



**TENNYSON  
CENTER *for*  
CHILDREN**

# **STRENGTH AND UNITY**

**NEWSLETTER** FALL 2020

# FROM THE CEO



Many of us remember the nervousness and excitement of starting a new school year: mom took you to buy school clothes and supplies, you visited your homeroom, met your

future classmates, and couldn't sleep the night before the first day of class. It's a time of newness, excitement, and celebration.

Kids who attend school at Tennyson have struggled a great deal with transition and safety in their lives. Some will be returning to school from unsafe homes, and some will be starting a new year at a new school with new rules – during a pandemic that has lasted too long.

During the summer, Tennyson children stayed connected by becoming pen pals with staff. They formed community groups on campus including a Culture Club to explore their diversity and strengths as

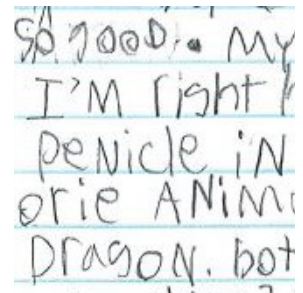
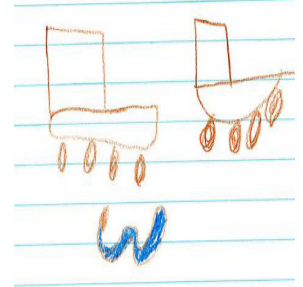
a group, and a Youth Group led by our chaplain. They spoke their truths for a "Mile in My Shoes" project conducted by one of our wonderful clinicians, Phoenix. They remained diligent in their learning and therapy through telehealth.

These kids deserve to know and feel a continued sense of connection, purpose, and strength in their community.

In addition to the developmental need for in-person peer connection, it is critical for Tennyson kids to come back to school so that they can be safe and seen. COVID-19 has kept children away from the eyes of teachers, doctors, and peers who would normally notice the signs of potential neglect and abuse.

The support of our community keeps Tennyson's kids and families safe, strong, and celebrated – like they deserve.

Ned Breslin  
President & CEO,  
Tennyson Center for Children



*Our Staff Wellness and Appreciation Team created a pen pal program between our children and staff. This activity has given our children a sense of unity and connection.*

## TENNYSON'S UPDATED BRAND

We have freshened our brand to match the vivacity and strength of our agency! Our brand refresh includes an updated logo and, most importantly, mission, vision, and values statements that reflect qualities that our staff, kids, and families model every day.

### MISSION

We work with every child and family impacted by trauma to realize their infinite possibilities.

### VISION

Every Kid Forever.

### VALUES

Be courageous.  
Have grit.  
Show compassion.  
Share joy.  
Do what's best for kids and families.

# STAFF SPOTLIGHTS



**Jose Cardenas** | Bilingual Family & School Support Specialist

“Thirteen years ago, I stumbled across a position at Tennyson Center for Children, not knowing anything about it or what its purpose was. Little did I realize how big of an impact this place would have on my own life. One of my first experiences, shortly after being hired to work in the Day Treatment Program, was running into a teenager who was having a challenging moment in our main lobby. I had coached that same teen

during the previous football season, and had no idea at the time that he was struggling with his mental health. This experience made me realize how disconnected I was from the children I was directly coaching and, for that matter, my entire community in regards to mental health. Later that year, I transitioned to Community Based Programs and took the opportunity to make a larger impact in a different role as a Bilingual Family

and School Support Specialist. This role offered me the ability to address our clients' entire family system and become even more involved within the communities I was serving. **I became part of a solution** and evolved into a voice and a dependable, consistent male of color for children and families who are often underrepresented.”



**Ai Muramoto** | Teacher

“I work at Tennyson because **these kids challenge me to be a better person every day.** I enjoy being a part of a team that contributes to a big, worthy goal: allowing kids to be kids. Things you and I did as kids - like riding bikes, scraping knees, playing video games, stuffing ourselves with pizza and ice cream - are experiences we want all children to have. Tennyson's kids haven't always had chances

to 'just be kids'. Being an athlete all my life, I had the same dream as everyone else: go pro! But, topping out at 5'10" and only being able to run fast downhill with the wind behind me, my dream fizzled out pretty quickly. However, the gift I gave and the lesson I took away was that my teammates and coaches could always count on me. 'Count on me' - those three words are so powerful and impactful, and

evoke accountability. Many kids at Tennyson haven't had adults or peers they can consistently count on to help them navigate their highs and lows - and vice versa. I work at Tennyson to teach these kids to be kids, and because I know I am someone who can say to them, 'You can count on me.'”



**Kari Chapman** | Chief Financial Officer

“A few years ago, one of my friends called me a 'closet social worker.' It was a comment that caught me by surprise as, being a CPA with type-A personality traits, I would never think of myself in that way. But it turns out that there might be some truth to the epithet. **As Tennyson's CFO, my overall objective is clear:**

**ensuring that our 116-year old organization remains financially sustainable for another century.** At an organization whose vision is Every Kid Forever, we are not just about the bottom line, but rather the stories our finances tell about the kids and families we serve each day. I come to the office hoping to support our amazing staff, who are

in fact social workers (and teachers and counselors and trusted adults), as they work on the front lines supporting our kids. I am honored to be a part of this community and part of ensuring that our kids have the opportunity to experience their best future. If that makes me a 'closet social worker', then I guess I am!”



2950 Tennyson Street  
Denver, CO 80212-3029



Students at Regis High School came together to donate fun activity baskets for Tennyson kids and families on our campus and in our Community Based Programs. Thank you, Regis!

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



### Amp the Cause | Corporate Partner

“Amp the Cause has worked with Tennyson Center for over 15 years, and each year continues to be uniquely impactful to our organization and the associates who work here.

Through both events we host at Tennyson - Holidays for Kids and Community Day - we are able to interact with and see the joy in the children you serve. Additionally, each year we experience the overwhelming competency and support of your teachers and staff through these events. Tennyson is truly a one of a kind organization, where it is evident that children’s lives are changing for the better. There are a variety of ways that the partnership between Amp the Cause and Tennyson Center impacts the community as a whole. Primarily, through our events, volunteers learn about Tennyson’s work from the inside out. They see firsthand how important the work is, and start to understand children and education in a different light. No one forgets their time volunteering at Tennyson Center. Additionally, our partnership brings a felt sense of a caring community. At Amp the Cause, our volunteers, associates, and partners are invested in the positive outcomes at Tennyson Center, and show the students that their community cares about their wellbeing and success.”

**“At Amp the Cause, our volunteers, associates, and partners are invested in positive outcomes at Tennyson Center.”**

### THANK YOU!



### Lisa Nowak Art | Event Sponsor

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