



Tennyson Knolls first and second graders in the Blocks of Hope tutoring program get their graduation papers at a ceremony at the close of the 2015-16 school year.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an award winning home-visitation program offered by Growing Home for children prenatal through 5 years old and their caregivers. Our certified parent educators meet families in their own homes 1-4 times a month bringing books, games, educational toys, and other items to stimulate cognitive growth. Parent educators work with parents to teach them how to help their children grow connections, associations, and vocabulary to prepare preschoolers for success.

One mother enrolled in Growing Home's PAT program is Jessica. Jessica was raised in a strict, authoritarian household and wanted a different approach to raising her two-year-old son, so she searched the web for parenting classes nearby. Jessica was amazed how creative her Growing Home parent educator is. Jessica said, "If you buy a child a toy, he plays with

Join us for a Tour!



Learn more about Growing Home's work nurturing children, strengthening families, and creating community. And find out how you can help!

The next tours are:

Thursday, June 9@ Noon

it for a day. My parent educator showed us many different objects that can be made for little or nothing, something made from a paper-towel roll."

By preparing parents to be their child's primary teacher, children are given the opportunity for their best social, emotional, physical and intellectual start.

Last year, Growing Home's Parents as Teachers program served 454 children in 343 families!

ART AT TENNYSON KNOLLS ELEMENTARY



Beginning in January 2016 the Art Students League of Denver offered Tennyson Knolls Elementary School students an eight-week pilot program in making art. Tennyson Knolls Elementary first and second graders being tutored through the Growing Home Blocks of Hope program thoroughly enjoyed the program.

The art instructor, Joe Higgins, guided students in the process of making block prints out of different media, including black ink, water colors on foil, and more. Some of the students displayed their works at the Blocks of Hope Lunch on April 21 and spoke about what their art meant to them.

Modeled on the famous Art Students League of New York, The Art Students League of Denver first opened its doors in 1987 with a handful of recognized artists teaching over one hundred students within its first year. Today, located in the historic Sherman School in the West Washington Park area at 200 Grant Street, the League engages more than 900 students a month with more than 200 noted artists who teach diverse fine arts classes throughout the year.

Growing Home's Blocks of Hope program expanded in 2016, and our presence at Tennyson Knolls Elementary has grown from one to two afternoons a week. Tutoring takes place on Tuesdays, and art classes on Wednesdays.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF HOPE LUNCH RAISES

Wednesday, June 22, @ 5:30pm

Thursday, July 14 @ Noon

[Sign up now!](#)

VOLUNTEER

We're looking for tutors to work with 1st and 2nd grade students in the areas of reading and math for the 2016-17 school year.

Please visit our [Volunteer page](#) to find out how to get involved.

WAYS TO GIVE

By Pell Fender, Development Director

In early 2016, Brent and Quinn Waller realized that their 1991 Toyota Previa, a mini-van that had provided years and years of faithful service, was no longer useful. It sat in the garage. Quinn inquired as to whether Growing Home could use it?

The answer is, yes we can! However, rather than putting the van into service directly at Growing Home, we contacted Vehicles for Charity, a local nonprofit that handles the donations of automobiles (and other modes of transportation, including snowmobiles and boats) on Growing Home's behalf.

The process couldn't be easier. Quinn contacted growing Home, Growing Home contacted Vehicles for Charity, and Vehicles for Charity did the rest, picking up the vehicle promptly and selling it at auction. The Wallers received a tax-deduction, and Growing Home received the net proceeds from the sale. The Wallers avoided the headache of selling the car and

FUNDS FOR GROWING HOME

On Thursday, April 21, 138 friends of Growing Home gathered for the Blocks of Hope lunch at the Westminster Westin, the annual fundraising event responsible for providing much of the individual philanthropic support for Growing Home each year. The event was not held in 2015.

Master of Ceremonies, volunteer, and Board member Keith Smith welcomed guests and reminisced about his first volunteer experience in the Growing Home Food Pantry. Then Brittany Hanes, a single mother of Tennyson Knolls Elementary School student Jayden, told guests her story about the tremendous support Growing Home programs provided as she returned her family to stability.

In closing, Valerie and Chris Del Hierro - both of whom volunteer (and Chris is also a Board member) - asked guests to give generously in support of Growing Home programs. Valerie and Chris announced a \$95,000 challenge gift to motivate donors. In all, the event raised \$191,492 in sponsorships, gifts, and pledges.

Said CEO Teva Sienicki, "Growing Home is so grateful to all the people - donors, volunteers, and others - for this successful event. The community support was overwhelming."



Growing Home has been busy this winter with all sort of projects - classes (Color, Cooking Matters, Seedlings, Cradling Literacy) and volunteer projects (a big thank you to St. Anthony North Health Campus volunteers, elders and sisters from the Church of LDS, and the Couture Group). We're very grateful for your participation and support.

did something very nice for Growing Home.

Is there an old vehicle, boat or other mode of transportation gathering dust somewhere in your garage or cabin? Consider the easy and hassle-free process described above and expedite a win-win for you and Growing Home. And, a great big thanks to the Waller family!

Contact pell@growinghome.org for more information; 720-407-1986.

HARD AS NAILS!



Growing Home is thrilled that, for the third year in a row, we are collaborating with the Hard as Nails Obstacle Mud Race. Hard as Nails has, again, agreed to donate a portion of their proceeds from the race to Growing Home! Hard as Nails is a local race, based in Westminster. The race can best be described as an opportunity for participants who want to challenge themselves while supporting their community. With an adult 5k (with over 15 obstacles!) and a separate youth course, Hard as Nails is an event for individuals of all ages.

The race takes place on Saturday, June 4th, 2016 at the Westminster Westin. Growing Home is very excited about this opportunity, and we wanted to make sure that we shared this with all of you as this event will directly benefit Growing Home and the families we serve. We

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE HEATS UP FOR THE 2016-17 ACADEMIC YEAR. CAN YOU HELP?

Growing Home is currently gearing up for our 13th annual Back to School Drive! With your help last year, Growing Home was able to provide over 1,300 children with a backpacks and school supplies.



We know that too many students face tough odds when they start the new school year, and they need the supplies and the tools to learn. Supply drives can take place in your office, church, or with your club/group. Individuals can also donate school supplies, or monetarily, during the drive. You can drop off school supply donations at Growing Home **starting on Monday, June 27th**. The deadline for supplies to be dropped off at Growing Home is Wednesday, July 27th, as the school supply giveaway is scheduled for the first week of August.

Please contact Erik Hicks at 720 407-1987 or at erik@growinghome.org for more information about the drive, or if you would like to volunteer during the event.

JOB OPENINGS

Are you interested in joining Growing Home's growing team? Visit our website to learn about [Careers at Growing Home](#).

Every penny counts!

Please consider making a gift to Growing Home today. Click here to [DONATE](#).

Thanks for reading and thanks for being a part of our Growing Home family.



would love for you to come out and support Growing Home during this event. Hard as Nails Obstacle Mud Race is still looking for participants to run in the race or volunteer.

You can find more information about the race here: <http://hardasnails-obstacle-mud-race.com/> or contact erik@growinghome.org.

READ MORE

[Colorado Sees Surge in Child Homelessness](#)

[To Help Kids Thrive, Coach their Parents](#)

[Here's your Summer 2016 Resource Guide for Westminster](#)

[What can Help Poor Kids Thrive?](#)

SHOUT OUT

Thank you to the following foundations and agencies for their recent grant awards to Growing Home:

- The Denver Foundation
- ELCA Hunger Grant
- Schlessman Family Foundation
- Westminster Human Services Board

GROWING HOME

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