

THE DREAM NEWS

JOURNEY TO DREAM

2023 WORD PROJECT

For 2023 Journey to Dream, adopted four words that best describe our organization:

The need for purpose is one of the defining characteristics of human beings. As humans, we crave purpose and can struggle when we don't have it. Purpose is a fundamental component of a fulfilling life.

A person's true purpose is found somewhere at the intersection of who you are at your absolute best and who you're most at ease. Your purpose is part of your spirit and daily aspiration; because it is who you are as a person, it is also timeless.

Youth in crisis continues to be a growing epidemic with no end in sight. Our purpose and commitment to meet this underserved and often forgotten population are unwavering. We know that the teens we serve, 14-19, are especially at-risk due to a lack of resources, basic needs (food, clothing, transportation, and housing). With a pioneering spirit, Journey to Dream clearly understands our purpose and continues serving at-risk, victimized, and homeless teens. We will create lasting change in these teens' lives with the ongoing support community.



- Q1 - Purpose**
- Q2 - Bloom**
- Q3 - GRIT**
- Q4 - Intentional**

WHAT'S INSIDE

Kyle's Place Highlights

[PAGE 2](#)

Dream Initiative

[PAGE 3](#)

Development Team

[PAGE 4](#)

Volunteer Victories

[PAGE 5](#)

End of Year Campaign

[PAGE 5](#)

Employee Corner

[PAGE 6](#)

Employee Corner

[PAGE 7](#)

Upcoming Events

[PAGE 8](#)

[PAGE 9](#)



January 2023

January was the month of receiving acceptance letters from early college application submissions. Several teens were accepted to schools around Texas, including: Prairie View A& M university, University of North Texas, Blinn College, and NCTC.



JOURNEY TO DREAM

February 2023

Our teens celebrated Black History Month through several events throughout the community. Our teens played Ebony-Opoly and reviewed historical events while learning valuable lessons on life, equity, and money management through a new, yet familiar, board game.

February 2023

First United Bank's Annual United Acts of Kindness Day treated our teens to a day of pizza, dessert, and a gaming truck.



February 2023

Our teens competed in several school events and received accolades. One of our teens competed at a NTCA Competition for Color Guard and received 2nd place overall.



February 20, 2023

Every Thursday night, our teens participate in life skills classes covering many topics, including Black History Trivia night, remembering influential figures throughout history in America. Teens were able to trace the origin of some of their favorite items while learning who invented or influences new technology, foods, and laws.

February 28, 2023

Teens ended BHM with a community celebration at Eloise Lundy Recreation Center. "Let's Celebrate Together!" included Black History Bingo, youth presentations, art displays, and guest speakers Arlena Gaynor (Executive Director for Language, Literacy, and Social Studies for Dallas ISD) and Luke Mergerson (City of Dallas Program Coordinator) provided an overview of black history in the DFW as it correlates with moments in black history across America.

Spring Break 2023

- Spring Break was a fun week for our teens. They started the week with a treat from our board members of pizza and a game truck. Witherite Law Group hosted our teens to an evening at PINSTACK where our teens bowled, drove bumper cars, rock climbers, and played laser tag and arcade games.
- Our teens toured the University of North Texas and learned about the opportunities around campus to work and seek financial and educational support.



March 2023

It's that time of the year again to begin taking care of our Dream Garden in partnership with Trinity Presbyterian Church. Our teens planted tomatoes, watermelons, herbs, squash, and more. They will check on their produce weekly and bring the items from the garden to the table. Our teens are always so proud of their ability to grow food.



March 24, 2023

Our teens spent the day with employees from McKesson in partnership with SuitUp to learn how to think like a marketing executive for a large corporation. Teens were split into groups and paired with McKesson mentors. Each team was responsible for creating a marketing plan to recruit new employees. Each team presented their idea to a group of judges in a conference room setting. Our teens learned how to budget, create a marketing plan, and get future applicants excited about a company.



