



Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Justice Carolyn Wright, member of Hamilton Park UMC, Dallas, will be the keynote speaker at the Dare to Dream Children's Foundation breakfast Nov. 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center of Hillcrest Church in North Dallas.

Dare to Dream Children's Foundation is marking 17 years of reaching out to improve the lives of youth tragically separated from families. Since 1987, this ministry has influenced the lives of more than 15,000 young people housed in often difficult situations in group homes, shelters, detention facilities, and orphanages.

Dare to Dream founder, Jan Tennyson states, "My own personal struggle as a child raised in the unstable foster care system in New York City was the catalyst that ignited a passion in me to create Dare to Dream."

Both Justice Wright and Tennyson agree that youth coming out of the foster care system and the juvenile justice system are not prepared to enter the real world.

"The at-risk teens we work with are crippled because they have no idea what it means to be a healthy man or woman," Tennyson said. "They are roaming the streets of our city with no direction in life. The breakdown of family values, fatherless homes, and the drug culture has contributed to the sad moral fiber of our young people."

Tennyson emphasizes that Dare to Dream has stepped up to the front lines of this critical cause to combat the seemingly hopeless situation of the revolving door of youth detention centers. Enrichment sessions, role model mentors, recreational activities, and most of all, prayer, are the ingredients of what is happening right now to make a difference in the lives of these destitute youth.

Dare to Dream is planning to expand its territory and do more to be involved in the lives of the youth coming out of the foster care system, the youth on parole, as well as youth who just need a helping hand.

"We have a God-appointed task to assume the responsibility of equipping them to that end," said Tennyson. "These are the fathers and mothers of tomorrow. They are the hope of our next generation. They need to see role models in action. That puts the ball in my court – and in yours."

"We have a small window of opportunity to influence our youth in a positive way" stated Jan Tennyson. "Dare to Dream needs your help. Please take the time to educate, encourage, and mentor a youngster who could be a good parent, a teacher, a lawyer, or even the President of our nation."