



streettalk

Congratulations Class of 2008 Graduates! 24 Students Participate in Commencement Ceremony

Street School is honored to present the class of 2008: Nicholas Bernston, Sean Brown, LaQuita Byas, Jacob Farrow, Anthony Gougler, Jacquelyn Hamilton, Michael Hamlin, Alana Hunt, Amy Long, Meliza Meza, Isaac Miles, Brian Newham, Danielle Pestel, Maretta Pfister, Micheal Pigeon, Gerren Reed, Jillian Smittle, Amanda Sowell, James Tidwell, Jillian Wallace, Ronelle Ward, James Weber, Andrew Wells, and Dacsha Wynn. A commencement ceremony was held on May 29, at Will Rogers United Methodist Church for the graduates.

Life after Street School will include many varied opportunities for our graduates. The majority of the graduating seniors will begin college in the fall. Most of the seniors completed their college entrance exams and were enrolled in Tulsa Community College (TCC) by the end of April. Others have been accepted into Tulsa Technology Center for the 2008-2009 school year, and a few of the students have already lined up full-time employment.

This past school year, a total of 127 students participated in our dropout prevention, intervention and recovery program. Each six-week session, we reach full enrollment quickly with students who have chosen to attend Street School. There are also approximately 20 students who are on our waiting list with an additional 20 teens being referred to other alternative programs. Our one-of-a-kind program is in great demand as youth understand the benefits of our program, but keeping classrooms small with 13 students in each class and our student body at 90 students are critical to our success.

Commencement speeches were given by graduating seniors, LaQuita Byas, Amy Long and Micheal Pigeon. LaQuita said, "All students should attend alternative schools because they are the best. They aren't just for "bad" students, but they do give many of us a second chance at life." Amy shared, "Now that I am finally graduating, my family tells me how great I am doing and just hearing that from them gives me so much encouragement. I want



Commencement speeches were given by graduating seniors Amy Long, Micheal Pigeon, and LaQuita Byas.

to wake up every day just so I can go out and face the world and the obstacles of an everyday life." And Micheal said, "Everybody has a future, they just have to go and reach for it."

Commencement took place at 6:30 p.m. followed by a catered reception. Street School wishes to thank the Tulsa Community Band for donating their services and the Will Rogers United Methodist church for hosting the graduation ceremonies.

Good luck to our graduates!



INSIDE

- Teen's Way 2
- Outsiders Party 3
- Student Interns 4
- Volunteer Recognition 5
- Blood Drive 5
- Teaching History in Person 6
- Tulsa Achieves 7

Street School is a tuition-free, non-profit alternative school of choice and therapeutic counseling program for students in 9th – 12th grade.

Street School Staff

Lori McGinnis, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Teachers

Laura Abbott
Mike Brungardt, MS
Kim Camp
Lola Conley
Anais Garcia
Sheila Jones
Julie Moeller
Donna Shelton
Stephen Zedler

Counselors

Wilton Cuevas,
LPC, LADC
Jana Emerson
Pat Moran, M. Ed.
Tanith Reans, LCSW
Pam Sinor, LPC
Maureen TeRuki,
MSHR

Administration

Michelle Carter
Counseling
Administrative Assistant
Glenda Lollis
Receptionist
Lorraine McReynolds,
MA, NCC
Program Director
Dawn Randall
Administrative Assistant
David Ulrich
Development Director

Member Agency



Teens Get Behind Teens' Way

The United Way Teens' Way (UWTW) program is designed to help students gain life and leadership skills through philanthropic efforts. The program encourages students to address critical issues facing their peers. The program's goal is to raise awareness and support the efforts of existing programs that provide services to young people in the Tulsa area.

Member Agency



Street School students led by Zachary O'Neal, Itzel Villavencencio, and Monique Harris identified the following three issues: drug and alcohol abuse, physical and sexual abuse, and AIDS education as their focus, and organized three fundraisers to support the organizations that address these issues. They held a Valentine's Day flower sale, a pie-in-the-face challenge, and a bake sale, which together raised approximately \$400. Great sport, Anais Garcia, Street School Spanish teacher, got a pie-in-the-face for the campaign.