NUMBER OF SCHOOL GROUPS



NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER GROUP - 30

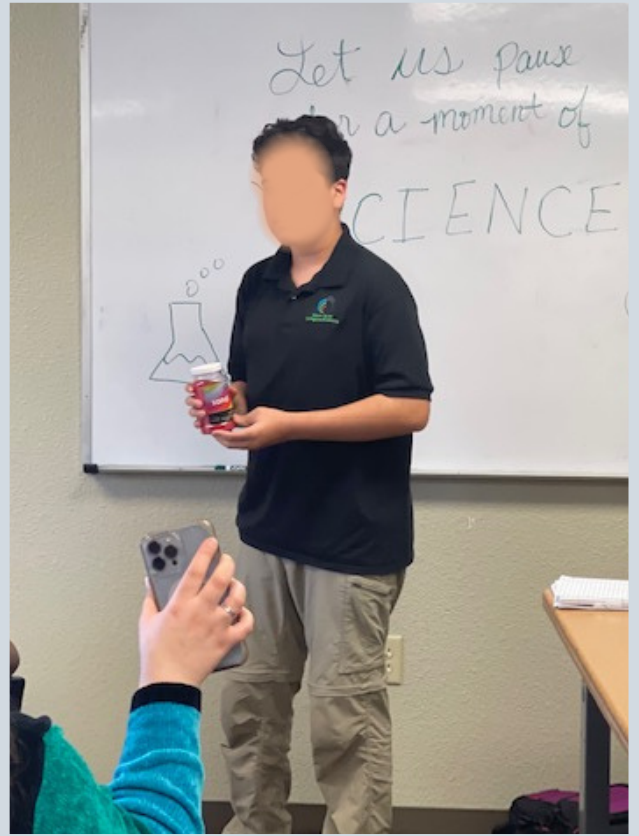


NUMBER OF MEETINGS ANNUALLY- 25-30



NUMBER OF SERVICE HOURS
(ANNUALLY)

250-300



Creating future CEO's! Students gain real-world experiences by collaborating to develop a business plans.

CURRENTLY SERVING





DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Women on Purpose Luncheon & Fashion Show SOLD OUT, and was a huge success. Thank you to all who attended, your contribution to our teens means the world!



Toyota Motor North America (Plano) did a dollar-for-dollar match donation and raised \$10,600 for Journey to Dream.



Lantana Ladies League raised \$18,000 for Journey to Dream with their Purse Auction



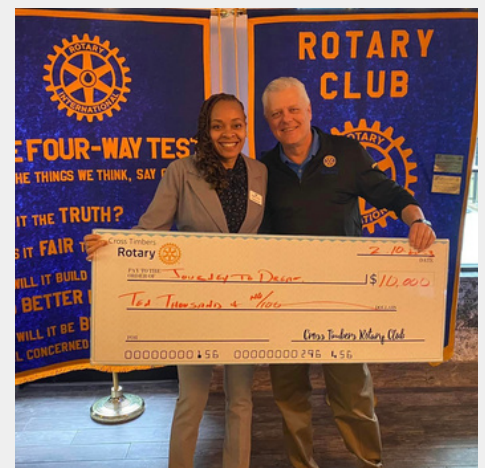
Journey to Dream received an amazing grant through Connex Foundation for some much-needed renovation at Kyle's Place.



GDS Wealth Management was the Ruby Sponsor for the Women on Purpose Luncheon & Fashion Show.



DFW Metroplex Founders' Day of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. chose JTD for their 2023 "Service to All Mankind" Service Project.



Cross Timbers Rotary Christmas Party benefitting Journey to Dream Raised - \$10,000.

VOLUNTEER VICTORIES

Spring brought an office move, festive Kyle's Place decorating and more! We are so thankful for the many volunteers that give their time across all of our programs, Dream Initiative, Kyle's Place and our administrative office. **Thank you!**

OVER 450 HOURS
of volunteer service

17
new volunteers oriented

\$13,000
worth contributed to the
community through JTD volunteers!

OVER 70 VOLUNTEERS &
8 GROUPS
donated by our own Kyle's Place
residents

Groups include:

- University of North Texas Housing
- First United Bank – United Acts of Service Day
- Rockpointe Church
- Ace Handyman Services
- Jab Elite Boxing – Lewisville
- NCL Cottonwood Chapter

VOLUNTEERS OF THE QUARTER



January: As a new JTD Board Member, Olivia has already supported staff and teens by attending events and donating her time. She stayed the whole night at Shop With a Cop organizing participants and even doing some heavy lifting! We appreciate you, Olivia!



February: This dynamic husband and wife duo have been such a blessing to Journey to Dream over the last year. They both serve on our Gala committee, and Matthew has been a handyman hero during our move. We are so thankful they choose to spend time volunteering with us!



March: Monica helped us move our office and then returned multiple days to paint our new office spaces. We can't thank her enough for doing it all... even the ceilings!

