



# VOICE OF THE DreamMaker

## Inside this issue:

Governor's Award ..... 1

Here are the Facts

Why Help Castaway Children? 2

Thank you .....2

## Founder, Jan Tennyson presented 2007 Governor's Lonestar Achievement Award in Austin Texas



Every year, The Governor's Volunteer Awards are presented to Texans who devote their time and talents to serving others. The Governor's Lonestar Achievement Award recognizes the outstanding service of an individual who has impacted the delivery of social services in Texas. Lonestar achievers have a minimum of 15 years of servicing and engaging others, and are those rare individuals who see impossible dreams and make them realities.

Tennyson, founder of Dare to Dream Children's Foundation, who grew up in the New York foster care system, has provided enrichment programs to over 20,000 abused neglected and foster children temporarily living in group homes, youth shelters, and detention facilities in Texas, as well as orphanages overseas.

Dare to Dream started on a card table in Tennyson's bedroom in Dallas, Texas in 1987, and this year marks a great milestone for Tennyson as she celebrates 20 years of service. Jan is a philanthropist and humanitarian. She collaborates with youth-serving agencies throughout the state of Texas. Most youth she serves are from single-family homes and are fatherless or orphans.

Please consider making a New Year's resolution to give a monthly donation of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more to sustain our costs of operating Dare to Dream. We can't do it without you.

I am now asking for your prayers and financial support to expand our vision to include programs for youth in foster care and those exiting the foster care system. Without a spiritual foundation these youngsters are headed down a dead-end street. With your help, we can turn the tide on this critical issue."  
Jan Tennyson

## HERE ARE THE FACTS

Most young people who grow up in the United States will "make it". They will reach adulthood healthy, prepared for work, and able to contribute to the well being of their families and communities. Unfortunately, some will not.

Among those at greatest risk are the more than half-million youth who live outside their birth families in foster families, group homes, and institutions

Studies of youth aging out of foster care indicate that:

- 25% will have experienced homelessness at least once
- 46% will still lack a high school diploma four years after leaving care
- Only 38% will be employed two years after leaving care; fewer than 50% will have ever held a full-time job four years after leaving care
- More than a third suffer emotional disturbances and the behavioral problems that often accompany them
- 50% report having used illegal drugs; 25% report encounters with the criminal justice system, in many cases problems are related to alcohol and drug use
- Within two years 40-60% of the young women and 25% of the young men will have a child
- Fewer than one in five will be completely self-supporting four years after leaving the child welfare system

## Why Help Castaway Children?

They live in America and deserve a chance to be successful regardless of their broken families.

Their risk is greatest; their hardship is most profound; and their current and future costs to our communities are the most significant

Broken promises, fractured families and broken dreams lead youth to a life in detention and eventually prison

1,000 unwed teenage girls become mothers

4,000 teenagers contract sexually transmitted diseases

**EACH DAY - six teens find life hopeless enough to take their lives.**

## Board Members and Volunteers

Jimmie Slater, Lynn Sinclair, Jim Fant, Jan Tennyson,  
Pamela Bolton, Jay McLure,  
Dennis Allen & Michell Ross not shown



For more than twenty years, we have partnered with Juvenile Detention Centers, Youth Commissions, Group Homes and Orphanages. We have built teams to bring hope to these youth through role models teaching self-confidence, character, and spiritual values. We appreciate all that have partnered with us to help hurting youth. Office volunteers, Dare to Dream speakers, Teams and Team Captains, Financial donors and in-kind donors are all critical to sustaining this ministry. You are loved and appreciated more than you know. Doing Kingdom work has Eternal value.

*We depend solely on the generosity of people like yourself to help us.*

*We cannot take this giant step into the world of foster care children without Divine guidance and prayers.*

- We thank all the ladies from Heritage Ranch that contributed to our baskets for the youth at YMCA Casa Shelter
- We applaud the tireless hours our Team Captains and volunteers contribute each month by going to the Dallas County Juvenile Department, Texas Youth Commission, and YMCA Casa facilities, and the Buckner facility.
- We are grateful to those of you who are willing to send a monthly or one time donation to sustain our administrative costs.
- Please consider linking your Tom Thumb Reward card to #527
- Please call and request a Kroger card that will give 1% of your grocery bill to DTD at no cost to you.

**For a \$30 donation or more, we will send you a DVD of our founder's speech to 800 volunteers at the Oklahoma City Cowboy Hall of Fame – *Passing the Torch*.**

**Please consider donating in honor or in memory of a special person. Please call and request DVD.**

*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21*

***Your donations are tax deductible and will allow us to continue to help youngsters who truly need our love and support***

**To Volunteer or donate online go to**

**[www.daretodream-dallas.org](http://www.daretodream-dallas.org)**

**214-599-9563 Fax – 214-599-9226**

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Reply to this e-mail with *Remove* in the subject line**