



street school

street talk

Street School Receives National Recognition

On November 1 in Orlando, Florida, Street School was recognized nationally by the National Dropout Prevention Network with the Crystal Star of Excellence Award 2003 – 2004 as the one school chosen for excellence in dropout prevention. This is a tremendous accomplishment when you consider the seriousness and consequences of dropping out of school.

One out of every five students in the nation drops out of school. Street School students aren't attending traditional schools because of academic deficiencies, behavioral and emotional issues, pregnancy and/or parenting responsibilities. 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 (dropouts on average earn half the annual salary of high school graduates), increase tax revenues, lower welfare costs, reduce public health care costs and lower incarceration rates. For every 1,000 students who are prevented from dropping out of school, there is a lifetime government savings of \$81 million. Street School alumni are contributing members

of our community. Almost 25 percent of all of the graduates continued their education on scholarship. Three years

after graduation, almost 75 percent of Street School alumni were employed full-time.



Lori McGinnis, Ed. D., Street School Executive Director, proudly displays the Crystal Star of Excellence Award.

The Street School program is special and unique in how it addresses the causes for students dropping out and turns students around moving them in a positive direction where they can be successful and

productive members of the community by creating opportunities for students to reach their fullest potential. Students receive individual and group therapy on a variety of issues including substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, teen pregnancy, parenting, life skills, leadership, career development and higher education. Street School helps students solve problems that interfere with learning.

Gil Adams Contributes Mural

Street School, having won the National Dropout Prevention Award, wanted to illustrate how proud and honored the school is for this recognition, and who better to do just that than Gil Adams. Gil is a professional illustrator whose work can be found in many places. After graduating from OSU/Okmulgee in 1971,

Gil started work as a designer at the University of Oklahoma in the publications office. After stints at KTUL, the U.S. Jaycees Headquarters, and Phillips Knight Walsh Design, he started illustrating full time in 1990. Since 1990, he's



Gil Adams at work on the Street School mural.

also taught illustration classes at OSU/Okmulgee and OSU/Stillwater as an adjunct professor. Gil specializes in conceptual illustrations for corporate,

editorial, advertising and publishing projects. His client list includes American Airlines, The Wall Street Journal, Merrill Lynch, Consumer Reports, Phillips Petroleum Company and the Boston College School of Law to name just a few. You can find examples of Gil's work at www.giladams.com. Gil painted a mural

on the Street School foundation wall located on the Yale Avenue side of the school near the steps leading to the front door. In the mural, you can see several students holding up the Crystal Star of Excellence Award as they celebrate their proud

achievement. Street School is honored to have Gil Adams illustrate Street School's achievement.

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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, EdD
Executive Director

Teachers

Laura Abbott
Art

Mike Brungardt
English

Kim Camp
Life Skills

Ryan Henry
Science

Sheila Jones
English

Donna Shelton
Resource

Stacy White
Math

Adam Wilson
Social Studies

Counselors

Jimmy Abraham

Suzanne Bass, LSW

Wilton Cuevas, LPC

Pat Moran

Pam Sinor, LPC

Maureen TeRuki

Administration

Michelle Carter
Counseling
Administrative Assistant

Dawn Randall
School Administrative
Assistant

David Urich
Development Director



Street School Rocks! Open House

To show the community just how much Street School Rocks, an open house was held on October 14 with 85 in attendance. Students led school tours and both the teachers and counselors presented 15-minute mini sessions demonstrating not only the topics they teach, but more importantly how they teach and counsel the students.



Anna Hudson, Open House student guest speaker.

A special program and announcement was made with Street School supporters in attendance. Special guests included Kathleen Coan, President Tulsa Area United Way; Shawn Black, Executive Director Oklahoma Association of Youth

Services; David Sawyer, Ed. D. Superintendent Tulsa Public Schools; Lealon Taylor, Oklahoma Department of Education; Karen Keith, City of Tulsa Mayor's Office; Anna Hudson, Street School Student; Brian Lavarnway, Street School Board President; and Lori McGinnis, Ed. D., Street School Executive Director.

Street School received the National Dropout Prevention Network Award called the *Crystal Star Award for Excellence*, from the National Dropout Prevention Network for its success in

preventing high school students from dropping out of school. To mark this occasion, the mayor also proclaimed October 14, 2004 as Street School Day.



Street School board members pictured left to right: Thomas J. Cobb, Michael Arndt, W. Bruce Phelps and Annette Ellis.



