

Visitor

Spring 2015



www.childabuse.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Quilt Sale
April 10 and 11, 2015

Open House
April 11, 2015

20th Annual Northern Colorado Dinner
May 1, 2015

Hope Classic Golf Tournament
June 25, 2015

Corks for a Cause Wine Tasting
July 9, 2015

2015 Fore! Our Kids Golf Classic
August 24, 2015

18th Annual Colorado Springs Dinner
September 11, 2015

38th Annual Denver Dinner
October 24, 2015

For information on these or any other events, contact Alicia at 720-855-3317 or alicia.perras@tennysoncenter.org.

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Really Great Families Can Have Kids with Big Troubles

Not all kids that come to Tennysen Center for Children (TCC) are survivors of abuse and neglect. Some have great families yet face mental health and developmental issues. Gage is one of those kids. For several years, he struggled in school, which caused him to become frustrated and angry. By fourth grade, his anger issues had manifested into suicide threats. After a brief hospital stay and attending a day-treatment program at another hospital, Gage was referred to TCC.

Because of where Gage and his family live, Gage enrolled in the TCC class at Clayton Elementary in Englewood, Colo. Clayton is an off-site day-treatment program that serves families in Englewood and Littleton Public Schools. TCC has been operating in off-site locations for more than 10 years as a way to allow kids to remain integrated in their communities.

The Clayton program serves kids from kindergarten to sixth grade. One teacher, a therapist and two youth treatment counselors oversee the classroom for up to nine kids. The therapist provides

individual, group and family therapy. Kelly Fries, the therapist at Clayton, explained that when families come to the program, they sign a contract that they will participate in weekly family therapy. By operating the program in the public school, families have an easier commute to therapy appointments. The family therapy ensures that the therapist and parents are on the same page, which is a key component to helping the child overcome their challenges.

Just like the day-treatment program onsite at TCC, the Clayton program complies with the Colorado Department of Education requirements. In addition to the benefit of keeping kids in the community, the off-site program is able to integrate with the public school. The TCC kids at Clayton participate in art, physical education and computer classes with the public school kids.

TCC's day-treatment programs teach kids how to be safe, manage their emotions and how to be in control of their words and actions. Kids are taught how

to connect with others and how to master school work. When they leave the TCC program and go back to public school, they are equipped to have a good school experience. Because they have more confidence in school, they end up relating better at home with their parents and siblings.



Gage's mom, Jenny (pictured above with Gage), was relieved to find TCC. She states, "I don't know where we'd be without it, I really don't." She said that the public school tried to handle Gage's issues but they didn't have the resources to handle a mental health crisis. She was so grateful that TCC treated Gage as a child, instead of as a criminal. TCC took time to get to know him and understand why he was experiencing the behavior issues. Jenny expressed, "It's been a real blessing finding TCC. I feel like I got my son back."

More Than a Good Neighbor by Sarah McDowell, Tennysen Center Volunteer

In the 12 years I have lived in Denver's Highlands neighborhood, I have taken thousands of walks past Tennysen Center for Children (TCC). As Rod Witte, TCC's CEO, said at the summer barbecue, "the center is an elephant" - meaning it's hard to miss TCC among the small bungalows that surround it.

Five years ago, we moved closer to TCC and the schoolyard noises, buses and elegant

roofline quickly became second-nature. To learn more about TCC, I visited their website and moved by the mission, I signed up for Operation Santa, TCC's annual holiday drive.

Yet, it's only within the last two years, after having our son, that my heart burst fully open and the work done at TCC became glaringly clear: they save lives.

Once I realized the unimaginable strength of these kids, I had no

choice but to volunteer my time to support their journey. I have helped with the annual Denver Dinner and Colorado Gives Day and this past December, our extended family and neighbors supported Operation Santa again. Every experience has been an opportunity to learn more about the kids, the staff and the important work done at TCC.

