



## **HISTORY:**

In 2003 Ford Dimension Alumni along with the Jim Burke Education Foundation created a new leadership program for achieving high school seniors called *Dream Builders* that focuses on civic responsibility, life skills, and leadership development.

Its purpose is to share the value of civic responsibility as a lifetime commitment with students who have demonstrated a desire to make a difference in the community. Approximately 22 students are teamed with corporate sponsors and charged with developing a community service project. Additionally, they attend monthly meetings designed to develop leadership, character, communication and career building skills. Most of the meetings are combined with the Ford Dimension students.

Corporate team sponsors have included Aera Energy LLC, Castle & Cooke, Wells Fargo Bank, Kern School Federal Credit Union, American General Media, Bright House Networks, Mercy Hospital-Bakersfield, Bank of the Sierra and Rabobank. Over the past seven years these corporate-youth teams have developed service projects focusing on a variety of community needs. Without exception the students proved that given the opportunity and support they could not only create big dreams, but achieve them as well. The following is a partial list of past projects:

### **Team Projects 2006**

**Bright Futures Recycling:** Educating elementary students about recycling & B.A.R.C.

**Senior Fit Club-Fall Proof Project:** Students designed & taught a senior fitness class

**Family Free Day:** A day at the Bakersfield Museum of Art dedicated to families and art

**S.O.S.–Support Our Soldiers:** Over 3,000 student cards were sent to soldiers overseas.

### **Team Projects 2007**

**F.R.I.E.N.D.S:** Vignettes for students with autism

**Anti-G's:** Anti Gang and Graffiti awareness and art

**One Team, One Dream:** Every Fifteen Minutes Drinking & Driving Project

**Operation Home Front:** Students provided videos & support for troops and families

### **Team Projects 2008**

**Fit & Fun 4 Everyone:** An after school program to combat obesity and improve health

**Dear Hero:** A school assembly highlighting Veterans and their junior high pen-pals

**Coloring Our Community:** Children at the homeless shelter cut, color and paint with artists

**H.E.R.O.E.S.:** An interactive puppet show teaches children to stand up to bullies

### **Team Projects 2009**

**Share Your Sole:** Homeless shelter children received new shoes, mentoring and self esteem lessons

**Music For the Ages:** A series of musical performances for the elderly at retirement homes

**P.L.A.Y.:** A new outdoor play area for children with autism at the Lori Brock Learning Center

**S.T.A.M.P.:** Creating music from recycled for a school performance with a jungle theme.

### **Team Projects 2010**

**Healthy Choice Informants:** Children learned about healthy living and exercise by building a garden

**Art for Special Kids:** Deaf students learned to express themselves through art and music

**Junior Einstein Mad Scientists:** Hands on science projects helped spark interests in science careers.

**McDream Builders:** Raised awareness for the Ronald McDonald House throughout local hospitals.