



## Kitchen Makeover Completed for Thanksgiving

**The school's kitchen had not been touched since the 1950s.**

Just in time for Thanksgiving, Street School completed the remodel of our kitchen classroom. Since 1988, Street School has occupied the old Franklin Elementary School located at 11th and Yale in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Tulsa Public Schools has transported breakfast and lunch to the school from satellite locations

in the District for 23 years. The new kitchen will not only assist TPS but it has been designed as a classroom to provide learning opportunities.

Before final plans were made, teachers were surveyed on how they could use the kitchen to incorporate teaching concepts. And, in typical Street School fashion, the ideas were non-traditional. The math class could use the kitchen to emphasize weights and measures;

the Spanish class could cook a traditional meal and the life skills class could incorporate etiquette, setting a table and teaching basic kitchen knowledge.

**“We couldn't be more thankful this holiday season to those that made this dream a reality,”** stated Lori McGinnis-Madland, Executive Director of Street School. Stacy Schusterman, the Sarkeys Foundation, the Grace and Franklin Bernsen Foundation, the Gelvin Foundation and Tulsa Charity Fight Night provided financial support to make the new kitchen possible.

The grand opening of the kitchen coincided with Street School's 30th Annual Thanksgiving celebration. More than 390 guests including students, their families, donors and other community supporters were served a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

The Street School Board of Directors has established a tradition of planning and providing the annual Thanksgiving meal. They work to secure donations

to help off-set the costs involved. TRC Disaster Solutions provided the turkeys and all paper products. Stonehorse Cafe provided the balance of the meal that included, among other things, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole and pie.

The highlight of Thanksgiving were the assistance of celebrity servers. Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett, State Representative Jeannie McDaniel, State Senator Gary Stanislawski and television news anchors from all major stations were on hand to help. James Aydelott, Chera Kimiko and Clay Loney from Fox23 were there as was Julie Chin from KJRH2, Kristin Dickerson from KTUL8 and Travis Meyer from the News on 6.

For 23 years, Tulsa Public Schools has transported two meals a day to Street School. That is 745,000 meals!

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# From the Executive Director . . .

Lori McGinnis-Madland, Ed. D. • Executive Director, Street School



*Lorraine McReynolds-Program Director, Street School; Latisha Long-student; Representative Earl Sears; Becky Rigsbee-student; Lori McGinnis-Madland-Executive Director, Street School*

## Funding is critical to the mission

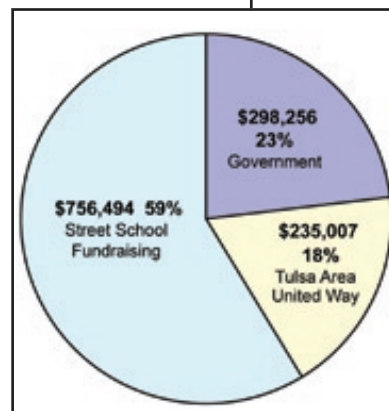
The 2011-2012 school year started off with news! Mostly all news was good news but there was surprising news in the mix too. What was the surprise?

In June, the Oklahoma State Department of Education eliminated its funding to Street School. For more than 25 years, the department has provided upward of \$185,000 toward our operating budget. To lose 15 percent of our revenue without warning was a surprise!

Private sector organizations and persons who come time after time to Tulsa's aid with financial support for good causes have pledged *most* of the \$185,000 for this school year. We are thankful to them and all of our donors.

Street School will raise 59% of its funding this school year. Other funding will continue from the Tulsa Area United Way, the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Office of Juvenile Affairs. It is a full-time effort to bring those dollars in the door and I'm thankful we can employ Development Director David Urich to help make it happen.

Moreover, in looking ahead at the 2012-2013 school year budget, it will be a tough road. Currently, we are working with key legislators in an effort to fill the 15 percent reduction.



Street School is a family of students, staff, donors, board members and community supporters. Together, we will forge through this circumstance and continue make a difference in the lives of Tulsa's youth.



**Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)**

Demonstrated commitment to being the best.

Partner Agency



Street School is one of 61 agencies supported by the Tulsa Area United Way.

