



street school

2005 Annual Report

The Alternative
School of Choice



Table of Contents

2	Board President and Executive Director Letter
4 - 17	The Street School Program
9	Student Testimonial
12	Student Testimonial
13	Student Testimonial
16	Student Testimonial
19	Contributors
20	In-Kind Donors
21	Revenue and Expenses
22	Volunteers and Staff

Dear Friends,

Street School, Inc. has a history of providing an exemplary dropout prevention, intervention and recovery program to the Tulsa community. It was recently recognized with the national 2004 Crystal Star of Excellence Award by the National Dropout Prevention Network for excellence in dropout prevention. What began 33 years ago as a volunteer community effort trying to meet the needs of the teenagers who were just “hanging out on the streets,” has grown into a local, state and national model for alternative education.

Through both private and public partnerships, Street School has become Oklahoma’s longest running, most unique and highly successful alternative education program. Our partnership with Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) is rather extraordinary. Although TPS offers services for their at-risk population, the district appreciates and recognizes Street School’s specialized services and provides Street School with in-kind support including accreditation.

Other partners include the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services who has certified Street School as a drug and alcohol treatment program to meet the needs of students with substance abuse issues. The Tulsa Area United Way, the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Office of Juvenile Affairs complete our list of major funders. Because of our 501 (c)(3) non-profit status, private and public monies are relied on to continue providing services.

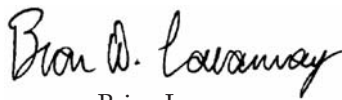
Street School serves an average of 157 students each year with a maximum of ninety students enrolled on a daily basis. Keeping the size of our classes small is important as we maintain small student to teacher and student to counselor ratios. A class size of approximately 13 students enables faculty to provide the personalized attention students need to succeed.

Counseling has always been a critical part of the program. The founders realized that if the student's personal and emotional problems were not addressed, then the ability to focus on academics could continue to be affected. Students meet regularly with the six full-time counselors for individual and group psychotherapy. Family counseling is offered continuously as needed, and a parent support group is offered each month.

Outreach services are integral to the success and uniqueness of the program. Students participate in numerous activities to increase or to develop their intrinsic satisfaction. Key Club, Leadership Class, Student Voices, and the HIV/AIDS Pregnancy Prevention Program Group are among the volunteer opportunities provided to students as a way for them to learn the value of giving back to the community and making a positive difference.

Street School doesn't end at graduation for our students. Counselors follow up with students for three years after they leave the program, tracking their success. Many students also benefit from our scholarship program continuing their education at local colleges, universities and trade schools. For example, of the 38 class of 2005 graduates, 30 continued on to college with 22 of them receiving Street School scholarships made possible by The Mervin Bovaird Foundation.

Street School is a school-of-choice model program meeting the needs of at-risk high school students in 9th through 12th grades through a myriad of services that occur daily for students and their families. Street School continues to be recommended to others as an effective model for alternative education and one that has proven to be successful through our outcomes. Street School is proud to be known as Oklahoma's landmark alternative education program.



Brian Lavarney
President



Dr. Lori McGinnis
Executive Director



Programs

street**school** is

Street School is a private non-profit alternative school of choice and therapeutic counseling program. Our mission is to create a supportive community for students who have chosen to continue their education in a non-traditional setting. Our comprehensive and individualized services enable students to reach their own potential and become responsible and productive adults. This annual report reflects the 2004 - 2005 school year and our July 1 to June 30 fiscal year.

A school of choice means that students choose Street School as their high school and go through an application process for admittance. Our tuition free school is an attractive setting for students who are committed not only to their education, but also to resolving substance-abuse problems, learning and practicing life skills, dealing with behavioral issues or filling a void of education and emotional support traditionally provided by family.

Street School students are not attending traditional schools because of academic deficiencies, behavioral and emotional issues, and pregnancy and/or parenting responsibilities. Despite all the different reasons youth come to Street School, they all have something in common. Their needs and responsibilities have not been met through traditional public education.

