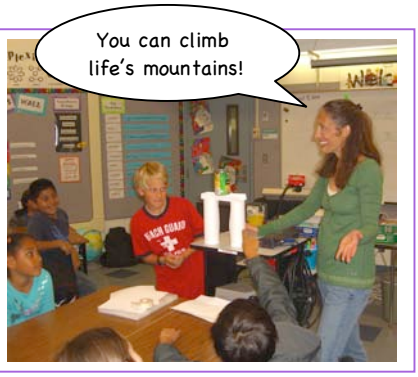
TDFO! 2009

THE DREAM FUND OUTREACH... *a light for children's lives!*

TOP 10 of '09!

#1. TDFO's Award-Winning Self-Esteem, Character, and Educational Enrichment Programs for Kids!

With unwavering focus and resolve to help children "Travel Their Right Roads," the floodgates of the reach and scope of TDFO's work opened in a whole new way this year! The starting point and core of our award-winning work continues to be Paula Phillips' sought-after K-6th grade programs that mentor and guide kids on their right roads in school and in life. Since founding TDFO in 1992 after being threatened by a young teen during the LA Riots, Paula has inspired well over 200,000 children in 13 states, in over 140 cities, and in hundreds of schools and youth organizations. Incorporating a wealth of music and art, stories, educational projects, life-lessons, and an abundance of other tools, the most common adjective used to describe our programs is "life-changing." Just a few 2008-2009 school year highlights...



Ventura County 5th graders learned to never give up!

I love how you make a lesson that everyone else tries to explain to us a great, fun experience!
- Maritza, age 12

Oxnard, CA 4th graders were enthralled in learning!

Fillmore 5th graders excited about life's possibilities!

You have made a great impact on my life. Because of you I will never give up reaching my goal of going to college.
- Oscar, age 12

Paula's hands-on approach engages kids of all ages!

Countless kids learned to believe in themselves!

Our Mission & Vision!:

The mission of The Dream Fund Outreach (TDFO), through all of our work and programs, is to uplift children in life-changing ways that build their self-esteem, character, confidence, and talents AND to provide help, guidance, and tools for them to find and travel their "right roads" in life. TDFO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Ventura County, California – with a national and global vision.

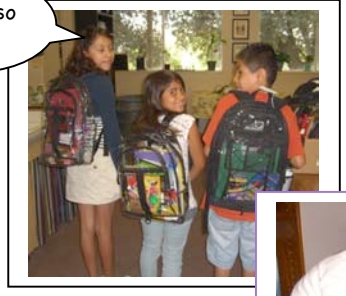
The Dream Fund Outreach • PO Box 4767 • Westlake Village, CA 91359 • (805) 582-2482 • thedreamfundoutreach@yahoo.com

#2. Our Remarkable Resource Programs!

Project Backpack!

Through "Project Backpack!," last fall, Paula & TDFO friends personally delivered 250 school supply-stuffed backpacks to children in need around Ventura Co.! As Paula shared, "Seeing the pride in the kid's eyes using their packs through the year took my breath away." With loving help from Oaks Christian School, the Ryckman family, and many others who donated backpacks and supplies, even more kids will be blessed this year!

Omar was so excited that we had to stop and let him share everything he had in his backpack. It was something he truly needed. Thank you! – Jen Weir, teacher



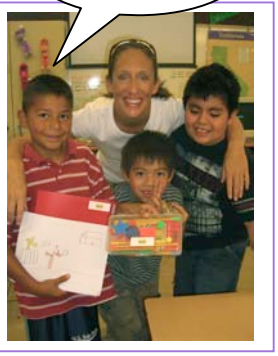
Kids in Piru, CA ready for success!

Each backpack is prepared for an individual child and delivered with TLC.

Each recipient was so filled with joy!

An overjoyed Oxnard 4th grader!

This 6th grader shows humble pride in her Talent Binder covered with "You Are Special" stickers from her classmates!



Paula with shining TDFO kids from Simi Valley!

