



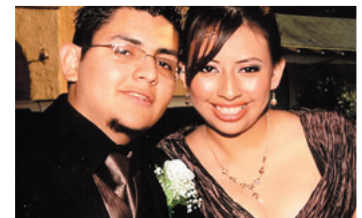
the Bessiemorris FOUNDATION

SPRING 2010

• E D U C A T E • I N S P I R E • E M P O W E R •

✧ PROM DREAMS COME TRUE ✧

DREAMS COME TRUE FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



About Us

The Bessie Morris Foundation is a Los Angeles County-based 501 (C) (3) organization founded in 2005 by Ivory Freeman in honor of her grandmother, Bessie Bernice Morris. The organization is dedicated to inspiring young women to realize their dreams by emphasizing the importance of academic performance, self-esteem, self-confidence and self-

sufficiency. The foundation offers leadership development training, health education, mentoring, personal development and character building programs to at-risk underprivileged high school girls.

Through its **Prom Dreams Program**, the Bessie Morris Foundation provides financial

assistance to low-income high school girls in attending their high school proms. This assistance is in the form of purchasing prom dresses, shoes, accessories, make-up, hairstyling, manicures, pedicures, prom tickets and pictures. Applicants must submit an essay, official transcripts, and school letters of recommendation.

*Special Message
from the
Founder/CEO
Ivory Freeman*



Thank you to everyone. We did it again, another incredible year! This year was full of so many blessings beyond my imagination and so many great possibilities for the near future. I never know how many young women we will be able to sponsor each year with a prom scholarship. This is why I am so grateful to each and every one of you for your generosity and your moral support. Because of you, we were able to sponsor six amazing ladies. In addition, we were able to donate five fabulous dresses to our adopted school for the year of 2009, Gutierrez High School, in the Los Angeles downtown area.



Bessie Morris

Bessie Morris was a single mother who raised 11 children. In addition she raised Ivory and five of her siblings until 1998, when she passed away. Bessie Morris was and continues to be an inspiration and blessing to Ivory. She taught her that if you work hard and believe in yourself, anything is possible. Ivory will be forever grateful for her love, her compassion, and her wisdom.

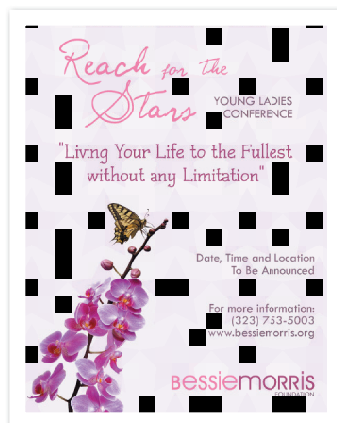


HONORS

Founder, Ivory Freeman, was recently honored by the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) America - Southern California Chapter and the law firm of Hogan & Hartson LLP. The setting was Sony Pictures Studio, where a "Salute to Women Who Inspire Us" reception was held. Along with renowned Chicana artist and muralist, Barbara Carrasco, Ivory Freeman was honored for the positive impact she has had on others and her "passion and desire to educate and empower today's young ladies."

Ivory has also been selected to receive the prestigious 2010 Bishop Blake Impact Award from West Angeles Church at their annual Law Day.

**REACH FOR THE STARS
CONFERENCE**



This conference for young women focuses on building self-esteem, goal setting, financial management and healthy living.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Financial support is urgently needed to continue the Bessie Morris Foundation Prom Night Dreams program. Any donation amount is greatly appreciated.

Please contact us about being a part of this incredible journey.

BESSIE MORRIS FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 3318
Gardena, CA 90247

Phone: (323) 753-5003

Website: www.bessiemorris.org

Prom Night Dreams 2009

The Bessie Morris Foundation's Fifth Annual Prom Night Dreams Program
was a wonderful success!
To all our recipients - We are proud of you!



Shaunice Faby

Dorsey High School

Now Attending:

Cal State University Los Angeles

*Sponsored In Loving Memory of
Ruth Ann Walker*



Anita Greaves

Dorsey High School

Now Attending:

Cal State Dominguez Hills
Sponsored by Snow Buster Ski Club



Akira Thomas

Firebaugh High School

Now Attending:

Cal State Los Angeles



Yasmin Guzman

Jefferson High School

Now Attending:

UC Santa Barbara



Jessica De Luna

Jefferson High School

Now Attending:

UC Santa Barbara



Eclasia Wesley

Gardena High School

Now Attending:

Southwest Community College

Congratulations to our Alumni Graduates

Tatiana McGlorthan - Loyola Marymount University Graduate June 2009
2005 Prom Dreams Recipient

Mercedes Cook - University of Southern California Graduate June 2009
2005 Prom Dreams Recipient



Thank You!

100 Positive Women Campaign and Mentor Program: Women Who Make a Difference in the Lives of Others



The 100 Positive Women Campaign has been a major part of the success of the Bessie Morris Foundation. This campaign was conceived in 2008 as a fundraiser to help with the Prom Dream Program and the Reach for the Stars Conference. The goal was to have one hundred women from the community donate \$70.00 to sponsor these programs. We are so pleased to announce that this campaign has been a major hit among these incredible women that have given and continue to give. We are so grateful for their sponsorship. This could not be possible without these phenomenal women in our community.

If you would like to be one of the 100 Positive Women, please contact us at (323) 753-5003.

Unsung Heros



The Bessie Morris Foundation would like to salute our Unsung Heros, Carl Edmonds, Sr. from Essenz Photography and Ray McCoy from [Dats Mac Productions](#). We are so thankful for these volunteers who always make time for the Foundation regardless of their busy schedules. These are amazing men that have committed themselves to their community and continue to make a difference in the lives of others.

David's Bridal - Torrance, CA

For the past few years the recipients of the Prom Dreams Program have been invited to shop for their dream dresses, shoes and accessories at David's Bridal in the city of Torrance. Each one of the young ladies is always treated like a princess. The Bessie Morris Foundation looks forward to a long lasting relationship with our friends at David's Bridal, Torrance.



Special Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors

**Brotherhood Crusade • Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) - So. California Chapter
Hogan & Hartson LLP • Snow Buster Ski Club • Black Probation Officers Association, Inc.
Southern California Edison**

If you would like to become a corporate sponsor, please contact us at (323) 753-5003.