

NEWS

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Press Release

EXTREME MAKEOVER

Street School to Get Extreme Kitchen Makeover - - Wall Smashing Event a Success

Tulsa, Ok – August 29, 2011 - - Street School, a non-profit alternative school of choice, held a kitchen wall-smashing event to kick-start the extreme makeover of their kitchen. Street School began occupying the old Franklin Elementary School in 1988 and since that time, they have been without a functioning kitchen. Once the makeover begins, students are targeted to have a working kitchen by Thanksgiving.

“Thanks to our donors and supporters, this marks another milestone in the history of Street School,” said Lori McGinnis-Madland, Street Schools’ executive director. “This kitchen will open a new window of possibilities for our students and allow all teachers to enhance their lesson plans.”

Since 1988, Tulsa Public Schools has transported breakfast and lunch each day to Street School for more than 150 students and staff. 62 percent of those students that respond, participate in the free and reduced meal plan. Often times, the food served at Street School is the only nutritious meal received. “The likelihood exists that more than 62 percent of our students qualify for the free and reduced plan, but many families won’t complete the necessary paperwork,” stated McGinnis-Madland.

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The existing kitchen at Street School had out of date equipment in addition to a layout that no longer made sense for today's standards. When designing the kitchen, the classroom was not forgotten. All teachers will have access to the kitchen to conduct continued learning exercises. For example, the math class could use the kitchen to educate students about weights and measures. The Spanish class could learn to cook traditional dishes.

In 2010, Street School began a campaign to raise more than \$250,000 to renovate the kitchen as the first phase of the student nutrition and culinary education program. Initial funding from Stacy Schusterman, The Gelvin Foundation, the Grace and Franklin Bernsen Foundation, and Tulsa Charity Fight Night started making this dream a reality. "The dollars and grants received for the kitchen project are separate from the Street School general operating budget. Even though our funding was eliminated by the Oklahoma State Department of Education, it does not affect the dollars ear-marked for our new kitchen classroom," stated McGinnis-Madland.

"It is our hope that this new kitchen will not only provide meals but nutrition education to enhance their learning experience," said Lise Inman-Blevins, Street Schools' president of the board. "Due to a variety of reasons, many students have never had access to basic nutrition knowledge or the ability to make informed choices about healthy options."

The new kitchen was designed by Crafton Tull, Helms Architects and Tim Inman of Stone Horse Cafe. West Construction will be in charge of meeting the deadline of having a working kitchen by Thanksgiving. Each year, students and their families are treated to a traditional Thanksgiving meal. The meal is complimentary and made possible by community supporters.

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About Street School: Street School is a tuition-free dropout prevention, intervention, and recovery program for students in grades 9 through 12 who live in the Tulsa Public Schools district. Services include high school education and therapeutic counseling. Additionally, Street School has a certified drug and alcohol treatment program.

As an alternative school, the Street School program incorporates teaching through real life experiences which reinforce key learning outcomes. With an average of 140 students and a focus on learning that engages the whole person, Street School is a great place to earn a high school diploma.

Those present at the wall-smashing event included:

- Lise Inman-Blevins, president, Street School board of directors and vice president The Berrywood Group
- Lori McGinnis-Madland, executive director, Street School
- Lorraine McReynolds, program director, Street School
- Elli Johannsson, treasurer, Street School and vice president, Crafton Tull
- Dean West, president West Construction