From the 2000 U. S. Census, we know that one out of every ten students drops out of school beginning at age 13 or the eighth grade in the Tulsa Metropolitan Statistical Area. This translates to over 4,800 youth. The impact of students dropping out of school affects everyone in many ways. Students who complete their high school education are more employable, earn higher salaries, increase tax revenues, lower welfare costs, reduce public health care costs and lower incarceration rates. We also know that high school dropouts account for 68% of the state jail population, and that for every 1,000 students that are prevented from dropping out of school, there is a lifetime government savings of \$81 million dollars.

The Street School program is special and unique in how it addresses dropout prevention, intervention and recovery by turning students around and moving them in a positive

direction. We have a brain based approach to learning, and counseling has always been an integral part of the program. Our school is structured with a low student-to-counselor ratio of 15:1 with six counselors, and a low student-to-teacher ratio of approximately 12:1 with eight teachers creating a smaller family type atmosphere where students feel like they “belong.” Our comprehensive and individualized services are designed to enable students to reach their own potential and become responsible, productive adults. Our program has an average of 90 students and focuses on the whole person, which makes Street School a great place to earn a high school diploma.

Our program provides a number of services which include:

- High school education
- Individual treatment plans
- Individual counseling
- Group counseling
- Family counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Case management
- Parent support groups
- Parenting classes
- Career development
- Life skills education
- Higher education scholarships
- Job readiness
- Recreational services
- Substance abuse screening
- Substance abuse treatment
- Health services
- Court advocacy
- First Offender Program
- Community outreach
- Recreational therapy
- Testing and referral
- Mentoring
- Student follow-up
- College preparation

Street School's program generates significant results. The Oklahoma Technical Assistance Center (OTAC), which is a research based facility that possesses the most current research regarding students in alternative education programs in the country, evaluates our program yearly. OTAC is the agency chosen by the Oklahoma legislature to evaluate and to provide technical assistance to the state's alternative education programs. Their report is recorded and provided to the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Oklahoma State Legislature.

It should be noted that the success of the Street School program was consistent based on numerous years of OTAC evaluations. Street School achieved exemplary ratings on 9 of the 17 criteria mandated by state law, and met all the requirements on the remaining 8 criteria. The key points of the most recent evaluation are highlighted:

- Grade point averages increased by more than one and a half full letter grade
- Students significantly passed more courses
- Absenteeism improved by 59%
- Reading, math, language, and composite TABE scores increased
- Program validity was indicated by the increase in grade point averages and test scores
- Dropout rate was 7% compared to the state average of 11%
- Suspension rate was .7% compared to state average 2.6%
- Since entering Street School, 86% of students reported getting along better with their families
- Since entering Street School, 86% of students reported getting along better with school peers
- 87% of students reported that Street School has had a positive impact on their life
- 98% of students reported that they would recommend Street School to other teenagers

Three-year follow-up surveys were another unique aspect of the Street School program. Staff conducted these surveys yearly with students who attended the program during the previous three years. Street School's success was also measured by what students do after they leave the program. Based on these surveys, approximately 90% of students completed their high school education, 25% of all of the graduates continued their education, and 76% obtained employment. The surveys also provided a continuous connection with former students to the program because staff members put forth the effort to contact each individual and talk with them about "life after Street School."

Street School alumni continue to be contributing members of our community. Indeed, Street School's scholarship program helped students once at risk of dropping out of high school continue their education at colleges, universities and technical schools. Of the 38 class of 2005 graduates, 30 of them continued on to higher education. Because of our partnership with The Mervin Bovaird Foundation, we granted post secondary education scholarships to our graduates. A total of 32 students received grants. The Mervin Bovaird Foundation's generous donations over the last 20 years has enabled hundreds of students to continue their education. Students who once could not visualize graduating from high school have realized their dream of a college education.

Our post secondary scholarships were just one example of how Street School continued to be a model alternative education and counseling program. Another was the recognition bestowed upon the program. Our 2005 school year was filled with national, state and local awards for the school and faculty. The National Dropout Prevention Network recognized Street School with the 2004 Crystal Star of Excellence Award for our dropout prevention, intervention and recovery program. Dr. Lori McGinnis, Street School executive director, received the 2005 Steven Cowden Advocate Award by the Oklahoma Alternative Education Association for her efforts as an exemplary advocate for alternative education. Kim Camp, Life Skills teacher, received the MetLife Foundation Ambassadors in Education Award which recognized and honored outstanding teachers who make extraordinary efforts to improve their school and their schools' relationships with the community.