Open house attendees shown left to right: Shawn Black and Vicki Craig from the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services; Chelsay Keck, Street School student; and Jim Walker, Youth Services of Tulsa.

What do donations and free gasoline have in common?

The answer: CITGO and Street School

CITGO Petroleum Corporation and Street School have partnered to form a unique fundraising promotion. The first 100 people to make a donation of \$50 or more to Street School will receive a \$10 CITGO Cash Card.

Carolyn Stewart, Manager, Community Relations, said, "We are excited about this excellent opportunity to form a great partnership between Street School and CITGO." Donations contributed through this campaign



will go towards funding the Street School mission. To make a donation, see the envelope enclosed in this newsletter or contact David Urich at 833-9813 or email urichda@tulsaschools.org.



STUDENT PROFILE

kevin poplin

Meet Kevin Poplin, a sophomore at Street School. He chose Street School and began attending classes in January 2004. Prior to Street School, Kevin was a student at Tulsa School of Arts and Sciences where he was struggling. After dropping out of school for about a year, Kevin said, "I realized I wanted to do something with myself." Through his mom and aunt, he was introduced to Street School.

Kevin has been very successful at Street School and has a 4.0 grade point average. When asked what he liked most about Street School,

he said, "How much they try to help you – that there is someone to help you and they don't let you go." Pat Moran is Kevin's counselor. Kevin appreciates the relationship he has with Pat and feels he can talk to him about anything.

Kevin knows kids that do not attend Street School and he doesn't understand why they don't try, and why they do drugs. "Street School is the best thing you can do for an education," Kevin said. Kevin wants people to know that he is not a stereotypical kid. He



said, "I don't judge people. I want to help the people I care about. I put my friends and family before myself. I want to do well for myself, be able to do what I want to do with a job I like." There's no doubt Kevin has his priorities straight and is going in the right direction.

Kevin Poplin with friends Anna Hodson, Lindsay Sager and Nadia Ibrahim.

"Street School is the best thing you can do for an education." – Kevin Poplin, Street School Student

Mentoring Means So Much

Community volunteers who serve as mentors play a significant role in a young person's life. A Street School Mentor is a trusted person who cares, listens, and is influential as a positive role model; a person who instills a sense of self worth, and establishes a line of open communication; 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 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.



Mentor Amy Van Oostrum with student Jodi Brayton.

discovered, for soon students were asking if they too could have a mentor. The parishioners at the Will Rogers Methodist Church answered our request in an impressive way. Twenty people responded after the first request, and by the next year there were forty mentors that came to the school for an hour a week to meet with their mentee.

We now have volunteers from local colleges and universities, the Junior League of Tulsa, the Mental Health Association, Tulsa Technology Center and various churches in town that have heard about the program and want to mentor the youth at Street School. Some of the students who had mentors while they were in this program are now mentoring others. One woman said that she volunteers as a mentor because she learned first hand how important it was

to have someone devote time to her each week when she attended Street School.

Street School still needs more mentors! If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Paula Royce with the TPS mentoring program at 587-3888 ext 12 or at proyce@resonancetulsa.org. Applications for mentoring, forms for background checks, and training are provided through this program.

Saving Soles
Street School's Leadership Class would appreciate donations of slightly used children's shoes. The class will polish and provide new laces for the shoes and donate them to several nonprofit organizations within the community. The drop off barrel will be located inside the main door of Street School. **Last day to donate is November 29, 2004.**

The Street School Mentoring Program began with one volunteer from Williams who wanted to devote some time each week to make a difference in the life of a young person. A definite need was

Parenting 101

Okay, let's learn about each other and yourself. *Waa!* Let's learn about building relationships and the perfect date.

Waaa! What do you want in a partner?

Waaaa! Let's discuss the three family types and the different parenting styles. *WAAAAAA!* As classes are being held, the cries of infants can be heard throughout the building.



Parenting 101 students (pictured from left to right): Elizabeth Pearson, Maria S. Garcia, Nadia Ibrahim and Brennan Hess.

Why? Because Kim Camp,

Family & Consumer Science Teacher, is utilizing the "*Baby Think It Over*" computerized infant simulators to help young adults understand the basics of parenting. They will learn that the demands of babies are unpredictable and must be met promptly, the consequences of parenthood, and what it is like to be sleep deprived because these students must take the computerized infants

home and care for them during the night. In addition, the experience offers many opportunities for our student's parents to discuss their own values with

their children. Kim Camp designed her curriculum so that parents have an opportunity to be an active part of the educational process.