This year, four Tulsa community schools participated in the UWTW program: Street School, Victory, TSAS, and Webster. UWTW is supported through the Tulsa Area United Way, YMCA of Greater Tulsa, and Williams.

Pictured left to right: Monique Harris, Zachary O'Neal, and Itzel Villavencencio

Key Club Scholarship Award Winner

Dacsha Wynn, Street School class of '08 graduate, received a \$750 college scholarship from the Kiwanis Club of Tulsa. Students seeking scholarships completed an application and an interview, and were judged based on leadership ability, participation in school and community activities, Key Club work, need for financial support and evidence of ability to succeed in college. Dacsha was presented the award at the 44th Annual Key Club Scholarship Awards Luncheon held on April 28. She was one of 30 students in Tulsa to receive a Kiwanis scholarship.



Dacsha Wynn

Dacsha said, "I really appreciate the Key Club scholarship. It means a lot to me to receive this award, and I'm excited about my future." She will use her scholarship when she enrolls into Tulsa Community College this fall. Dacsha is also a Tulsa Achieves scholarship recipient, which will help her complete her associate's degree. Her goal is to continue her education at Oklahoma State University – Okmulgee where she'll earn a degree in interior design.

Sheila Jones, English teacher, and Pat Moran, counselor, are sponsors for Street School's Key Club. Key Club students volunteer monthly for Emergency Infant Services and the Tulsa Food Bank. The Key Club also operates a student store to raise money for the annual Street School student prom, and has adopted Admiral City Park.

Street School Mission Statement

Street School, Inc. is a tuition-free, non-profit, alternative education and therapeutic counseling program whose 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 grow towards their own potential and become responsible and productive adults.

The Outsiders Party – A Great Success!

Street School's 13th annual fundraiser – *The Outsiders Party* – was a record setting success raising over \$194,000 – an all time record! Through the generosity of 80 sponsors, ambitious Coolest Outsiders contestants, and many generous auction item donors, Street School held its fundraiser on April 5 at the Crowne Plaza Tulsa hotel. A resounding “thank you” goes to all the many volunteers and donors that made this event possible, including Tulsa author S.E. Hinton for the theme from her classic book, *The Outsiders*.

Responsible for event's success are event chairs Juley Roffers and Jim Langdon of *TulsaPeople* magazine, and honorary event chairs Jill and Bob Thomas, and Susan and Bill Thomas of Senior Star Living. They were supported by a volunteer



Alecia & Terrell Siegfried

organizational committee, which included: Kristin Bender, Kathleen Berger, Debbie Blackwell, Julie Blake, Amanda Bullock, Thomas J. Cobb, Howard Doak, Annette Ellis, Sarah Hansel, Joy Jenkins, Missy Kruse, Walter Kruse, Kendall Martin, Kathryn Offermann, Ruth Richards, John Villareal, and Barrett Waller.

The highlight of the evening was announcing the winner of the Coolest Outsider contest. This honor was bestowed upon the contestant that received the most “votes” a.k.a. raised the most money as donations for Street School. Contestants were: Andrea & Deke Canada, Jamie Capps & Raj Basi, Johnathan Marlow, Alecia & Terrell Siegfried, Leslee Stewart & Doug Huber, Megan Washbourne & Jason Ashley Wright, and Michael Willis. This



Bob & Jill Thomas and Susan & Bill Thomas

year's winners were Alecia & Terrell Siegfried raising \$9,675, with all participants raising a total of over \$25,000!

Street School students helped to make the event a success as well. Not only by helping move supplies, decorations and auction items from Street School to the Crowne Plaza, but by creating one-of-a-kind works of art, which were included in the silent auction, and raised \$2,700.