With Street School's community partners, we form a family. Each year, our "family" holds a Thanksgiving dinner, which was made possible through the donations from board members, grocery stores, other private companies and Street School staff. Our 23rd annual Street School Thanksgiving Dinner was held for Street School students and their families, our volunteers and supporters. Street School board members and staff served almost 200 guests a complimentary Thanksgiving dinner complete with everything from turkey and stuffing to pumpkin pie. This tradition is an excellent example of how Street School is a unique and exceptional community made up of individuals dedicated to providing the best alternative school program possible.

I chose to come to Street School because I had a bad addiction to powdered substances. I hated a lot of the people at my old school, and I had major issues with my classes. I really enjoy Street School, because there is a lot more one on one with the teachers and they all treat you like family.

After being here, I have realized what a lot of my problems are and who I really am. The students and faculty here have helped me stay away from my addictions and my friends support my choices. Now I think a lot more clearly on issues and have no problem with being slightly nervous, or forget what I was discussing when talking to a large group. Once I graduate I plan on going to college to study diseases and train to be a massage therapist. Before I came here, I only wanted to do jobs that most would call crazy.

I recommend this school to anyone that has problems with public schools, because this is more of a learning environment and the outdoors is our classroom. Everyone tries to get to know you rather than just seeing you as another body occupying a seat. It's a good school for people that have issues with staying in school due to drugs, because it helps you realize how much easier it is to function in life without them.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion as your support is needed to help me and others that have similar problems to stay in school and succeed in life rather than being a screwed up dropout going no where.

Sincerely,
Kiva

Street School Student 2005

Education

Street School was created as a school of choice for at-risk high school youth who have dropped out of school, or who were considered potential dropouts. Students attended school to earn academic and elective credit towards the completion of their high school diploma. We provided education and counseling services to students in the Tulsa Public School District. Among the many services provided, several specific programs are noted below including our student groups, HIV/AIDS Pregnancy Prevention Program Group, Mentoring Program, and the First-Offender Program are highlighted.

Street School services span far beyond the student body and reached more than 10,000 families in northeast Oklahoma through student participation in numerous school-sponsored activities which included: Key Club, Music Appreciation, Leadership Class, and Student Voices. Our community outreach activities were designed to instill intrinsic satisfaction in each student and taught them the importance of contributing to the community while providing valuable community services. Groups who directly benefited included the Tulsa Area Food Bank, Day Center for the Homeless, Hoover Elementary School, Emergency Infant Services, Tulsa Global Alliance, Angel Tree program, and the Little Light House.

This was the first year for the student internship program, which lasted six weeks. A total of 11 companies hosted 13 students. One participating student said, “This was a wonderful experience that every school should have because you learn real life skills you will use after graduation.” “Dress for Success” was an important part of this learning experience, and to make that possible corporate friends Williams and the Canada Company came through. Williams led the effort with a company clothes drive, and the Canada Company donated money for students to purchase needed professional attire. With the help of their teacher, all 13 students were able to purchase career clothes and a pair of shoes. Internship sponsoring companies were: Day Schools, OMNI Medical Group, Light House Hospice, Williams, DVIS, Tulsa Packing Specialist, McGraw Davisson Stewart Realtors, Eastern Oklahoma Orthopedic Center, HiCorp, Mental Health Association, and Lamar Advertising.

Street School emphasized using the world as our classroom to educate students and this year, Ryan Henry Street School science teacher, started Wilderness Adventures. Because he believed in learning about the environment by being a part of it, he took students on eight Wilderness Adventures, which challenged them physically, emotionally and intellectually. These adventures provided excellent teachable moments where the lessons from the classroom came to life in the real world. Henry said, “We know that teenagers learn and grow from the challenges they face. For many of our students, our Wilderness Adventures program provided challenges our students might not otherwise have had the opportunity to experience.” Field trips included canoeing, camping, rock climbing, mountain biking, orienteering, and a ropes course. Along with the science taught, these outings enabled students to learn valuable life skills. Common objectives included accepting challenges, respect, building self esteem, communication skills, leadership skills, and team work for both personal and social growth.

