





# WHO WE ARE

**Tennyson Center for Children believes in the future of Colorado's kids.**

Children who come to Tennyson have experienced unimaginable abuse and neglect, and many have never known a safe home or a trustworthy adult.

**Tennyson's goal is to ensure that kids and families are connected with the right resources to heal and thrive in their communities. Our team is relentlessly dedicated to serving our kids and preventing other children from experiencing abuse and neglect.**

We serve children ages 0-18 through our residential, day treatment (school), and community-based therapeutic programs. We are committed to providing excellent care to all who walk through our doors.

We know that children who successfully leave Tennyson lead happy, healthy, and productive lives. We trust that their deep healing will help Colorado communities in incredible ways.

**Join our community of supporters for Colorado's children, and help awaken hope in their lives.**



## **FROM THE CEO:** THE COOLEST THING

One of the coolest things that happened last quarter was the painting entitled, "Shine in Many Colors" (below), that an exiting client left on my office wall. This girl moved mountains and was a great support to all the children at Tennyson during her healing journey. She is an inspiration for all, and is home and thriving now.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward D. Breslin".

Ned Breslin  
President & CEO,  
Tennyson Center for Children



# STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

## Officer Chanee Lintel

**School Resource Officer | Denver Police Department, District 1**

Meet Tennyson's new School Resource Officer (SRO), Officer Chanee Lintel from District 1 Denver Police Department!

SROs are a well-recognized fixture in classrooms across the country, but not as typical for organizations like Tennyson. Tennyson partnered with Lt. Daryl Miller of District 1, who took a leadership role in the SRO search, screening, and selection process. The DPD and the City of Denver vetted a number of qualified candidates, and hand-picked Officer Lintel based upon her experience, personal background, and empathy for and understanding of Tennyson's children. Tennyson interviewed Officer Lintel and agreed that she was a great fit.



**Officer Lintel's focus will be on relationship building with children on campus** and creating bridges between campus kids and our law enforcement partners at DPD. In addition, she will keep the safety and best interest of our children at the forefront while providing additional support to staff, the community, and DPD.

Officer Lintel is a professional resource for the school and will get to know each individual child on campus. She will partner with the client's teachers and therapists, while providing safety and support to students and staff.

## Kara Larson

**Chaplain**

**"I'm passionate about fostering resiliency and self-care practices for caregivers and staff."**

My background involves working in different educational, community-based, and therapeutic environments with kids. I have also spent time in hospitals working as a pediatric chaplain supporting children, families, and staff.

I have a Master of Arts in Chaplaincy and am an advanced practiced, board certified chaplain as well as a certified pediatric chaplain and facilitator of critical incident stress management.

I'm so grateful to be a part of the Tennyson Center family. I deeply value and admire the gifts and strengths of Tennyson's kids and staff! My hope is to provide an additional layer of support for staff and kids to thrive."



# Megan Flores

## Community-Based Clinician

"Tennyson was my first job out of grad school and I quickly learned that classroom application of knowledge was very different than real world application, especially working in families' homes and communities.

**Every new family has a unique set of challenges and strengths. Working within the community-based program allows me to work closely with families in a wide variety of settings.** At a training, I once heard that sometimes trauma work is just 'grocery store therapy,' which points to the idea that trauma is pervasive and isolating; part of the work is empowering people to navigate and integrate into their own communities safely. I have seen the value and power of 'grocery store therapy' first hand for individuals who have experienced complex trauma and/or are impacted by developmental delays.

It's especially rewarding to help a student integrate back in to their school, or hearing a parent report that they witnessed their child using a coping skill we practiced in therapy.

Although behavioral change is complex and there is a lot involved in trauma-informed care, I get to help families take concrete steps toward feeling like successful members of their communities."



# Ian Long

## Youth Treatment Counselor

"I'm often asked what drives me to work at Tennyson Center for Children and, without a doubt, the clients are the foundational answer to that question.

In general, kids offer a fresh perspective on life, seeing through barriers that adults believe are impossible. Their fresh and unique perspectives challenge the boundaries of 'can't' with, 'What if?' or, 'Why not?'

Our children are not unlike mainstream kids in a lot of ways; they have that same perspective, only they are armored with determination fostered from grit. Add this to their history of surviving unbelievable and seemingly impossible situations, and you get pure inspiration.

