

DARE TO IMAGINE'S TURN AROUND TIMES

AUGUST 1992

Founder's message

Sometimes I am awed and sometimes I forget that what we at the **Dare to Imagine** Project are teaching kids is that they can achieve anything they set their minds to. It is "revolutionary" and we are being brought to the attention of educators from around the world. In the last three months alone I have presented our program at four state wellness conferences and the 1992 International S.A.L.T. Conference (Society for Accelerative Learning and Teaching). Our program also was featured in "On the Beam," an internationally recognized publication of New Horizons For Learning.

Three years ago the **Dare to Imagine** program began as the attempt to answer the question - can we teach Olympian Thinking to young people? In doing so, educators have said, in fact, I created a leading-edge thinking skills program, a self-esteem program and a drug abuse prevention program all in one. As I began to work with the **Dare to Imagine** kids, I felt that what I was really doing was giving the kids "survival skills". As the schools engage the difficult task of reorganization, someone somewhere must provide them with the critical skills necessary to be successful in a very complex and challenging world.

Now, three years into this work, I feel that we are going beyond survival skills and creating the leaders of tomorrow. The **Dare to Imagine** kids have been learning over and over again to align passion, vision (thinking skills) and action. As they do this they are engaging the three traits common to high achievers in all fields. As they practice this, they are emerging as leaders at the Neighborhood Center and at school.

This summer and fall Cathy Sacks (Club Director) and I are continuing to refine the activities and structure of the program as the kids take leadership in conducting the weekly meetings. The commitment from individual community members like Gloria Belle and the Oakland Real Estate Community has allowed us to move forward in our plan to make these skills available to 50,000 kids in Oakland. The creation of a Parent/Mentor Guide and the training of educators in existing community programs is allowing us to move forward in this goal with minimal additional funding.

I sincerely thank all of you who believed in me and believed in these kids from the beginning. Your encouragement and financial support gave me the courage to move forward with something I knew was right but could not fund. The program now has the kind of results and visibility to attract larger contributors enabling us to impact more kids. At every stage of our development key people have stepped forward to carry the ball. This next phase has attracted a new wave of interest and commitment. Thank you from the **Dare to Imagine** Team committed to seeing that every child in Oakland has the chance to achieve her/his potential. To all of you who are new to our program, welcome aboard!

Marilyn King

Meet Chalita West

My name is Chalita West. I am 16 years old and I go to McClymonds High. I'm gonna be a Senior. I have 2 sisters and one brother. I knew that I wanted to be a Nurse but I was not working toward getting there. Ever since I was 8 years old I was going to the Neighborhood Center. Then about 3 years later we started **Dare to Imagine**. Then I started working toward my goal. Then it taught me that I could be a nurse and what it takes.

I wanna be a Nurse because I like to help people and I like to work with Kids, and I like to see people up and out not sick in bed. I will do all I can to help. When I was in DTI I did some contracts such as Interview a Nurse, visit hospitals, volunteer as a Nurse and lots of other things. I really learned a lot from DTI and a lot of other kids did too. One of my contracts was to get a Mentor and we meet twice a month to get closer to our goals. DTI has been very successful, I am one of the main leaders in DTI.

Dare to Imagine is a very good thing to learn, lots of kids have been successful. Now all we really want to do is teach this to kids all over the world (at least 5000 kids) and we want to make Oakland a better place. This concludes my summary. One more thing you can do anything you put your mind 2.

SEE YA

by Chalita West

Age 16

SUCSESSES

INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In March each kid engaged a mentor in their chosen career who met with them to review their ideal image and success maps. These two exercises identify skills and traits plus the specific steps to success.
- In May ten kids completed an eight week public speaking course through Toastmasters, taught by Diane Butler.
- Cha Cha, who wants to be a carpenter, worked on a home remodeling job earning \$140.00 in two days.
- Andre has a full time summer job.
- Read about Chalita West's accomplishments on the first page.

LEADERSHIP continues to emerge as the kids step forward to assume new responsibilities.

