

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Gary Jossa (Founder), Kristy Jossa, Gail Knight-Williams, Carl Heldt, Bob Kelley, Julie Haase, Robbie Jossa, Rick Van Hoose, Mike Riley, Tim Cook, Kelly Siebert, James Wells, Vicki Brasel,

*If you need wisdom – if you want to know what God wants you to do  
- ask and he will gladly tell you. James 1:5*

## Run of Luck

The St. Patrick's Day Run of Luck was a community event promoting awareness of local charities. Soles4Souls, a Nashville based charity that collects and distributes "gently used" shoes to people in need throughout the world, was the designated benefactor for the race. Jim Bush spearheaded this effort. Due to Jim's amazing efforts, the event exceeded its goal of collecting 10,000 shoes. In addition, thousands of needy people in Mexico and Haiti will be the recipient of some of the "gently used" shoes.



Evansville headquartered Shoe Carnival and other sponsors donated 3,500 new pairs of shoes to the Dream Center, Evansville Christian Life Center, Chandler United Methodist Church, and the Spencer County School Corporation. The Dream Center will be able to bless 500 youth with new shoes.



## Spring Break

Most Dream Center students don't get to go on a vacation during their time off, so the dedicated Dream Center staff continued working hard and teamed up with community partners to give the students a memorable spring break.

The Love of Learning Program came to its first 9 week completion. Students in the program were treated to a party including games, laser tag, and pizza. Todd Morgan and Gene VanStone honored the youth with a special presentation and gave each student a unique LOL pin and devotional book. Thanks to Bob Walther for donating his facility and personally coming to the event to encourage the students and tell them how proud he was of their efforts.

The first nine weeks of the LOL program resulted in an overall raise in grade point average and many accomplished goals. Corneulia and Nicole agree they have a much better understanding of math because of the unique teaching style of Gene Vanstone. Both girls think it has not only helped them short term, but will help them long term in their studies. Katy reached her goal of straight A's for the first time, and Brian was accepted in a special technical program at his school. With all of this success in the first nine weeks, it will be exciting to see what is accomplished in the second phase of the tutoring program. A special thanks to Gene Vanstone, Mike Wolf, Ron & Margaret Angermier, Todd Morgan, Bill Scruggs, and the Welborn Foundation for all of their efforts in contributing to the success of the program.

Dream Center elementary students enjoyed a fun afternoon of bowling at Diamond Lanes. Many of the children experienced the excitement of bowling for the first time! Youth also enjoyed a thrilling afternoon using their imaginations and curious minds through the dynamic exhibits, programs, and activities at the cMoe Koch Family Children's Museum. The museum promotes and shares some of the same core values with the Dream Center; inspiring youth to become future leaders and productive citizens and inspiring children to develop and embrace lifelong habits of education, creative expression, lifelong learning, innovative problem solving, and solid decision making.

Inspirational visits also took place during the week. Visitors from the Atlanta Dream Center's master commission came to our Dream Center to participate in teaching life skills, worship, dancing, and sharing their dynamic testimonies. Thanks to Officer Henry from the Evansville Police department for delivering an entertaining presentation to the youth, teaching them how to stay safe, and answering many questions regarding drugs and alcohol.

Two Dream Center students were chosen to take a trip to Nashville based on their outstanding attitude, attendance, and participation in the Dream Center programs. They attended the Acquire the Fire conference which is a life transforming event built around bringing clarity to God's voice in the lives of teenagers. The event delivered decision making opportunities for Christ, pattern breaking challenges for living "real life" with God, and future shaping perspectives that help youth see themselves in God's big plan. The students said it was the best event they have ever attended and they had an awesome time. Thanks to Chris Boyd, St. Mary's Director of Trauma Services and President of SAFE Kids, for donating the tickets to attend this amazing event.

## SLAM Basketball

Friday nights host the SLAM basketball league. SLAM was the brain child of Todd Morgan, standing for Sports, Life, and More! The program was originated in order to get students involved in organized recreation, keep kids off the streets show them there is more to life, and expose children to a faith based safe haven who might not otherwise attend. The program has become a fun, Friday night event where youth and parents alike come to join in the exciting atmosphere.

## Spring Cleaning

While Spring Break was filled with many exciting activities, dedicated Dream Center students spent their time giving back by helping Spring Clean the Dream Center. Not only did the students clean the building; they washed and cleaned all the Dream Center vehicles. A special thanks to these students for sacrificing their time and taking pride in what God has so greatly blessed us with!



## SHINE

(Spreading Hope in Neighborhoods Everywhere!)

This month, Dream Center elementary students spent time coloring pages and writing words of love, healing and encouragement for patients at St. Mary's and Deaconess Hospitals.

**YOUR GIFTS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF DREAM CENTER BOYS AND GIRLS... THANK YOU!**

*Gary Jossa*, Founder

*Kristy Jossa*, Executive Director