

“I Have a Dream” East Oakland



Motivating and empowering every "Dreamer" (a child "adopted" from a low-income community) to reach their educational and career goals by graduating from high school functionally literate and prepared for further education or fulfilling employment.

- According to a study done by the Harvard Civil Rights Project in 2004, the **Oakland Unified School District has a dropout rate of 52%**, causing some critics to dub its schools **“Dropout Factories”**.
- District-wide, only 42% of African American and Hispanic students in Oakland earn their high school diploma--**less than the chance of a coin toss**.
- For every American teenager who drops out of school and **enters a life of crime and drugs, the nation spends \$1.7 million** (OJJDP, 1999)

OUR CORE BELIEFS

- We will only achieve our promise as a nation when all children have the opportunity to fulfill their potential;
- Nearly all students can achieve at a high level when expectations are clearly defined and nurtured;
- An early start is needed to get our students on the pathway to college

THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION

“I Have a Dream” projects are based on a successful model which began in 1981 when wealthy, New York businessman, Eugene Lang “adopted” the entire sixth grade class, during a keynote speech, at his Harlem alma mater, PS 121. Impulsively, he promised these children (who were low income and “at risk”) financial assistance for college if they graduated from high school. He enlisted the help of a community based organization to provide comprehensive services to his group for the next 6 years. By 1987 Mr. Lang had raised his Dreamers’ high school graduation rate from a projected 25% to 90%--with 60% going on to higher education! Inspired by his success, Mr. Lang created the “I Have a Dream” Foundation to encourage the proliferation of this model nationwide. Since then, almost 200 "I Have a Dream" programs have operated in 27 states, Washington, D.C., and New Zealand, together serving over 15,000 Dreamers.

EAST OAKLAND

The East Oakland project will adopt all 70, 2nd and 3rd grade youth residing in two low-income housing developments in Oakland and has a projected kickoff date of August, 2010. We will work with our Dreamers for the next 10-15 years in a structured after school program, 5-6 days/week, throughout the school year and during our 6 week summer program. We will provide mentoring, tutoring, literacy programming, in-class aid, social and cultural enrichment activities, as well as, parent support groups/workshops. Upon high school graduation, each Dreamer will receive guaranteed tuition assistance to attend an accredited college or vocational program.

OUR HISTORY AND RESULTS IN THE BAY AREA

- “I Have a Dream” programs have a long history in the bay area-- over 19 years, with successful projects in East Palo Alto, San Francisco, Richmond and West Oakland
- In 1992 Stanford Graduate Business School students adopted a class of 60, 4th graders in East Palo Alto. In 2000 those Dreamers graduated from High School with a 100% graduation rate.
- In 1996 IHAD West Oakland adopted 83, 3rd graders. In 2006 74% graduated with a high school diploma/GED. Of those that graduated, 72% went on to further their education.
- West Oakland Dreamers are currently attending schools such as Harvard, UC Berkeley and Morehouse.

P.O. Box 23244, Oakland, CA 94623 Phone: 707-616-4875

Web: <http://www.ihad-eastoakland.org> e-mail: TesiaJohnson@ihad-eastoakland.org