, empathetic, serious, and assertive, the teens were able to freely share aspects of their character and take pride in their stronger sense of self.

“Though it might sound small, it was one of those priceless moments I knew the work we do here at Tennyson actually makes a difference,” Angela said. “I could walk away from the group knowing that our teens, those of our children closest to adulthood, took just enough away to strengthen their self-esteem—something so valuable, but so hard to hold onto after facing everything they have gone through.”

It’s a job in which Angela takes immense pride. “I don’t know that I’ve ever felt this fulfilled and



*Above: Angela spends time with a student, reading a book about different religions around the world. Below: it’s easy to see why the annual Tennyson Center petting zoo is a favorite with the children.*



content over the course of my entire career,” she said. “I really don’t think of this as my job. It’s more of a calling and I’m so fortunate to be here—because this is exactly where I’m supposed to be.”

## Not Your Average Fourteen Year-Old / Dave Sevick

*Below, upper: Camryn's mom, Ashley (right), beams with pride whenever she talks about her daughter's dedication to helping kids. Below, lower: Camryn enjoyed every moment working with the girls in Warren Cottage on a variety of projects and activities.*



There are so many amazing stories about our volunteers and their dedicated efforts, but once in a while there is an example of service that stands above and beyond. Such is the story of Camryn Daidone, a young woman with not only a caring heart, but also a driving spirit to match.

Camryn contacted Tia Hunter, TCC's Manager of Volunteer Services, about her desire to work with some of the girls in our residential treatment program, and sent Tia a rather detailed curriculum of activities that

would cover a period of approximately six months. Needless to say, Tia was impressed with Camryn's thorough commitment, attention to detail and her willingness to put her plan into action—and was certain she was dealing with a sharp, professional woman who knew how to get things done. They set up a time for Camryn to come down to Tennyson Center to begin her volunteer orientation process.

In the lobby at TCC, Tia was met by two women and, naturally, she expected one of them to be Camryn but she soon learned that neither of them was this wonderful woman with whom she had chatted so many times on the phone and through email. After greeting the two women, a young girl of 14 years of age stepped out from behind them and said, "I'm Camryn and that's my mom and my mom's friend." Tia was surprised, to say the least, as this was not what she had expected. She quickly realized she wasn't dealing with your average 14 year-old.

Camryn has always been interested in helping others. Her mother, Ashley, says that it's been a part of her nature for most of her life. After returning to Colorado following time spent in Nicaragua working with underprivileged children, Camryn realized there were kids who needed her help right here at home. She remembered hearing about Tennyson Center from a friend of hers, and that's when she contacted Tia.

A few weeks following her volunteer orientation, Camryn's once-a-month Saturday sessions began with the girls in Warren Cottage. Every month there was a new activity on the agenda, from designing t-shirts to making bracelets and jewelry, decorating cookies, making greeting cards and all sorts of other craft projects. The girls loved the projects and, most of all, loved

Camryn, who was a bit closer to their own age and someone they could more easily relate to. And Camryn says that's one of the things she loved most about the experience.

"These girls were only a few years younger than me, so it was easy for them to have a much different perspective than they might with an adult volunteer. They were able to think of me as more of a big sister or a good friend," she said. "That made a huge difference in helping us all to get along and become really close in a very short period of time."

At the completion of the six-month project, Camryn was sad to see it come to an end. She said, "I remember after the first or second time I got together with the girls, a couple of them would ask me, 'You're coming back again, right?' And at our last session, it was tough for me to explain to the girls that our time together was coming to an end. I had watched them grow and change so much for the better, and knowing I had a small part in that really made me proud of what I had done."

Her mother added, "Camryn realizes she's no different from any of these girls. She understands the needs of our own community but does it in a way where there is no pity, no feeling sorry for anyone, just an inherent need to get involved however she can and make a difference in her own little corner of the universe."

Given what we've already seen, we have a feeling Camryn will be doing something to make a much larger difference in a much larger part of the universe at some point very soon.

The experience was possibly best summed up by one of the girls who said, "When I grow up, I want to be like Camryn. She's so cool!"

