



street talk

Celebrating 35 Years as Tulsa's High School of Choice

Saving lives by giving teens a second chance.

Street School celebrated its 35 year anniversary as Oklahoma's longest running alternative high school program offering education and therapeutic counseling for youth at risk of dropping out of school. Speakers included alumni John Marlow and Kelley Milligan who shared their personal stories of success crediting Street School for "saving their lives."



Mayor's office also proclaimed September 25, 2008 as Street School Day.

Our founders' vision remains the same today – to prepare students for real life while helping them with the challenges they face each day. What began 35 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 from helping 35 youth the first year to educating approximately 150 students every year, with a waiting list of teens in need of our program.

Lisa Pryor, Assistant Superintendent of School Improvement with the Oklahoma Department of Education, spoke highly of the Street School program. "Street School is a dropout prevention, intervention, and recovery program that is a model our state continues to embrace and one that other schools strive to replicate," said Pryor. The

Over the years, both the Street School program and staff have received awards and recognition for the program's exemplary success and staffs' contributions to alternative education. Most notably, Street School was recognized nationally by the National Dropout Prevention Network with the 2004 Crystal Star of Excellence

Award as the one school chosen for excellence in dropout prevention.

Despite all the different reasons youth come to Street School, they all have something in common. Their needs have not



Pictured left to right, Street School supporters Julie Blake, Kathryn Offermann, Kenny Dean, John Villareal and Kathleen Berger.



Alumnus Johnathon Marlow, Ph.D. with Lorraine McReynolds, MA, NCC, Street School Program Director.

been met through traditional public education. Our approach includes brain based learning, therapeutic counseling, a low student-to-counselor ratio with 6 counselors and a low student-to-teacher ratio with 9 teachers, as well as creating a family type atmosphere where students feel like they "belong."

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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
William Allen
Kim Camp
Michael Easter
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



Vision Therapy Arrives at Street School

20/20 vision doesn't mean you can read

Street School starts a unique program: Vision Therapy. For Street School students who are experiencing reading problems, Dr. David Free is providing visual help.

According to Dr. Free, students can be years behind in their reading level while still having 20/20 vision. Parents and educators often assume that passing a school vision screening means no problem exists. But school screenings typically only test visual acuity and the visual processes needed for successful reading and learning are much more complex. A child can see 20/20 and still have vision problems that lead to poor learning skills.

A dislike of reading, losing one's place, or having to read things twice can all be signs of convergence insufficiency (a condition in which the eyes do not work well together looking up close). With Vision Therapy, developmental optometric screenings evaluate eye muscle movements, which are required for reading.

Vision Therapy is successful in addressing reading problems. Nearly 100% of all patients who complete therapy show improvements in symptoms.



Dr. Free with a vision therapy patient.

Students Need You!

Positive Adult Role Models

Mentor Youth

Call 833-9812 to make a difference. Volunteers who serve as mentors play a significant role in a young person's life by spending 1 hour a week with their mentee/student. A Street School Mentor is a trusted person who cares, listens, and is influential as a positive role model; someone who plays a significant role in a young person's life by spending quality time together; a person who is not a surrogate parent, but rather a friend who is modeling leadership and community involvement with a positive attitude.



Street School mentors at the annual mentor orientation luncheon.

Fighting Drug Addiction: Sharing our Program's Success with the World

Street School's success as a drug and alcohol treatment program has earned the respect of the international community. Twelve leaders from the South American countries of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela traveled to Street School to learn about our program first hand.

One visitor commented, "Street School has been one of the most effective programs to have undertaken prevention in an integral manner." Street School provides therapeutic substance abuse services through both individual and group counseling. Each year, approximately 35 youth participate in this program, which has been in place since 1980.



The visitors came to the United States under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program, and the theme of their visit was "Drug Demand Reduction Efforts in the U.S." The visitors' local schedule was organized by Tulsa Global Alliance whose mission is to Bridge Cultures through Awareness, Education and Opportunities.

Teaching Leadership: Molding Tomorrow's Leaders Through Service Learning



Street School students pictured left to right: Ashley Bell, Jennifer Dayton, and Alyssa Hart

"Through service learning projects, students learn team work and responsibility, while demonstrating good citizenship and respect for others," said Kim Camp, life skills teacher. The students discuss their project's goals and outcomes, and the feelings evoked by their projects.

