

Jay Blake  
Founder & President

*"... With Jays encouragement, I completed high school and am now working in the automotive industry. ... While I sometimes get frustrated, I think about Jay and instead of giving up, I challenge myself to learn from the experience and see how far I can push myself to accomplish my goals".*

– Joe

June 2007

Dear Friend,

That's what Joe wrote to me after I finished my "Tools for Life's Success" presentation at the Cape Cod Regional Tech recently. I made a difference to him and with your help, I can continue!

My name is Jay Blake, Founder and President of Follow A Dream, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching others about the power of positive thinking, self-determination, and teamwork through our "Tools for Life's Success" educational presentations, using NHRA drag racing and my Dream Car as key elements.

In May 1997, I was involved in a terrible industrial accident that left me totally blind and without any sense of smell or taste. During an aggressive and often painful rehabilitation regimen, I began to realize how truly fortunate I was. Given a second chance at life, I resolved to follow my dream of owning and managing a professional auto-racing team. Today, I am the only totally blind crew chief and team owner in the world of motor sports.

Once people heard my story, they began asking me to speak to others about my experience. The enthusiastic responses I received from my first few audiences of troubled teenagers and disabled children convinced me not only that others were interested in my story, but that my story inspires and challenges students and faculty to follow their dreams and reach a greater level of success and achievement within their own lives.

This year, it's my dream to introduce the "Tools for Life's Success" locally and visit every middle and high school on Cape Cod and the Islands, just like I did recently at D-Y High School (see reverse). I'd like to reach and teach even more children to work towards their goals. But, I need your help!

I must raise at least \$30,000 to bring the Follow A Dream message to every child on Cape Cod and the Islands, beginning with every high school. Will you please consider a donation of \$25, \$50 or perhaps even \$100 today? It makes a world of difference to children like Joe.

Thank you for helping more children achieve their goals and dreams!

Sincerely yours,

Jay Blake

P.S. If you know of someone, or a group of children, who might benefit from the "Tools for Life's Success" story, please indicate this on the reply envelope enclosed. Thank you for your support!

# Master motivator

## Jay Blake pushes D-Y students to follow their dreams

By Nicole Muller  
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"We all have some kind of disability—your family is broken, you don't have enough money, you're learning impaired—whatever it is, you aren't responsible. But you're responsible for what you do about it," Jay Blake told Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School freshmen and sophomores at last week's Career Day.

A victim of a catastrophic industrial accident in 1997 that took both his eyes and his senses of smell and taste, Blake, of Marstons Mills, speaks from experience. At the time of his accident 10 years ago, Blake was 31, married with two children and employed as head mechanic of a Hyannis-based transportation company. Four years later, he was divorced, had learned to live life as a

blind man and was founder and crew chief of his own company, Follow a Dream, Inc.

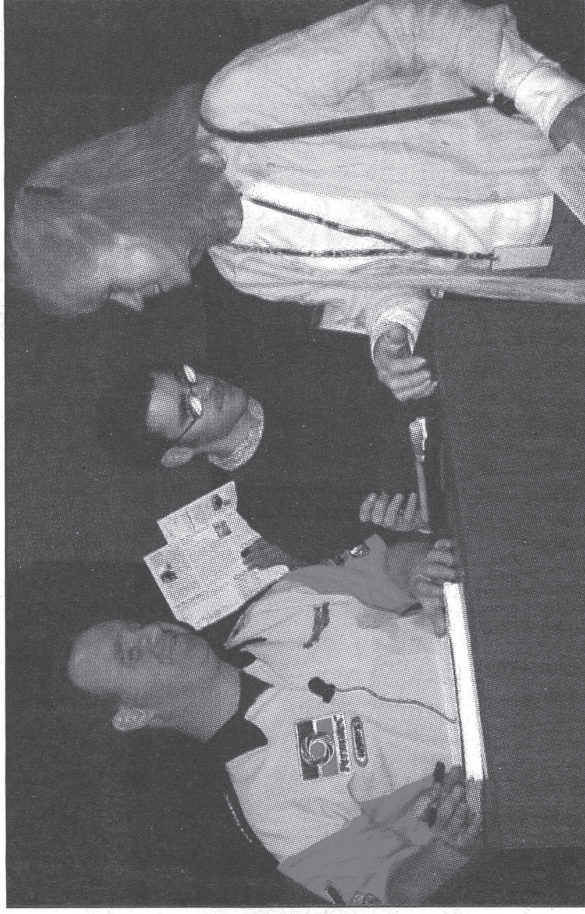
Since then, Blake has moved from a gold and black dragster to a carbon-fiber, methanol-powered Funny Car. "In order to grow Follow a Dream, I had to step up to purchasing the Funny Car," Blake said. "I've taken risks and gone into debt to get Follow a Dream to where it is today. But it is my dream, and I mean to live it. I will never be able to watch my car race, but I am experiencing all the joy that its success brings. I get such a kick out of sharing my experience, like I'm doing today."

Fully engaged in Blake's story, students listened intently as he shared his pain and triumph. To a student who asked if he'd always been so determined, Blake said his determination has tripled since his accident. "I'm so lucky to be

alive, it's not funny," he said. "Whatever the challenge, I go for it. What's the worst that can happen? Have an accident? I've already been there."

Stressing the importance of constantly creating new dreams to fulfill, Blake said he dreams of owning a "nitro car" a dragster that runs on nitro methane. "We're working on that and a couple of more dreams," he said. "It's amazing what we can accomplish if we put our minds to it."

Asked by Shaun Coughlan, who like Blake, is blind, what he would tell someone with a disability, Blake shot back, "You can do it, too. We've all got stuff that can hold us back if we let it. I could have chosen to sit home, poor Jay, crying in my cereal for the rest of my life. People would find that easy to understand. I had to make the choice that we all, ultimately, have to make. Don't



Jay Blake, left, is introduced by teacher Jeanne Stokinger on his Career Day presentation at D-Y High School. With Blake is sophomore Shaun Coughlan who, like Blake, is blind.

Staff photo by Nicole Muller

limit your potential. It takes teamwork to succeed, so don't try to do it alone. I can't see, and people are there to help me. People without physical disabilities need help too. Just ask."

Blake said the hardest thing for him is not being able to drive. "It drives me absolutely

I've ever heard. One of my dreams is to build my own computer, with no assistance whatsoever." Blake encouraged Coughlan to pursue the dream, but to ask for help when he needs it. "Don't be afraid," he told the young man.



381 Old Falmouth Road  
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# ***Proving The Power of Positive Thinking and Self-Determination***

— Jay Blake, Founder and President, Follow A Dream, Inc.

“I want to reach all kids on Cape Cod and the Islands to inspire them to follow their dream. I know this program works and I'd like to share this with them.”

— Student at Dennis-Yarmouth High School

“Thank you for giving your speech. I will never give up on my dreams. You've inspired me to keep believing in what I want to do in my life.”



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YOUR  
STAMP  
HERE

*Thank You!*

***Follow A Dream, Inc.  
381 Old Falmouth Road  
Marstons Mills, MA 02648***

***Yes, Jay!*** I'll support Follow A Dream to help spread the message of positive thinking and self-determination. Here is my tax-deductible gift of:

- \$25             \$50             \$100             \$250             \$500  
 \$1,000         \$5,000         Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me. I know someone who could benefit from your "Tools of Life's Success" story.

*All donations are tax-deductible for those who itemize.*

*Follow A Dream, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, registered with the Massachusetts Attorney General, under number 04-3494320.*

***Thank You for Your Support!***

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***Follow A Dream, Inc.***

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