

Visitor

July 2015



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UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 Fore! Our Kids Golf Classic

August 24, 2015
Sanctuary Golf Course
Sedalia, CO

18th Annual Colorado Springs Dinner

September 11, 2015
DoubleTree by Hilton
Colorado Springs, CO

38th Annual Denver Dinner

October 24, 2015
Hyatt Regency Denver at
Colorado Convention
Center
Denver, CO

For information on these or any TCC events, contact Alicia at 720.855.3317 or alicia.perras@tennysoncenter.org.

Teacher Finds His Calling

Tennysen Center for Children's (TCC) Day Treatment program thrives thanks to dedicated teachers. The Day Treatment program is for children who are able to live at home but need an intensive treatment and education program. The accredited program combines special education with therapy. TCC also teaches new skills to children with behavioral problems so they can function better in public school and the community. Each classroom has a therapist, two youth treatment counselors and a teacher.

One teacher, Mr. Jaegle, loves teaching at TCC. Mr. Jaegle teaches fourth to sixth grade science. He started college as an engineering major but then realized that he wanted a more meaningful career. He came to TCC seven years ago as a Youth Treatment Counselor (YTC). Seeing his success with the kids, the school principal recommended that he apply for a

teacher position. He truly enjoys this role.

Mr. Jaegle's passion and creativity are contagious. You never know what you might get. One day he may be dressed as a pirate to teach a lesson on pirate ships or another day he may be dressed as a mad scientist to teach chemistry. Regardless of what he is teaching, it is disguised as fun for the kids. He plans the curriculum for a classroom of up to 12 students.



Mr. Jaegle dressed as a mad scientist to teach a chemistry lesson

According to Mr. Jaegle, many teachers and educators have given up on TCC's kids. When they are placed in his classroom, many have been kicked out of two or three schools and want to give up on school altogether. When Mr. Jaegle teaches in a smaller classroom, along with support from the YTCs and therapists, the kids succeed.

Mr. Jaegle uses the SMART Board® interactive whiteboard in his classroom to engage the students and encourage participation. He also believes in the power of music. His classroom will rarely be without music playing in the background. It helps calm the students and drown out distractions.

According to Mr. Jaegle, he found his calling. He knows how to connect with the kids and he loves working with them. TCC wouldn't be successful without teachers like Mr. Jaegle.

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Keller is a Kid's Best Friend...and Teacher

How can kids learn to be safe, respectful and responsible? Have a dog teach them. That is what Bethany Frakes, TCC's school social worker with the Innovative Direct Educational Assistance for Learners (IDEAL) program, is doing. IDEAL is an alternative education program coordinated with Denver Public Schools.

Having been with TCC for five years and wanting to expand her skills, Ms. Frakes decided to train her two-year-old Goldendoodle Keller as a therapy dog. Ms. Frakes and Keller started with obedience classes. Then to become a dog-handler team, Ms.

Frakes took a written exam and Keller endured a four-hour exam through Therapy Dogs International. They are certified to do animal-assisted therapy together in agencies like TCC, hospitals, schools and nursing homes.

TCC's program kicked off in April, and Ms. Frakes and Keller have worked with two different classes. Ms. Frakes found it easy to incorporate him into the work she was doing at TCC. She designed a five-week curriculum with Keller conducting group therapy sessions she was already



Ms. Frakes and therapy dog Keller

Continued on page 3



“
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whole awful lot,
nothing is going
to get better.
It’s not.”

”

~ Dr. Seuss

Are We Making a Difference? by Rod Witte, CEO

This is the question I posed at our June 6 appreciation brunch. More than 120 volunteers and donors attended, including 20 children who currently live here in our Residential Treatment program. I was surprised, and delighted, when seven-year-old Markus shouted “yes” – he believes we are making a difference in his life.

In addition to Markus’s feedback, the event was filled with many moving moments. Eleven-year-old Mary, winner of our annual student speech contest, recited her speech that was written in the style of Dr. Seuss’s “Oh, the Places You’ll Go.” She described how she has moved around from family to family but hasn’t really been many places. She described all the places she will travel some day from Vegas to Florida to France. The audience was captivated as she shared her dreams.

Beth Adams, a longtime volunteer, also delivered a moving presentation. Beth has participated in many programs from reading buddies to game night to mentoring. She shared her experience mentoring a young boy several years ago. She and the boy spent a lot of time fishing and they took a trip to the

Royal Gorge Bridge in Canon City, Colo. When Beth was a toddler, her family took the same trip. In the 1960s, it wasn’t much more than a rickety bridge, not like the attractions that exist today. As Beth shared, for kids that come to TCC, their passage from childhood to adulthood could be like crossing the Royal Gorge Bridge in the ‘60s—filled with anxiety, fears and little guidance. With the help of TCC, moving from childhood to adulthood can be filled with structure, support and safety—like crossing the Royal Gorge Bridge with today’s amenities. Thank you, Beth, for painting such a vivid picture of the role TCC can play in children’s lives.

The final moving moments brought many in the audience to tears. Last year, Level 3 Communications helped us build an honor garden to recognize staff who have gone above and beyond in their service to TCC. As the plaque reads, “In this space we pause, remember and celebrate those, both living and passed, who embody the spirit of Tennyson Center and who changed lives and gave hope to children and families in need.” Families of John Cook (former Chaplain and Therapist), Cindy McKinney (former Volunteer

Coordinator) and Dave Ramos (former Youth Treatment Counselor), attended along with Franchelle Cliff (former Development Department staff member and current volunteer) and Don Brewer (former Executive Director and current Board Member). (Sharon Carr, former Program Director and



Above: Tennyson Center for Children Honor Garden

Board Member, was unable to attend the event.) These individuals helped make a great difference in the lives of many children at TCC.