Before the babies "arrive," students must fill out a parenting contract,

pre-simulation questionnaire, student handbook and assignment checklist. When the babies are "delivered," the fun, learning and sleepless nights begin. Teachers and fellow staff members experience baby disruptions in their classrooms, but all of them agree that the parenting lessons learned far outweigh the interruptions.

Street School's Leadership Class & Kid's World

Street School students learned about the world and the importance of volunteering at Kid's World 2004. Kid's World was held at Expo Square the first week of November. It was a place where children



Student Billie Russell (right) spends time with a Kid's World participant.

experienced diverse cultures, music, art, food and people in a child friendly environment that appealed to a youth's sense of imagination and adventure.

Under the direction of Kim Camp, Leadership and Life Skills Teacher, students participated in building booths, assisting on stage, helping participants form their own opinions about the people and places that make up the global community, and generally making sure that things ran smoothly.

Street School students learned about philanthropy by giving of their time and talent to work as a team member. As they volunteered, they met internationally focused volunteers from across the community and learned more about their world.

Getting Out the Vote

Eligible Street School students registered to vote through the help of the LWV, League of Women Voters. Betty Ann Davidson, with the LWV, worked with the Street School Student Voices group to register Street School students.

Volunteers with the groups set up tables in the Street School hallways on September 16th and registered 18 students. Mike Brungardt, Street School English teacher, commented, "Many of our students are learning about the positive ways they can contribute to society, through both their actions and their voice. By providing an easily accessible opportunity for the students who are 18 and over to register to vote, Street School is encouraging them to become informed about the issues and use their voice to become an active voter in the community."



Students Misty Springer, Laura Booth and Kevin Poplin speak with a League of Women's Voters representative.



Marlee Bruner and Jodi Brayton register to vote.

Volunteer Spotlight: Brian Lavarney

Meet Brian Lavarney – Street School’s Super Volunteer. Brian is the 2004 – 2005 President of the Street School Board of Directors. But that’s only one of many hats he wears.



Brian grew up in Oklahoma City, where most of his family still resides, but came to Tulsa in 1990 to attend the University of Tulsa, start his career and begin a family. After marrying his college sweetheart, Rachel, Brian went to work at PricewaterhouseCoopers as an audit associate. Brian has experienced a number of changes over the last 10 years, not only professionally, but personally as well. At PricewaterhouseCoopers, Brian has worked his way up to Senior Manager in the Assurance Practice and as a CPA (Certified Public Accountant), he is a

member of the AICPA and OSCP professional organizations. Brian and Rachel now have two boys; Jackson who is seven and Braden just 21 months.

Brian became a Street School volunteer five years ago when he was recruited by a former Street School board member. Brian has been very busy volunteering over the years. He has helped organize Street Party, participated as a member on the Finance Committee, has served as Treasurer, President Elect and now President.

“I would like to see Street School become a place where other educators come to learn and model our program.”

– Brian Lavarney

Brian’s motivation comes from the success he has seen. “I realize what the teachers and counselors do each day to help the students requires patience and certain skills I may not have, but by being on the board, I feel like I can help support and empower the school’s staff to be successful. Even if I can’t be there in the classroom, I feel connected to the school in this way,” said Brian.

Looking ahead, Brian sees Street School not just providing services to more students, but being a model for alternative schools. He said, “I would like to see Street School become a place where other educators come to learn and model our program.”



Leadership class members pictured front row: Juan Marquez, Jodi Brayton, Marlee Bruner and Keith Galbo. Back row: Brendan O’Brien, Christina Morris and Ashlee Wales.

Wanted! Imagination (through books)

If you have any used children’s books you’re willing to donate, the Street School Leadership Class would love to have them! The class will be donating the books to the Laura Dester Center. **Last day to donate is November 29, 2004.**

United Way Day of Caring



TULSA AREA
United Way

Over 70 volunteers came out in support of Street School on the United Way’s Day of Caring. Street School students, families, board members and staff are genuinely thankful for all the generosity. Volunteers painted the school’s hallways, cafeteria, a classroom and boardroom, trimmed trees, cleared weeds and worked on

landscaping, built utility sheds and repaired a water fountain all in one day.

