

EVERY CHILD HAS A DREAM

By: Vicki K. Gibson

Every child born has a dream. Just because we may not know or understand or hear what that dream may be, does not mean that it does not exist.

"There are children who are born in our society, and all over the world, who have more challenges than others to make the dreams they carry inside of them a reality, and it is up to that same society to care and help bring those dreams and abilities to the fore front so that they can succeed in life, be productive, right along with everyone else," says Tedde Lotecki of the Einstein Challenged Society.

The Einstein Challenged Society was founded in Alberta, in 2008, by Tedde Lotecki, along with his wife Noralee Lotecki. They hope to soon expand internationally.

"My wife and I are involved in the Society because we believe that everyone has the right to lead an independent and productive life, under their own control. That does not happen right now for some who are 'challenged,' people such as those with Trisomy 21 (also known as Down Syndrome) can be dismissed as unable to do so. Many such children have gone on to graduate from University (5 in Alberta). But, some do not lead an independent life. We believe that all these children would have been, and are capable of going much further than currently believed, he says.

This is a very important goal for Tedde and his wife, as they have their own son's welfare to consider. They want to see appropriate education for all children, no matter what they may be challenged with; their own son certainly has ability above and beyond expectations. "He is doing very well in school and even got a 75% for his grade one studies! He is doing fine with grade two as well. He was helped by Nero Development work, in Alberta only available in Okotoks.

We need more places like this in every area of the world, so that all children can develop fully. Not just the ones 'labeled' as 'normal.'" Labels are dangerous things. Every child has the right to become all that they can be, and especially in North America where the resources are there to also make it a reality. Who knows, we may even discover another such great scientist such as Einstein in the ones who are challenged, and yes, he also had Trisomy 21 and



People with challenges in life can succeed as well as anyone else. Every child deserves that chance to make their dreams reality.

other such 'challenges'. It seems he did not see the 'table top' as such, but viewed it on its molecular and cellular level instead. Very impressive!

There is a lot at stake in our world when we pass over those who are challenged and place restrictions on them. We can deprive them of being all they are capable of becoming, thus limiting their own contribution to society, as well as their freedoms. Many have made a huge difference by just being involved! I have known those who have made all the difference in the world around them, and they want nothing more than to belong and contribute, just as others do.

"I am not here to lead a society and tell those who are challenged what to do. Far from it. I want to get things in place, and then find the person(s), who have these challenges and desires to help others, to take it over and lead the way! I want the world to see what people with such challenges can do for themselves, so that all the labels we put on people can be erased! This can happen. I believe all schools can graduate children with challenges and that they can go on to lead productive and happy lives. It takes a dream and commitments, but, it is not impossible!" Tedde says with conviction.

If you have a child who is challenged in any way, please visit the web site and see the special information there for you to discover. It may help you to know where to go, and how to help your child gain what they need to succeed in life. And you never know, like Tedde's goal for his son, you may even see them accepted into University.

"Our son was given acceptance at the age of 3. If he can make it to grade 12, and pass the tests on his own, he will be going to University. I am just thrilled for him, and I know he can make it, one day at a time."

No child need be stuck in any box or labeled 'unable to do'. It does take work and devotion, but, every human being is worth that effort. I have seen first hand what happens to children 'left behind' and those who are aided along the way, and the productive life they lead today. Helping the system change is not going to happen over night, but taking the steps to rethink how life can be better for all, will make the changes needed a reality, not just a 'dream'. You can visit the web site at <http://www.einsteinchallengedsociety.org> and find out how you might help make that dream a reality too.