

THE DREAM NEWS

JOURNEY TO DREAM

THANK YOU

Dear Journey to Dream Community,

2022 was quite a year and we are so grateful to each person and organization that has impacted those we serve through volunteering, sharing our mission, attending events, giving financially, and more. Your generosity contributed to our mission.

When teens struggle with divorce, abuse, bullying and other negative behaviors, they simply cannot focus on learning and schoolwork. That is why the Dream Initiative School programs are so important.

Caleb, a 9th grader at Killough High School, was having trouble focusing in class. He appeared angry and started fights with his peers. How does a 15-year-old child cope with grief and sadness while expected to sit in class and do schoolwork day after day?

With your support, our Dream Initiative School group was there for Caleb with mental health resources. Caleb began attending and at first, he didn't share much; however, by the third meeting Caleb was able to share more about his feelings of anger, confusion, and pain, and even shed a few tears.

Due to our committed sponsors, donors and community, Journey to Dream is able to provide hope for an often-forgotten population of homeless teens, as well as work in schools, creating a safe haven promoting communication, character building, anger management and positive values.

How you impacted the programs and the lives of our teens:

- \$5,000** – Supported the running of one school (Dream Initiative) group this year.
- \$2,500** – Fed very hungry teens in our Transitional Living Facility for two weeks!
- \$500** – Provided a new Kyle's Place resident shoes, clothes and toiletries, welcome home!
- \$250** – Provided a new mattress for a Kyle's Place resident, what a feeling!
- \$100** – In hopes of reunification, provided transportation for a teen to visit their family or sibling.

With YOU!, our Partners, Sponsors, Donors and Volunteers, standing alongside us, we were able to Empower, Equip and Embrace hundreds of teens this year!

Hundreds of teens referrals remain...there is still so much more to do. We look forward to continuing this work with you in 2023. Thank you for being a part of our community!

Respectfully,
Nesa Girder
Chief Executive Officer



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**BLINN
COLLEGE**



KYLE'S PLACE - A PROGRAM OF



JOURNEY TO DREAM

OCTOBER

- All of our seniors took the SAT through Lewisville High School's SAT Day on October 27th. Our teens applied to colleges across Texas to meet the December 1st early admissions deadline. So far, our teens have heard back from and been accepted to Blinn College, The University of North Texas, and Prairie View A&M University. Our seniors are excited to continue their education after graduation.
- Our teens and Case Managers volunteered with the City of Lewisville and other small groups on October 22nd observe For the Love of Lewisville. Our team was assigned to two locations, Raldon Park and the home of a local veteran. Teens were tasked with landscaping and painting of the veteran's home and the cleanup and sidewalk painting at Raldon Park.
- Kyle's Place embraces all cultures and traditions and tries to emulate experiences our teens usually share with their family. Our teens created an Ofrenda to commemorate their loved ones that passed for Dia de los Muertos. Teens offered food, jewelry, toys, and other keepsakes to welcome the deceased.

NOVEMBER

- Thanksgiving was one to remember at Kyle's Place. The morning began with fresh tamales and Conchas from our Residential Specialist Supervisor, Ms. Nicole, and her family. Teens joined our Case Managers and volunteer Ms. Shirley to learn how to cook Thanksgiving dinner. Once dinner was complete, all teens joined at the dining room table to bless the food and share what they were thankful for. Everyone ate, laughed, watched football, and took naps. Our teens packed some leftovers to handout to people around Lewisville so they could enjoy Thanksgiving too.

DECEMBER

- We celebrated New Year's Eve skating at Interstate Roller Rink. Our teens love meeting their friends and learning practicing new skills and tricks on quad skates. It's a great way to focus on a positive release of energy. The teens celebrated bringing in the new year with music, games, prizes, and friends. The new year began with a 10 second countdown that ended in a balloon drop. The teens had a great time.
- Many teens were anxious leading up to Christmas because they were celebrating this holiday for the first time. Staff members at Kyle's Place shared Christmas traditions with teens like opening one present on Christmas Eve, decorating the house caroling around Lewisville, and matching Christmas pajamas. Teens thoroughly enjoys celebrating Christmas Day and opening presents thanks to our donors and Christmas sponsors.





DREAM INITIATIVE - A PROGRAM OF
JOURNEY TO DREAM

We are excited to introduce Dream Initiative!
Dream Initiative is our new and improved school program.