A Special Thank You to our Outsiders Party Sponsors:

Author Sponsors

Crowne Plaza Tulsa
George Kaiser Family Foundation
My41
SemGroup
Senior Star Living
TulsaPeople Magazine

Director Sponsors

Anonymous
New Dominion, L.L.C.
Williams
John Steele Zink Foundation

Pony Boy Sponsors

Bank of Oklahoma
Barnett Family Foundation
Central Plains Concrete Cutting Co.
The Mary K. Chapman Foundation
Doerner, Saunders, Daniel & Anderson, LLP
Hall Estill
KWB Oil Property Mgmt., Inc.
Samson
Jess L. & Miriam B. Stevens Foundation
Tulsa World
The Zarrow Families Foundation

Johnny Sponsors

Anchor Stone Company
Kathleen & Ron Berger
Melanie & Brent Blackstock
Debbie Blackwell
Canada Company
Pam & Terry Carter
Citizens Security Bank
Bryan B. Close
Creek Nation Casino – Tulsa
Frederic Dorwart
Annette & Bob Ellis
Marge & John Gaberino
Gay & Lesbian Fund of Tulsa
Ann Graves
The Hille Foundation
Bonnie Klein
Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P.
Melissa M. Minshall
National Construction Services, LLC
Ruth K. Nelson
John C. Smith – TMA Systems
Kelly Thornton
Tulsa Community College
Woodrum, Kemendo, Tate & Westemeir, PLLC

Cherry Sponsors

Anonymous
Dee Anne Ayles
Breisch & Associates, Inc.
Patty & Joe Cappy
Xavier Carrillo
Thomas J. Cobb
Concrete Services Corp.
Craifton Tull Sparks
Eller & Detrich
Amanda Greer
Katrina & Patrick Hall
Henderson Financial Group
Donna C. Hiner
Ihloff Salon and Day Spa
Lise & Tim Inman
Marci & Stan Johnson
Jackie Kouri & Gary Paxton
Mary Lhevine & George Schnetzer
Tricia & Frank McDonald
Lori McGinnis
Mary McGraw
Kathryn Offermann
Overhead Door Co.
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Public Service Co. of Oklahoma
R.P.H.S., INC.
Tamara Rains & Tom Rains

Ram Utility Construction, Inc.
Schnake Turnbo Frank PR
Mrs. & Dr. Clinton Smith
Jane Sneed
Robert Soza
W. R. Thomas
Walsh Associates, Inc.
Paul J. Woodul

Thank you to our participating restaurants:

3316 Brookside
Biga
Bodeans Seafood Restaurant
Bona Vita Catering
Bruhouse
Goodbites Catering of In the Raw
Lady Fingers Catering
The Local Table
Lola's at the Bowery
Ludger's Cakes & Catering
Oliver's Twist
Sonoma Bistro & Wine Bar
Stonehorse Café
Thyme: An American Bistro

Students Intern for Their Future

Street School's student internship program marked its fourth year in 2008. A total of eight companies hosted nine students over the six-week course. Students gain valuable insight and participate in meaningful experiences in the work place prior to graduation. This program helps students be better prepared for life after Street School. Students gain general workplace competencies including decision making, team work, communication, and interpersonal skills.

"The internship class was a great experience. I can use what I learned in the real world, and it will definitely help me with my future career. I recommend the internship class to everyone!" said Shana Avison who interned with the Tulsa Health Department.



Pictured above, left to right: Michael Fusco, Justina Coffey and Lia Lewis.



We greatly appreciate and thank the participating internship companies and their employees who served as internships mentors for our students. The participating students and companies were: Shana Avison – Tulsa Health Department; Kaigan Clapp – Natural Health Chiropractic; Justina Coffey – Michael Fusco's Riverside Grill; Tiffany Henry – All Around Flowers; Raven Houston – Mental Health Association; Amy Long – Laizure and Thetford, PLLC Attorney; Will McClain – Tulsa World; Justine Weaverly – Ray Francisco Embalming; and Ronelle Ward – Tulsa Health Department.

Pictured left to right: Shana Avison, Connie Grier, Ronelle Ward and Anna Jean Kurzyna.

Serbian Students Visit Street School

Late last year, Street School was pleased to host a group of students from Serbia, who were touring the United States as part of an academic group called the Serbia Youth Leadership Program. With teacher Gordana Cpajak, these students hoped to exchange ideas with students, teachers, and leaders from business and government in the United States.

