



"I Have A Dream" of Southwest Washington

LIVING THE DREAM

Harney Dreamers Graduate !

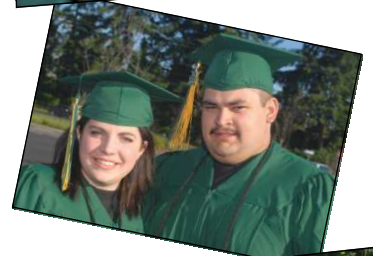


It all began in 1999 at Harney Elementary School when 73 fourth-graders learned they had been selected as the third class of Dreamers in the Vancouver schools. They were promised the support of a staff person and volunteers throughout their school years by their "I Have A Dream" sponsors, a group of caring, generous community leaders. As an incentive sponsors also offered help with college or vocational training tuition upon the Dreamers graduation from high school. Their mission was to keep the students in school, inspire them to graduate and seek education beyond high school.

Over the years a project coordinator and many volunteers have provided homework help, mentoring, field trips, college tours, and summer programs to enrich the lives of these Dreamers. Dreamer parents and teachers have also provided inspiration and assistance.

And now it is June 2008 and the celebration begins as Project Three Dreamers graduate from high school and set new educational goals. Eleven students will be going on to a four-year university, thirty will enroll at Clark College and six have plans to enter vocational school. These students will join approximately sixty others from Projects 1 and 2 who are enrolled in college. This is an outstanding achievement from a demographic area where the high school dropout rate is often over 50% and only a few achieve a college education. As time goes by these great successes will lead to a more prosperous community for all of us as these Dreamers become our leaders of tomorrow.

Congratulations Dreamers, Staff, and Sponsors for a job well done.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dreamers Helping Dreamers As They "Pay It Forward"

“How can we ever repay you for all you’ve done for us?” is a question Dreamers often ask their sponsors. The sponsor’s answer is simple, “All we ask is that one day you help someone else who might be in need.” In other words, “Pay it forward!”

Some Dreamers are not wasting any time in taking their sponsors up on this challenge. Many are volunteering to assist younger Dreamers by helping with homework, chaperoning on field trips, assisting with the summer program and serving as mentors.

Older Dreamers who are giving back by helping their younger counterparts are **Rachel Ernst, Yasser Carasco, Eder Pagola, Kenny Leach, Jean Powell, Elizabeth Najera, and Han Tran**, to name a few.



Marcus Bush (P4) with
Kenny Leach (P3)



Mary with Mariah Smith

Lareasa Hall, a Project 1 Dreamer who recently graduated from Cambridge College and is about to become a medical assistant assured me recently, “Don’t worry, Mary, I am already thinking of ways I can help people when I start my new job.”

It is heartwarming to know that these acts of kindness multiplied by more than three hundred Dreamers will bless this community for many years to come!!!!

Mary Granger
President



If you would like to join in the efforts of “I Have A Dream” by making a financial contribution you may send your check for the I Have A Dream Foundation to 1053 Officers Row, Vancouver, Washington, 98660. For more information contact Mary Granger at 360-737-0720.

APPLAUSE FOR OUR DONORS

Funding for the college tours and summer programs has been provided by the **Roy and Shirley Durst Trust Fund** since the early years of I Have A Dream. What a great gift they have given these young people as they plan for their future! We are so grateful for the support of all our donors and, especially, for the Durst family and their ongoing commitment to our Dreamers.

Dreamer sponsors **Nancy and Wes Lematta** were recently honored by the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington as the *Philanthropists of the Year*. Dreamers, Dreamer staff, and other Dreamer sponsors joined with the luncheon group of 440 people from the community in honoring the Lematta’s generosity to many worthwhile causes. They are responsible for uplifting the lives of many students in the I Have A Dream program. Thank you, Wes and Nancy, from all of us.



“I HAVE A DREAM”
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

1053 Officers Row, Vancouver, WA 98661
(360) 737-0720
www.ihad-swwa.org

Established in 1995, “I Have a Dream” of Southwest Washington is a 501 (3) (c) tax exempt non-profit organization. Our mission is assisting children from low-income areas to become productive citizens by providing a long-term program of mentoring, tutoring, and enrichment, with an assured opportunity for higher education. All funds are managed by the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington.

Project Sponsors

- Mary Granger
- Richard Granger
- Broughton Bishop
- Mary Bishop
- Leslie Durst
- Edward Lynch
- Dollie Lynch
- Mason Nolan
- Don Campbell Family
- Ralph Gilbert
- Susan Gilbert
- Wes Lematta
- Nancy Lematta
- George Propstra
- Carolyn Propstra
- William Byrd
- Catharine Byrd
- Gloria John
- Russ Tennant
- Sarah Tennant
- Mertis Harmon
- Eva Hunt
- Kathi Wiley-Gladson
- Candace Young
- Vancouver Rotary

Project Coordinators

- Deanna Green
- Sheila Peraza

College Coordinator

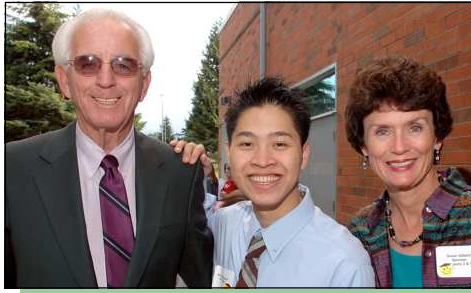
- Paul Schroeder

Sponsor Spotlight

Getting to know sponsors **Ralph and Susan Gilbert**.