## The Power of the Spoken Word

It is estimated that as many as 60% of the population has no idea what glossophobia is, yet as many as 75% of the population suffers from it. Glossophobia is the fear of speaking in front of a group of people. It causes many adults extreme anxiety—even panic attacks—and it can be even worse for children.

So it's rather amazing that every February, as many as 15 Tennyson Center students, ranging in age from as young as 10 to as old as 16, stand at a podium in front of a large room full of people and deliver speeches on which they have been working for months.

The Tennyson Center speech contest is an annual event, held since 2007 and sponsored by the Colorado chapter of the National Speakers' Association (NSA). It began as the brainchild of current Tennyson Center board chair Colleen Stanley and longtime Tennyson supporter Dick Bruso, both members of the NSA. Preparation for the contest begins in early December when students are paired with a Tennyson Center staff coach who helps them write their speech and then works with them on delivery techniques to help them when it's their time at the podium.

For this year's event, topics included everything from the joy of dirt biking to the possibility of life on other planets. One student spoke about his home state of Hawaii while another talked about her experience at Tennyson Center and how it has helped her overcome years of abuse and neglect.

Another spoke about his love for baseball, and still another shared his hilarious birthday experience at a local arcade.

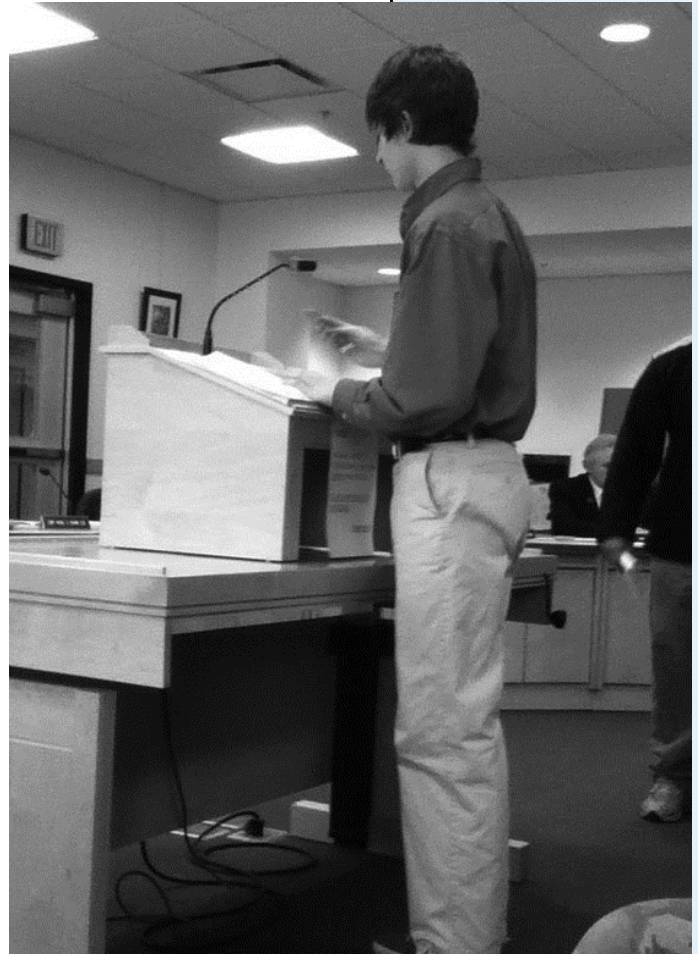
The winning speech came from a student who shared the successful realization of her wish and vision for a new family. She

spoke about the relationship that developed between her and a woman who had been volunteering and mentoring at TCC and how the two of them connected almost immediately. Metaphorically, she talked about wearing a coat of armor as a source of protection from getting hurt. She very eloquently explained how, over the course of several months, their relationship grew even closer and how, little by little, she learned to trust the woman and would "remove pieces of the armor" as the bond between them developed. As she continued, she explained that this woman eventually began the process of adopting the girl and would soon become her new mother. Needless to say, there wasn't a dry eye in the room.