Cool School Tools!

As an integral part of our programs, every child receives TDFO school and art supply kits and talent binders – invaluable resources that inspire kids to learn and create. In 2009 alone, thousands of children received the "Cool School Tools" they need to succeed!

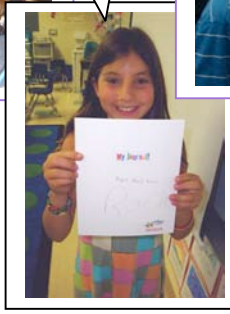
You are empowering us – which is what you were meant to do! – Ethan, age 10

Seeing the children receive their new supplies was a first for me. It was a touching experience. – Lori Anaya, teacher, Port Hueneme, CA

Original Books & Music!

Paula's gift for inspiring youth is boundless! Tens of thousands of children have been inspired to believe in themselves and reach for their dreams through her uplifting original books and music – also fundamental TDFO program resources. What's new?... Recording is in progress for the "Right Road For Kids!" soundtrack (see Pg. 8) and Bellows Bunch book #2 is in the editing phase. Generations of youth will be energized to live their best lives through Paula's light and love for kids!

You inspired me with The Bellows Bunch book. If it weren't for that book, I would never know my talents. You're my hero. – Tanya, 4th grade, Ventura Co., CA



The Bellows Bunch book (top) and companion journal (right) provide meaningful ways for kids to develop their talents!

To assure that kids have positive music, each child who asks receives one of Paula's CDs for free!

#3. Kids-Helping-Kids & Change Your World Projects!

My daughter volunteered to help TDFO by filling a backpack with school supplies. We always encourage our children to give back. Thank you for the opportunity!
– Mrs. Eichhorn, Westlake Village, CA

Kids-Helping-Kids!

Empowering kids to travel their right roads and live their best lives is what TDFO is all about! With that always at the forefront of our hearts and minds, we strive to provide as many opportunities as possible for youth to volunteer and help other kids! A few 2009 heartwarming examples:

O.C.M.S. students donated a carload of backpacks!

Carley Ryckman volunteered 60+ hours for TDFO this year alone!

Paula's son Micah and his buddy Isaiah helped move 90 binder boxes!

Change Your World!

Once again, Paula challenged the entire student body at San Cayetano Elementary School in Fillmore to "Change Their World!" On their own, they completed over 20 outreach projects from school-wide recycling and food drive projects to raising money for many wonderful charities to cleaning up their school. Kids at other schools followed suit! Truly awesome! Check it out!

Amazing 5th graders helped make the TDFO end-of-year reward carnival at San Cayetano a HUGE success!

Collecting food for those in need!

Taking care of the earth by recycling!

#4. Meaningful Awards

Throughout TDFO's 18 years, we have been humbled and honored with several Awards for our work and programs (see right). This year, we were very grateful to receive the Oxnard School District PTA Award for "Dedication & Service to Children." The Oxnard district has nearly 16,000 students at 18 elementary schools. All are Title 1 → 40+% of the students come from low-income families. (Most are well over 40%.) We share this and all the Awards over the years with YOU. The TDFO "Family" is what makes all of our work possible!

Paula (right) with other Oxnard Award recipients.

TDFO HONORS & AWARDS:

- CLiFFie Award – Excellence in Education
- NAWBO Bravo Award – Youth Advocate of the Year
- Congressional Recognition – Outstanding Service to Youth
- California State Senate & State Legislature Recognition – Service to Youth
- Love of God Award – Service to Youth
- CLVFF Award – Outstanding Community Service
- Golden Rule Award – Outstanding Community Service
- I'm Blessed Award – Outstanding Work With Children
- Oxnard School District – Dedication & Service to Children

You have made a difference in all our lives!
– Shannon Coletti, Principal, Rose Avenue School

#5. Our Notable Teacher Appreciation & Support!

We are dedicated to uplifting teachers... Uplifted teachers uplift children!

Teacher Appreciation Day!

