

THE DREAM NEWS

JOURNEY TO DREAM

2023 GALA MESSAGE

FROM CEO, NESA GRIDER

I didn't set out to work in the nonprofit sector. My heart was always set on retiring as a police officer. God had a different path in mind for me, but still one of service and working to change the lives of those who often don't have a voice. My "why" became even more apparent just before the 2023 Flapper and Dappers Gala started.

Guests were gathering; music was playing, the excitement was building, and our keynote speaker, Michael Oher, was preparing for the night. As I spoke with Michael, I asked if he would mind meeting one of our teens who had a rough start in life and lived through significant abuse but had made great strides and was thriving. Without hesitation, Michael agreed.

What I thought would be a quick introduction and a picture or two turned into a heartfelt conversation between the two of parallel lives of struggle and success.

As staff and as a community, we talk about when we change a child, we change a family, and then we change a community; that night, without a doubt, a child was changed. This teen walked a little taller, spoke confidently, and believed he COULD!

Thank you to all those who attended this year's Gala and continued to support our mission of embracing, equipping and empowering hurting, at-risk and homeless teens.

Last quarter we received over 241 referrals for resources and support. If you would like to support our mission, there are several ways to do so at www.journeytodream.com.



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](#)

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT GALA ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024!

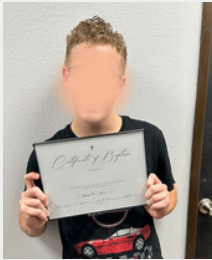
April 2023

Teen played organized sports for the first time ever! 1st football scrimmage



April 2023

Youth baptized at Bridgeway Church



May 2023

GRADUATION - One teen headed to University of North Texas and another to Midwestern State University to be on their cheer team!



May 2023

Mother's Day Event w/ Westside Baptist "A Mother's Heart- Treated the teens to a day of games, icebreakers, barbecue and tokens of appreciation from mothers of the church.



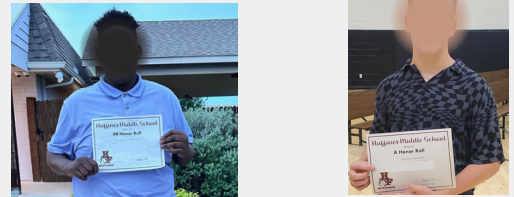
May 2023

Fishing Trip w/ McKinney Bass Club on Lewisville Lake



May 2023

Huffines Awards Night: (1) A Honor Roll student (1) B Honor Roll Student.



June 2023

One of our teens is gearing up for the Marines as he attended ROTC Leadership Academy for a week. He mastered the principles and practices of followership/leadership!



June 2023

The teens had a very excited week at church camp! They attend FUGE Camp through Bridgeway Christian Church with Student Minister, Ben Dishman. The teens spent a week exercising, fellowshiping, and focusing on being made in His image.



June 2023

Teens attended a 4-week course learning how to build resumes, apply for jobs, and interview





DREAM INITIATIVE - A PROGRAM OF

JOURNEY TO DREAM

BACK TO **S**CHOOL

The Dream Initiative is focused on helping students build and maintain healthy school and home relationships in order to improve school attendance and encourage the emotional and academic stability of each child that we touch. Mentoring for a positive impact is a passion for each and every Dream Initiative Representative. This year DI will also welcome TWO new school districts to their ever-growing list of students to impact - Irving ISD and Denton ISD.

CURRENTLY SERVING





DEVELOPMENT TEAM

18th Annual King Metals Invitational, benefitting Journey to Dream and Kyle's Place: We're so grateful to Mr. Eddie King at King Architectural Metals for his unwavering commitment to our cause and for sponsoring this tournament yearly. Without everyone's contributions, this event wouldn't have been a success!



Flower Mound Noon Rotary Club presented Journey to Dream with a \$3,000 check, we were one of their grant recipients.



Mrs. Kathy Hodges with Studio 360 Med Spa held a drive for Journey to Dream and collected over \$1,600 in supplies and Gift Cards.



Flower Mound Police Department's Annual Bike with the Blue Event was amazing and raised a little over \$13,950 for Journey to Dream & Kyle's Place.



Journey to Dream and Kyle's Place received the Gift of the Hearts Award from the Highland Village Women's Club.