The tour was organized by the School for International Training. Assistant Program Director Melanie Brubaker acted as a guide to the students. While at Street School, the students from Serbia got to ask questions about life in the United States, as well as answer questions about Serbia. Students shared differences in experience about what it is like to be a teenager in two very different cultures.

Brubaker, who was educated in the Socratic Method, led students in discussion about a range of topics, from the students' individual hopes and dreams to how they viewed and valued their history. To prepare for the visit, students researched culture, politics, and religion in Serbia, as well as other areas of life.

Social Studies teacher Stephen Zedler commented, "Interaction like this is invaluable. These kids might never go to Serbia, and there's a chance they may never have the chance to speak to someone from Serbia again. This is just one more experience that they will get to take with them that, had it not been for Street School, they may not have had the opportunity to have."



Front row – students from Serbia. Back row – Micheal Pigeon and Brionna Williamson.

Street School Service Learning

Students in Street School's Leadership Class serve as volunteers at The Little Light House, which is a developmental center serving young children with special needs from birth through the chronological age of six years. This win-win partnership began three years ago with students volunteering there five times a year. Our students make a positive difference in lives of the children, as well as learn about an important organization in our community and the youth they serve.

Service Learning volunteer programs are a significant part of Street School's *The World Is Our Classroom* approach to learning. For each project, students must brainstorm to identify and select their project, determining the need being met and the benefit to those being served. Not only do students learn how to implement a service learning project, but these programs also provide experiences that increase our students' awareness of diversity, strengthen their self confidence and self esteem, and nurture their non-academic strengths and talents.

Volunteers Receive National Recognition

As part of National Volunteer Week, Street School volunteers Kathleen Berger and Kerry Malone received the United States Presidential Volunteer Service Award based on criteria set by the President Bush's Council on Service and Civic Participation. This prestigious award was given to 37 volunteers in the Tulsa area in recognition of their time to improve their community. The ceremony took place on May 2 at the Tulsa Area United Way office.



Shown left to right: Kerry Malone and Kathleen Berger.

Kathleen Berger is the president elect, fundraising co-chair, and a current member of the board of directors. "Thank you sincerely for this honor. I am proud to stand with my colleague, Kerry, and privileged to work with such an outstanding organization as Street School,

in whose mission I believe changes the lives of Tulsa's youth," said Kathleen.

Kerry Malone is immediate past president, past communication's chair, served as

program committee chair for a number of years, and is a current member of the board of directors. Kerry, director of communications at Williams, said when made aware of the honor, "Wow. I'm extremely honored. And, I must add, in great company with Kathleen. Thanks for the role that Street School played in our nomination. And, thanks for your care and feeding of this program that so effectively serves a community need and is deserving of our continuing passion."

In 2003, President Bush created the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to find ways to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our nation.

Students Organize Blood Drive

Street School students in United Way's Teens' Way organized a student blood drive. With the help of the Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI), 21 people gave blood. The Teens' Way program is designed to instill the spirit of philanthropy in students, while providing meaningful and educational experiences which help them grow into community leaders. Dixie Robinson, OBI representative and Street School mentor, helped students organize their drive. Students planned all aspects of the blood drive including researching blood types and blood properties, as well as learning who would and would not qualify to give blood. Their efforts also included promoting the event and recruiting others to participate. Anais Garcia, Street School Spanish teacher said, "I am proud of the effort students gave to make the drive a success. Many people are hesitant to donate blood, but our students did a great job in

educating everyone about the need and why they should give."

Pictured left to right: Vanessa Palmer – OBI & Shala Bluford – student.



The Nightmare Before Christmas

This year's holiday school play was *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Each year, students in the Arts Alive class produce and perform a school play creating the costumes, sets and props while honing their acting skills.

Life skills teacher, Kim Camp, and student, Amy Long, were the play's "directors." "Students gain so much through organizing and performing in our annual school play. For some of them, it's the first time they've been in the "spotlight" with so much attention focused on them in front of their peers. It's a wonderful self-confidence building experience," said Kim. The play provides an outlet for student's creativity. They build sets, become make-up artists and sew costumes. They also work as a team with shared goals managing a project through from the beginning to a grand finale.