She ended her speech with, "Imagine yourself in a coat of armor. Feel it cold and heavy weighing on your shoulders. Some of that armor needs to come off, but some needs to stay on for protection. How this relates to my new mom's and my relationship is that sometimes we push away too hard to accomplish our goals. We hold too much armor that we really don't need. I hope you allow this vision to enter your own life to let yourself be free and think to yourself, 'What is my armor protecting me from?' Just find the hope you need to get some of that armor off."

While awards were given for participation as well as first, second and third places, we congratulate every student who participated in this year's contest because they are all winners simply for having the courage to face their own sense of glossophobia.

And, once again, we are grateful to the Colorado chapter of the National Speakers' Association for sponsoring the contest.



*Above: The students spent many hours practicing their speeches at the podium before it was time to deliver what they had prepared. Below: Two of the judges, Christie Ward (left) and Dick Bruso get ready to present the trophies to all the participants.*



For more information on any of our events, call Tera at 720.855.3316 Or you can email her at Tera.prim@tennysoncenter.org .



Monday, June 30  
Bear Dance Golf Club



Saturday, July 12  
32nd & Tennyson



Thursday, July 17  
Blanc, 3150 Walnut

The Promise 2014



The Northern Colorado Dinner, "The Promise," was a huge success and raised more money than the event ever has in the past.

## Events: Bulls, Golf, Wine and Still More Golf

It's already been a busy event-filled year at Tennyson Center for Children, and the summer of 2014 is going to be filled with even more events, old and new.

On Monday, June 30, we'll be launching the **Hope Classic**, our brand new and second summer golf tournament. This exciting new event will take place at Bear Dance Golf Club in Larkspur. With a format very similar to our long-standing golf tournament, the FORE! Our Kids Golf Classic, which takes place at the end of August, this new event offers an 18-hole, four-person modified scramble format. Each player will tee off and the best shot will be selected as individuals then play from that spot. Prizes will be awarded in both men's and women's divisions in a variety of categories including low-gross, closest to the pin, longest drive and longest putt. There will also be a hole-in-one contest and a 50-50 putting challenge. For more information, call Tera at 720-855-3316.

Get ready for the 4th annual **Highland Running of the Bulls**, where you'll face your fears and prove your dodging prowess, all



The Rocky Mountain Roller Girls are already gearing up to chase runners down 32nd Ave. for the 4th annual Highland Running of the Bulls.

while helping to support Tennyson Center. Inspired by the original running of the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, this event features the Rocky Mountain RollerGirls instead of the real thing, but the excitement is just as real as these gals wielding whiffle bats chase runners throughout the streets of Denver's West Highland

neighborhood. Race at your own risk and join in the fun on Saturday, July 12. The race starts at 9:00 a.m. All proceeds benefit Tennyson Center. For more information, go to [www.highlandbulls.com](http://www.highlandbulls.com).

## NoCo Breaks Record!!!

"The Promise" was the theme for the 2014 Northern Colorado Dinner, which proved to be especially appropriate this past April as it helped to illustrate the promise we all must make to help children-in-need. And those in attendance at the event held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Loveland stepped up to keep their promise in support of Tennyson Center's mission. The event raised a record of over \$88,000.

Denver TV anchor Gary Shapiro (KUSA-TV/9News) served as emcee for the evening, which began with a cocktail reception followed by an incredible dinner

and compelling program featuring author Becky Johnson, who has written over 40 books including "Your Brain on Joy."

The event also celebrated Tennyson's 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of changing lives and giving hope to at-risk kids from all over Colorado, including the counties in northern Colorado. Tennyson Center got its start in Loveland in 1904, so it's fitting that the event, which has often been held in Ft. Collins, was moved back to its original hometown. For more information on next year's NoCo dinner or on any of our dinners, call Tera at 720-855-3316.

Many of you have asked and now we are excited to announce the return of our annual wine-tasting event—but this one promises to be even better than before. It's the inaugural **Corks for a Cause** and it all happens on Thursday, July 17 at Blanc, a unique event space located at 3150 Walnut Street in Denver. Wineries and distributors representing local and well-known national brands will pique your taste buds as your palette is temped with a wide array of finger foods, cheese trays and desserts. You'll enjoy music and an auction offering antique children's chairs painted by local celebrities and artists and each chair will not only be a work of art, it will also be a reminder of the children this event is benefiting. We hope you can join us for this fun and wonderful evening in celebration of Tennyson Center and the kids we serve!