Over the last twenty-one years of working at Tennyson Center for Children, it has been impossible for me not to draw upon the children's courage and be moved and changed by it.

My work as a Student Engagement Specialist is a privilege I value every day. **I've learned more about myself working with clients at Tennyson than I have anywhere else in life.**

It's not easy--doing what we do. But when you can share in a breakthrough with a client that seemed impossible at the time and see them thrive, every growing pain you've experienced with that child along the way becomes worth it. Inevitably, after sending one

inspiring student on their way, another seemingly impossible client arrives, which is when it's important to stop, draw from that courage around you, and ask, 'What if?' or, 'Why not?'



# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT *LIFE SKILLS*



*One of Tennyson's kids in the Life Skills program, Janae, proudly displays the monkey bread she made for a board meeting.*

**The goal of Tennyson's Life Skills Program is to set students up for success prior to discharging from Tennyson.** Students ages 12 years and up may earn internships on campus, which range from helping the marketing team to collecting recycling around the building to preparing meals for meetings. To be awarded an internship, students must complete a job application and obtain signatures from staff including a clinician, teacher, and parent or residential supervisor to be eligible. In addition, a client's entire external team (which may include caseworkers, Guardians Ad Litem, districts, or probation officers) is consulted.

Life Skills internships teach soft skills like making introductions, punctuality, initiative, and work ethic. The "pit crew" does basic maintenance on agency vehicles like pumping gas, filling tires, and checking fluids. Teachers' aides assist in classrooms with younger students at the direction of teachers, and may serve as role models, run errands, or support children with academics. Journalism interns plan, research, and write articles for *Tiger's Roar*, Tennyson's monthly student newspaper. *Tiger's Roar* even includes a monthly comic strip created by our resident student cartoonist! Some interns work in the cafeteria, helping with meals and learning about health regulations. Others cook lunch on a monthly basis for new employees during their orientation day, make special breakfasts for Tennyson's Board of Directors

meetings, and bake treats for bus drivers and volunteers. Our attendance clerk learns to work in an office setting, assisting with the collection of attendance and other office tasks.

In addition to internships, students who have demonstrated consistent safety and responsibility skills are given the opportunity to apply for a "hall pass." If approved by the staff supporting the student, the hall pass grants a student access to move freely about campus without a direct adult escort. This "badge of honor" recognizes the hard work that students have put into their academics, treatment goals, and behavior, and offers a tangible payoff.

**Finally, community members visit Tennyson's students through the Life Skills Program to share tips about becoming job ready.**

Mock interviews prepare students for job hunting, as do conversations about dressing for interviews, managing social media image and presence, and preparing a resume. Other practical skills are gained through field trips that offer students the chance to understand and master public transportation, as well as to visit college campuses.

# Tiger's Roar



## The Blue Pumpkin

Pumpkins are great for Halloween and Thanksgiving. You can make pumpkin pie, baked pumpkin seeds or make jack-o-lanterns. You can decorate them as well.

On Halloween there is a very rare chance that you might spot a blue pumpkin in your pumpkin patch. Some people say it's cursed. A few unlucky people found the blue pumpkin. Now you may be saying, how is it cursed?

Don't carve the blue pumpkin and put it outside your house. If you do, if anybody wants to trick-or-treat at your house, the pumpkin you carved will shine green fire instead of a yellow light. Kids ages 2-10 will disappear for a very long time. Good for you if you haven't found a blue pumpkin in your patch. That means the kids will be safe.

There are many unanswered questions about the mysterious blue pumpkin.



- Tennyson Student

## SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING AT TCC

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process that adults and children learn to manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

SEL is part of the Colorado Academic Standards and is directly taught to students, focusing on the following competencies:

**Self-Awareness** – the ability to accurately recognize our own emotions, thoughts and values, and how they influence our behavior.

**Social Awareness** – the ability to see the perspective of others and empathize with them, including those from diverse backgrounds.

**Responsible Decision Making** – the ability to make constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions.

**Self-Management** – the ability to regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors in different situations; the ability to effectively manage stress, controlling impulses, and motivating oneself.

**Relationship Skills** – the ability to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships with diverse individuals and groups.

Our school has implemented an SEL curriculum called Random Acts of Kindness.