I agree with Markus, our volunteers and donors are making a difference. I think this Dr. Seuss quote sums it up best, “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” Thank you for all you do for the kids at Tennyson Center!

Staff Spotlight

Each month, we recognize a staff member who exemplifies TCC’s mission through service and learning. Nominated by colleagues for doing an outstanding job, here are the most recent employees honored:



April
Director of Education
Djuana Osby has been with TCC since January 1990. Djuana went above and

beyond this year providing extra support to her team. She consistently puts in long hours to make sure everyone is successful.



May
Manager of Special Events
Alicia Perras has been with TCC since July 2014. Alicia covered two positions for several months

and planned our most successful Mile High Q & Brew and Northern Colorado Dinner events ever. She is full of energy and always has a positive attitude.



June
Teacher **Jake Fehr** has been with TCC since March 2009. Jake exhibits patience, kindness and grace in

everything he does. He is an amazing teacher to work with and genuinely cares about each student’s success.

Thank you, Northern Coloradans

Thank you to everyone who attended the 20th Annual Northern Colorado Dinner on May 1 helping raise over \$100,000 for TCC's kids. More than 300 people joined us to see Love and Logic expert and former comedian Jedd Hafer and dance to music from the Flatirons Jazz Orchestra. Emceed by 9News

broadcaster Gary Shapiro and sponsored by Advanced Electrical Services, Bob's Appliance Service, Viegut Funeral Home and Jack's Auto Service Center, LLC, the event raised a record amount to help children who have survived child abuse or neglect, or face mental health or developmental issues.



Left: Jedd Hafer, Love and Logic Institute

Healing Together

Equine therapy is another animal-assisted therapy program used at TCC. Through the generosity of Ev and Theresa Munzel, eight TCC high-school-aged students will participate in therapy with horses for seven weeks this summer at Zuma's Rescue Ranch. Located in Littleton on 148 acres, Zuma's is a sanctuary for abused, neglected and abandoned horses and other farm animals. By working together, the horses help the young survivors of abuse and neglect build important life skills.

their self-esteem. Zuma's employs Elise Neil, a Licensed Professional Counselor trained in equine therapy. Working with a team of volunteers, Ms. Neil teaches kids appropriate boundaries, respect, leadership and even how to care for and feed the horses.

the kids are introduced to the horses and get to spend time with each one. The horses gravitate towards specific humans, and each child selects one that they click with the most. The kids and horses will build strong relationships through the program. According to Ms. Sterrett, "It's fun to see the kids get excited about their special horse."

According to Kerri Sterrett, TCC's Clinical Director of Therapy Services, equine therapy benefits kids with trust, communication and attachment issues, trauma-related symptoms, oppositional defiant tendencies, depression and those on the autism spectrum. Through the therapy, the kids learn how to read social cues, build relationships and improve

According to Ms. Neil, the horses feed off the children's energy. In order to enter the paddock with the animals, the kids must be calm and centered. Ms. Neil leads a group stretch at the beginning of each lesson to help the children remove their "anxiety suits" and let go of any anger or bad feelings they may be experiencing. All of the child's emotions will be transferred to the horse and impact the interaction.

TCC hopes to continue the program in the fall. To do so and expand to other students, TCC will need to secure additional funding. To learn more about supporting this program, please contact Scott Franssen at 720.855.3344.

Each child is paired with a volunteer mentor and a specific horse for the duration of the program. During the first session,



Left: Zuma's Elise Neil leading a group lesson for TCC children

Keller...continued from page 1

leading with the kids. Together, Ms. Frakes and Keller teach the class how to be safe, respectful and responsible. Ms. Frakes and Keller demonstrate the behaviors and then the kids try it. The therapy is a way for the kids to see how they should behave in different situations. The lessons also cover animal safety and responsibility.

In addition to the set curriculum, Keller provides stress relief for the students and staff. Kids are able to pet Keller while they are working, bringing a calming aspect to the classroom. There are many smiles as staff and kids greet him in the hallways.

The animal-assisted therapy program is another tool Ms. Frakes has to help kids work through their attachment issues and past trauma. He is able to help the kids learn in a creative way, without judgement. In just a few short months, Bethany has seen the success and happiness the kids have had working with Keller.

Below: Keller, TCC's new therapy dog



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”

We appreciate your support!

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A Great Big Thank You to Our Volunteers and Donors!

More than 100 volunteers and donors attended an appreciation brunch on June 6. This was our opportunity to thank you for all that you do for the kids at Tennyson Center. Everyone delighted in the Dr. Seuss theme and were moved to tears by presentations from a child, a

current volunteer and recognition of several former employees. Read "Are We Making a Difference?" on page 2 for more about the event.

Right: Volunteers and donors enjoying the brunch on June 6



Save These Dates

18th Annual Colorado Springs Dinner

Friday, September 11, 2015

DoubleTree by Hilton Colorado Springs

1775 E. Cheyenne Mountain Boulevard

Colorado Springs, CO 80906

38th Annual Denver Dinner

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center

650 15th Street

Denver, CO 80202

If you would like to attend or sponsor one or both of these events, contact Alicia at 720.855.3317 or alicia.perras@tennysoncenter.org.