Corky's Gaming Bistro in Grapevine hosted JTD for an give-back event donating 25% of all food sales. Corky's surprised us by matching that donation at the end of the night!



Hangin' with Herb organized a collection of hygiene and cleaning products while on one of their group walks, which was truly remarkable.

VOLUNTEER VICTORIES

KP Meal Prep – We’ve had several new volunteers come in to cook dinner. This is hugely helpful to staff as a time saver, freeing them to engage with our teens or finish important paperwork. Some of the teen favorites have been Taco Tuesday, chicken fettuccini and orange chicken. They also love grill cookouts!

Let Erin know if you want to get on the schedule. (erin@journeytodream.com)

OVER 883 HOURS
of volunteer service

9
new volunteers oriented

\$26,500
worth contributed to the
community through JTD volunteers!

Our own Kyle’s Place residents
competed and volunteered at the
annual Bike with the Blue

OVER 48 VOLUNTEERS & 5
GROUPS ENGAGED

Groups Include:

- Connex Foundation
- McKinney Bass Club
- Way Alliance Mentoring
- NCL Cottonwood Chapter
- Garden Ridge Church of Christ
- Flower Mound United Methodist Church

VOLUNTEERS OF THE QUARTER



April: Wayne & Cathy Davis - Ms. Cathy & Mr. Wayne are much beloved KP volunteers by teens and staff alike.

They drive our teens to and from work, school and everywhere in between. Their taco night was a huge hit! We appreciate all the time they dedicate to our teens!



May: Melissa Brand - Melissa is our go-to volunteer for all things organization! She helped us move offices twice and even stayed several hours to sort and label our storage room. Her behind-the-scenes help is essential.

Thank you, Melissa!

EMPLOYEE

Healthy Initiative Update

APRIL

In April the Journey to Dream employees focused on taking time for themselves. Each employee was requested to track healthy activities they participated in outside of work. The only request was to exclude any screen time activities. About 50% of our employees participated by sharing what they did daily. Some of the activities included: family time; gym time; sitting on the porch with family; spending time with grandchildren; Grapevine walking tour; read a new book; go to church; bake a birthday cake; walked the dog; attended a concert; walked; bowled; yard work; dinner with friends; cooking and retail therapy. It was great to focus on ourselves for a change.

MAY

May's healthy initiative was learning about our sleep habits. We had about 50% participation with an average night sleep of 6.87 hours. The shortest sleeper averaged 5.77 hours sleep and our employee getting the most sleep averaged 7.49 hours per night. Every morning an email went out providing a fact about sleeping. The group favorite was: Sleep otters hold hands when they sleep so they don't drift away from each other.

JUNE

In June the healthy focus was on social interactions. Each day a fact was sent out to all employees via email about social well-being. The point of this initiative was to help everyone understand: Social well-being can be defined as the sharing, developing, and sustaining of meaningful relationships with others. This allows you to feel authentic and valued, and provides a sense of connectedness and belonging. Hopefully we all took the time to connect with someone on a daily basis.



C
O
R
N
E
R

EMPLOYEE

C
O
O
R
N
E
R
C
O
N
T.



DREAM MAKER OF THE QUARTER

The quarterly dream maker award for the April-May-June quarter was awarded to Erin Winter, our Community Engagement Director.

Erin was the chair person for the 2023 Flappers and Dapper's annual Gala. She spent many hours working on the gala, welcoming collaboration with a smile, set effective goals, communicated what she needed, and she achieved those goals all while showing kindness and empathy to those around her. She listens and those working with her feel heard. One of her superpowers is the ability to defuse confrontational situations, and she had several opportunities to use those powers during the planning and execution of the gala. She was able to coordinate staff, volunteers and vendors to create a successful gala.

Thank you Erin for your dedication to Journey to Dream!

ANNIVERSARIES

Nicole Cervantez - 6/20/23 - 1 Year
Anita Lansom - 7/1/2016 - 7 Years

NEW HIRES

Doriell Dorsett - Residential Specialist
Jessica Schott - Residential Specialist

BIRTHDAYS

Orlando Rogers 5/19
Anita Lansmon 5/3

Sharon Barrett 7/24