



Realities For Children Is Keeping Dreams Alive

The Members of Realities For Children are excited to announce it is time for the 2010 'Keeping Dreams Alive' program. As you may recall, this 'sister' program to the Triumph Awards and is designed to not only encourage children in the social services system to follow their dreams, but it is also to inspire them to make their dreams a reality.

We believe that if a child loses their dreams, they lose much more than the joy of pursuing them, they lose hope and the excitement that being a child should be all about. Children, in placement, may need their dreams more than anyone, and if we are to see children Triumph, they must first dream that they can. The 'Keeping Dreams Alive' program brings excitement to what is generally a difficult time in child's life by allowing children to express their dreams – dreams for bettering their life and today's dreams that can be granted and nourished.

We are inviting you to nominate children, you serve, that have open cases at the Larimer County Department of Human Services. Your nomination will serve as a chance for their dreams to become a reality. In April, National Child Abuse Awareness Month, we will be granting the wishes of children in the designated age categories. The granting of these dreams will be announced at our 13th Annual Member and Agency Appreciation Dinner at the Hilton in Fort Collins. All winning applicants will receive a formal invitation, by mail. We hope that the invitation to dream will inspire all of the children you serve to keep their dreams alive, and every child nominated, will receive a special Keeping Dreams Alive Dream Journal.

Nomination Process:

We are keeping the nomination process simple all we ask is that:

1. You nominate children that have a current open case with Larimer County Dept. of Human Services
2. Nomination form must be completed by child's caseworker or recognized agency representative.
3. Nomination, Essay and Waiver need to be received by Realities For Children no later than **March 10th, 2010.**

Mailed or Delivered to:

Realities For Children 1610 South College Avenue Fort Collins CO 80525

'My Dream Is' Essay:

1. The Essay should be entitled or begin with 'My Dream Is' ...
2. The Essay should be at the length of the child's comfort and ability
 - a. Essay's from younger children or those not able to write their own may be dictated to you and submitted in their words by your hand. However, regardless of age, we would like some personal submission from the child even if it is as simple as a picture of their dream
3. We would like to encourage as much creativity as possible and if a child would like to support their essay with artwork, photos, poetry or any other support pieces, it is strongly encouraged.
4. The Essay should include both the expression of their 'life dreams' and a 'tangible dream' that expresses specific hope or dream they have today that we can consider granting.
 - a. Life Dreams – When I grow up my dream is...
 - b. Tangible Dream – My dream today is to ...

For more information as well as the Nomination, Essay and Waiver forms - please visit www.DreamYouCan.com.

We look forward to receiving your Nominations and "My Dream Is" essay. Please distribute this information to everyone in your agency as we look forward to helping make many dreams come true and encourage the youth you serve to believe that they to can triumph over adversity!

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

-Eleanor Roosevelt