- Silena, Shivawn and Chalita have begun teaching literacy to younger kids.
- Cha Cha took the job of making and serving lunches to kids involved in a federally funded food program.
- Gina has a summer job at a recreation center.

THE DARE TO IMAGINE PROCESS is becoming ingrained in the kids and is beginning to show up in a variety of activities:

- On their own, the kids started a snack bar because the local store was charging too much money. They sell \$90 worth of snacks a week and then plow the profits into new products and equipment.
- Last year the kids began Daring to Imagine that they could go to Disneyland and engaged a process of discovering what it would cost. This year, as an award trip for completing the Toastmasters course, 10 kids spent two days in LA at Disneyland and the beach.

50,000 KIDS IN OAKLAND PROJECT

Without major funding we are unable to conduct our planned comprehensive **Dare to Imagine** school pilot at Oakland Technical High School, but our vision of making sure every child has an opportunity to achieve her/his potential has been finding new avenues to come to fruition.

April 30 Celebration

- Gloria Belle and her team sent out over 1000 initiations to our April 30 **Dare to Imagine** Celebration with a cover letter from Mayor Harris.
- Over 100 people attended our celebration to introduce the kids and engage the community in using existing community programs as vehicles to get these skills to 50,000 kids in Oakland.

Parent/Mentor Guide

Beyond Sports is creating a Parent/Mentor Guide to be made available nationally to assist adults in working one-on-one with kids.

- Completed our first pilot training and are scheduling a second training for the fall.
- Conducting an orientation on August 4th for prospective tutors, role models, and mentors.

Oakland Unified School District

The ongoing efforts to keep Oakland Unified School District apprised of our progress has generated a request for training by key OUSD personnel. Additionally, we are being considered for inclusion in the Superintendent's five year plan as one aspect of the designated "Demonstration Schools" program.

FUNDING

- In July we received our largest grant to date from the Hofmann Foundation.
- This year we have continued to receive funding from the Lowell Berry Foundation, the Bernard & Alba Witkin Foundation and the Oakland Association of Realtors.

Summer Challenge

This summer, the **Dare to Imagine** kids are being challenged to win points by participating in the following activities. The one with the most points by the end of the summer will win \$100.00. The winner will be announced at a formal Awards Luncheon that Suzie Lipps has generously offered to host. These activities are designed to further ingrain Olympian Thinking, and assist the kids in achieving their **Dare to Imagine** goals.

Points	Activity
5	Story: "Once upon a time... -----> DTI -----> year 2000" The story must be put on the computer, at least two pages, single spaced
2	Double income - July/August
4	6 Hat Thinking: teach/demonstrate to group
2	Sign Language - all letters of the alphabet & four phrases
3	Photo Essay: pictures/display/captions Theme = (choose) "A Day in the Life of a Carpenter/Nurse," Dare to Imagine Kid
2	Job
2	Self-initiated job: outside gym, not working for Marilyn, 1/2 day for pay
3	Camp/Class to improve Dare to Imagine area of interest
1	Other camp
4	Teach and explain Ideal Image & Success Map

Club Director's message

Those **Dare to Imagine** kids continue to amaze me! Over the past three years that they have been involved with the **Dare to Imagine Club**, their self-esteem and confidence has increased beyond my expectations. Knowing most of them for five to nine years has given me a privileged opportunity to see these changes take place daily and yearly.

This past year has been exciting as their **Dare to Imagine** lessons have produced many obvious fruits. More and more the kids are being asked to speak to groups that are interested in hearing about the impact **Dare to Imagine** has made in their lives. They have gone out into the community and shared their stories with corporate executives, real estate sales persons, scientists and other youth. Each time they become more confident and articulate.

Ultimately, we challenged them to take an eight-week public speaking class. Every kid who started it graduated with high achievements. The skills developed through this course were obvious at the April 30th **Dare to Imagine** event where they each spoke impressively! I was so proud! It was a great time for me to show them off to the community, so that all could see the talented, passionate future community leaders that they are.