**LIVE UNITED**  
GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

# Students Meet Freedom Writer Founder Erin Gruwell

Arriving to Street School at 6 a.m. to catch the bus to Wichita Falls, Texas was worth it!

In 1984, Erin Gruwell, an instructor at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach, California, was challenged by a room of students considered to be un-teachable. She adapted her curriculum to engage students by using relevant literature and journal writing. Street School English instructor, Sheila Jones, uses these methods now called the Freedom Writer method.

Jones learned that Gruwell would be in Wichita Falls participating in a North Texas United Way fundraiser. Since Wichita Falls is just four hours from Tulsa, Jones decided to take a bus load of students to meet the famous teacher.

“Just like Erin, I work with at-risk students all day,” stated Jones. “The impact she has made on uniting students through literature allows my classroom to stay engaged. Through books such as *The Boy Who Dared* by Susan Campbell-Bartoletti which tells the story of a teenager living in a concentration camp, these high school students can not only relate their struggles to the subject matter, but relate to each other.

“I have students who suffer from abuse, family dysfunction, poverty and addiction. When they make a connection with a book they read in my class based on the Freedom Writer methods, it makes an impact. A huge impact,” said Jones. In addition to the travel expense of getting to Wichita Falls, the per person ticket fee was \$20. When Jones, her students and Street School Instructor Donna Shelton checked in at registration, they learned their tab had been paid by a local supporter.

When Gruwell learned that students had gotten up early to hear her speak, she couldn't hold back the tears. “I'm a mess - I'm a hot mess right now,” she said. “I'm feeling emotional because of these beautiful kids here,” she said. “These could easily be my kids.”



*Students from Sheila Jones English class pose with Freedom Writer founder Erin Gruwell in Wichita Falls, Texas at a United Way Fundraiser.*

## STREET SCHOOL STAFF

**Lori McGinnis-Madland, Ed. D**  
Executive Director

**Lorraine McReynolds, NCC**  
Program Director

## INSTRUCTORS

**Laura Abbott**  
Art Instructor

**Kim Camp**  
Life Skills Instructor

**Michael Easter, NBCT**  
English Instructor

**Anais Garcia**  
Spanish Instructor

**Sam Harris**  
Math Instructor

**Sheila Jones, NBCT**  
English Instructor

**Matt Livingood**  
History Instructor

**Julie Moeller**  
Science Instructor

**Donna Shelton**  
Resource Instructor

**Milannie Siegfried**  
Internship Instructor

## COUNSELORS

**Jana Emerson, MSW**  
**Jenny Fitzgerald, LCSW**  
**Carroll Miller, LPC**  
**Pam Sinor, LPC**  
**Maureen TeRuki, MSHR**

## ADMINISTRATION

**Michelle Carter**  
Counseling Administrative Assistant

**Glenda Lollis**  
Receptionist

**Dawn Randall**  
Administrative Assistant

**Kelly McElroy**  
Community Relations Director

**David Urich**  
Development Director



# Philanthropist...me?

**Yes, you!  
Everyone can participate.**

The problem with philanthropy (giving money without receiving a return) is that it's PERCEIVED as hard to do unless you're rich. Who wouldn't want to donate a million dollars to fight cancer? Or increase capacity at Street School?

**Drum roll, please as we introduce** www.GoodSearch.com! GoodSearch is a search engine that has an unusual gimmick. Every time you do a search with them, they will donate one cent to Street School. Now, you are probably thinking, "woop-de-doo!" But, if you do just 10 searches a day, that's .10 cents. In a month, you will have raised \$3 and in one year, that is \$36. If you have 25 friends that do that and they have 25 friends, that is \$1,800 for the year!

**But wait . . . there's more!** GoodSearch also has a feature called GoodShop. Every time you buy something through GoodShop, Street School gets a percentage of your total purchase. You don't pay more for the items you buy, GoodSearch has set up an easy system to allow big business to make a tax deductible donation to your charity.

There are thousands of stores that have an agreement with GoodShop. A few of the more popular ones are Amazon.com, Best Buy, eBay, iTunes, Target, Travelocity and Walgreens. Check it out to be amazed by the multitude of stores you shop every day.