While ALL teachers deserve special honors, the moment Paula walked on the Rose Avenue School campus for the first time last fall, she knew it was the school that should receive TDFO's Teacher Appreciation Day this year. The campus looked more like a jail than an uplifting learning environment, yet the staff was nothing less than amazing in their dedication to kids. Way to go, Rose Avenue!

*Happy teachers "shopped" at the *free* TDFO resource "store" we set up for them!*

Paula shared a wonderful program for all!

You are GREATLY appreciated. You gave us ALL such an uplift! May God bless you! - Mrs. Dominguez, teacher

Teacher Appreciation Gifts!

2009 once again brought joy to the many teachers whose classes we worked with. Each received a TDFO Teacher Appreciation Pack filled with needed classroom supplies!

Three of the grateful teachers!

Small Acts of Kindness!

It is true that a "small" act of kindness can change someone's day, even their life. At every opportunity, whether for a child or a teacher, we do our best to share the "little" things that can make the ultimate "big" difference.

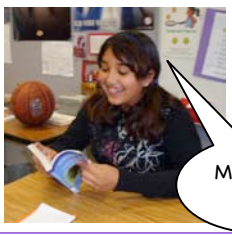
You were the shining light at the meeting!
- Jan Marholin, Principal

An appreciation cake brightened the day for the staff at a Fillmore school!

#6. TDFO's Positive Opportunity Funding & Resource Awards!

Our POFAs are simple yet meaningful ways of providing added teacher-requested classroom support and important opportunities that would not otherwise be available to far too many children. In 2009, over 30 classes received TDFO POFAs. To date, over 400 classes have received these special gifts! Just a few '09 examples:

Two 6th grade classes received student dictionaries! The kids can use them through college!



PE equipment - like jump ropes - is always a hit!

This Moorpark teacher was agog with a huge box of art supplies!

Math flash cards for each child in a 4th grade class brought smiles and learning support to all!

#7. TDFO's Celebrated Follow-Up Support!

TDFO Projects!

With money too often unavailable in school budgets for crucial growth elements like the arts, P.E., and simple fun, we are dedicated to meeting the needs for children. From art projects to Dream Boards to celebration days… Here are just a few 2009 highlights:

TDFO art projects help kids find their talents!

The TDFO "Dream Board" project helps kids envision their future!

"Lunch with Paula" – a popular reward!

An impromptu camera lesson!

Fun exercise at a TDFO school-wide service celebration!

I have to thank you a million times for all the art supplies. Without them I would be a couch potato.
– Katia, Oxnard, CA

Field Trips!

With school budgets being slashed, our field trip program has continued to be a blessing for many, many classes! Especially in less fortunate neighborhoods, it is crucial that kids are able to see beyond their surrounding blocks. In 2009, we provided field trip funding for over 250 kids in need! Some special moments from trips to The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library:

Shining stars getting ready to play actual White House staff roles!

Paula with a 5th grade class at the Air Force One Discovery Center!

PRIDE as kids took on the roles of the White House Press Corps!

The trip was a great opportunity to learn! Thank you! If you weren't here, we would be very bored.
– David, 5th grader, Port Hueneme, CA

Fun Packs!

Our Fun Pack program is a wonderfully successful mainstay of our follow-up support. Kids who need an extra boost complete and mail in a TDFO Fun Page based on what they learned and receive a TDFO self-esteem Fun Pack in the mail. Paula also personally writes back to each child. Nearly 1,000 Fun Packs have gone out so far in '09, and to date, 20,000+ kids have been reached in this special way.

Overjoyed with a Fun Pack "You Are Special" sticker!

College Prep & Support!

In addition to TDFO providing college scholarships and helping kids in need set up college savings accounts, Paula even attends as many elementary, high school, and college graduations as possible! Here, Carley Ryckman crosses the stage (from afar!) to receive her diploma!

Paula took this pix at the H.S. graduation of 3 TDFO teens (Kelsey Alexander, Kelsey Burns, & Carley) who with their families, have been TDFO volunteers for many years!

