

# Evaluation Summaries

The following are summaries of evaluations of the national "I Have a Dream"® Program and of individual Projects around the country.

## *The Role of Social Capital in Youth Development: The Case of "I Have a Dream"®*

**Description:** A two and a half year study of two "I Have a Dream"® programs, each founded in sixth grade, covering the last years of high school through graduation.

**Focus:** Academic achievement; mentor relationships; sponsor involvement

**Findings:** "The high school graduation rates of "I Have a Dream"® participants [in the Projects] were more than twice that of students from the control groups... "I Have a Dream"® provides one form of a 'best case' scenario—youth receive coordinated and comprehensive academic and social supports."

**Citation:** Kahne, Joseph, and Kim Bailey. The role of social capital in youth development: the case of "I Have a Dream"®. Chicago: The University of Illinois at Chicago, 1997.



**“I Have a Dream”®  
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## *Beating the Odds: How the Poor Get to College*

**Description:** A treatise headed by Arthur Levine, President of Teachers College of Columbia University, and Jana Nidiffer. This book assesses from Dr. Levine's perspective the conditions by which the poor do or do not attain higher education, and devotes one chapter to programs and strategies aimed at improving the chances of the indigent's reaching and succeeding in college.

**Focus:** Early intervention; community involvement; academic and social enrichment

**Findings:** " 'I Have a Dream'® is one of the most effective programs ever attempted for increasing access to college by the poor. It shows just how powerful comprehensive programs can be if they incorporate the full range of lessons that the ...students in our study taught us."

**Citation:** Levine, Arthur and Jana Nidiffer. Beating the Odds: How the Poor Get to College. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, Inc., Publishers, 1996.

### ***"I Have a Dream"® in Washington, D.C.: Initial Report***

- Description:** A one-year study of three junior high school aged classes of the Greater Washington "I Have a Dream"® Foundation
- Focus:** Cohort demographics; mentor relationships; student attitude towards education
- Findings:** "The "I Have a Dream"® intervention provides adult relationships that are meaningful to youth. Both sponsors and project coordinators provide caring, consistent relationships that are valuable to Dreamers."
- Citation:** Higgins, Catherine, Kathryn Furano, Catharine Toso, and Alvia Y.Branch. "I Have a Dream"® in Washington, D.C.: Initial Report. Philadelphia: Public/Private Ventures (P/PV), 1991.

### ***The Paterson, New Jersey, "I Have a Dream"® Program: Academic Performance and Outcomes***

- Description:** An evaluation of the Paterson, New Jersey, "I Have a Dream"® program, in which 95 students, entering the program upon completion of the 6th grade, were linked to individual mentor volunteers from participating corporations.
- Focus:** Self-esteem, academic performance, high school retention, one-year college retention
- Findings:** "Dreamers who would have been at risk for withdrawal for academic reasons were more likely to remain in school because of the program. . . . Dreamers were significantly more likely to graduate than students in the same school from the previous year."
- Citation:** McGrath, Robert E., and Judy Hayman. The Paterson, New Jersey, "I Have a Dream"® Program: Academic Performance and Outcomes. Teaneck, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University, 1997.



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### ***"I Have a Dream"® Program - Class One: Evaluation Report***

- Description:** An evaluation of an "I Have a Dream"® class from the end of 5th grade to the end of 11th grade, the most current grade level completed by the Dreamers, as compared to two control groups: students of the same school three years older than the Dreamers, and students one year ahead of the Dreamers.
- Focus:** Academic achievement; participation in extracurricular activities, student perceptions of "I Have a Dream"®, student school behavior, student community behavior, cost benefits.

**Findings:** "[The] 'I Have a Dream'® program is highly commended on the positive impact it has had on students who are caught in a complex web of generally adverse forces that influence their lives, behavior, and choices. . . . [The program] has positively impacted school achievement, school attendance, community behavior, and the lives of its teen mothers."

**Citation:** Davis, Ann E., Gwen Hyatt, and Dean Arrasmith. "I Have a Dream"® Program-Class One: Evaluation Report. Portland, OR: Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 1998.

### ***East Palo Alto "I Have a Dream"® Program Evaluation Report***

**Description:** A one-year evaluation of two classes of Dreamers in East Palo Alto, CA during their junior or senior year, respectively. Class One had been adopted in 3rd grade; Class Two in 4th.

**Focus:** Mentoring; private/parochial school involvement; student involvement and attitudes

**Findings:** "[The] Program has achieved a meaningful and discernable difference in the lives of the Dreamers . . . [and] rendered significant results measured in terms of projected high school completion and college attendance rates. Beyond the numbers, all Dreamers interviewed expressed gratitude to the Program."

**Citation:** Kubayama, Emlei M. East Palo Alto "I Have a Dream"® Program Evaluation Report. Stanford, CA: School of Education, Stanford University, 2000.



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### ***Delivering on a Promise: An Evaluation of the "I Have a Dream"® Foundation***

**Description:** A two-year study conducted one-half way through the secondary school life of a Project in Pasadena, CA. Includes an assessment of the contemporary condition of education, a review of other intervention programs, a summary of literature and theory on high school retention.

**Focus:** Student participation; student and Project Coordinator attitudes; self esteem

**Findings:** "Most importantly, [the Project's] Sponsor and PC's have shown the Dreamers that they are special, worthy of attention, and capable of outstanding achievements."

**Citation:** Shoemaker, Margaret, Ed.D., and Molly Sims, Ed.D. Delivering on a Promise: An Evaluation of the "I Have a Dream"® Foundation. Pasadena, CA: "I Have a Dream"® Foundation-Pasadena, 1997.