Street School would like to thank the many volunteers from Williams, the University of Tulsa and the City of Tulsa INCOG Group for volunteering their time, effort and talents to make this all happen. This type of support is critical to Street School’s survival as the school has seen substantial funding decreases over the last several years. “It’s amazing what a new fresh coat of paint can do,” said Lori McGinnis, Street School Executive Director, “we’re grateful for this support and the United Way Day of Caring.”



Volunteers paint the halls of Street School as one of several Day of Caring projects. Shown at right is Danni Morris of Williams.

Lorraine McReynolds:

Program Director Celebrates 20 Years

Congratulations to Lorraine McReynolds! She celebrates her 20th year with Street School this school year. Lorraine is the school's Program Director. Her responsibilities include supervising the counselors, teachers and registrar as well as coordinating the academic and counseling program. Street School has achieved tremendous success during Lorraine's tenure. Most recently, the National Crystal Star of Excellence Award for Dropout Prevention was bestowed upon Street School in a ceremony held in Orlando, Florida on November 1st.



Lorraine McReynolds

Over the years, Lorraine has learned that students have the ability to overcome their problems with the right environment; the kind of environment you'll find at Street School. She commented, "I have such respect for the students and what they manage to accomplish while here. Many are struggling with a myriad of problems, yet they are productive, successful, creative and goal oriented."

Lorraine is very proud of the Street School program. She said, "The school is just an

amazing place! Everyone here has their heart in the program-and it shows. The students love being here, and the staff loves working with the students. I feel very fortunate to be able to work with such a wonderful group of people. And I'm fortunate to get to be with these students everyday. Not only are they an inspiration – they're great fun!"

Lorraine is much more than an administrator. She is actively involved with the students. One student recently commented that "Lorraine was like a parent to me because she cared and had an interest in what I did."

Lorraine actually started with Street School in 1974 as a volunteer when she tutored students in reading. From that experience, she fell in love with the program. She saw first hand that if it wasn't for the school, kids would be in the streets. To this day, Lorraine works to keep the original feel and purpose of the school alive. "It's important to continue to fill the need in the community that was identified at the school's inception, for that need is still present today-more so than ever. We've expanded programs, added services, and constantly look at ways to make improvements while keeping the family atmosphere that is so important to maintain for the students," she said.

Lorraine's motivation comes from her belief in the program. She sees how valuable it is for students by the positive impact it has in their lives. The Street School program fills a community need as there is no other program that offers everything Street School does. Each year, graduates return to Street School and share with Lorraine how important Street School is to them and what an impact it's had in their lives.

the Street school silver screening

Street School held its first ever Silver Screening on November 18, 2004 at Circle 2, the newly renovated theater at Circle Cinema. This fundraising event was chaired by Kathryn Offermann, Street School board member.

Recognition and sincere thanks go to both our our sponsors and guest speakers. The event's sponsors were Grant Thornton LLP, Omni Air International and the John Steele Zink Foundation. The event's speakers were Gayla Jones, Brian Lavarney, Lori McGinnis, Richard Palazzo and Jennifer Vazquez. Both Jennifer and Gayla's daughter Scarlett LeBow graduated from Street School in 2001.

What's a "screening" without producers? The Silver Screening "Producers" made the event a success by inviting guests to join them for the Silver Screening. Producers were Roseanne Bell, Rachel Blue, Maggie Fox, John M. Kittelson, Thomas K. McKeon and Kathryn Offermann.

Patrons to this new event enjoyed a social hour with hors d'oeuvres prepared by Curt and Marj's Catering, followed by a short Street School program and the documentary movie, "Chain Camera," a premiere showing in Tulsa. To create the movie, director Kirby Dick gave a video camera to ten high school students to film their lives. After a week, the video camera was passed on to another ten teenagers and so on. The resulting movie is an eloquent and uninhibited slice of teenage Americana.

"Our goal was to have 100 new supporters attend this first ever event," said Offermann. "Street School is an outstanding program and provides a much needed service for Tulsa's youth and this event was established to raise awareness and revenue to support the programs offered at Street School."

The Silver Screening committee who helped make this event such a success included Gina Carroll, Brad E. Cheffey, Thomas J. Cobb, Sarah E. Hansel, John M. Kittelson, and Kerry Malone. Thank yous also go to Liza Wenzel, Ranch Acres Wines and Spirits and Laura Abbott, Street School Art Teacher.

Street Party Prom

Were you Prom Queen or King at your high school prom? Either way, here's your chance to be Prom Queen or King for the day; at least the evening anyway. Street School will be holding its first ever Street Party Prom fundraising event in place of the annual Street Party that was held each year in February at the Woodland Hills Mall.