For more information on SEL or the RAK curriculum go to:

CASEL.org  
[www.randomactsofkindness.org/](http://www.randomactsofkindness.org/)

# EVENT CELEBRATIONS

Throughout the year, Tennyson holds a handful of events to celebrate our supporter community and our donors, raise funds for Tennyson's children, and—of course—to have fun! Here are some highlights from last quarter's events:

This year's **FORE!** Our Kids Annual Golf Tournament raised over \$270K thanks to the amazing and generous support of our sponsors and attendees! A handful of Tennyson's children attended and had a blast competing in the kids putting challenge, guided by their "golf partners"—a handful of tournament sponsors. Along with the breathtaking beauty of The Sanctuary Golf Course, Josh Cassaday, long drive champion, was a highlight on the green, executing masterful trick shots and helping our golfers shave a par 5 hole down to a par 3. *Huge thank you to our event sponsors: REMAX, Sprinkle Financial Consultants, Noble Energy, DBC Irrigation Supply, Fleming's, Great Western Petroleum, PDC Energy, William Ohs, and SRC Energy for their support!*

Our 6th annual wine tasting fundraiser, **Corks for a Cause**, took place at the beautiful Blanc Event Center and raised \$75K. The event featured local wineries, breweries, and distilleries with delicious food pairings and a gorgeous outdoor setting to help ring in the summer. *Big thank you to our sponsors and supporters: Sprinkle Financial Consultants, Offen Petroleum, BrightView, Footers, DBC Irrigation Supply, Alderman Bernstein, Deviree Vallejo, Syntrinsic, Stolfus & Associates, Clayton and Company, Metco Landscape Inc, and Blanc.*



Our first annual **Day of Play at Elitch Gardens** was a HUGE success! Thanks to an anonymous donor and the support of Wells Fargo Bank, more than 500 Tennyson children and their guardians and/or family members enjoyed a well-deserved break from the immense challenges of their daily lives. They got the opportunity to visit an amusement park for the first time, communed with other kids and families in similarly challenging situations, and had a day of fun to "just be kids"! We are incredibly grateful to Elitch Gardens for hosting us, Wells Fargo for their support, and to the immense work and preparation on the part of our clinical teams prior to the outing. Read about Day of Play on 5280's Get Involved blog, and watch a clip about it from Fox 31's Problem Solvers segment.

Our **22nd Annual Colorado Springs Dinner** at the DoubleTree Hilton was a wonderful gathering of our Colorado Springs supporters—both long-time and brand new—who donated over \$30K. We are incredibly thankful to sponsor Straka Speech, First Christian Church of Colorado Springs, and to a family working

with our El Paso County CBS programs who generously shared the story of their journey and life with their four children, whom they adopted through the foster system, and the immense challenges and triumphs their family faces. Thank you to this wonderful family!



# DONOR SPOTLIGHT



**Whiting Petroleum has been involved with Tennyson Center since 2011, thanks to champions like Sally Hallingstad and Chip Reimer.** Last spring, Whiting generously donated \$25k to Tennyson's Life Skills Program, and visited the campus over the summer to host a barbecue for Tennyson kids. Thank you, Whiting!

Tennyson's CEO Ned Breslin shared this story about Chip Reimer from Whiting.

"Chip Reimer did the FORE! putting contest with Tennyson and his partner was a child who has one of the hardest stories I've ever heard, and is one of the bravest girls I've ever known. She has really gotten to a better place because of being seen and supported by people.

Chip and this girl were putting, and she sunk a putt like 65 feet, I kid you not, a hole in one! She went bananas. She'd never seen a golf course before.

We had a big meeting at Tennyson where Colorado Oil & Gas Association (COGA) had its board meeting so the executives from all the companies came to TCC, and at the end we gave tours. Chip was in my group with a whole bunch of other executives— some really great men and women who really care about kids. We were wandering around and went into a classroom. This girl, who happened to be in this classroom and I didn't know it, screamed out Chip's name and said, 'Do you remember me?' and he said, 'Yes I do,' and named her. She came over and gave him a hug. I saw these big executives asking, 'What in the world is this?' How is it that an executive of an oil and gas company actually knows one of these kids and has had that kind of impact?"

That's the kind of guy that Chip is, and that's what Whiting is all about."



