



streettalk

Graduation 2007

34 Students Participate in Commencement Ceremony



Congratulations to the Class of 2007. A commencement ceremony was held on May 24, at Will Rogers United Methodist Church for the 34 graduates. Street School is honored to present the class of 2007: Brittany Aaron, Tiffany Baldwin, Ryan Blanke, Laura Booth, Ben Casey, Erin Collier, Amanda Croslin, Timothy Dyer, Fatima Gaeta, Patrick Gresham, Larry Hamilton, Patricia Hampton, Cameron Heritage, Sophie Hill, Yvonne Isokariari, Ryder Jackson, Steven Lowry, Ariana Marina, Daniel Martin, Carlos Martinez, Adam McHenry, Norvona Miles, Kevin Morrison, Robbie Newman, Chris Pack, Kevin Poplin, Andrew Roche, Jordan Rudichuk, Billie Russell, Jamad Scott, Zachary Selvidge, Jermel Tate, Dana Trevino and Latasha Vanderpool.

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 2007-2008 school year, and a few of the students have already lined up full time employment.

The class of 2007 was the second largest graduating class in Street School's 34 year history. This past school year, a total of 144 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. From April to August, the waiting list typically may consist of 50 or more students. 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 is critical to our success.

Dr. Johnathan Marlow, a former Street School student who is now a professor of Communication at Howard Payne University, was one of the guest speakers. Graduating seniors, Kevin Poplin, Laura Booth, and Norvona Miles also addressed their classmates.

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!



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Street School is a private, 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
Donna Shelton
Adam Wilson

Counselors

Suzanne Bass, LSW, LADC
Wilton Cuevas, LPC, LADC
Pat Moran, M. Ed.
Sherrill Scott, LPC
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 Urich
Development Director

Member Agency



Dear Street School:

Letter from Former Street School Student upon Her College Graduation

Dear Street School:

How do I begin to express my gratitude to all those that helped to make this proud moment possible? You all have been there for me, encouraged me, pushed me to my fullest potential, inspired me and taught me that with hard work and dedication anything is possible. Thank you for providing me the guidance, discipline, support, strength, and most importantly a second chance. Life is full of ups and downs, excitement as well as disappointment, but because of all the support and help that Street School provided, I am a true success story! I understand that I am here for a reason and that the world is mine. And without a doubt, I know I am ready to handle and overcome all of life's obstacles no matter how great or small.

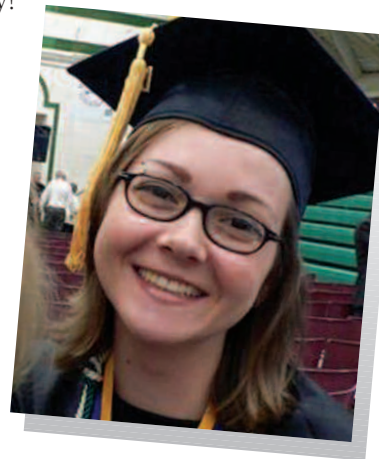
Thank you, and you will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Kelley Milligan

Street School Class of 2001

Update: Kelley has been accepted into OU Tulsa's Advance Standing Masters Degree Program in Social Work.



Securing Street School's Future for Tomorrow's Youth

It has been said, "Time gives us opportunities to change the future." An extraordinary opportunity is exactly what the Tulsa Community Foundation (TCF) has provided us. Street School has been selected to participate in the Tulsa Community Foundation's Endowment Challenge Grant program. This program assists us as we create and build an endowment to keep future youth from dropping out of school, while providing current funds for today's at risk youth.

Once we meet our challenge goal, TCF will award Street School with a \$15,000 grant.