Students in Kim's Leadership Class participated in three different service learning projects so far this school year. Projects included working with the children at The Little Light House, supporting the Kids Against Hunger Global organization, and

organizing an all school fall festival held on Halloween.

Students pictured here are packaging bags of nutrient-rich food especially designed to feed impoverished children around the world through the Kids Against Hunger Global organization. Street School students prepared over 5,000 bags of food for the program while learning about the world hunger problem. "It feels good to help others," said Alyssa Hart, Street School student. "This is a great way to learn."

Street School – Our Mission

Street School, Inc. is a tuition-free, non-profit, alternative high school 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 dropout prevention services enable students to grow towards their own potential and become responsible and productive adults.

Street School's Crown Jewel

Crowne Plaza Opens Its Doors Helping Teens

Is it possible to have a better champion than that of the Crowne Plaza Tulsa hotel? The answer is clearly "no." Street School students will benefit through a variety of programs, services, and support offered by the hotel, which includes a room available to any student in a crisis situation, a dining etiquette class for 13 students, an internship job experience program for up to 5 students, and hosting the Street School student prom, as well as Street School's 14th annual Street Party fundraiser on Saturday, April 18, 2009.

"What a generous contribution to our program," said Gina Carroll, Street School board president. "It's because of companies such as the Crowne Plaza hotel that we're able to provide the education and counseling services so many youth need."

"Street School has 35 years of success helping youth graduate from high school rather than drop out, and we appreciate the opportunity to be partner with a program that is helping make such a positive difference in the Tulsa community," said Marlin Keranen, general manager, Crowne Plaza Tulsa hotel.

It's Family Here Street School Thanksgiving

Please join us for the 27th annual Street School "Family" Thanksgiving luncheon that will be held on Tuesday, November 25 for Street School students, their families, volunteers and supporters. You're welcome anytime between 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. RSVP to 833-9800. This annual "family" gathering is chaired by volunteer board member Howard Doak with Cityscape Home Mortgage. Street School board members and staff will serve guests a free Thanksgiving meal made possible through generous donations from Street School supporters including Stonehorse Café, Reasor's, and WalMart. This tradition is an example of how Street School is much more than a school – it is family.

Learning about the Crisis Media Culture: Tulsa Town Hall Opens Minds

For the past two years, Street School students have been attending lectures put on by Tulsa Town Hall, a non-profit, educational, cultural organization that has been bringing nationally and internationally prominent speakers to Tulsa for over 73 years. Last year, students enjoyed hearing from CBS News' Washington Bureau Chief, Bob Scheiffer, as well as OU Professor of Classical History, Dr. Rufus Fears.

This year, students attended a lecture from ABC News journalist and "20/20" host

John Stossel. Mr. Stossel's "Gimme a Break" segment and his news specials, including education in America, have earned him recognition as one of the most consistently thought-provoking journalists of our time. Street School students not only asked questions of Mr. Stossel, but were introduced to him before attending his lecture on the media's "crisis mentality" and the unnecessary fear that can arise from broadcasting that mentality.

A grant that Tulsa Town Hall received last year makes these lectures free to Street

School students. "We're very grateful to Kathy Collins and everyone else at Tulsa Town Hall," says Street School social studies

Street School students with John Stossel.

instructor Stephen Zedler. "They have made it clear how much they want us to participate, and are always incredibly gracious to us. We have appreciated their kindness and passion for extending these opportunities to our students."

Save the Date

Please mark your calendars and save the date for our annual fundraiser benefiting Street School.

14th Annual Street Party

Saturday, April 18, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Tulsa

For more information or to make your reservation, go on-line at www.streetschool.org, or call 833-9813, or email: urichda@tulsaschools.org.



The Freedom Writers Method Comes to Street School

Street School English teacher Sheila Jones was one of the 30 educators who attended the Freedom Writers Institute in Long Beach, California in August. Jones is one of the two educators in Tulsa, trained to implement the Freedom Writers curriculum. The Freedom Writers Foundation began a teacher-training program following the success of the book, *The Freedom Writers Diary*, by Erin Gruwell and the movie "Freedom Writers," starring Hilary Swank.