*"This girl, who happened to be in this classroom and I didn't know it, screamed out Chip's name and said, 'Do you remember me?' and he said, 'Yes I do,' and he named her. And she came over and gave him a hug."*



*Our friends from Whiting Petroleum helping on campus.*

*"We are proud and honored to be co-creators of the Every Kid Forever effort alongside Tennyson and partners. Over the last year they've played a vanguard role in disrupting challenges and rebuilding a system that supports the holistic approach to child well-being, prevention of harm, and restoration when a child is harmed. **With courage and humility, Tennyson has modeled what it looks like to stay grounded in a child-first approach.** Notably, as a result of putting children at the center and focusing on holistic approaches to their needs and welfare, we experienced a breakdown of silos and forward thinking partnership to work toward impactful, sustainable, and highly-collaborative solutions. We appreciate their efforts to invite expertise, perspective, and passion from others and are excited about the work ahead."*

– Lucy Ana Walton, Co-Founder of ZOMALAB

## ZOMALAB

# MISSION TRIP *MOMENTS*

**Tennyson's staff and children enjoyed another amazing summer full of mission groups visiting from near and far.** Each group spent a week living on campus with the kids attending classes, learning about Tennyson children's struggles and triumphs, and gaining insight into what service really means to them. Every afternoon, the group met in the Tennyson library with Tia Hunter, Tennyson's Volunteer Manager, for a debrief session about the day, followed by a free evening to explore Denver.



“*I keep coming back every year so I can let the kids know that someone really does care. It's really great to make good connections with the kids and be a light for them. I learn a lot about myself by coming to Tennyson. Every year I learn something different. I learn to be more grateful and more thankful for what I have.*”

*Destinee O'Shea*  
Trinity United Christian Church

About midweek through the First Christian Church of North Hollywood's mission visit, a special surprise arrived at dinner. Senior Pastor Bob Bock—who has led FCC of North Hollywood for 50 years, supporting Tennyson throughout—made a special visit to Colorado and showed up to surprise the mission group. As he walked into the restaurant, the group stood up and cheered. “You would have thought a celebrity walked in!” they said.

The next morning, Pastor Bob paid a visit to Tennyson's classrooms and cottages. Pastor Bob's visit to campus was incredibly special; even though Pastor Bob and his congregation have supported Tennyson during his entire 50-year leadership of FCC North Hollywood, he's never been able to pay a visit to Tennyson's campus. **Laughter was overheard and tears were shed as Pastor Bob toured the campus, classrooms, and cottages—seeing the good work he's supported for decades firsthand.** Pastor Bob's visit was special to Tennyson staff, as well, who have heard about his incredible support for years but have never had the honor of meeting him in person. The fact that Pastor Bob has supported our work without ever seeing it—on faith alone—touched many hearts on campus.

**THANK YOU to Pastor Bob Bock and the mission group from First Christian Church of North Hollywood!**





TENNYSON CENTER FOR CHILDREN  
AT COLORADO CHRISTIAN HOME

*First Christian Church of North Hollywood celebrating their last day on campus with our traditional group wall photo.*

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: OPERATION SANTA



Through Operation Santa, our donors help us provide holiday magic to the kids and families of Tennyson Center.

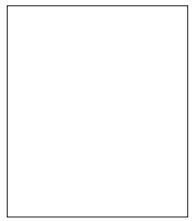
Your involvement enables us to provide a meaningful Christmas.

For more information email [operationsanta@tennysoncenter.org](mailto:operationsanta@tennysoncenter.org), or visit [www.tennysoncenter.org/operationsanta](http://www.tennysoncenter.org/operationsanta)

[tennysoncenter.org](http://tennysoncenter.org) | [info@tennysoncenter.org](mailto:info@tennysoncenter.org)



2950 Tennyson Street  
Denver, CO 80212-3029



Colorado Gives Day is December 10, 2019. **Join Tennyson's community of game-changers on Gives Day and awaken hope and healing in the lives of the children who need it most.**

Pre-registration runs through Dec. 10. Visit [www.coloradogives.org/tennyson](http://www.coloradogives.org/tennyson) to schedule your gift today!



*"When I grow up  
I want to take  
care of animals,  
to help them  
stay healthy"*

- TENNYSON CHILD