TCF has challenged us to secure \$75,000 in planned or immediate endowment gifts before December 2007. The good news is that \$27,500 has been raised to date through the generosity of the Meinig Family Foundation, Jess L. and Miriam B. Stevens Foundation, and the Sam Viersen Family Foundation, but we still have more to raise. Once we meet our challenge goal, TCF will award Street School with a \$15,000 grant to support our current budget. By focusing on the future through starting an endowment, we can achieve our vision of tomorrow, and our goals of today – improving the quality of life for our students through dropout prevention, intervention and recovery services.

Another significant advantage of this endowment challenge is the free advice and consultation. TCF has hired a very reputable local planned giving advisor, Mark Loeber, who provides services to all potential donors at no cost to Street School or the donor whether they ultimately make a gift or not.

If you have an interest in supporting Street School and would like to take advantage of this free estate planning service, please contact Mark Loeber at (918) 491-0079 or David Urich at (918) 833-9813; email urichda@tulsaschools.org for more information.

Pretty in Pink Prom



The 3rd annual Street Party Prom was a success raising over \$93,500 – an all time record! Through the generosity of 43 sponsors, an ambitious prom court, and many, many auction item donors, Street School held its annual fundraiser on April 14 at the Donald W. Reynolds Center – The University of Tulsa. A giant “thank you” goes to all the many volunteers and donors that made this event possible.



2007 Prom King and Queen, David and JoAnn Schaub

The highlight of the evening was the crowning of 2007 Prom King & Queen. This honor was bestowed upon the prom court couple that raised the most money as donations for Street School. Couples on the Prom Court were: Tracie Crocker & Perry Lewis, Kim & John Kittelson, Cindy & Todd Morrison, Andrea & Jackson Myers, Malisa & Steven Nell, JoAnn & David Schaub, and Allison & Todd Starke. This year’s winning couple was JoAnn & David Schaub raising \$4,207, with the entire prom court raising \$16,300.

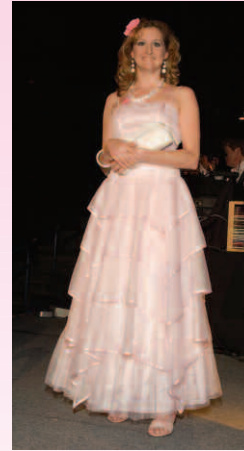
Street School students also helped make the “prom” a success. They helped move supplies and materials from Street School to the Reynolds Center, set up tables and chairs, and created one-of-a-kind works of art, which were included in the auction. Student art raised \$3,600.

And what’s an adult’s only prom without a best dressed contest? Guests dressed in their retro prom attire paraded before our esteemed judges Kendall Martin,

Debbie Palazzo and Jason Ashley Wright for a chance to be honored as Best Dressed. The winners were Amy Ross – best dressed female, and Brian Epperson – best dressed male.

Thank you Street Party Prom sponsors: **Lead Sponsor:** George Kaiser Family Foundation; **King & Queen Sponsors:** SemGroup, L.P.; My41; **Senior Sponsor:** John Steele Zink Foundation; **Catering Sponsor:** Ludger’s Cakes & Catering; **Junior Sponsors:** Bank of Oklahoma; Central Plains Concrete Cutting Company; Kim & Rob Coretz; Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group, Inc.; Samson; SolArc, Inc.; Tulsa World; Williams; The Zarrow Families Foundation; **Sophomore Sponsors:** Kathleen & Ron Berger; Canada Company; Bryan Close in honor of Annette Ellis; Doerner, Saunders, Daniel & Anderson, LLP; Frederic Dorwart; Gay & Lesbian Fund of Tulsa; Grant Thornton, LLP; Hall Estill; Sarah E. Hansel & Michael D. Cooke; Curtis M. Long; Meek’s Lithographing Company; Melissa M. Minshall; National Construction Services, LLC; **Freshman Sponsors:** Debbie Blackwell; Breisch & Associates, Inc.; Concrete Services Corp.; Karen L. & Michael E. Gibson; Donna C. Hiner; Lori McGinnis; Becki & Lanny McIntosh; Malisa & Steven Nell; Nelson Mazda; PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP; Public Service Co. of Oklahoma; Ram Utility Construction, Inc.; Schnake

Turnbo Frank PR; Kim Smith & Bob Stanley; Kelly Thornton, and Paul J. Woodul.