#8. YOU & Community Partners!

This has been a WONDERFUL, INCREDIBLE experience. Thank You!
– Cynthia Zipser, TDFO volunteer, Thousand Oaks, CA

YOU!

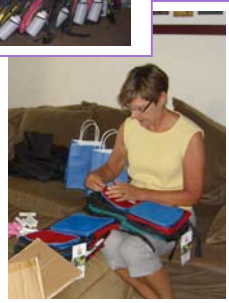
You, the individuals and families who contribute to TDFO, are the core of the "TDFO Family" that has made our work possible for 18 years! In addition to financial support, here are some other meaningful ways you have made an amazing difference in children's lives this year. Words are not enough to express our heartfelt gratitude and the meaning of your dedication to TDFO. We hope these pictures will help to share the joy you bring! Truly a million thanks!

Barb Hodsdon offered support in many classrooms!

Claudine Phillips donated bags of school supplies!

Kathy Bordner helped to make a Teacher Appreciation celebration extra special!

Judy Ryckman helped with Right Road T-shirt reward days!



Micah Rodriguez & Judy Thompson prepped backpacks!

Jennifer Weir donated tons of magazines for TDFO Dream Board projects!

Community Partners!

TDFO continues to grow by leaps and bounds, and as we put our hearts and souls into making our programs extra-ordinary for kids on a daily basis while developing new programs to meet ever-increasing youth needs, we are thankful beyond measure as well for our community business partners. Heartfelt thanks to these wonderful organizations that were of such tremendous support to our programs during the 2008–2009 school year:

Michael of Office Depot in Oxnard donated boxes of backpacks for Project Backpack!

Ladies flocked to help; Cookie Lee jewelry proceeds were donated to TDFO!

Paula w/Christy & Tracey of the Air Force One Discovery Center!

Our special partnership with The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library continued to blossom! In '09, the Reagan Foundation provided field trip bus funding for 5 TDFO classes!

I look forward to growing this partnership!
– Christy Chee, Director, AFODC at The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Advent Resources, Amgen, Jamba Juice, & Streamline... are some of the other organizations that also provided support!

And, Paula's husband, Mike Rodriguez, running this half marathon to raise funds for TDFO lead to THIS!...

Community Partners continued…

DCH Auto Group!

Tell TDFO and DCH that they are special, too!
– Danielle, age 9, Oxnard, CA

2008-2009 brought amazing blessings to TDFO and the children we work with. One of those blessings was the addition of our first major corporate sponsor to the TDFO Family… DCH Auto Group! 15 of DCH's 30 dealerships throughout Southern California and the East Coast sponsored Mike's race (see previous page), and from there, the four Oxnard DCH dealerships – Audi, Honda, Lexus, and Toyota – enthusiastically came on board to sponsor all of our work at Rose Avenue School in Oxnard. In addition to their financial support, 19 volunteers from the four dealerships volunteered a total of 75 hours! This extraordinary partnership has become a real model for how individuals, organizations, and communities can come together to successfully meet the esteem, character, and educational needs of children – and help them travel their right roads! Thank you, DCH Auto Group!

Thank you for allowing us to make a difference in children's lives! – Randall Holt, DCH Toyota of Oxnard

The whole Manager team from DCH Toyota of Oxnard helped at TDFO's Rose Avenue Teacher Appreciation Day!

DCH volunteers like Rose Siela of DCH Honda of Oxnard and…

…Christian Napoles of DCH Lexus of Oxnard provided awesome classroom support for Paula's TDFO programs!

You do amazing work (more amazing than words can describe). The looks on the faces of the children who came up to you and gave you hugs on our way to the car showed me first hand what a positive, memorable influence you and your program have. Thank you for doing what you do. The world is a better place.
– Chris Case, DCH Toyota of Oxnard & Simi Valley

I've been back at the dealership for a short time and yet have spoken multiple times to Rick (GM) about the wonderful things you do for the children and our community. He insisted that I contact you and offer our time and whatever else we can provide. We know how much children appreciate and benefit from your Dream! I look forward to assisting you again!
– Colleen Fairman, DCH Honda of Oxnard

DCH Team TDFO members bonded with the children right away at the year-end celebration carnival!