## The Gift that Keeps on Giving / Bob Cooper

Remember the commercial slogan; “The gift that keeps on giving.”? It was first used in 1925 to promote the first “talking machines” later called *phonographs*. It has since been picked up by greeting card companies, gifts of magazine subscriptions and many other companies. The “gift that keeps on giving” is meant to invoke over and over the warm feelings people get when they receive a present.

Each of you knows the same is true for us as individuals when we give! Whether it is our time, our talent or our treasure, that warm feeling comes over us when we know we have given a gift that has made a difference. Here at Tennyson Center that “difference” is made in the life of

a child in need. A child who has experienced extreme trauma in their life; be that a loss of a loved one, illness that has had debilitating impact on a family or the trauma of abuse.

I am clear that Tennyson is here continuing to serve children and families in need because of a community of folks who “keep on giving” to this mission and embracing it as their own. Your gifts keep on giving throughout a child’s lifetime. Young adults contact us regularly and reflect on how Tennyson, through the gifts of volunteers and donors, has continued to give to them after they left Tennyson as they have grown into young adults contributing to our society. The gift of a volunteer who cared enough to play a game, or helped

with math or just listened; The gift of a donor who’s gift helped pay for a therapist, counselor or teacher; all have imprinted wonderful memories for children who had not been able to collect many of them.

Another gift “that keeps on giving” that we can all make is a legacy gift that continues our giving long after our time on this earth has passed. Planning in your estate to continue your giving beyond your lifetime is the ultimate “gift that keeps on giving”! I invite you to join Judy and me and plan a legacy gift to the children through Tennyson’s endowment and feel how good it feels to give a gift that gives forever.



**Bob Cooper,**  
*Chief Development Officer*

*NOTE: Our annual report was recently published and we have become aware of mistakes we made in recognizing supporters of the children. Clarence Haak and his late wife Jeanette are members of the Heritage Society and Shaun & Debbie Yancey and Al & Frances Troppman are annual contributors who were unfortunately omitted from our publication. We know we can't serve the children without you and apologize to these folks and anyone else who helped the children this past year and we missed the opportunity to recognize your support.*

## Behind the Scenes: The Quilt Ladies

It’s a pretty impressive feat when two people can say that they, single-handedly, have raised nearly \$300,000 in support of Tennyson Center for Children. But that’s exactly what Eileen Phares (left) and Margaret Stookesberry have done over the past 40 years!

Affectionately known around campus as “The Quilt Ladies,” these two remarkable women have hosted quilt sales on our campus since long before our campus looked the way it does today.

The sales feature hand-made quilts that have been created by church groups, women’s groups, quilting bees and other organizations that have so generously donated these beautiful works of art. Quilts are available in a variety of designs and colors and in all sizes, from baby quilts to queen and king-size. There was a time when quilt sales were held three and even four times a year, so when you do the math, you get an idea of the



amount of time and energy these two women have put into the unique fundraisers. However, it’s truly a labor of love for both of them and they wouldn’t have it any other way!

The sales are usually held the second weekend of April and October in the Tennyson Center

library. The Friday sales are held from 3pm until 6pm and again on Saturday from 10am to 2pm.

To find out more about the Tennyson Center quilt sales, or if you or your organization would like to make a quilt and donate it, call 720-855-3326.

*Above: The Tennyson Center quilt ladies, Eileen Phares and Margaret Stookesberry get ready for the recent spring quilt sale. They’ve been doing this for 40 years and are showing no signs of slowing down anytime soon.*



2950 Tennyson Street | Denver, CO 80212-3029

Spring/Summer 2014



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

## **Tennyson Center for Children** **at Colorado Christian Home** *Changing Lives, Giving Hope.*

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

Our community of professionals and advocates are dedicated to providing competent and caring treatment and education, both at our campus and within the community.

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

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