

From: [Nia Tavoularis](#)
To: niat@teenliving.org
Subject: Inauguration trip gets extensive media attention!
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 12:11:13 PM

Teen Living Programs



February 2009

TLP e-newsletter

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Get Involved

[TLP Gala Committee Meetings](#)

February 10 and 24, 6
p.m.

Help us plan and
ensure the success of
our 2009 fundraiser!

[TLP Community Meeting](#)

February 19, 5:30 p.m.

Feel connected to
TLP. Attend the next
community-building
meeting at Belfort
House. All are
welcome!

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

[Dream a Bigger Dream Gala](#)

March 7, 6 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Chicago
Contact [Nia Tavoularis](#)
to reserve your ticket
today!

Dear Nia,

Read all about our trip to Washington D.C. for the Inauguration! Find out what it meant to TLP youth and to the work of our organization.

Executive Director's Update

[dln summer 2006 color](#)

By [David L. Myers](#)



Amazing things happen at TLP every day, but the past few months have been extraordinary.

It began on November 10 when TLP's friend, U.S. Representative Danny K. Davis, gave inauguration tickets to five youth who had moved through TLP programs from homelessness to self-sufficiency. Two additional tickets allowed Dr. Ozella Phillips, TLP's clinical director, and me to join the youth.

The chance to share the moment when the first African-American president took office was quite literally a dream come true for these five young people. Bearing witness to this milestone in American history, with individuals who have worked so hard and achieved so much, was one of the most inspiring moments of my life.

Leadership like Congressman Davis's often engenders more goodwill, and we are so grateful to [United Airlines](#) for complimentary airline tickets; to [Marriott](#) for discounted rooms; to [SUPERVALU/Jewel-Osco](#) for help with meals; and to [Reingold](#) for pro-bono public relations that filled newspapers and airwaves with this exciting story and about the work of TLP.

Please read on for youth's inauguration reflections, links to [media coverage](#), and more.

Youth News

TLP Goes to Washington: Inauguration Reflections



Crystal and Eric When Crystal learned she was one of five youth to receive tickets to President-elect Obama's Inauguration (with [WGN-TV there to capture her reaction](#)), "I thought it was a stunt ... I didn't believe it," she recalls, laughing.



Disbelief quickly changed to exultation as she, along with fellow TLP alums Eric, Cherice, Patricia, and Kevin, found out they really were heading to Washington, D.C. to share history in the making.

The five youth attended the We Are One concert headlined by Stevie Wonder and Beyonce, in addition to the "People's Pre-Inaugural Ball," co-hosted by Sasha Bruce Youthwork, a sister homeless youth organization in D.C.

Youth at Food drive

Responding to President Obama's call to service, youth also volunteered at a [local food drive](#) on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. "It was a chance to give back in the same way that people gave to me when I needed help," says Kevin.



The highlight, of course, was witnessing the inauguration ceremony of America's 44th president. "My eyes were filled with tears of joy as Mr. Obama took his oath," says Crystal. "It was a reminder that this world is changing. We can all do whatever is in our hearts."

Continue to check the [inauguration page](#) on TLP's website for youth photos, video and reflections.

TLP in the News

[Extensive Media Coverage Raises Awareness about TLP](#)

[Reingold](#), public relations consultants extraordinaire, contributed some 200 hours of pro-bono service, enabling TLP to share our story of the youth's trip to the inauguration with thousands of readers, viewers, and listeners.



First, WGN-TV viewers watched as TLP youth received the [news of their trip, live](#). Additional coverage included features on [WGN Midday News](#), two features on [ABC7](#), [WBBM Newsradio 780](#), [Northwest Illinois Times](#), and two features in [Northwestern University's Medill Reports](#).

"TLP's message was catapulted to prime-time prominence," says Nia Tavoularis, director of development and communications. "In addition to the gift of Inauguration tickets, we were granted this unprecedented media exposure and opportunity to reach new audiences with the story of TLP's work and the need for others to get involved."

Get Ready to Dream a Bigger Dream!

RSVP Today: TLP's Fundraising Gala is March 7

Join us for an evening of TLP Gala 2008 food, fun, and philanthropy to benefit Teen Living Programs.



Enjoy cocktails and dinner with magnificent views of our Magnificent Mile. Meet TLP youth, learn more about our programs, and see photos of our new residential building!

Plan to be part of the celebration, **Saturday, March 7, 6 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency Chicago** (151 E. Wacker Drive). Tickets are \$250 per person and support the programs and services of Teen Living Programs.

Make your reservation now. Find out about sponsorship opportunities. Contact [Nia Tavoularis](#), 312-568-5700, ext. 228.

Recent Gifts

Thank you, [The Baxter International Foundation](#), [The Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation](#), [VNA Foundation](#), [Chicago White Sox Charities](#), [The Lifeboat Foundation](#), and the [George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities](#) for your generous support of Teen Living Programs.

*When you are just trying to find a place to stay night-to-night, paying attention to your mental and physical health becomes a luxury. TLP thanks **The Baxter International Foundation** (\$35,000), **The Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation** (\$20,000), and **VNA Foundation** (\$20,000) for their support of our [Whole Health](#) program. With support like theirs, TLP helps youth who are homeless receive the primary health care and health and nutrition training they need to thrive.*

*The **Chicago White Sox Charities** (\$20,000) and **The Lifeboat Foundation** (\$15,000) 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 **George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities** donated \$5,000 in support of 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

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