In 1994, Erin Gruwell was a new teacher of at-risk students in Long Beach. Gruwell taught her students to write and tell their own stories. "My students are now able to write in their journals and express their thoughts and emotions without the fear of being judged," said Jones. Street School junior An'Teeshia Isaac said, "I love the journals; it's like I take time out to think about my problems and how I should take care of them."

Erin Gruwell taught her students to stand up to their challenges such as poverty, self-doubt, violence, gang affiliation, and drug abuse. Gruwell taught her students to use writing to create their own future. Her students' writings were published as *The Freedom Writers Diary*, which became a #1 best selling book. "I feel that this experience has made me a better teacher and helped me get out of my comfort zone and really see that each of us has a story to tell," Jones stated. The Freedom Writer curriculum allows the students to get to know each other and feel connected.

Jones said "Erin's example and the opportunity to attend the Freedom



Pictured left to right: Chris McManus, Sheila Jones and An'Teeshia Isaac.

Writers Institute last August has been a life changing experience. My classroom will never be the same, and I already see the results of using this method in the faces of my

students every day." Street School students would like the Freedom Writers to visit Street School and share their stories. Students are considering possible fundraising activities to have the Freedom Writers speak in Tulsa.

STUDENT PROFILE

Meet Zach O'Neal

I am a junior and will graduate with the class of 2010. My interests are wildlife and football, and I live with my grandmother.

My plans are to graduate from Street School and go to TCC for two years then major in zoology at OSU. My goal is to work at a zoo or in an African game reserve. I find animals more interesting than people.

Before I came to Street School, I had been in 16 different schools. I got in trouble a lot at school because I slept in class or skipped school. I didn't want to do the work because the teachers didn't have time for me.

I came to Street School thinking everyone was going to be mean. I thought I'd have to fight a lot. I found it to be just the opposite. Everyone talks to each other. People aren't split into groups. The teachers don't judge me, and they give me one-on-one time.

If it wasn't for Street School, I'd probably be locked up in jail because I would have skipped classes and gotten into trouble. Street School is my favorite school. I'm a member of the Visionary Philanthropy Group and I make public speeches for Street School.



Street School Awarded 3-Year CARF Accreditation

CARF International announced that Street School has been accredited for a period of three-years for its behavioral outpatient program. This latest accreditation is the second consecutive Three-Year Accreditation that the international accrediting body has awarded Street School.



This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its program and services are of the highest quality, measurable and accountable.

Local Companies Make a Difference

Level(3) and Best Buy Come Out in Force on United Way's Day of Caring

Street School greatly appreciates the time, effort, and resources donated on United Way's Day of Caring. Over 60 employees from Best Buy and Level(3) Communications, came out in force on September 12th. Volunteers and Street School students worked together painting classrooms and landscaping. It was a great effort.

Street School students, the board of directors, and staff can not thank these companies and their employees enough for all their good work.

Thank you!

Best Buy employees shown front row, left to right: Lisa Zier and Stacie Mason. Back row, left to right: Rich Kerr and Skip Smith.

Member Agency



Students Kiera Cole and Raven Houston.



Level(3) Communications employees Rae Ann Ayres and Tony Demas.



Meet the Challenge!

Leave Your Legacy Helping Generations to Come

"We have set our sights on reaching our long term endowment goal of raising \$2 million dollars, and been given an exciting challenge," said Dee Anne Ayles, senior manager of tax services with Ernst & Young LLP. Dee Anne serves as Street School's Endowment Chair and is championing the challenge.

Donors have many opportunities to help us reach our goal. For example, once we raise \$100,000 for the endowment, the Bezael Foundation will contribute \$50,000 to the Street School endowment.

Street School has also been selected to participate in the Tulsa Community Foundation's Planned Giving Partnership program, which is another avenue in which donors can help fund our endowment. This program assists donors

in the process of meeting their family and philanthropic goals through thoughtful long-term planning.

A significant advantage of this Planned Giving Partnership program is the free advice and consultation it provides to donors. The Tulsa Community Foundation has hired a very reputable local planned giving advisor, Mark Loeber with The Advancement Group, who provides services to all potential donors at no cost to Street School or the donor whether they ultimately make a gift or not.

Street School is excited to have taken the steps necessary to make our program's

future even more successful than we are today at meeting the needs of Tulsa's at-risk youth through an endowment, and we ask for your support.

