



# THE Carson J Spencer FOUNDATION

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July 1, 2006

First Annual Report

*Striving to Remove the Stigma of Mental Disorders and Prevent Suicide*

# Annual Report 2005-2006

## The Carson J Spencer Foundation's First Year

### LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

It's still hard to believe that it has been over a year and a half since we lost Carson. It doesn't seem that long ago to me because he made such an impression on me that I can still remember our last times together like it was yesterday. I know my life would have been extremely different if we wouldn't have met in Atlanta 13 years ago. I was one of the many he touched and still leaves a lasting impression on today.

After Carson's funeral I can remember taking off from the runway and looking out the window thinking I needed to do something to honor my friend. He was a one of kind person that I knew would have done something for any of his friends if something would have happened to them. So with the help of family and friends we assembled a board of directors and started to build something together.

The Foundation's first year has been a great learning experience. We have accomplished many goals and continually work to build a foundation of something that will last for many years. Thank you for your support of the foundation and helping Carson's legacy live on.

Shawn Geagan, Founder and President of the Carson J Spencer Foundation

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Founded, Incorporated and received 501(c)3 status for the Foundation
- Raised over \$40,000 in donations
- Created a \$25,000 Endowment thanks to Joyce and Bob Spencer
- Developed a mission statement, logo & website
- Awarded our first \$5,000 grant to the Second Wind Foundation.
- Organized our First Annual Golf Tournament and Silent Auction Benefit in CO
- Organized our Silent Auction Benefit in the NY area
- Second grant RFP received a 6 fold increase in submissions from organizations across the country.

**And the light shines on...** 18 months after his tragic death, Carson J. Spencer's bright light keeps going through the foundation's commitment to helping others.

### CHARTING OUR COURSE



**Vision:** To remove the stigma of mental disorders and prevent suicide.

**Mission:** To support programs and services dedicated to developing effective intervention strategies and treatment for people with bipolar disorder and suicidal ideation.

### Goals 2005-2006:

1. Financial—to raise no less than \$25,000 through direct mail, and fund-raising initiatives.
2. Programmatic—to offer two grants for suicide prevention, one "rising star scholarship," and suicide prevention materials/programs
3. Public Relations—to improve our website and develop supporter network
4. Board Development—to improve governance

## SHARING THE LIGHT: GRANT MAKING PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS

One of the most rewarding parts of our first year was the incredible partnership we have started to develop with our first grant recipient, The Second Wind Fund ([www.TheSecondWindFund.org](http://www.TheSecondWindFund.org)). The mission of this remarkable organization is to decrease the incidence of teen suicide by removing financial barriers for uninsured or underinsured at-risk youth. Second Wind has built a huge grassroots support network of schools, faith communities, and corporate partners that enthusiastically shows its commitment to this important cause by showing up by the thousands at their annual "Second Wind Walk" (scheduled this year for September 24th in Colorado). Second Wind has used the Carson J Spencer Foundation grant to expand its program into Adams County, and uses the money to fund treatment for suicidal students.

The Executive Director, Jeff Lamontage has been an incredible mentor and cheerleader for the Carson J Spencer Foundation. At every opportunity, he is letting others know about what our foundation is trying to do and how we are working together with Second Wind. The collaboration has been very rewarding for both organizations and we look forward to a growing partnership for the future.

**Below:** Second Wind Executive Director, Jeff Lamontage speaks with school counselor Joy Pierson about the Second Wind Fund's referrals for counseling.