1. *What is your involvement with I Have A Dream?*

We are Sponsors of Class # 2 and # 4 and participate in various group activities with the Dreamers.



The Gilberts visit with Ken Nguyen (P1)

2. *Why did you choose to become a sponsor of an I Have A Dream Class?*

Ralph talked to Ed Lynch about opportunities to give back to the community and IHAD was our first choice because it dealt closely with the lives of young people.



3. *What would you like the Dreamers to know about you?*

We are both college graduates, Susan has a degree in Education and Ralph has a degree in Business. Ralph has three sons and eight grand children, three of which recently graduated from college.

4. *What is East County Recycling?*

E.C.R. is a Material Recovery Facility in Portland. It is ranked by the Department of Environmental Quality as the number 1 recycling facility in Oregon.

5. *Is it true Susan was once a Parole Officer?*

Yes, for over 20 years both in the Juvenile and Adult Correctional System. I was also a 4th grade teacher shortly after college.

6. *What are the rewards of being an IHAD Sponsor.*

Participating in the lives of young people and watching them mature and make positive steps and decisions regarding their future.



DREAMER ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

CONGRATUALTIONS !!

Tri Le graduated on June 14th from the University of Washington with a degree in Biochemistry and Electrical Engineering (double major). A truly admirable accomplishment!

Lareasa Hall successfully completed her Medical Assistant degree at Cambridge College in May. She is currently looking for a position in the Vancouver area and plans to continue to upgrade her skills at Clark College

Han Tran a UW graduate, is doing her practicum in Vietnam where is she working toward her Master's Degree in Social Work and Justice.

Molly Gifford has moved to Hollywood, California where she is a Marilyn Monroe impersonator at Grauman's Chinese Theater. Since graduating Molly has lived in New York City twice where she sang at a jazz club and worked at Radio City Music Hall.

Viktoriya Shulikov is busy working at Clark College in the Testing Center. She is also a full-time student at Clark taking courses in accounting, legal ethics and math.



Jordun Nemeth, after taking classes at Clark with an interest in law enforcement, decided to join the Army Reserves. Jordun completed basic training in Missouri and is now at Ft. Huadroca, Arizona, where he is being trained in "Human Intelligence Gathering."

Marcela Espinoza lives in Colorado Springs, CO and completed her veterinary tech program this past year. She is now working fulltime at "Causal Cats" clinic and is planning to continue her veterinary education.

Michael Armistead has been working at Timberline Controls, Inc, for two and a half years and has taken classes in CAD and electric systems at Clark College. As a Project Engineer his current assignment is designing the complete electrical system for a rock quarry located in Abbotsford, BC, Canada.

Jennie Mowatt is studying Oceanography at the University of Washington. This coming July, and for the next full year, she will be studying abroad in Great Britain at the University of South Hampton.

Sam Dupree decided to transfer to WSU (in Pullman), after a couple of years at Clark College, to continue his studies as a major in Global Politics with a minor in Economics. GO COUGS!

Project Four News

Project Four - 9th Grade Highlights

Our ninety-one Dreamers are now attending 17 different high schools in the area and some in other states. Monthly Dreamer Council meetings focused around the theme of "Service" by giving back to the community at the Walk-n-Knock food drive, organizing a clothing and blanket drive, reading to homeless children and planting flowers at Martin Luther King (their elementary school).

DREAM Quest, the after school homework and tutoring program at Evergreen and Fort Vancouver High Schools was well attended. Our annual events Pizza Palooza for our Dreamer families and "Dreamers on Ice" at Mt. View Ice Arena are always popular. "Guys & Girls Day" was dedicated to helping 30 of our Dreamers navigate successfully through the challenges of growing up in today's world.



P4 Dreamer Arturo (on right) reads to student at Open House Ministries day care.

At the end of each semester we recognized the academic efforts, attendance and IHAD participation of our Dreamers at the "Go for the Peak!" award nights. Dreamers were inspired by the extraordinary keynote speakers, holocaust survivor, Alice Kern, and the first American woman to summit Mt. Everest, Stacy Allison. Outstanding Dreamer efforts were rewarded with autographed books, certificates and a fun field-trip.

Project Four - Summer Plans

Project Four's exciting summer plans include "Cruis'n Careers!" from July 7-11, at Clark College. On July 17, three selected Dreamers will join their coordinator, Deanna Green, at the University of Georgia for the annual "Dreamers Across America" conference. The first college tour for Project 4 will take those with a GPA of 3.00 or above to the University of Washington, Western Washington, Seattle Pacific and Central Washington later in the month.

- Deanna Green, Project Coordinator



**"I Have a Dream"® Southwest Washington
1053 Officers Row
Vancouver, WA 98661**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Visit us on the Web
www.ihad-swwa.org**

"Stand often in the company of Dreamers. They believe you can achieve things which are impossible."