Paula & the DCH volunteers took time for a special moment with one of the 5th grade classes!

Steve Chapman, GM of DCH Toyota of Oxnard helped to build the kid's esteem!

Many of us work in situations where we don't get to see very real symbols of hope. Yet I was in Oxnard this week and got a chance to speak with a few of the employees that have been helping TDFO. Clearly TDFO is impacting and enriching their lives. Our partnership is blossoming in ways that I never imagined and I am thrilled. Our work with TDFO truly commits us to children for years to come. None of us can walk away from children that come to depend on us. I am sending a profound and heartfelt thank you.
– Susan Scarola, President/CEO, DCH Auto Group

George Yazbek (GM, Lexus), Steve Chapman (Toyota), Paula, and the Rose Ave. Principal & Outreach Liaison met in May to grow the awesome partnership!

Paula w/Steve Chapman, Shau-Wai Lam (DCH Chairman), Susan Scarola (DCH President/CEO) & TY Lai (DCH W. Coast COO) at the Audi grand opening, the 4th DCH dealership to join "Team TDFO"!

#9. RIGHT ROAD FOR KIDS!

The History!

From classroom programs… to assemblies… that inspire children of all ages, races, and backgrounds…

…from "You Are Special" autographs to…

…care and compassion for every child…

…for 18 years!

Paula has a calling and a gift for uplifting children. Her bond with them is undeniable and has been best described as an "Oprah Winfrey/Mr. Rogers" for elementary-aged kids. As we shared last year, at the request of teachers, parents, and kids alike, we set out on a mission to create a DVD series based on her extraordinary messages and way of connecting with kids – so even more children can be reached. Professionals came out of the woodwork to help, and last summer production began!

The Show!

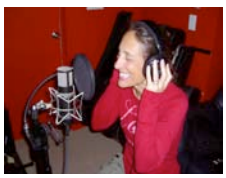
A core crew of seven – Paula, Jim O'Keeffe, Bill Stetz, JJ, Cori Hengst, Judy Thompson, and Cynthia Zipser – came together to volunteer their time, talents, and hearts to bring Episodes 1 & 2 of "Right Road For Kids!" to life. Filming took place at three Ventura County schools from November '08 – January '09. We are now in the editing process with the goal of having this very special program available in early '10. A few awesome highlights…

Paula brought TDFO love and joy to the kids!

The amazing crew stopped at nothing to capture the light and love!

Each episode focuses on a life lesson and brings it alive for kids in a multitude of ways! The TDFO focus remains the same… help each child know their specialness and find their Right Road!

The Music!



Paula recording vocals…

In spring '08, in a parking lot at an LA school, Paula quickly jotted down the melody and lyrics for a song that zoomed through her mind as she drove to work with kids that day. She recorded "Travel Your Right Road!" last summer and "Right Road For Kids!" was born! With amazing musical production support from TDFO friend David Noble and his studio, Paula is creating a soundtrack for the show with inspiring music for each episode! Many of the songs are already wonderful tools for TDFO school programs, too!

…David adding guitar tracks!

T-Shirts!

Another creative outlet from the show has been "Right Road" T-shirts! Kids earn their shirts by "traveling their Right Road" throughout the school year, and with fabric markers, add their own design touches to make their shirt a real treasure and inspiration! It has become a wonderful, new TDFO follow-up program!

The Right Road T!

Some of one school's T-shirt recipients!

#10. The Response!

Letters from Kids!

These are just a few of the letters and pictures we received this year from children. (See Page 10 for more!)