Through a grant from the Employees Community Fund of Boeing Tulsa, Street School purchased and implemented the Focus On Reading program this year. Wanting to improve the reading skills and comprehension of our students, Donna Shelton, Street School resource teacher, implemented this program, which has demonstrated results as an effective supplemental instruction program designed to transition struggling readers to proficient readers. This outcome based program has differentiated instruction in reading comprehension, vocabulary, English language skills, and study skills created for students to complete independently. This program was designed to help older students catch up quickly and master reading and comprehension skills. Within the first four weeks of using the program, two students increased their reading level by two grades.

Through a grant from Children’s Medical Charities Association, Street School placed water coolers in each classroom. The purpose of this project was to provide students with a healthy alternative to soft drinks, and a healthy way to hydrate the body which is necessary for learning. Properly hydrated students will learn more efficiently, which results in better grades. Students would also lessen their likelihood of obesity and dental problems by drinking water rather than soft drinks.

What I like most about Street School is that there is a lot of help if needed. It is also a quick way to earn credits toward graduation.

I came to Street School because I wasn't doing well in other High Schools. I just wasn't trying. I had F's in all of my seven classes. I knew I could do the work but I just wasn't motivated. But now I'm different. Thanks to Street School, I have been more motivated in my school work and I have opened up more to people. When I first got to Street School, people thought I was weird because I didn't talk to anyone. Now I am different in the way I talk to people and in the way I work.

After I graduate I plan on taking some TCC classes and go to a University from there. I recommend Street School to other kids because if they think their graduation is hopeless, come to Street School. It has probably been the best decision I have ever made.

Sincerely,
Tyler

Street School Student 2005

I like Street School because it has a fun, safe and friendly atmosphere. The work is easy to understand and if you need help the teachers are always there. The counselors are like your best friends and they help you to set goals and accomplish them.

I came to Street School because I needed help with school work and I needed to feel safe. At my old school I was in fear on a daily basis which is why I missed so much school. I didn't understand the work and since there were so many kids I never got the help I needed.

Street School has helped me get the credits I need to graduate and the self confidence to continue with my goals no matter how big. It has changed my life from bad to good. I don't run away or cut myself anymore. I now believe that I can do what I set my mind to.

After Street School I plan to go to college at TCC then transfer to a university where I will study science or photography.

I recommend Street School to other teens because they can make it if they have others believing in them and they believe in themselves. Street School will show them that there is an alternative to dropping out.

Sincerely,
Laura

Street School Student 2005

Thirty Street School students participated in a speech contest sponsored by Tulsa Rotary International. Students wrote and presented five-minute persuasive speeches based on the Rotary's Four-Way Test. Speech topics included abortion, celibacy, role models and anti-gangs. After completing a round of initial judging at Street School, students presented at a Rotary club meeting before a panel of judges. The student who won first place spoke on living right. Runners-up topics were prescription drug abuse and the teen curfew.

Eight students were published in the Tulsa Community College *Outside the Lines Creative Writing Anthology* as a result of winning the poetry competition sponsored by TCC. One of the students won third place in the city-wide competition. Another student won second place in the city-wide creative writing contest.

In Street School's HIV/AIDS Pregnancy Prevention Program Group, students were trained and certified as peer educators through the American Red Cross. Street School students were taught how to speak to their peers, and they made community presentations about pregnancy prevention, and raising awareness of HIV, AIDS, STDs, abstinence and the need for young people to practice safe sex if they are having sex. This past year, 13 students made presentations on Fridays to a total of 375 youth in alternative programs, youth shelters, group homes and public schools.

Community volunteers who served as mentors played a significant role in a young person's life. A Street School Mentor is a trusted person who is not a surrogate parent, but rather a friend who is directing and modeling leadership and community involvement; and a person with a positive attitude who strives to motivate and nurture self-esteem within the student. Many mentors came to us through our partnership with Will Rogers United Methodist church. They received training through the "Going to Bat for Tulsa Kids" program organized through Tulsa Public Schools. This year, 32 individuals served as mentors for 37 mentees for one hour each week.