**Street Party Prom
Fundraising Gala
Saturday, April 9, 2005
Cain's Ballroom
7:00 p.m.**

This new and very exciting event will be held on Saturday, April 9 at the Cain's Ballroom beginning at 7:00 pm. Ticket price is \$50/person and Prom

attire is optional, but recommended if you want to have a lot of fun reminiscing and entering our Prom Queen and King contest. To make this perfectly clear, this is not the Street School high school prom. No, this prom is for Street School's adult patrons.

The Street Party Prom will feature the traditional prom look and feel including a professional photographer for a keepsake picture, a live band, plenty of streamer decorations, and spiked punch. It will also include a live and silent auction, along with some terrific catered food – something we didn't have, but should have had, at our proms.

Would you like to be the Prom Queen or Prom King of the 2005 Street Party Prom? The Prom Queen and King that

raises the most money as a couple with donations being turned in the night of the prom will be crowned Street School's Prom 2005 Prom Queen and King. For more information about the Prom King and Queen contest, please contact David Urich at 833-9813.

Volunteers Needed!

If you would like to help with the 2005 Street Party Prom, please contact David Urich at 833-9813 or urichda@tulsaschools.org.

that make it possible." – Lori McGinnis, Street School Executive Director

Thanksgiving Celebration

The 23rd annual Street School Thanksgiving Dinner was held on Tuesday, November 23 for Street School students, families and supporters. Over 200 people were feed with Street School board members and staff serving up the fixin's. This tradition is an excellent example of how Street School is a unique and exceptional community made up of those dedicated to keeping kids in school and seeing them graduate and going on to have productive lives. The dinner was free to all those that came through the generosity of the Stonehorse Café, Bama Pie, Reasor's, Great Plains Coca-Cola, Street School Board of Directors and Advisory Board, and Street School staff. Street School staff and volunteers cooked the turkeys at home, and Stonehorse Café, through their munificent support, cooked and prepared everything from hams to apple pies for this bountiful thanksgiving feast.

"Without everyone's generous contributions, this wouldn't be possible," said Lori McGinnis, Street School Executive Director. She added, "It's exciting to work together and share this experience with so many friends of Street School. It's a great time to give thanks for the school and those that make it possible."

"It's a great time to give thanks for the school and those

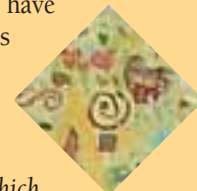
Street School Art on Display at Philbrook's Festival of Trees



Felicia Regan and Juan Hernandez pictured with their Festival of Trees entry.

Christmas Jewel 2 is the name of the tree Street School students created for this year's *Festival of Trees*, which is held at the Philbrook Museum of Art.

This mosaic tree took approximately 50 students almost 9 weeks to complete. The tree is made up of tile, pieces of cups and plates, and hand made clay pieces, which were crafted by the students and fired and glazed at Street School. This is the second year Street School students, under the direction of Laura Abbott, Street School art teacher, have made a tree for this event.



The tree will be on display during the *Festival of Trees*, which runs from November 20 to December 5.

New Logo Unveiled

Street School unveiled its new logo on October 14, 2004 before students, faculty, Street School board members, funders, and the public. The original logo was created in 1980 in a black and white design. Richard Palazzo, Executive Director of Street School at that time, held a logo drawing contest, and promised that the winning logo design would become Street School's new logo. The student that won added a third profile in red, a yellow pencil and a red inverted pyramid for the background.



Previous Logo

The new logo emulates the essence of the Street School program, which is a private, non-profit alternative school of choice and therapeutic counseling program. Street School is grateful to Janet Huchteman with Williams and Kerry Walsh and Walsh Associates for their work in creating the new logo. Lori McGinnis, Street School Executive Director, said, "We're excited about the new logo. It reflects the caring welcoming community we have at Street School where students succeed."



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Silver Screening11-18-04
- Thanksgiving Dinner11-23-04
- Street Party Prom
Fundraising Gala 4-9-05
-
- Thanksgiving
Break 11-24 to 11-26-04
- Winter Break . . . 12-20 to 12-31-04
- Martin Luther King Day . . . 1-17-05
- President's Day 2-21-05
- Spring Break 3-21 to 3-25-05
- Memorial Day 5-30-05
- Commencement 6-2-05
- Classes End 6-9-05

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