

Prom Night Dreams 2007



Finalists from the Prom Night Dreams 2007 Program

Top Row: Latricia Thomas and Brittne Harris

Bottom Row: Tiffany Bell, Lauren Holmes, Dulce (Candy) Vargas, and Theresa Shaw

...an open letter

Dear Bessie Morris Foundation:

It seemed awkward to open up this letter with a "Hi, my name is...", seeing that we are all very much acquainted already, so I figured a "Thank you for everything" would be a tad more suitable. So, thank you..... for everything. Its not that often when teenagers like myself, run across people who are willing to spend their time and money for strangers, especially ones from low income areas- considering the bad reputation that this years generation has. Your generosity has truly been a lifesaver in these difficult times and from your website I can tell that you have a knack for fulfilling dreams.

I had so much fun at prom, actually it was the most fun I had all year. My transformation surprised everyone, from the teachers to my peers. They couldn't believe how pretty I looked, "I still can't believe its you" my government teacher told me Friday night, "You look gorgeous." I never thought I would hear that until my wedding day, since I hadn't planned on changing my appearance until then. And with all cockiness aside, I have to say that I was the light of the evening. Everybody was looking at me, I was the hot topic. People whispered as I walked past, just like in teenage drama movies but instead of spreading gossip, they were speaking of how wonderful I looked and who my mystery date was.

Recently I've committed to Alcorn State University, which is located in Mississippi. I plan to study journalism but I'm not sure what aspect yet. Actually I am leaving June 5th to go to my orientation on June 9th, so I might be gone by the time you get this letter. And while I am there, I will get the chance to pick my dorm room, so I am really excited.

Once again, thanks for everything.

With thanks,
Lauren Holmes

the Bessiemorris

FOUNDATION

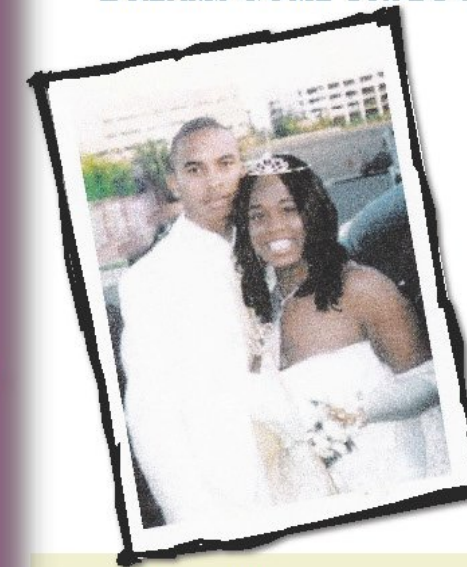
SPRING 2008

• EDUCATE • INSPIRE • EMPOWER •



* PROM NIGHT DREAMS *

DREAMS COME TRUE FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



Phenomenal Woman

~~~~~

"Now you understand  
Just why my head's not bowed  
I don't shout or jump about  
Or have to talk real loud.  
When you see me passing  
It ought to make you proud.  
I say.  
It's in the click of my heels,  
The bend of my hair,  
The palm of my hand,  
The need of my care,  
'Cause I'm a woman  
Phenomenally,  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me."

- Maya Angelou

### About Us

The Bessie Morris Foundation is a Los Angeles based non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring at-risk inner-city girls to realize their full potential in life.

The Foundation offers leadership training, scholarship assistance, and character building programs. A high emphasis is placed on academic performance and self-esteem.

Through its PROM DREAMS PROGRAM, the Foundation provides students with financial support to attend that all important night in a young girl's life - the SENIOR PROM!





## Thank You 2007 Sponsors!

Please show your support by patronizing our sponsors or by making a donation yourself.

The Bessie Morris Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

For your convenience, we now accept donations online (with a credit card or PayPal account) at [www.bessiemorris.org](http://www.bessiemorris.org).

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For more information about the  
Bessie Morris Foundation, please  
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visit our website at  
[www.bessiemorris.org](http://www.bessiemorris.org)

**Bessiemorris**  
FOUNDATION

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Gardena, CA 90247

## Special Message from the Founder



*"My grandmother, Bessie Morris, was a single mother who raised me and my siblings, along with her own 11 children. She was and continues to be an inspiration to me. She taught me that if you work hard and believe in yourself, anything is possible."*

-Ivory Freeman

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making the Prom Dreams Program a wonderful success. We had approximately 37 girls that applied last year from 15 different high schools in the Los Angeles area. We were only able to fund seven of these young ladies. We are now selecting applicants for 2008. Each applicant is required to submit an essay, letter of recommendation, high school transcripts validating a "C" average or better, and meet low-income criteria. It is our hope, and **our dream**, that generous donors will help us make 2008 Senior Prom a memorable one for as many young ladies as possible.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 100 POSITIVE WOMEN

### PROM DREAMS PROGRAM

### REACH FOR THE STARS



### 100 POSITIVE WOMEN

The Bessie Morris Foundation sponsors this annual fundraiser to raise money for its three main projects: the Prom

Dreams Program, Book Grants for College, and Reach for the Stars Young Ladies Conference. Each year the Foundation, which is run entirely on donations, looks for 100 women who will donate

\$70 each to fund these worthy events.

### PROM DREAMS PROGRAM



The Prom Dreams Program 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, accessories, make-up, hairstyling, transportation, prom tickets and pictures

### REACH FOR THE STARS

Coming in 2009, this conference for young women will focus on building self-esteem, goal setting, financial management and healthy living. Participants will spend the day with a trained professional from the community. The goal is to empower these young ladies to become whom they chose to be without any limitation; living their lives to the fullest.