Pictured left to right: Ronelle Ward, Justin Turner, Milan Ward and Rachelle Jennings.

Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* is an animated musical 1993 film produced and written by Tim Burton. The film was based on Burton's characters and original story. The film follows Jack Skellington, the leader of a holiday-themed world known as Halloween Town, who becomes bored of his repetitive lifestyle and eventually stumbles upon the world of Christmas Town. Interested in the new world's culture, Jack attempts to combine the two holidays, with disastrous results.

Key Club makes

A Wish Come True

A *Wish Come True* was the theme of this year's student prom, which was held on April 19 at Street School. This all-student prom was organized by the Street School Key Club, which has 13 members along with Street School representatives Sheila Jones, English teacher, and Pat Moran, counselor. Key Club members invested many hours over the week leading up to the dance decorating the school gym for the very special occasion. A total of 60 students



Jessie Smith & Ronelle Ward

participated dressed in their formal attire for a night to remember.

Students danced the night away to their favorite music, had their portraits taken, and received keepsake glasses. All this wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Key Club that raised money through their school store, as well as support from Rhoads Photography for student portraits, and prom sponsors Williams and R.P.H.S., Inc. whose donations helped underwrite food, decorations, music and supplies.



Shana Avison & Kaigan Clapp

Camp Enterprise

Street School student Brooklyn Heritage joined her peers at Camp Enterprise, which was an intensive four-day retreat where qualified high school juniors explored the fundamental challenges, opportunities and obligations of the free enterprise system. After returning from camp Brooklyn said, "I will definitely use everything that I learned at camp in the future. It was a fantastic learning experience. I had a lot of fun and made some great friends. I recommend all juniors check it out."



Brooklyn Heritage

This camp provided a select group of 100 high school juniors (chosen from over 5,000) the opportunity to learn team building, leadership and motivation skills, all while working within a real business simulation program. Campers met and interacted with some of Tulsa's top business leaders and worked with international students assigned to their team.

The camp was a global experience about what makes America's enterprise system work. This unique camp was originally developed with the help of the American Management Association and the Rotary Club of Tulsa using tools available from Junior Achievement. Camp Enterprise 2008 was held at Camp Heart O' Hills in Tahlequah, Oklahoma April 17 - 20, 2008.

Teaching History in Person

Last fall, veterans from the Second World War came to Street School to share their first hand experiences during one of the most studied events in United States history. Paul Andert, Jerry McKinney, and Al Price told stories about their service in the war to a US history class.

Mr. Price heads an organization that sends World War II vets to schools and other venues to explain history from the point of view of those who lived it. While here, the veterans recounted stories that were both emotional and humorous. The students were captivated.

"It was powerful," said student Ben Morris. "I have all kinds of respect for these men and what they did for this country." Ben has gone on to read Mr. Andert's book, *Unless You Have Been There*. "He is definitely a man that I admire."

When they were done with their presentation, the students shook hands with each man. There was definitely a sense of reverence and respect from the students. The veterans, for their part, felt that this was one of the most respectful groups they had addressed. We look forward to having these men back.



Pictured left to right: Jerry McKinney, Paul Andert, and Al Price.

Tulsa Achieves Helps Students

Tulsa Community College (TCC) is helping to eliminate the financial burden of attending college through the Tulsa Achieves program. Seven Street School students will be starting college this fall through this program.

While the Street School scholarship program helps approximately 37 students a year with the financial support they need to attend college, our scholarship program does not have the funds available to provide 100% of the applicants their requested amounts.

Providing students in Tulsa county the opportunity to attend college based on their ability to achieve, not on their ability to pay, is the primary reason for the Tulsa Achieves scholarship. By doing so, TCC will increase the number of Tulsa county residents with higher education degrees; increase the number of skilled professionals available in the Tulsa job market; encourage students to graduate high school; and encourage



Pictured left to right: Nicholas Bernston, Jillian Wallace, and James Tidwell.

community involvement through service learning/community service.

