

**From:** [Nia Tavoularis](#)  
**To:** [niat@teenliving.org](mailto:niat@teenliving.org)  
**Subject:** Moving into new Belfort House TODAY!  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2009 10:46:15 PM

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## Teen Living Programs



April 2009

# TLP e-newsletter

### In This Issue

[Congrats to Eric!](#)

[Dream a Bigger Dream  
2009!](#)

[Recent Gifts](#)

### Get Involved

#### [Jatara's Graduation](#)

Join us on Tuesday,  
April 28, at 5 p.m., as  
we celebrate Jatara's  
graduation from [CaSSA](#)  
into independence--our  
first graduation in the  
new building!

Contact  
[Emily Krisciunas](#)  
for more  
information.

#### [TLP Community Meeting](#)

Attend our first  
community meeting at  
the new building on  
Thursday, May 21, 5:30  
p.m.

Contact  
[Emily Krisciunas](#)  
for more  
information.

[Get Involved](#)

*Dear Nia,*

As this email is zipping into your inbox, youth are moving into the New Belfort House. If that wasn't enough good news, we are overjoyed about our amazingly successful Dream a Bigger Dream Gala. It has been an exciting month here at TLP!

### Executive Director's Update

[dlm summer 2006 color](#)

By [David L. Myers](#)



An American songwriter once wrote - "love and duty called you someplace higher."

Love and duty. The first pulls us toward our better selves; the latter protects us from our weaker ones. Organizations like Teen Living Programs need friends whose love expands and duty calls- in extraordinary ways. And here's the good news: we have them.

As demand for our services has increased 50% from last year, support of our Dream a Bigger Dream gala broke through projections by over 30%. This happened the day after the stock market dropped to its lowest level in years.

Here's another example: the new Belfort House

TLP's Auxiliary Board is recruiting members. Contact [Emily Krisciunas](#) for more information about this and other volunteer opportunities.



has opened its doors and generosity from TLP friends, made it possible. To-date, nearly \$3 million is committed and there are supporters lining up for the remaining \$1 million. Imagine that: in the teeth of the worldwide economic crisis, TLP's friends who are filled with love and called by duty are building a new home for Chicago's homeless youth.

This is why our spirits are filled with amazement and our hearts full of gratitude. TLP is going someplace higher, and we thank you for it.

## Youth News

*Eric Graduates from CaSSA!*

Eric

Eric came all the way through the ranks of TLP, and quickly! Just two years ago, he arrived at TLP's [Bronzeville Youth Shelter](#) for minors. A few months later, he moved into TLP's [Transitional Living Program](#), resumed his education at an alternative high school, and graduated with a B average.



With the help of TLP staff, he found a job, and after only nine months, had saved enough money to apply to [CaSSA, TLP's Independent Living Program](#). Eric graduated from CaSSA last month. Now living on his own, his next goal is to become a licensed massage therapist.

His words of advice to teens who are homeless or in unworkable home situations: "*These hard times are temporary and will make you appreciate life so much more when it is good. Don't let anyone get in the way of your dreams.*"

***Way to go, Eric!***

## What a Gala!

*2009 Dream a Bigger Dream Fundraiser a Success!*

[Click here to view more Gala photos.](#)

A night with friends, dancing, dining, music, and inspiring stories. What could make an evening more perfect? Knowing that more than \$350,000 was raised in

## Gala 2009

support of our work helping youth transition from homelessness to independence!

On March 7, more than 500 friends joined us at the Hyatt Regency Chicago to celebrate and support the work of TLP.

[Click here to view more Gala photos.](#)

### Gala 2009



The highlight of the evening was hearing TLP youth presenters Shantae and Jatara (*pictured at left*) share their own stories, explaining first-hand how being part of Teen Living Programs has reshaped their lives.

Of the funds raised from the gala, an unprecedented \$53,000 came from the live program auction, where donors "bid" their donations toward TLP's programs -- a truly exhilarating show of support. More than \$155,000 came from sponsorships, tables and ticket sales; \$40,000 from underwriting; and about \$50,000 from the silent auction. The bidding sparks flew over a signed Brian Urlacher jersey and the chance to be a bat boy or girl at a Cubs game.

### Gala 2009



*Executive Director David Myers (left) and Board Chair Gerald Pauling (right) welcome guest Andre Hughes (center) to the 2009 Gala.*

[Click here to view more Gala photos.](#)

TLP extends heartfelt thanks to all the sponsors of the 2009 Dream a Bigger Dream Gala for their generous support:

### **Event Underwriters**

Mulvihill Family Foundation

Sage Foundation

**Auction Underwriter**

United Airlines

**Teen Benefactor \$10,000**

Accenture

Hometown America

Seyfarth Shaw, LLP

**Teen Sponsor \$5,000**

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Segall Bryant and Hamill

Michelle & Tim Zahler

***Thank you all for making this year's Gala a success!***

**Recent Gifts**

*Thank you, [Allianz Foundation](#), [Hometown America Foundation](#), [Gap Foundation](#), [TJX Foundation](#), [Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund](#), and [MAXIMUS Charitable Foundation](#), for your generous support of Teen Living Programs.*

The **Allianz Foundation** awarded \$50,000 in support of Project Youth Works, TLP's collaboration with La Casa Norte to launch Illinois' first transitional jobs program for youth who are homeless.

The **Hometown America Foundation** awarded \$25,000 to [Belfort House](#), home of TLP's transitional living program and the heart of the TLP community.

The **Gap Foundation** awarded a \$10,000 capacity-building grant, investing in TLP's [board](#) development.

The **TJX Foundation** (\$5,000) supported TLP's Stable Housing Program, which assists youth who are homeless on their path toward self-sufficiency by providing resources in [education](#), [employment](#), [recreation](#) and other services throughout their stay at [Belfort House](#) and [CaSSA](#).

The **Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund** (\$4,000) and **MAXIMUS Charitable Foundation** (\$2,500) supported our mission of providing hope and opportunity to youth who are homeless.

**Thank you all for your continued support of Teen Living Programs and the youth we serve!**

## Donate Now

Donations to Teen Living Programs are tax-deductible as charitable contributions and can be made with a check, by a transfer of stock, or online with a credit card.

*Note: Online donations ARE eligible for Matching Gift Programs. Just mail TLP the paperwork and we'll take it from there.*

Checks should be made payable to **Teen Living Programs** and can be mailed to:

Teen Living Programs  
162 W. Hubbard  
Suite 400  
Chicago, IL 60654

or visit our [Website](#) to make a secure online donation.

Questions? Call [Nia Tavoularis](#), director of development, at 312-568-5700, ext. 228.

Thank you for your support!

[www.teenliving.org](http://www.teenliving.org)

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