  
Second Wind Fund

## COMMUNICATION TOOLS AND OUTREACH: GETTING OUR MESSAGE OUT THERE

- ◆ [www.CarsonJSpencer.org](http://www.CarsonJSpencer.org)
- ◆ Press Releases and Media Advisories
- ◆ Advocacy and Alliances through the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado
- ◆ Informational Brochures and Flyers
- ◆ Quarterly e-Newsletter
- ◆ Local and National Conference Presentations and Exhibits
- ◆ Invited Speakers & Awareness Events

## THE FLICKER OF HOPE —OUR HISTORY, OUR HEALING, AND HELP FOR OTHER SURVIVORS

The Carson J Spencer Foundation was established to preserve the memory of Carson J. Spencer who took his own life after an acute cycle of bipolar disorder on December 7, 2004. While we can never get him back, we can help spread his light by continuing to share the love he gave to people and the bright ideas he developed. Through our grief, we have learned that the aftermath of suicide is incredibly complex and support for survivors is critical. In our own healing we have turned to support groups, trusted friends, helpful books, and compassionate counselors.

We would like to continue to help other suicide survivors by standing by their side as they face their darkest hour. In this past year we have participated in two healing ceremonies for survivors. The first was a candle lighting ceremony during the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado's "Wings of Hope" Conference in August, and the second was an interfaith Blue Christmas Ceremony facilitated by the ministers of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado. Resources for survivors—books, website links, support groups, and coping suggestions have also been added to our website.



**Healing Ceremony at the Wings of Hope Conference  
August 2005, Colorado**

**RISING STAR SCHOLARSHIP**



**Carson J. Spencer was an enormously successful entrepreneur and the Foundation is carrying out his expressed legacy for helping emerging leaders.**

**C**arson J. Spencer was an enormously successful, creative, charismatic, young entrepreneur. At age 27 he became the youngest sales manager for the company with whom he started after college, and he opened their first office west of the Mississippi leading it to national prominence. At age 29 he co-founded his own company, Beacon Risk Strategies. By means of his motivation to excel in whatever he did, smarts and a keen sense of opportunity, that company was achieving in excess of \$4,000,000 in annual revenue within five years and employed 12 people with offices in Denver, Seattle, and Boston.

Before his death he expressed his desire to use some of his financial success to help further the education of those showing entrepreneurial promise. He wanted this scholarship to be one of his legacies. The Carson J Spencer

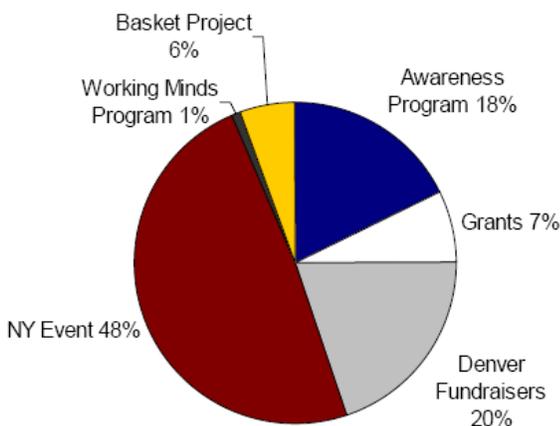
Foundation has carried on this legacy for him through the development of the "Rising Star Scholarship."

This spring, Robert Spencer, Carson's father, visited most of the institutes of higher education on Colorado's front range to pilot the model of the Rising Star Scholarship. Each participating college will nominate an incoming student who shows leadership, entrepreneurial promise and financial need, and the Carson J Spencer Foundation will select the best candidate. The winner will receive \$1,000 each year for the next four years, and will be recognized at the "Leadership and Creativity" conference to be held at Regis University on November 4th, 2006 (The Carson J Spencer is a proud platinum sponsor of this conference and speaker Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison, for more information go to [www.LeadershipandCreativity.com](http://www.LeadershipandCreativity.com)).