Knowing your true self and believing in your ability to achieve a goal are two critical, sometimes difficult, lessons of adolescence. They help prepare us to be confident and productive adults. Dream Initiative focuses these lessons on thousands of middle and high school students annually. Students explore their strengths and identity, then put them to work doing good in the world through service.

CURRENTLY SERVING



ALDA GARRETT

Dream Initiative Coordinator

We are excited to introduce our new Community and Dream Initiative Coordinator, Alda Garrett. Alda earned her B.A. in Psychology and Business (minor) from Texas A&M University and her M.S. in Educational Leadership from Western Governors University. She has been a full-time educator for eight years, where her passion for teaching students and training educators found new life. She left Irving Independent School District as a district-level secondary coach and trainer to teachers and administrators on district academic goals and teaching best practices. Her passion for coaching and mentoring will serve her well as we take the Dream Initiative to the next level.

"Hi, there! I am so excited that I have joined the Journey to Dream, Dream Initiative Team this December. I am thrilled to be working with the campus teachers and leaders to benefit all students in order to help with their academic success by focusing on their social and emotional skills through the school program. Serving students within the local schools is exciting and a passion that I am excited to share with all partners of Journey to Dream. I know that we will see great things continue to happen by continuing to make students the best they can be.

Dream Initiative is interested in growing a teenager wholly so that they can become the best version of themselves. We believe in offering an engaging space for students to grow their creativity, emotional strengths, and friendships." - Alda Garrett

- **Witherite Law Group** was our Presenting Sponsor for the Shop with a Cop Event, they donated \$15,000 towards gift cards, which allowed us to serve more teens. Their staff participated and passed out items to all the items as well.

- Our teens at Kyle's Place were adopted for Christmas, and they had a wonderful Christmas.
- **Texas Tar Heels Basketball Academy** supported all of our teens for Christmas.
- **Buckets & Bows** dropped off supplies and gifts for Kyle's Place.



- **The Community, Target & the local Police Departments** came out in full force to make sure that Shop with a Cop was a huge success, and it was!
- **Several groups and Giving Circles** nominated Journey to Dream for nonprofit of the month for November & December.
- **Argyle ISD Transportation Department** did a drive for Journey to Dream and Kyle's Place.
- **Warm Up American** donated handmade crocheted blankets to each of our teens.

- **Paul & Sondra Clark** held a fundraiser to benefit Journey to Dream and Kyle's Place.
- **Lewisville High School Interact Club** did a donation drive for supplies need for our teens and Kyle's Place.
- **The Confer Family** Sponsored our dinner for the Shop with a Cop Event.

DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- **Jim Adler & Associates** became a first-time donor with a gift of \$5,000 to support teens at Kyle's Place.
- **Best Networking Group of Frisco** supported JTD by hosting a happy hour gift card drive raising \$500 in gift cards which can be used to support teens at Kyle's Place.



- **City Lifestyle Magazine & the Red Lamp Foundation** treated our teens at Kyle's Place to a night out for the Allen Americans Hockey game.
- **Ace Handyman Services of Coppell** became our go-to handyman for repairs at Kyle's Place! Their team did an awesome job with some much-needed repairs. We are thrilled to have their support!



VOLUNTEER VICTORIES

Year 2022 was a time of rebuilding for Journey to Dream's volunteer program. We welcomed new staff, updated our volunteer base, implemented some new structures and welcomed volunteers back into our Kyle's Place residential campus.

Below are some 2022 facts we can feel good about:

4,852 HOURS
of volunteer service

30
new volunteers oriented

\$145,000
worth contributed to the
community through JTD volunteers!

280 VOLUNTEER HOURS
donated by our own Kyle's Place
residents

**500 HOURS, 75 VOLUNTEERS &
80 POLICE OFFICERS**
at our biggest volunteer event:
Shop With a Cop

100 VOLUNTEERS & 16 GROUPS
engaged

Thank you for making this a great year...
I know with your help 2023 can be just as
impactful!