Volunteers from the Tulsa Junior League received training through the "Parents As Teachers" program, and they brought that information to the pregnant and parenting teens who attended Street School. Each month this dedicated group of women met with students for information sessions that would serve to strengthen the teen's parenting skills. The

group also offered support for teens through mentoring and by providing children's clothing and other baby necessities.

The purpose of the Street School First Offender program was to enable individuals to resolve conflicts positively; assume responsibility and realize consequences for their actions; and to gain a clear understanding and insight into peer pressure and impulsive behavior. Students who participated in this program were identified by law enforcement or the courts as having committed acts that did not warrant adjudication, but required intervention with a focus on preventing future offenses. This year, 97% of the youth that participated in the program successfully completed it. Measures were also taken to address the growing Hispanic population. Both an interpreter and a Hispanic Tulsa police officer joined the program so that students and their families better understood the laws affecting juveniles.

Counseling

Academics can quickly become secondary to our students due to life situations beyond their control. Counseling has always been a critical part of the Street School program. The founders realized that if the student's personal and emotional problems were not addressed, then the ability to focus on academics could continue to be affected. Counselors met with their respective students daily to determine if any student had immediate needs that needed to be addressed. Students met regularly with the six full-time counselors for crisis intervention, individual and group psychotherapy and participated in up to four group counseling sessions each week. Family counseling was offered continuously as needed, and a parent support group was offered each month. Students and families placed on our waiting list were offered individual and/or family counseling.

Counselors led several groups to meet the different needs of the students. These groups included: women's issues (designed for our female students who have been in abusive situations), recreation (students participate in and learn about leadership, team work and healthy activities), drug/alcohol support (assisted students to remain clean and sober), drug/alcohol information (designed for students attempting to become clean and sober), HIV/AIDS Pregnancy Prevention Program Group (American Red Cross trained students presented information to Street School students and to other at-risk youth), and anger management

The thing I like most about Street School is that the teachers are all real cool and understanding. The students are real cool, and no one shoots me an attitude. Most of them have been through the same things, so it is easy for me to open up and be myself. I came to Street School because I needed to put my life back in check and get my high school diploma. Before coming to Street School, I went to court for armed robbery, jay-walking, resisting arrest, possession and assault and battery, etc. I felt like my life couldn't change and this was my destiny. However after talking to someone at Street School, I realized I could do it. I just had to change some things, pick better friends and stay focused.

Street School has kept me out of jail and off the streets. It has helped me find my inner me and kept me focused on being business minded. I am starting a real estate business with my wife. We actually have a rent house. After I get out of school, I plan to go to culinary school and be the chef in my own restaurant. I recommend Street School to other teens, it is a great opportunity to succeed. If kids have a hard time in Public Schools, or have drug abuse in their home, come to Street School.

Thank you to Suzanne, Wilton and Pat for squeezing me in this school even though it was pretty full. Thank you all for your support!

Sincerely,
Mario

Street School Student 2005

(assisted students in conflict resolution techniques). The severity of a teenager's problem is not known until sufficient time is spent in counseling. Problems frequently surfaced at this school which had been virtually unaddressed in public schools or the student's home. Many of the parents and families of these youth were in need of being linked with essential community social service resources. The counselors attempted to impact the entire family system in order to help reduce problematic behavior.

This past year, students rated their satisfaction with the Street School counseling program as follows: (scale is from 1 to 5 with 1 being completely unsatisfied and 5 being completely satisfied)

- 4.7 The counselor was on time and kept appointment
- 4.8 I was involved in my treatment plan
- 4.8 I felt my concerns were handled in a confidential way
- 4.8 I have benefited from the services received

Looking ahead

The future looks bright as many improvements secured in 2005 will be in place in 2006. Through the generosity of foundations, corporations, and private partners, the following is planned:

- 40 new classroom computers, along with printers, copiers and furniture will be in place
- a new 14 passenger Mini-Bus for student field trips, Wilderness Adventures, and community service will be purchased
- a new reference library complete with state of the art materials will be built
- creation of a Street School public relations video
- central heat and air conditioning will replace window air conditions and steam heat radiators

The Street School Rocks! Open House is a great opportunity for volunteers and supporters to see the school in action; meet teachers, counselors and students; tour the school and see the improvements. You are welcome to join us. Please contact Street School at 833-9800 or visit our website at www.streetschool.org for more information.