EMPLOYEE

Healthy Initiative Update

JANUARY

Our employees embraced our January **Step it up in 2023** initiative. We had 80% staff participation and even had 2 board members walking with us. The challenge was to track and combine our daily steps and virtually walk to New York City. The goal was to complete the 3,568,440 steps from our office in Lewisville to our destination of Rockefeller Plaza by the end of the month. We exceeded our goal and virtually arrived at Rockefeller Plaza on January 25. By the end of the month we had accumulated 4,321,722 steps, exceeding our goal by 21%. The average walker increased their daily steps by 1,754 steps per day by the end of the month: a 26% increase in average daily steps. Yay team! Our top walker was Sharon, with an average of 20,135 steps per day. We had a celebratory lunch at Enzo's NY Pizzeria in Parker Square, and everyone who completed 250,000 steps received a Sonic gift card to quench their thirst.



FEBRUARY

In February we turned our healthy focus to drinking more water. **Every Drop Counts in 2023!** Every employee was challenged to establish their personal daily water intake goal, and then to track their intake for the month. 55% of our employees participated in this initiative drinking an average of 2.25 liters per day. Great job team! The top performing employees were Nesa and Kamre, each meeting 99% of their intake goals.

MARCH

The staff sort of rejected the March initiative: **Eat More Veggies!** While the recommend daily intake of vegetables is 2 to 3 cups per day, only 10% of Americans eat the recommended amount. Employees were asked to set a goal and then track their daily intake. 45% of the staff set a goal but only 20% finished the month still tracking. Our CEO was the clear leader with approximately 185 cups of veggies consumed in March. In total, 390 cups of eaten vegetables were tracked. It may be time to focus in a different healthy direction for April.



C
O
R
N
E
R

EMPLOYEE

C
O
O
R
N
E
R

CONT.



DREAM MAKER OF THE QUARTER

The employee receiving the quarterly Dream Maker Award for the first quarter in 2023 is Kyle's Place Residential Staff Supervisor Nicole Cervantez. Nicole is in her first year with Journey to Dream. She started on June 20, 2022 as a Kyle's Place Residential Specialist. Within 4 months she was promoted to Residential Supervisor and continues to lead the Kyle's Place staff. Nicole was nominated by one of her staff members for exhibiting the Journey to Dream core values of being authentic and showing integrity in all her actions. She is great about checking in with her staff and the residents and always takes the time to listen to any concern. She consistently goes above and beyond by covering shifts and managing facility maintenance. Nicole acts as a mentor to staff and residents alike.

Congratulations Ms. Nicole!

ANNIVERSARIES

Laura Lansmon - 3/11/2020 - 3 Years

NEW HIRES

Jammal McCullar - Residential Specialist
Matthew Owens - Residential Specialist
Beatrice Brown - Residential Specialist

BIRTHDAYS

Alda Garrett - 1/5
Chandler Hoagland - 1/13
Ravain Owens - 2/1

Nesa Grider - 2/18
Jennifer Edwards - 3/2
Erin Winter - 3/21



JOURNEY TO DREAM

TWENTY TWENTY-THREE

King Metals Tee Off For Teens Golf Invitational

ATTEND
THE EVENT



BECOME
A SPONSOR



MAY
08

Flappers & Dappers Gala

ATTEND
THE EVENT



BECOME
A SPONSOR



JUN
17

Eat, Drink &
Be Giving

NOV
04

LEARN MORE



Shop With a Cop

DEC
14

LEARN MORE



<https://www.journeytodream.com/events>

JOURNEY TO DREAM'S

FLAPPERS & DAPPERS GALA

JUNE 17, 2023

SPEAKER

MICHAEL OHER

We are so excited to announce the speaker for our 2023 Gala, Michael Oher!

Michael Oher is the Founder of the Oher Foundation, a former NFL player, a Super Bowl LXVII Champion, a two-time All-American, a New York Times best-selling Author, and an overcoming adversity expert. He has dedicated his life to making a difference in the lives of kids who need it most. As someone with personal experience with facing the adversities created by the seemingly inescapable cycles of poverty and homelessness, Michael is choosing to take a stand for the disadvantaged youth who are so often overlooked and forgotten.

Join us on June 17, 2023, to hear about how Michael was able to navigate the hardships of life as a foster kid to earn himself a spot in the NFL and beyond!

JOURNEY TO DREAM 