END OF YEAR CAMPAIGN



HEAL THE HURT

\$75,000

\$122,337.35

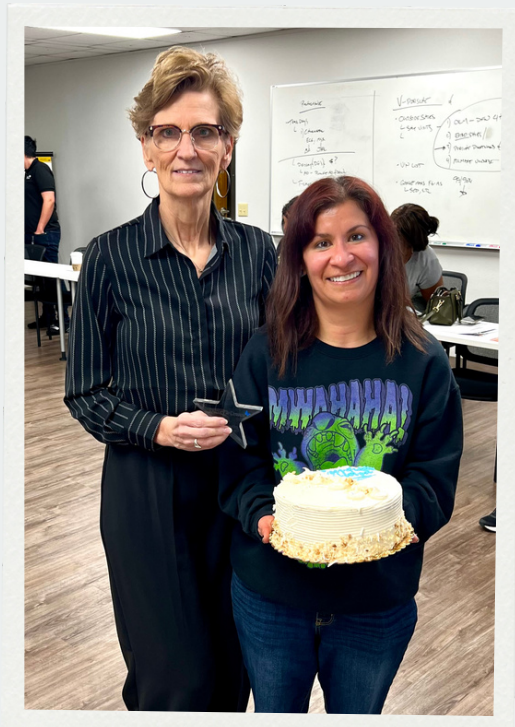
When a community comes together for a common mission, it can quickly shape the boldest dreams, highest ideals, and noblest causes. Our community joined our mission to equip, empower and embrace a population of an often forgotten youth, providing them with shelter, medical care, educational support, and basic life needs. The impact of these funds and the continued engagement of our community will change the lives of these teens and strengthen the very fabric of our community.

EMPLOYEE

We are launching a Healthy Living Initiative for 2023. Each month we will have a new healthy lifestyle or fitness challenge for you to participate in and earn buttons, win contests, and prizes, and then celebrate! We are calling this initiative **STEP IT UP IN 2023**. Our first challenge is a group walk to New York City! We are collectively counting our steps, and activities converted to steps, and plan to get to NYC by January 31, 2023. As of this writing we need to have 61% of the trip behind us, and we are 70% of the way there having traveled 1,115 of the 1572 miles to Rockefeller Center! The first 10 days we averaged 64 miles per day, and now we are up to 65 miles per day. We even have 2 board members walking with us. Prizes will be awarded to the top three contributors with a party for all participants once we arrive. Hang in there fellow walkers.



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Recently we resurrected the Dream Maker award and are bestowing this award on one employee quarterly. The nominations for the quarterly Dream Maker can be made from within or from outside the employee group. We welcome nominations from the board of directors, volunteers, donors, or anyone who is associated with Journey to Dream. Nominations can be made by going to our website and selecting 'Contact Us', where you will find a nomination form. Nominations for the current quarter will be accepted until April 3, 2023.

Our recipient for the Quarter 4, 2022 award is Residential Specialist Sharon Barrett. Sharon joined the Kyle's Place team in 2017 and has been around since our very first resident. She exemplifies our core values, demonstrates exceptional dedication, is honest, doesn't shy away from challenges and is a team player working with all staff. The residents feel she is approachable and truly cares about them. **Congratulations Ms. Sharon!**

EMPLOYEE

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INSTA AWARDS

In December 2022 we initiated an appreciation award that can be bestowed on any employee by any other employee. There are currently 17 categories including: Hidden Gem, Calmer of Storms, Distributor of Smiles, Glue, Amazing Addition, Engagement Champion, The Brainiac, Pointer, Triathlete, Rocker, Amazing amateur, Motivator, Good Samaritan, Helping Hand and Stick Your Neck Out. Employees are nominated by their peers and the recipient receives a pin designating their award. At our Quarterly Staff meeting in January we awarded 43 pins to staff. What a great way to show your appreciation of your co-workers.



ANNIVERSARIES

Kamre Timmons - 1 Years (12/1/2021)
Samantha Sims - 3 Years (11/5/2019)

NEW HIRES

Sarah Ryan - October
Makaila Rhoden - October
Alda Garrett - December
Jameka Johnson - December
Raquel Vasquez - December

BIRTHDAYS

Samantha Sims - 10/30
Kamre Timmons - 11/1
Nicole Cervantez - 11/23





JOURNEY TO DREAM

TWENTY TWENTY-THREE

Women on Purpose Luncheon & Fashion Show

ATTEND
THE EVENT



BECOME
A SPONSOR



MAR
09

King Metals Tee
Off For Teens
Golf Invitational

LEARN MORE



MAY
08

Flappers &
Dappers Gala

LEARN MORE



JUN
17

Eat, Drink &
Be Giving

LEARN MORE



NOV
04

Shop With a Cop

LEARN MORE



DEC
14

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