If you would like more information about the challenge and Street School's endowment, please contact Dee Anne

at (918) 560-3764 or David Ulrich at (918) 833-9813 or email him at urichda@tulsaschools.org.



Dee Anne Ayles



Kim Camp – Teacher of the Year!

Kim Camp, Street School life skills teacher, was recently honored as a Tulsa Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year for being an outstanding teacher. Kim's award earns her a \$100 gift card for school supplies, and \$1,000 for Street School.

One of Camp's nominee's wrote, "Kim gave me strength and confidence when no one else would. She helped us achieve our goals and makes us want to come to school everyday."

Camp has been teaching at Street School for seven years after earning her teaching degree from Oklahoma State University, and working for Leadership Tulsa and Youth Services of Tulsa. When asked why she has great success with her students, Camp said, "Street School is a community which allows teachers to have the freedom to soar and explore ways to educate. We bring in new ideas and utilize a variety of skills we've acquired through our lives because not all students learn the same way."



Shown left to right: Lisa Spencer, Community Grant Coordinator Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market and Kim Camp.

Making a Difference – Changing Lives of At-Risk Youth

Teacher Recognized as Youth Worker of the Year

Lori McGinnis, Street School executive director, stated, "Sheila Jones deserves the Carmel Bland Youth Care Worker of the Year Award because she exemplifies what it means to make a difference in a child's life."

The Oklahoma Association of Youth Services named Jones as their Carmel Bland Youth Care Worker of the Year for her

dedication in helping at-risk youth. "I was honored to receive the Carmel Bland award. It's great to see the progress our students make through our program. It's rewarding seeing students make changes in their lives." said Jones.



Pictured left to right: Sheila Jones and Lori McGinnis.

Since 1995, Jones has taught English and literature at Street School. She has also taught the First Time Offender

Program as well as sponsored important student activities. Her leadership includes being a Key Club sponsor for the first Key Club at an alternative school in Oklahoma. Street School students hold a

prom each year in which Key Club students raise money to underwrite expenses, under the leadership of Jones.

Counseling Program Saves Lives

Anna's Personal Story

"I was drugged out on crystal meth when I came to Street School," said Anna, Street School graduate class of 2005. I wasn't getting along with my peers at school and I was having family problems so I turned to drugs. Fortunately Anna had a friend that attended Street School who talked her into giving Street School a try.

When Anna started at Street School, she confided her drug problem to her counselor who then spoke with Anna's father. "I was really mad when my counselor told my dad, because he started drug testing me. I felt like she was trying to get me in trouble. I didn't realize how I was destroying myself at the time."

A cornerstone of Street School is our drug and alcohol treatment program. Our counselors help approximately 35 youth each year win the battle against drugs.

Anna is now glad that her counselor told her father because the substance abuse program made her stop using and she became closer to her dad. Once clean, she realized her life wasn't going any where using drugs. She grew very close to her counselor. "That's where Street School's staff made all the difference – because they really care," Anna said.

"Street School was the best thing that ever happened to me. If it wasn't for Street School, I wouldn't be able to go to college," Anna said. Anna is attending Tulsa Community College studying to earn her degree in secondary education to become an art teacher.



If you attended Street School's Outsiders Party II at the Sonoma Bistro & Wine Bar last May, then you don't want to miss this party!

A circle of influential friends awaits the pleasure of your company at the

Winter Wine Party

benefiting Street School

You and 99 of your friends are invited to enjoy food provided by P.F. Chang's & wine provided by Glazer's

Party begins at 5:00 pm
 Sunday, December 14, 2008
 320 S. Boston Building – 21st Floor
 \$50 / guest

Holiday casual attire. Space limited to first the 100 guests to RSVP.

RSVP to 833-9813 or urichda@tulsaschools.org
 Visit www.streetschool.org to RSVP and pay online
 Checks payable to Street School, 1135 S Yale Ave, Tulsa OK 74112

Street school

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Street School Thanksgiving Nov. 25
- Thanksgiving Break Nov. 26 – 28
- Winter Wine Party Dec. 14
- Winter Break. Dec. 22 – Jan. 2
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Jan. 19
- President's Day Feb. 16
- Spring Break March 16 – 20
- Street Party April 18
- Last Day of Classes May 22

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Contact us: Street School, Inc. • 1135 South Yale Avenue • Tulsa Oklahoma 74112
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