GoodDining is also a feature that pays when you dine. After registering your credit card information, GoodDining will recognize when you use your credit card at a restaurant. A portion of your bill (up to 6%) will go back to Street School.

**To get started**, simply visit www.GoodSearch.com. Register yourself so GoodSearch will recognize you each time you visit. Then, search for Street School in the list of charities and select Street School, Inc (Tulsa, Okla). That's it! Now, every time you go to www.GoodSearch.com, your searching and shopping will automatically donate to Street School.

GoodSearch is powered by Yahoo, not Google. To make it more convenient, GoodSearch does have a downloadable toolbar. This helps to break the habit of "googling."

Maybe one day, by everyone being a philanthropist through GoodSearch, Street School can be listed as a "Top Earner." Currently, for 2011, the Blind Cat Rescue and Sanctuary has raised \$4,765. Street School has raised \$28.18.

## International Visitors



Guests from Indonesia enjoyed getting their picture taken with student Travis McCoy



Thirteen guests who work with youth in South America pose for a picture in the cafeteria.

Two groups of international guests visited Street School in the Fall. Through a partnership with the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program and the Tulsa Global Alliance, these educators were interested in looking at American alternative ed programs that work. Both groups were impressed with Street School's therapeutic counseling program, the student to teacher ratio and a sense of family.



## ● Meet a Senior: Becky Rigsbee

● At the age of 13, Becky found herself living in Oklahoma, hooked on pills and wishing her mom wasn't in prison. After a bumpy ride in California, Becky moved to Oklahoma to be near family and tried attending two different Tulsa high schools. She was lost and her best friends were oxycontin, marijuana and alcohol.

● Somewhere, along the way, she met a Street School alumni and the success story started. She visited the school with the former student and met intake and referral counselor Wilton Cuevas. After a thorough application and testing process, Becky was accepted into the Street School program. She developed a relationship with a drug and alcohol counselor who listened and taught Becky how to trust again. She also began to understand just how important graduating from high school is.

● Becky has been clean and sober for two years. After attending Street School for four years, she is on track to graduate in May 2012. "If it wasn't for Street School, I wouldn't be alive. My education has always been important and I'm thankful I'm ready for the next journey."

● Becky worked part-time at Oklahoma Police Supply for a year. She takes care of her car's maintenance and is saving for college. She would like to study something in the area of criminal justice or study law.



*Rock N' Roll All Night*  
**Saturday, May 12**  
**7:00pm**

**Hard Rock**  
HOTEL & CASINO

**TULSA**

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# A typical day at Street School . . .



Monday through Thursday, Street School is in session from 8:30 a.m.-2:05 p.m. On Fridays, Street School lets out at 12:45 p.m. This schedule fits the needs of our students in the best possible way. Trent Thrasher is a freshman at Street School. Here is his typical day.

- 7:15 a.m. Trent catches the City bus a few blocks from his house. (This is after he has fed the family cat Sash.)
- 8:14 a.m. Trent steps off the bus near 11th & Yale and walks a few blocks to school. He is greeted by a teacher and the security guard. Just like every other student that arrives at school, Trent is checked by a metal detector and any bags he may have are searched.
- 8:25 a.m. Trent rushes to the cafeteria to grab a hot breakfast sandwich and milk.
- 8:30 a.m. Reports to home room where his counselor, Jenny is checking on her case-load, making announcements and taking orders for lunch.
- 8:45 a.m. Home room ends and he reports to his first class: Spanish I with instructor Anais. This week they are learning about spanish verbs.
- 11:00 a.m. Lunch is served in the cafeteria by Cynthia. He is greeted by Glenda the receptionist before he is served the hot meal of the day. After lunch, he walks to the gym where students are playing pool, volleyball and hanging out.
- 11:30 a.m. Loud music is heard over the intercom throughout the school signaling it is time to report to his second class of the day: English I with Michael. They are reading Romeo and Juliet where Trent reads the part of Tybalt and Capulet.
- 2:05 p.m. School is finished for the day and Trent rushes to catch the bus that departs the stop at 2:08 p.m.