Contributors

2004–2005 Street School Partners

American Red Cross
 Berrywood Group
 Community Service Council
 Day Center for the Homeless
 Day Schools
 Domestic Violence
 Intervention Services
 Eastern Oklahoma Orthopedic Center
 Emergency Infant Services
 HiCorp
 Hoover Elementary School
 The Junior League of Tulsa
 Key Club
 Lamar Advertising
 Light House Hospice
 Little Lighthouse
 McGraw Davison Stewart Realtors
 Mental Health Association
 Oklahoma State University - Tulsa
 Oklahoma University Medical Services
 OMNI Medical Group
 Open Arms Youth Project
 Parents as Teachers
 Rotary International
 Tulsa Area Food Bank
 The Tulsa Ballet
 Tulsa Community College
 Tulsa Global Alliance
 Tulsa Opera
 Tulsa Packaging Specialist
 Tulsa Technology Center
 Will Rogers United Methodist Church
 Williams Companies

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C. W. Titus Foundation
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WalMart Foundation
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Susan Witt Ludeman
Paul J. Woodul
The Anne and Henry Zarrow
Foundation
Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family
Foundation
The Zarrow Families Foundation
John Steele Zink Foundation

2004–2005
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In-kind donors

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Addison Staffing
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Avis Rent-a-Car
Bed Bath & Beyond
Best Buy #762
Best Light Photography
The Bistro at Seville
Rachel Blue & Tom Vincent
Bodean's Seafood

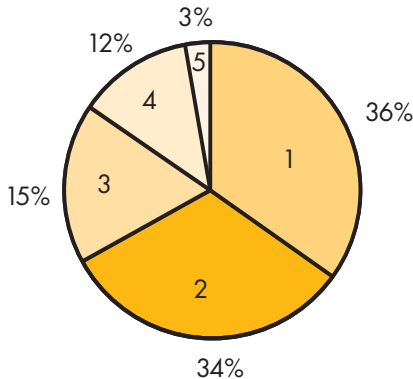
Debbie Branch
Cafe Ole
Camille's Sidewalk Café
CITGO Petroleum Corporation
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Cookies by Design
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Cypress Avenue Salon
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Tulsa Public Schools
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Sonja Wagoner Urich
White River Fish Market
Tom White - ViragoPhoto.com
Wild Oats Market
Yale Cleaners
Yoga Quest
Youth Services of Tulsa
YWCA of Tulsa
Ziegler's Art & Frame
John Steele Zink Foundation

This past fiscal year, the Tulsa Area United Way (TAUW) continued to provide substantial funding to Street School during challenging economic times. Street School provided speakers for workplace presentations throughout the TAUW campaign period presenting the need for the TAUW. Volunteers joined forces with 95 employees from Williams, Philbrook Museum, Senior Star Living, and Gray Star Property Management making significant improvements to the school during United Way's Day of Caring. Street School's internal United Way employee campaign was record setting with 100% participation and an increase in donations of 30%.

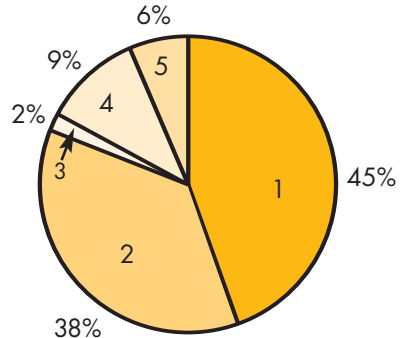


FY 2004-2005 Revenue



1. Government Grant and Fees	\$482,943
2. Tulsa Public Schools In-Kind	446,354
3. Tulsa Area United Way	196,746
4. Contributions and Fund Raising	152,644
5. Misc. Income (Interest, etc.)	44,577
TOTAL	1,323,264

FY 2004-2005 Expenses



1. Alternative Education	\$602,951
2. Social Services	497,946
3. Scholarship	25,331
4. Management and General	118,572
5. Fund Raising	73,100
TOTAL	1,317,900

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Pat Moran, M. Ed.
Pam Sinor, LPC
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