



About the "I HAVE A DREAM" Foundation

Every five years, the Des Moines "I HAVE A DREAM" Foundation adopts a class of inner-city 1st graders. We hire a hand-picked staff of educators to work directly with them all the way through high school, and we assign a mentor for each child to keep positive contact outside the classroom. We call our kids "Dreamers." If a Dreamer stays in school and graduates from high school, college, or any type of post-high school education, is paid for. There's no other program like this anywhere. For more information, visit us at www.desmoinesdreams.org.

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First Annual White Tablecloth Tailgate



On a beautiful evening in September, more than 75 guests came out for the I Have a Dream Foundation's first annual fall fundraising event: the White Tablecloth Tailgate.



Bill and Wicker Van Orsdel hosted the fabulous tailgate event at their very own "Wicker Park" south of Grand.

The night was filled with food and drink, gorgeous surroundings, and the Drake marching band played, in true tailgate fashion.



Over \$14,000 was raised to help support the King "I Have A Dream" project. Board member Brennan Buckley emceed a short program and highlighted the transformational power of the I Have a Dream programs for our Dreamers and families. There really is no other program like this around!



Thank you to the Van Orsdels, Brennan Buckley, and all of our guests that attended and made this inaugural event so successful!

Attitude of Gratitude

From Steve Whitty, Board Chair



It's hard to believe it is Thanksgiving time already. I have been reading a lot lately about "gratitude." Most people recognize that they should be thankful for any blessings or good fortune that have come their way. Most people recognize this and act on it, at least occasionally. Research shows that those who make a habit of it- those who have an "attitude of gratitude"- are happier people, and may even live longer because of it.

This has made me think about all that we have to be thankful for at I Have a Dream. There is a lot, but let me mention a couple things that we are particularly thankful for.

First, Emily Hamilton has joined IHAD as our Executive Director. Emily is a bright and energetic individual who understands the I Have a Dream mission and is passionate about helping our Dreamers be successful. Emily comes to us after work experiences at The World Food Prize, and most recently Drake University.

Second, I Have a Dream is very thankful for the wonderful partnerships we have with Drake University and the Des Moines Public Schools. IHAD's offices are on the campus of Drake University. We also have two Drake associates on our Board- Tom Delahunt and Jill Johnson. Drake students regularly tutor the Dreamers in our after school programs. And we work closely with the Drake Education department on results measurement for our programs.

We likewise have a very close working relationship with The Des Moines Public Schools. Our Dreamers are at King Elementary, and our Project Coordinator Melanie Dayton and I Have a Dream teacher Kristi Dusenbery work closely with school administrators and teachers to help the Dreamers be successful in the classroom. Des Moines Public Schools has welcomed IHAD and worked with us every step of the way to keep our Dreamers moving ahead.

I Have a Dream could not be what it is today without the strong and active partnership with Drake and the Des Moines Public Schools.

And finally, we are VERY thankful for the people who support I Have a Dream. In a time when the economy is tough, and the needs are great, I Have a Dream has been fortunate to have people who continue to see the value of investing in helping kids who might not otherwise have the opportunity- reach their dreams by completing high school and going on to college.

During this Holiday season, I hope we all take some time to reflect on what we have to be thankful for, and how we might act upon our gratitude. For those of you who choose to express your gratitude through giving back, I Have a Dream is a great investment in the community. We hope you consider I Have a Dream in your yearend charitable giving.

Happy Holidays from all of us at I Have a Dream!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Whitty".





Dreamers: Update and Highlights

King Dreamers

- 90% of our parents attended school conferences
- Our Dreamers have collectively read more than 150 books this year!
- 63% of our Dreamers are reading at or above grade level this year (compared with 67% below grade level in 1st grade)
- Our Dreamers have already visited Grinnell College, Simpson College, Central College and DMACC on college visits!

Oakridge Dreamers

- 88% of our Oakridge Dreamers have received their high school diploma or GED.
- One Oakridge Dreamer has joined the Air Force and one is a part of the Army Reserves.
- 85% of Oakridge Dreamers keep in contact with the class sponsor and IHAD staff.

October Mentor Gathering

Jerry Foxhoven, the Executive Director of the Drake Legal Clinic, talked with mentors that attended the October Informal Mentor Gathering. Hosted by Joan Middleton, mentors joined Jerry to talk about the legal aspects of being a mentor. Jerry highlighted a few areas to be aware of, but reassured our mentors that they were reasonably protected against any legal ramifications.

Jerry and the Drake Legal Clinic, as well as the Middleton Center for Children's Rights, are a great resource for I Have a Dream and our mentors, Dreamers and families. The legal clinic can help with many different situations, and you are encouraged to talk with IHAD staff and Jerry if you have any questions or concerns.

January is Mentor Appreciation Month!

January is just around the corner, and although I Have a Dream is grateful for all that our mentors do year round, January is a special month to highlight our mentors and thank them for their dedication, commitment and ongoing support to our Dreamers and their families. If you know someone that mentors a child, whether through I Have a Dream or any other organization, remember to thank them!

Mentor a Dreamer – Make Dreams Come True!

One-on-One mentoring: Be a special friend to a Dreamer!! As a Mentor you play an important role in helping to shape the successful future of our Dreamers. You will spend time 1:1 to provide consistent adult support. You can hang out & have fun — but with a purpose.

Here's what one of our Mentors had to say about her experience. "Mentoring the Dreamers has been one of the most meaningful things I have ever attempted. Nurturing the growth and development of a child over a long period of time certainly forces us to grow ourselves. Most of my preconceived notions have been blown away. I'm able to realistically look at their limitations and possibilities as well as my own. Being involved with another's success is joyful. Being closely involved with disappointment and failure is painful and humbling. I can help give them the sort of physical, mental and emotional nurture that I, and most of my friends, experienced."

If you would like to receive additional information in regards to our mentoring program please contact carol.reynolds@drake.edu.

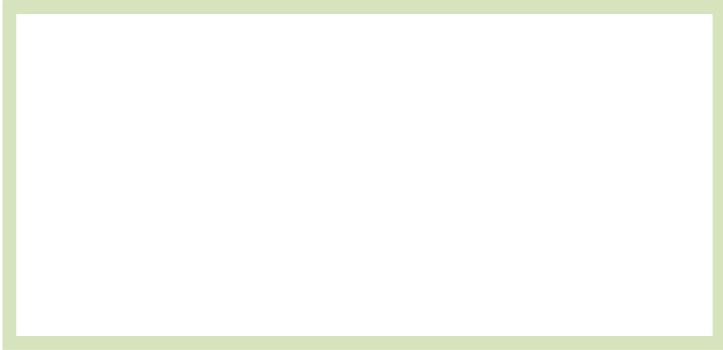


Tim Earp and Molly House, with their mentee, Daniel.



Des Moines "I Have a Dream" Foundation
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Winter Party Donations Needed

I Have a Dream will be hosting a winter party for the King Dreamers and their families in December. We need hats, gloves, scarves, books and family friendly games to distribute. If you would like to donate new items, please contact carol.reynolds@drake.edu

Thank you to our 2010 Corporate sponsors for their help in "Making Dreams Come True"!



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