# Gay Straight Alliance

GSA's are student formed clubs that work to improve school climate for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression by getting involved and planning positive activities centered around the school.

Elijah Wilson, a senior, is President of Street School's GSA Chapter. In order to get the chapter recognized at school, Elijah had to secure signatures from at least 20% of the student body in two weeks time. Before two weeks were up, he secured 54%.

English Instructor, Michael Easter is staff sponsor of the GSA. Every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., Michael keeps his classroom open over the lunch period so the GSA can conduct chapter meetings. "I'm really proud of these kids," said Easter. "The GSA has given leadership opportunities to lots of students who want to make a difference."

Elijah says that his term as president will be a success if he can change people's minds about equality. "There is a reason we are all at Street School. We all already have so much in common. I want to broaden people's minds so that we can all get along even though we are all different."



Michael Easter, Street School staff sponsor and Elijah Wilson, GSA Chapter President work on fundraising ideas for GSA t-shirts.

[www.gsanetwork.org](http://www.gsanetwork.org)



# FRIDAYS ARE "GROUP DAY" AT STREET SCHOOL

Each Friday, after students are released from home room at 8:45 a.m., they report to their "group." In August, after the school year was in full swing, students signed up for the group that interested them the most. The decision is an important one as students must remain with that group until the end of the school year.

Groups that meet on Friday include:

- Key Club
- Media
- HIV & Pregnancy Prevention
- Studio Art
- Attic Conversations
- Music
- Event Planning
- Wilderness Recreation
- Parenting

Teachers and counselors are responsible for the various groups. They lead the discussions, drive the buses and provide the best experience possible.

Thanks to a grassroots grant from Williams, Street School took more than 400 field trips during the 2010-2011 school year. Friday group day utilizes a portion of this grant to give students experiences they may not otherwise be exposed to.

The wilderness recreation group has 13 participants who get to experience activities like hiking, kayaking, ropes courses and camping. "Kids learn teamwork, communication and relationship building," said science instructor Julie Moeller. "Plus, they have a little fun being a teenager."

The attic conversation group meets off campus in the attic of a group therapist. There, a group of female students discuss a variety of topics. "It's a safe place for girls to fall," said counselor Maureen TeRuki. "Nothing is off topic and it's fun to help our students sort through issues they have never had the opportunity to do so."

Street School does not have a lot of elective choices or after-school activities. Group day allows students to get involved in things that may be offered at traditional high schools. The music group is similar to "band". The event planning group works on the prom and other school-related events such as the Fall Festival and Winter Party. The media group is working on a video about Street School that will be uploaded to the school's YouTube channel and by the end of the year, will have produced a yearbook.

All involved will agree that no matter what group students are involved in, it works. "For whatever reason, the needs of our students were not being met at traditional high school," said counselor, Jana Emerson. "This school, and group day, allow our students to seek the needs they were missing in their life. They know they want something better for themselves and here, at Street School, we give them the opportunity to find it."

wish list  
**FOR GROUPS:**

- Four-person tents
- Cast iron Dutch ovens
- Headlamps
- Hanes "Beefy T-shirts" for screen printing
- Poster board
- Digital Cameras
- Hobby Lobby Gift Cards
- Parenting workbooks & videos
- Lowe's Gift Cards (art supplies)
- Camcorder with audio input
- Donation of DJ services
- Wal-Green's Gift Cards

# Day of Caring

Over 114 volunteers from Williams Companies arrived at Street School on September 9, 2011 and hit the ground running. They painted, weeded, planted, mulched and built bulletin boards as part of the Tulsa Area United Way Day of Caring.

“The United Way does a lot for our school. I like the day of caring because its neat to see them helping make things better,” said student Saxxon Walker.

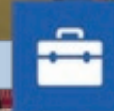
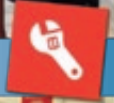
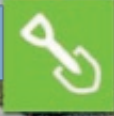
Prior to the actual day of caring representatives from Williams toured the school and got a game plan together. Once the project “to do” list was generated, Cyndi Nixon-Kernan from Williams went to Lowe’s Home Improvement Store with a group of students.