Amy Ross – Best Dressed Female

Kathryn Offermann and Jamie Zink served as Prom Co-Chairs. Committee members were: Kristin Bender, Kathleen Berger, Randy Blattner, Lise Blevins-Inman, Gina Carroll, Candace Cheeseman, Thomas J. Cobb, Laura S. Daniel, Annette Ellis, Shonda Fisher, Pam Goldberg Cass, Audra K. Hamilton, Sarah Hansel, Kim Hilbig, Joy Jenkins, Brian Lavarney, Debbie Lewis, Kerry Malone,

Becki McIntosh, Melissa Minshall, Richard Palazzo, Hillary Parkhurst, Joan Parkhurst, Jennifer Roop, Susan Scott, Paula Settoon, Kim Smith, Kelly Thornton, and Kerry Walsh.



Prom Court Couples included Todd and Allison Starke, and Todd and Cindy Morrison.



Pictured left to right: Kathryn Offermann, Sarah Hansel, Doug Dodd, Kathleen Berger and Annette Ellis.

Lights – Camera – *Action!*

Social studies teacher Adam Wilson uses the creation of unique historical movies to educate students. Small student groups create timelines over specific periods in history, create scripts and storyboards, and then direct and produce their own films. Students also share their videos with the entire student body in all school assemblies, and have found the assignment to be one of the most rewarding. “Using technology this way has resulted in a truly creative and hands-on way for students to learn history, learn from history and have a great time in the process,” said Wilson.

Wilson’s creative use of technology to teach social studies hasn’t gone unnoticed. His student films have been shown to the Oklahoma State Board of Education, at the National Alternative Education Association conference, and at regional alternative education conferences held across Oklahoma. They have also been used by the Oklahoma Technical Assistance Center at professional development workshops.

Street School thanks Best Buy for their \$2,500 Teach Award grant. This grant made it possible to integrate interactive technology into the curriculum by providing the funds necessary to purchase film making equipment and software.

Financial Lessons for Life

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Oklahoma (CCCS) partnered with Street School to educate students about their financial futures. The goal was to educate students about the many important financial decisions they will be making in their futures and how to make the best choices. Mary Thomas, Education Director with CCCS, taught the “Financial First” program that guides and directs students in making knowledgeable choices regarding their, first checking account, first job, first car, first credit card, and first home away from home.



Aaron Taylor, Mary Thomas and Melissa Meza.

As part of Kim Camp’s, Street School teacher, Life Skills Class, 10 internship students participated in this program. Students worked in groups during all five modules over the course of five weeks. Each module included a variety of activities to help students learn key concepts. Students were given a pre and post test, where they scored 67% and 96% correct respectively. Each student was presented with a certificate of completion.

Key Club goes Beyond The Stars

“Beyond The Stars” was this year’s student prom theme, which was held on May 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 decorated the school gym in light blue and pearl white for the very special occasion. A total of 65 students 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 \$582 through their school store, as well as, support from our sponsors Williams, and R.P.H.S., Inc. whose donations helped provide food, decorations, music and supplies.



Above: Revona Surber and Shala Bluford.



Mike Roher and Billie Russell



Jonathan and Latasha Moreno

Josh Bookout and Rachel Jennings



Below, left to right: Brooklyn Heritage, Sarina Garner, Alana Hunt and Jillian Wallace.



New Library Now Open for Students

Before this year, when students needed to do research for an assignment, they had to board buses and travel to the nearest library. While our school had books and computers and other resources for students, there was not a central spot for classes to meet and students to get the extra information they needed. That is until this year. On February 27, Street School held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new library.