This year the youth have taken on greater leadership roles at the Neighborhood Center and in the community. Some of them have summer jobs working as peer tutors and computer teachers in the literacy program at the Neighborhood Center. Others are working in the community at recreation centers, construction sites and child care. They have become responsible, hard working and motivated citizens who act as role models to the other children at the Center.

Cathy Sacks

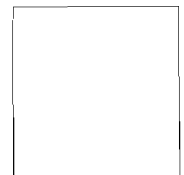
To volunteer or contribute as a tutor, role model, mentor, or to offer field trip opportunities, please call:
Cathy Sacks, Club Director
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
(510) 832-9608 or 832-4328

To help out with funding, other resources or if you have questions, please call:
Patty Holton, Project Coordinator
Marilyn King, Project Director
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 - 5
(510) 568-7417

To help out with the newsletter, please call:
Rebecca Kutlin, newsletter editor
(510) 451-1775

Thank you.

DARE TO IMAGINE
484-149 LAKE PARK AVENUE
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94610



- New contributors include the Junior League of San Francisco & Genentech. Grubb & Ellis in Montclair has established a savings account in our name and their agents are contributing pledges per escrow.

- We are generating renewed interest from funders unable to assist us in the past and have identified new sources as well.

OTHER

- Received extensive, increased visibility this year from KTVU, KSAN radio, On the Beam, The Oakland Tribune and The Montclarion.

- Established bank accounts for anyone who agreed to put half of what they earned into their account. To date, eight kids have saved a total of \$833.04, with our top saver at \$325.00.

- Four of our kids live with their grandmother, Nanny, and we were instrumental in moving them from substandard housing to a better situation. Our Oakland Association of Realtors support network gathered up a refrigerator and a washer/dryer for that household.

- Danielle Feldbrugge has come on board as an advocate/mentor to three of the kids. She is an ever-present key support for all our kids.

- Rebecca Kutlin has generously and eagerly taken on the enormous task of producing our newsletter.

DISAPPOINTMENTS

- Unable to procure major funding to implement comprehensive pilot at Oakland Tech. We are confident that as we continue to produce results with our current kids and expand the number of kids using **Dare to Imagine** through other community programs and the use of the new Parent/Mentor Guide that we will attract this formal pilot funding.

- Did not meet our goal of retaining a mentor for every kid.

- Unable to expand current club to include other kids who want to participate.

- Unable to formalize Highways to Success in the community for each career track identified.

GOALS

- Create ongoing funding mechanism to support **Dare to Imagine** club - \$20,000 year
- Engage two volunteers, eight hours a month, to assist Club Director with direct support for kids
- Monthly field trip
- Monthly role model interview
- Every kid to have an active mentor
- Engage key people in fundraising
- Engage key people in existing programs to be trained
- Purchase computers currently on loan from Apple

WISH LIST

- Mentors: computer, construction, nurse, arts
- Carpenter's helper work this summer
- Other summer positions/work
- Funding for purchase of computers
- Funding leads \$\$\$
- Volunteers to give one hour per week to the program

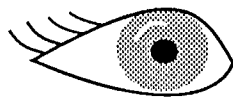
THANK YOU to our Dare to Imagine team

We would like to acknowledge all who have supported our efforts in the past and continue to believe that **Dare to Imagine** has a powerful contribution to make to education and to our community:

- Cathy Sacks & all Neighborhood Center personnel
- First Baptist Church of Oakland
- Individual Oakland community members
- **Dare to Imagine** mentors
- Oakland Association of Realtors & The Women's Council
- Oakland Real Estate Community
- Grubb & Ellis
- Oakland III and Piedmont/Montclair Rotary
- Private donors
- The Bernard & Alba Witkin Foundation
- The East Bay Benefits Guild
- The Hofmann Foundation
- The Junior League of San Francisco
- The Lowell Berry Foundation
- The Marcus Foster Educational Institute
- The Odell Fund
- David Goodman & Clorox
- Genentech
- McGraw Hill
- KSAN 94.9 fm
- KTVU



Passion



Vision



Action

=

Olympian Thinking
(Peak Performance)