Dear Paula,
You should make DVDs so that kids all over the world can be inspired!
– Rogelio, age 10, Oxnard, CA

Dear Paula,
I've always thought positive things, but when somebody hurts me in my heart, I never talk. I never sleep and I barely eat. Until I heard your story and how it ended – with a DVD to help kids. And I thought to myself, "Things will be OK." You helped me know that. I hope that if ever you are feeling lonely, you think of all the kids you've helped and how much happiness you put into us, because you are amazing. I hope that if you feel down, you think of the things you've said that inspired everyone to give it everything they've got to climb that mountain of dreams. You are fantastic and I love how you love everybody and help everybody and I think that's better than a super hero. When you help somebody it makes ME get goose bumps. I bet everybody you have helped has a good job and a good life where everybody realizes their dreams because of you. I think my whole class will say the same thing, but this is from my heart. Thank you.
– Kyleigh, 4th grade (Kyleigh is in Episode 2 of "Right Road For Kids!")

Alexis, age 11, won an art show with this TDFO-inspired work!

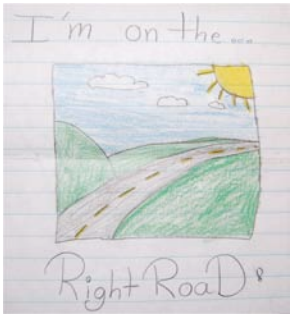
Dear Paula,
You're the most meaningful person. You have left a huge impression on me. We can change the world together!
– Tyler, age 12, Ventura County, CA

"BE YOURSELF"
by Jordyn Cruz, age 8

Be yourself in anyway you can.
In reading, writing, drawing, music.
On the yard and in the fields.
Work real hard. Just be yourself.
Don't copy anyone else's picture of life!
Draw out yours in your own way & style.
Just do your best!
YOUR best!

Dear Paula,
I really like being creative, but school never lets me do the things I'm good at. I'm thankful that you let me have time to share my talent.
– Christian, age 12, Ventura Co., CA

"I'm On the Right Road!" by Monica, age 11



Dear Paula,
Thank you for showing me how to live life. I know I was on the wrong road before you came along. Just little by little I had changed my attitude and my form of living. If it wasn't for you, I would have never even thought of doing the things I do now. Thank you for having such an impact on my life.
– Chavely, 6th grade, Oxnard, CA

Dear Paula,
I have had many assemblies before, but with you, it was the best ever. You definitely made learning FUN! You empower kids to follow their dreams. You make me want to reach the top of the mountain. Keep on encouraging kids around the globe!
– McKenzie, 5th grade, Camarillo, CA

Dear Paula,
You have taught me I have great talent. I will use it for the rest of my life!
– Joel, Los Angeles, CA

Dear Paula,
You helped me find the dreams I never knew I had. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you SO much.
– Karen, Oxnard, CA

Dear Paula,
You made me feel special and have encouraged me to live out my dreams, something I doubted that I could do. I have no doubt now. Thank you.
– Csammer, Ventura Co., CA

"Thank you so much!" by Valeria, age 9

Dear Paula,
You made my life bright.
– Dylan, 3rd grade, Calabasas, CA

Dear Paula,
Thank you for teaching us about respect. You really changed my life. Please go to the middle school.
– Kevyn, 6th grade, Ventura Co., CA

I liked when you were here. You taught us everything. – Arnold, 4th grade, CA

Dear Paula,
KEEP DOING WHAT YOU ARE DOING!
– Megan, Ventura Co., CA

Dear Paula,
Thank you for everything. I love you. I don't know what the world would be like without your help.
– Valerie, age 9, Ventura Co., CA

"Together We Can Change the World!" by Patricia, age 10

OVER... *for more smiles!*

#10. The Response!

These are just a few of the letters & messages we received this year from children, parents, public school teachers, and others touched by TDFO.

Letters from Kids!