Thanks to grants from the Sarkeys Foundation and The Gelvin Foundation, Street School is now home to its first-ever library. It comes complete with all the resources 21st century students need: 12 computers with internet access and current software, DVDs and a wide variety of books and magazines. There is even a



Pictured from left to right are: Susan Frantz and Tina Lewis – Sarkeys Foundation, Therese Starr – The Gelvin Foundation, Lori McGinnis – Street School Executive Director, and Kerry Malone – Street School Board President.

lounge area with a cable TV so students can not only learn about history but also watch current events as they unfold.

“Before, when I needed a book to do research for a paper, I had to travel to another library, but now we have one right in our own building,” student Laura Booth said. “It’s much more convenient.”

Street School’s teachers have also benefited from the new facility. Donna Shelton, resource teacher, has used the library’s computers for the school’s NovaNET program, which gives students the opportunity to work independently recovering credits towards graduation. She says she never would have been able to use the NovaNET program without the benefits the new library affords. “The computers allow students to learn in a way that’s appealing to them – it’s the 21st century,” she says.

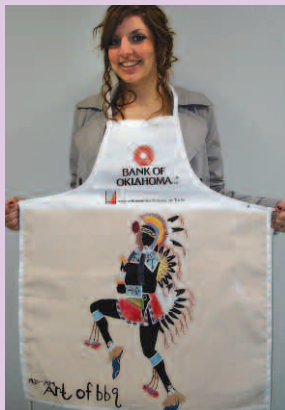
Aprons for Art of BBQ

Street School students in Laura Abbott’s art class took part in the Oklahoma Centennial celebration by participating in the “100 Aprons for 100 Years,” and the 10th Annual Art of Barbeque.

Ten schools received 10 aprons and decorated them according to an assigned decade. Street School’s decade was 1930 – 1939. Students researched Oklahoma’s history and chose themes or scenes and put their creative brush to their apron.

The aprons were judged and awards presented to the top three aprons in each school category; i.e. elementary, middle, and high school. Street School students Shayna Zeff & Chris Wolfe won second place, and a cash award of \$150 was awarded to Street School for classroom art supplies.

All aprons will be on display at the Promenade mall two weeks prior to the Art of Barbeque event, which will be held on July 13 & 14 at the OU Schusterman campus located at 41st & Yale.



Shayna Zeff

We the People Competition

Street School was one of three teams in the statewide *We the People* The Citizen and the Constitution competition held January 27 at the state Capitol. Street School students represented Oklahoma’s Congressional District One. The team, led by social studies teacher Adam Wilson, took part in the competition represented by the following Street School students: Nick Berntson, Laura Booth, Aaron Hamilton, Alana Hunt, Patricia Pearson, Jennifer Dayton,

Matthew Noyes, Billie Russell, Michael Pigeon, Andrew Roche, Caroline Fon, and Herb Mack. “It was a very rewarding experience in many ways, and wish I could do it again next year,” said Patricia Pearson a senior at Street School. “I got to learn a lot about my rights as a citizen, bond with my classmates and see our State Capitol building. It was great to meet Representative Ed Cannaday who presented each of us with a Citation of Excellence certificate. We did our best and I’m proud of our team.”

For the competition, the team studied the history and principles of the U.S. Constitution. They formed small groups to make six presentations on different topics during simulated congressional hearings. The six units were scored individually by a panel of judges who scored each teams’ prepared opening statements and followed up with questions. Street School finished third overall but won the Unit 2 competition. The Oklahoma Bar Association administers the program locally through its Law-related Education Program.



Back row, pictured left to right: Aaron Hamilton, Adam Wilson – teacher, Andrew Roche, Matt Noyes and Micheal Pigeon. Front row: Laura Booth and Alana Hunt.

National Honor Bestowed

National Honor Roll (NHR) announced that Laura Abbott, Street School art teacher, has been accepted as a member of NHR's Outstanding American Teachers.