The Highlands is an amazing community full of supportive

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”

A Message from the CEO by Rod Witte

The Tennyson Center for Children staff creates many opportunities for kids to express themselves throughout the year. One event is our annual speech contest. For nine years, the Colorado Chapter of the National Speakers Association has sponsored this event for the middle and high school kids here at Tennyson. Students are encouraged to participate and give a speech on their choice of topic. Staff members volunteer their time to coach the kids through the process of planning, writing and presenting. This year, I coached a 12-year-old boy who presented a speech on the importance of recycling. To help him plan and prepare, I met with him numerous times over about six weeks to discuss topics, write the speech and practice. I was impressed with his dedication to the project.

Fourteen total students stood up in front of their peers, staff and guests to deliver their speeches. Four judges from the National Speakers Association of Colorado judged the speeches and provided the kids with feedback and encouragement and awarded all with trophies and additional awards for the top four places. Topics ranged from male pattern baldness to therapy dogs to how to make new friends. The

judges awarded the first place trophy to a teenage girl who gave a creative presentation based on Dr. Seuss’s book, “Oh, The Places You’ll Go.” She talked about how in her 11+ years of life she has moved around a lot yet hasn’t been to very many “places.” She shared all the places she dreams about visiting including Niagara Falls, Disney World and Paris—all while rhyming in the style of Dr. Seuss!

I am so proud of all the students who had the courage to present in front of nearly 100 people! I know many adults who could not do what these kids did! I enjoyed the time I shared with the one young orator I coached. I look forward to coaching another next year and hearing all of the children’s speeches.

On a more serious note, did you know that more than five children in the United States die every day as a result of child abuse and neglect? Additionally, almost 30% of abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children, continuing the horrible cycle of abuse. That is why we provide help for the most severely abused and neglected children in Colorado, and continue to

partner with the Colorado Department of Human Services to raise awareness of child abuse for National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

For more than 110 years, Tennyson Center for Children has often been a last resort for kids who have nowhere else to go. Now with your help, we can work together to prevent child abuse by reporting it when we suspect it has happened, or is happening. **To report suspected abuse or neglect, call the new confidential Colorado statewide hotline at 1-844-CO-4-KIDS (1-844-264-5437).** This hotline operates 24 hours each and every day of the year.

Everyone in our communities can participate in the reduction and prevention of child abuse and neglect. Visit www.CO4kids.org to learn more about the statewide efforts to raise awareness.

Tennyson Center’s vision is to change lives and give hope to children and families. Together, we can stop the cycle of abuse and neglect.

As my favorite author Dr. Seuss says, “You’re off to great places. Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So...get on your way!”

Operation Santa Recap

Operation Santa fulfills the wishes and needs for Tennyson Center for Children (TCC) kids, families and programs. Corporations, schools, churches and many individuals made 2014 TCC’s most successful Operation Santa ever, generating \$115,000 worth of in-kind donations and \$55,000 in cash donations. Each child that lives at TCC received three gifts to open Christmas morning. The kids that come to TCC for school each received one gift distributed at a party before holiday break.

In addition to the kids, we collected donations for families in our therapeutic programs. Families received gifts as well as needed household items including dishes, pots and pans, microwaves, televisions and clothes. We also collected items for our programs and classrooms to help fulfill many needs throughout the entire year. Operation Santa 2015 will kick off Oct. 1. To participate or learn more, contact Tricia at 720-855-3358 or tricia.muniz@tennysoncenter.org.



Celebrating 20 Years of Keeping Promises

We invite you to join us on Friday, May 1 at the Embassy Suites in Loveland for the 20th Annual Northern Colorado Dinner to support Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home (TCC). TCC was founded in Loveland in 1904 and moved to Denver in 1907. However, its roots still run deep in northern Colorado.

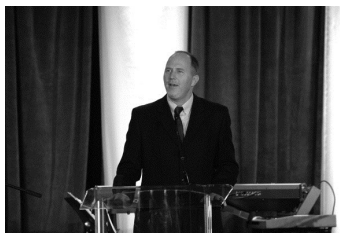
Over 20 years ago, Kitty Moore and Elaine Stahl decided that they wanted to help the children of TCC. They, along with a dedicated event committee, planned the First Annual Northern Colorado Dinner in Fort Collins, with keynote speaker Foster Cline from the Love and Logic Institute.