“We purchased 100 bags of mulch, other yard supplies and items for the art department,” said Nixon-Kernan. “I love day of caring because the students at Street School get excited.” In addition to putting the school yard in tip-top shape, the north hall lockers made a complete transformation.

“Since occupying this building in 1988, the lockers have remained the old, dirty brown, out-of-date color,” said Internship Instructor, Milannie Siegfried. “It is amazing what a fresh coat of paint will do. I can’t wait to get the south hall done next year.”

Students were surveyed after Day of Caring to seek input on how the day went. Their favorite part of the day was lunch as Williams had pizza from Hideaway delivered for everyone!

Thank you Williams for making a difference at Street School year around. In addition to Day of Caring, various other Williams departments deliver school supplies, items for the food pantry and contribute to the World is our Classroom educational grant.

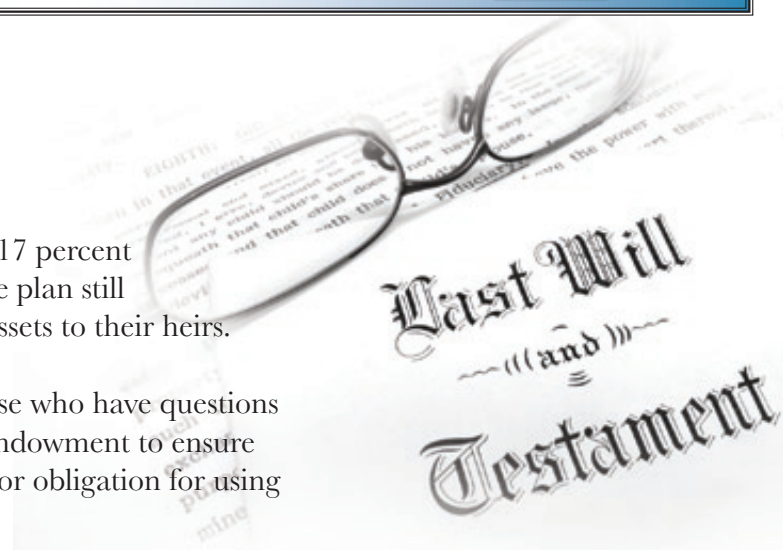


## Did you know?

In 2009, 65 percent of Americans had no Will in place. 17 percent believe they do not have enough assets to create an estate plan still 58 percent of Americans have no Will to transfer their assets to their heirs.

Street School provides a no cost planning service for those who have questions regarding Wills and trusts. It’s our way of building an endowment to ensure Street School is here for years to come. There is no cost or obligation for using this service. It is just our way of partnering with you.

For more information or to arrange an appointment, please contact Kelly at 918-833-9821 or email [mcelrke@tulsaschools.org](mailto:mcelrke@tulsaschools.org).





**street school**

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# Wilton Cuevas

March 5, 1951 - November 24, 2011

## Street School says “see you later”

Wilton Cuevas, intake and referral counselor at Street School passed away on Thursday, November 24, 2011.

Wilton was a part of the Street School family for nearly 15 years. Hundreds of students and their families all crossed paths with Wilton as he was their introduction to Street School.

“He could connect with kids on several levels and command their respect. He was completely transparent and honest, and they appreciated that.” Said Gregg Conway, a coworker at Operation Aware where Wilton worked prior to coming to Street School.

Several students, staff and alumni made heartfelt posts on Facebook after

the news broke. “Wilton was an amazing man who had faith in me when no one else did,” said one student. “Shoes that can’t be filled, a sad day,” wrote a parent.

A native of Puerto Rico, Cuevas grew up in an orphanage in New York. With no dependable adults to rely on, Wilton took responsibility for himself and instilled his work ethic and self improvement tactics on others.

“So many of our kids don’t have positive male role models. With his background, Wilton understood that need and he provided it. He saved kids lives, helped them find their way to sobriety and empower them,” said Lori McGinnis-Madland, Executive Director of Street School. “He will be greatly missed.”