Abbott was nominated for this award by former Street School student Virginia Wood.

"Laura gave me the time and attention I needed. She showed me different art mediums, and helped me plan my future in art – even looking into college," said Wood. Wood will graduate from Tulsa Community College with an associates degree in art and as a certified Spanish interpreter in 2008.

Abbott, who has been teaching art at Street School for four years after earning her teaching degree from Northeastern State University, was an artist for 12 years



Laura Abbott and Virginia Wood.

before entering college. When asked why she has great success with her students, Abbott said, "My personal challenges prepared me for my work here at Street

School. I use the skills I developed raising my son giving him the special one-on-one attention he needed."

NHR's Outstanding American Teachers recognizes educators who have made a difference in their

communities. "The service teachers provide to society cannot be underestimated," says NRH publisher Lynn Romeo. "Our goal is to recognize outstanding teachers for their contribution to the positive development of America's youth. We cannot thank them enough for all that they do."

Great Neighbors

Will Rogers United Methodist Church and Street School have a long-term nurturing relationship. Not only do members of their congregation serve as mentors for Street School students, but they also hosted a special lunch on April 12 for all Street School's students and staff. The United Methodist Women cooked, baked and prepared an extraordinary luncheon to show their appreciation of Street School, and treat the students to something special. "Our partnership with the church is meaningful in so many ways," said Lori McGinnis, Street School executive director. She added, "It's great to have such supportive and caring neighbors who appreciate and participate in our mission. *A heart felt group "thank you!" goes to all the United Methodist Women's members.*"



John Marlow

Alum Shares Personal Story

John Marlow's life's journey came full circle when he returned home to Tulsa to give his high school alma mater's commencement address. Marlow shared his wisdom and inspired this year's graduating class to pursue their own goals when he shared his personal story as the keynote speaker at this year's graduation ceremony.

"It is my privilege to speak to the graduates from a school that was responsible for all my success. Had I not attended Street School, I would not have accomplished all the wonderful things in my life, especially my education," says Marlow. All of his adult success has hinged upon choosing to attend Street School.

Marlow's paradoxical life is revealed when you discover that this person now holding a Ph.D. in Education once found education so daunting that he dropped out of school twice. Dr. Marlow is currently an Associate Professor of Communication at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas.

Speaking about the problems that lead to Street School, Marlow says, "I got behind in school, felt alienated among my peers and used drugs and alcohol to cope. Little did I know at the time that the drugs and alcohol just made matters worse."

"The seeds of confidence, the seeds of self worth and the seeds of determination... were planted at Street School."

Marlow's teen years were tempestuous often marked by problems at home, at school, and in the community. Marlow's educational problems resulted in his dropping out of school twice, during his ninth, and again, eleventh grade. On both occasions, "Street School was there to catch me before I fell into the juvenile justice system," says Marlow.

Fast forward to today, and you find Professor Marlow who has been teaching on the college level now for nine years. He has enjoyed teaching on main campuses,

satellite campuses, military bases and high schools. But the greatest pleasure he gets is when he walks under concertina razor wire and through six locked doors, to greet his students of the Texas Department of Corrections. "It is there I spend time with the men I was certain to become had it not been for Street School," says Marlow.

"The seeds of confidence, the seeds of self worth and the seeds of determination, to make important life changes, to become something, anything, rather than the doomed person I was fated to become, were planted at Street School," says Marlow. He added, "I can't thank the program nor share its accolades loudly enough for what it has meant to me and my fellow alum including the class of 2007."

Teens' Way Kisses A Goat To Help Other Youth Programs

Over the past school year, Street School students Laura Booth, Isaac Miles, and Micheal Pigeon have participated in the United Way Teens' Way (UWTW) program as Youth Action Council (YAC) members. UWTW is a student-led cooperative program that raises funds and awareness to address the critical issues facing youth in our community. Street School students worked together with other students from four area high schools: Holland Hall Upper School, McLain School for Science and Technology, Tulsa School of Arts and Sciences, and Webster High School.