For this year's 20th annual event, Jedd Hafer, another speaker from the Love and Logic Institute and former comedian, will

provide a night of fun and laughter, all while helping TCC. This year's theme will focus on "Keeping Promises." For the past 20 years, the Northern Colorado community has kept their promises of financial support and prayer for the TCC children. Even Elaine and Kitty, the event's organizers for the past 20 years, have committed to planning the event until someone else wants to take it over.

Kitty and Elaine, along with other committee members, enjoy planning the dinner and explained the reason they have helped for so long, "It's all about the kids. The reason we do it is for the kids."

The event is a fundraising event for TCC. Last year, Kitty, Elaine and the planning committee helped raise \$80,000 for TCC. Yet, the dinner is a bit different



Left: Jedd Hafer, speaker with the Love and Logic Institute

than other fundraising events; there is no cost to attend. We encourage you to join us for this fun night out and if you feel compelled, donate to help Colorado children who have survived neglect and abuse or face mental health or developmental issues.

To register to attend or learn more, contact Kitty Moore (moore4me@gmail.com or 970-203-5276) or Elaine Stahl (ersthl@msn.com or 970-217-1698).



It's all about the kids. The reason we do it is for the kids.



Corks for a Cause

A wine tasting is a great way to celebrate summer while you meet and mingle with others in our community. Join us on July 9 at Blanc (3150 Walnut Street, Denver) for a wine tasting event benefitting Tennyson Center for Children. Wineries and distributors representing local and well-known national brands will pique your taste buds while tempting your palette with a wide array of finger foods, exquisite cheese trays and desserts prepared by Footers Catering. In addition, we will showcase a local musician and feature a unique auction. Sponsorships and tickets are available now by contacting Alicia at alicia.perras@tennysoncenter.org.

Mile High Country Q & Brew Recap

More than 800 people attended the Fifth Annual Mile High Country Q & Brew on Feb. 28. We appreciate everyone who turned out to see country artist Dustin Lynch and all who participated in the silent and live auctions at Mile High Station. Thanks to all the sponsors, including Lockton Companies, Ryan Turner Specialty, RJ Clark Family Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Vericlam, PCL Construction, 98.5 KYGO, 5280 Magazine, Brothers BBQ and Boulder Beer.

Right: Dustin Lynch performed at the Fifth Annual Mile High Country Q & Brew on Feb. 28 at Mile High Station.



Neighbors...continued from page 1

people. I stand with over a dozen neighbors who volunteer by cooking with the kids, helping with homework and reading, and baking cakes for birthdays and discharges. The local Highlands' organizations and businesses have opened their doors and wallets in support too.

Some neighbors have mixed feelings about TCC, voicing that its presence is too disturbing. I respectfully disagree with them and represent the majority of the Highlands residents who believe TCC is an incredible gift to our neighborhood. Rod, you are correct, it is an elephant. A smart, dedicated, compassionate, hardworking elephant, and I'm proud to be a part of it.



2950 Tennyson Street | Denver, CO 80212-3029





Thank you for making a difference!

Spring 2015



www.childabuse.org

Your Donations Hard at Work

-  \$500 provides a child with one month of healing therapy
-  \$250 provides a family with eight in-home sessions
-  \$125 provides a whole season of clothes for a child
-  \$50 provides a child with 15 nutritious meals

How You Can Help



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a perfect time to make a gift to help survivors of abuse and neglect. Donate online at www.childabuse.org/donate.

Tennyson Center for Children Open House – April 11

Have you wanted to visit Tennyson Center but just haven't had a chance? Now is the time! Join us on Saturday, April 11 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. for our Open House. Tour the school, check out the student art show and annual spring quilt sale, and learn how to get involved. All are welcome; no registration necessary. For more information, contact Jennifer at 720-855-3312 or jennifer.force@tennysoncenter.org.

Location: 2950 Tennyson Street, Denver, CO 80212