The Tulsa Achieves scholarship program pays up to 100% of tuition and fees for up to 63 college credit hours for students living in Tulsa county and graduating from a public or private high school.

Tulsa Achieves is a gap-funding scholarship program, meaning that funds are applied to tuition and fees after all

state, federal and private scholarships and grants are applied. If there is a remaining balance, Tulsa Achieves will pay the rest so there is no cost to the student.

To receive the Tulsa Achieves scholarship, the student must live in Tulsa county and graduate from high school with a 2.0 GPA or better on a 4.0 scale. Students must meet the following criteria to remain a Tulsa Achieves scholar while at TCC:

- Maintain good academic standing (2.0 GPA or higher).
- Enroll continuously each fall and spring semester (summer optional).
- Complete a financial aid application (FAFSA).
- Provide 40 hours of community service per academic year.

Deadline for application for the Tulsa Achieves Scholarship program is April 30 of each year.

The World Is Our Classroom: Wilderness Group

“It was sweet” “It was super awesome!” “I loved it” and “I want to go back” is what you would have heard had you joined Julie Moeller’s, Street School science teacher, Wilderness Group on their rock climbing Wilderness Adventure. Julie said, “I am amazed every time I go on a challenge activity with my students. I get to see them go through some impressive physical “feats” and at the same time join

together to encourage each other. My favorite moment is to see the satisfaction on their faces when they do something they didn’t think they could do; I’ve even had that look on my own face... it’s so rewarding!”

Julie’s Wilderness Group challenges students physically and mentally, but at the same time builds communication skills, self-esteem, and positive attitudes.

Street School partners with Matt Nida of the LeFlore County Health Department who provides much of the equipment and instruction. Integral to the experience is the instruction designed to address behavioral issues through challenging outdoor opportunities for



Lacey Brown (top) and Callie McKinney

kids to build trust in themselves and their teammates. Other activities Matt conducts with Street School include ropes courses, orienteering, and camping.

Lacey Brown, the student pictured at the top of the cliff, is a “natural” climber. While Lacey often feels challenged in the classroom, she feels gifted and triumphant on the side of a cliff. She said, “I have climbed this before, and even if I did it 45 times, I will never get tired of it.”



Preparing for a climb are (left to right) – Alex Roberts, Tim Woods, Amy Pullen, Alex Martin, Grant Schellhorn and Collin Heritage.

Lunch with Mayor Taylor

Five students and the Street School executive director had lunch with Mayor Kathy Taylor on May 27. "What a great experience for our students," said Lori McGinnis, Street School executive director. She added, "This was a terrific learning opportunity in many ways. Students got a first hand civics lesson from our community's leader, while appreciating the philanthropy of others."

The luncheon held at the Summit was a donation from the mayor to Street School, which was included in the Outsiders Party fundraiser as a live auction item. After purchasing the item, the anonymous donor gave the luncheon to Street School so students could have the special experience.



Rena Pham, Street School student said, "I really think a lot of the mayor because she took time and treated Street School students to lunch. She is a kind and generous person who cares about Tulsa's teenagers."

Pictured from left to right: Tiffany Henry, Lori McGinnis, Mayor Kathy Taylor, Zachary O'Neal, Dacsha Wynn, Shon Boyd, and Rena Pham.

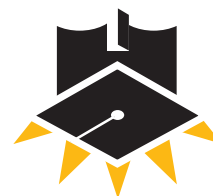
Street school

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Commencement May 29
- Classes end May 29
- First Day of Classes August 11
- Labor Day September 1
- Student Fall Break Oct. 16 & 17
- Parent Teacher Conference Oct. 31
- Street School Thanksgiving Nov. 25
- Thanksgiving Break Nov. 26 – 27
- Winter Break Dec. 22 – Jan. 2
-

Contact us: Street School, Inc. • 1135 South Yale Avenue • Tulsa Oklahoma 74112
833-9800 Main Office • 833-9858 Fax • www.streetschool.org • urichda@tulsaschools.org

street school®
 1135 South Yale Ave.
 Tulsa, OK 74112



Non Profit
 Organization
 US Postage Paid
 Permit #1254
 Tulsa, OK