Lola Conley and Micheal Pigeon

This year the UWTW group determined that they would fund grant proposals addressing drug abuse in the community, the growing dropout rate in schools, the high rate of teen pregnancies, the lack of recreational centers for youth, and the

affects of poverty on young people. During the 2007 Teens' Way Campaign, the UWTW YAC raised \$1,196 to be distributed to a Tulsa Area United Way agency working to solve these issues.

The Street School UWTW YAC members held two fundraisers this year. One was a Kiss A Goat contest. The staff member who had the most money in their jar at the end of the fundraiser had to kiss a goat. Students and staff donated the most money to Lola Conley, math teacher. A raffle for a variety of gift certificates was the

second fundraiser. The funds raised will go toward funding the Youth Services of Tulsa Health Education and Prevention Program.

Street School has been cited as a model for the UWTW program because of its support and commitment in engaging students in the community. Street School



Pictured left to right: Isaac Miles, Laura Booth, and Micheal Pigeon.

students were recognized for their efforts and presented with awards at the UWTW closing meeting. Kim Camp, life skills teacher, received the 2007 Mark Award for leaving her mark by promoting the service of youth to make a difference in our community. UWTW is supported through a collaborative partnership among the Tulsa Area United Way, Williams, and the YMCA of Greater Tulsa.

Member Agency



¿HABLA ESPAÑOL?

Street School students are learning a second language thanks to support from the Tulsa Area United Way. Recognizing Tulsa's growing Hispanic population, and the value and importance of our students learning the Spanish language, Street School hired Anais Garcia as a Spanish language teacher.

Students are not only learning the Spanish language in Garcia's class, but in harmony with Street School's *The World As Our Classroom* approach to learning, they are also learning the Hispanic culture. Students have taken field trips to Plaza Santa Cecilia, El Mercadito, Senor Tequila's and Pancho Anaya. "These first hand experiences, visiting a Hispanic shopping mall, food market, Mexican bakery, and restaurant, are an excellent way for students to become emerged into the language and culture," said Garcia. She added, "Students have also made piñatas, painted murals, and baked flan as part of my class. These experiences make learning a foreign language easier and more fun."

Offering a foreign language class enables students to graduate with a diploma of distinction. Beginning with students who



Shown left to right: Abbey Furgason, Anais Garcia – Spanish teacher, and Bradley Butler.

were ninth graders in the 2006-2007 school year, students who have earned at least two credits in a foreign language, as well as an additional credit in Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics, and either Technology, Humanities, or Fine Arts, will graduate with this special recognition.

Pigeon First to Join YMCA Board

Micheal Pigeon, Street School Junior, is making a difference by serving on the YMCA board of directors to help unleash the energy of youth to make Tulsa a better place for teens. Pigeon is the first teenager to serve on the YMCA board of directors in Tulsa. Pigeon said, "Being a member on the YMCA board of directors, and actually being the first teenager to serve, is a privilege. I appreciate the opportunity to serve, and open the door for future teenage board members."



Micheal Pigeon

"We chose Micheal because of his commitment to the program, his willingness to speak up, and his unique ability to recognize the power of his voice as a young person," said Sherita Moses, Program Coordinator for United Way Teens' Way at the YMCA. These are all qualities that the board was looking for when it decided to add a young person to its board. Micheal will serve on the board for at least one more year to complete his full term as a board member.

Street School Mission Statement

Street School, Inc. is a private, 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 reach their own potential and become responsible and productive adults.

Street school

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Commencement May 24
- Classes end May 31
- First Day of Classes August 20
- Labor Day September 3
- Student Fall Break Oct. 18 & 19
- Parent Teacher Conference Nov. 2
- Street School Thanksgiving Nov. 20
- Thanksgiving Break Nov. 21 – 23
- Winter Break Dec. 21 – 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

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