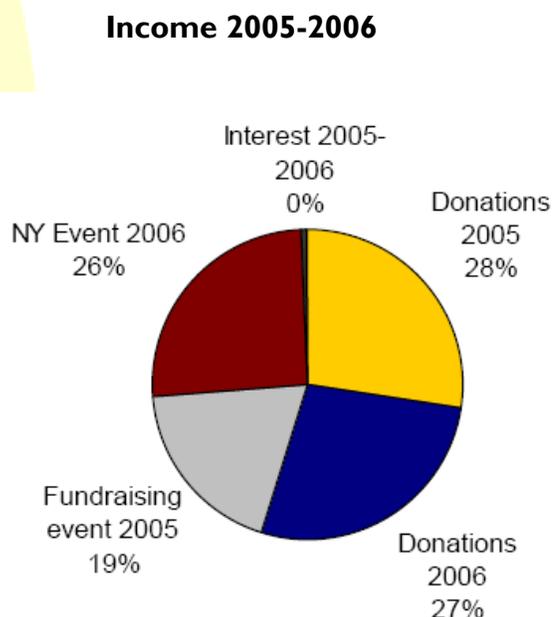
*And the light shines on...*

*"...be the change that you want to see in the world"—Mohandas Gandhi*

**FINANCIAL REPORT—TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**



**Expenses 2005-2006**



**Income 2005-2006**



# THE Carson J Spencer FOUNDATION

Georgia Office: 485 North Fields Pass Alpharetta, GA 30004  
Colorado Office: 11583 Decatur Court Westminster, CO 80234

## Striving to Remove the Stigma of Mental Disorders

Tel: 303-635-2280  
General Information: [Shawn@CarsonJSpencer.org](mailto:Shawn@CarsonJSpencer.org)  
Grant and Program Questions: [Sally@CarsonJSpencer.org](mailto:Sally@CarsonJSpencer.org)  
Endowment Questions: [Bob@CarsonJSpencer.org](mailto:Bob@CarsonJSpencer.org)  
"I Love Colorado" Fundraiser Questions: [baskets@CarsonJSpencer.org](mailto:baskets@CarsonJSpencer.org)  
Donation Questions: [Donations@CarsonJSpencer.org](mailto:Donations@CarsonJSpencer.org)

## Striving to Remove the Stigma of Mental Disorders and Prevent Suicide

## COLORADO'S LOCAL STARS SHINE

### "I LOVE COLORADO BASKETS"



A sample "I Love Colorado Basket" - created with love and available for corporate

Colorado businesses and those that support the Colorado identity came through this year to support the Carson J Spencer Foundation by donating their products to a unique fundraiser where everybody wins. Dozens of companies have generously contributed food, books, music, soaps, art, and more to these beautiful handcrafted baskets (made by Joyce Spencer). In our effort to create a circle of giving, we support other Colorado nonprofits by purchasing their products to place in our baskets including the Women's Bean Project and Green Fingers—both agencies develop social enterprises for Colorado's disadvantaged. Many members

showed their support by buying the baskets as holiday gifts last December. Proceeds from the baskets go toward our grant making and program funding. Get your orders in early! For more information email [Baskets@CarsonJSpencer.org](mailto:Baskets@CarsonJSpencer.org).

## And the light shines on...

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that.." - Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## NEW LIGHT—PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT: WORKING MINDS

With consultation from The Second Wind Fund, Active Minds on Campus, the Yellow Ribbon International Suicide Prevention Program, and many others, the Carson J Spencer Foundation began developing a suicide prevention and mental health promotion program for the workplace. The comprehensive affiliate program will be launched at the end of the summer 2006 and will include resources for screening, gatekeeper training, awareness campaigns, and hotlines for workplaces.

### Did you know?

25% of the U.S. Workforce suffers from at least one mental or substance abuse disorder each year.

Three out of four employees who seek care for workplace issues and mental health concerns see substantial improvement in productivity after treatment.

85% of middle managers believe part of the job responsibility is to identify and intervene to help employees with depression, yet only 18% of those managers receive training that would prepare them to do so.

In 2002, the President's Commission found that as much as \$105 billion per year is lost in economic productivity due to untreated or under-

Carson J Spencer FOUNDATION

**Working Minds: Increase Mental Health and Prevent Suicide in Your Workplace**

Training Provided by the Carson J Spencer Foundation

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

Suicide Prevention Program for the Workplace