Dear Paula,
I want to thank you because something clicked in my heart – how to be brave, how to feel special, and how to let out my talent. I want a promise. Will you promise me to teach more kids in the world? All the "blue" in my body is gone. So thank you. Please teach more kids.
– Edgar, 5th grade, Fillmore, CA

Dear Paula,
Thank you for helping me know that being in a gang is bad for me. Now I'm going to stop being in one. I really like all the things you do for children. You helped me learn a lot. I didn't trust anyone else other than my brother that is dead now. You have changed my life in a good way. Thank you so much!
– Gabee, 6th grade, Oxnard, CA

Dear Paula,
I'm thanking you because you are really helping my brother and I. Now we don't fight. I mean we used to fight A LOT! Can you visit my school more often so I can learn more?
– Ledia, 4th grade, Ventura County, CA

Dear Paula,
You are the most inspirational person I have ever met. You have taught me that no matter what has happened in my life, I can succeed. I've had a really bad childhood. When I was 8-9, I was in 2 foster homes. You have given me strength to do what I believe. Thank you.
– Norma, 6th grade, Oxnard, CA

Dear Paula,
I like you coming to our school because you make it better. I don't really know how to say this, but you make the world a better place. Thank you for everything you have done for us!
– Damaso, age 10, Fillmore, CA

Dear Paula,
You changed my life so, so much I can't even believe it. You will be in my soul and heart always.
– Julian, 4th grade, Oxnard, CA

Dear Paula,
My dad screams so loud it blows my head up like dynamite. You really have something to make me feel better.
– Pamela, 4th grade, Ventura Co., CA

Thank you so much for everything you have done for us. Honestly, you have changed my life and made sure there is no way it can turn into something bad. Your messages changed every person's life in this class. You are a great role model for every kid in the world!
– Evelyn, age 11, LA Co., CA

Dear Paula,
I feel like you put magic in my heart.
– Megan, 3rd grade, LA County, CA

I'm going on the right road all my life!
– Steven, 5th grade, Fillmore, CA

Dear Paula,
You should win the Nobel Peace prize.
– Jonny, 3rd grade, Calabasas, CA

Letters from Adults!

Dear Paula,
You came to my classroom last year. You did the most wonderful presentation of my 25 years of teaching. The kids talked about you ALL YEAR LONG. Can I get you to my room again this year? You are doing the most wonderful thing!
– Carol Lulow, Simi Valley, CA

Dear Paula,
I got a chance to observe you in my son's class. How inspiring! I was wondering if you might be available to be our featured assembly speaker. Thank you for your wonderful work!
– Lisa Hoffman, Calabasas, CA

Dear Paula,
Thank you so much! My son can NOT stop talking about your programs.
– Mrs. Cryder, Ventura County, CA

Dear Paula,
I've never seen ANYTHING like what you do before. It's amazing!
– Mrs. Marks, LA County, CA

Dear Paula,
We are so blessed to have you at our school. Thank you for ALL you do to make school special for our kids. You are amazing!
– Laura Rainey, Oxnard, CA

Dear Paula,
Yours was the best presentation I have ever been a part of. I am truly grateful for you and what you gave my class.
– Mrs. Martinez, Ventura County, CA

Dear Paula,
Thank you so much for working with my class. The children can't stop talking about it! You really hit home with them. It is so important for children to be inspired by adults. May God bless you and the work you are doing to inspire young people to follow their dreams and to truly reach for them!
– Heather Drucker, Ventura Co., CA

Dear Paula,
Thank you from the bottom of my heart and soul for the incredible mission you provide for all the kid's lives you touch. You are truly an angel sent from God. I am so blessed to have you in my life and in the lives of my students.
– Debbie Sims, Oak View, CA

Dear Paula!
Thank you for all you do for children. How lucky we are to have you here with us! What a difference if EVERY child could experience your enthusiasm. You are inspiring to ME! Are you returning next year?!
– Mrs. Alvarez-Lawson, So. Cal.

Dear Paula,
Every school needs a Paula and TDFO!
– Kim Lopez, Oxnard, CA

TDFO... *is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible. Our EIN # for your tax purposes is 77-0348808. Thank you so very much for your support.*