



street talk

Street School Wins Statewide Award

Street School was named the first recipient of the Oklahoma Award for Outstanding Achievement in Alternative Education presented by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. The award was presented before state alternative school peers at the Superintendent's Alternative Education Summer Institute on July 30, 2009 at the Meridian Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

"We are delighted to recognize Street School of Tulsa for its innovative programs and its exceptional record of helping at-risk youth complete high school and prepare for success in society," said Emily Stratton, executive director of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, a charitable organization that recognizes and encourages academic excellence in Oklahoma's public schools.

In 2007-08, the percentage of graduates from Street School was 83.3 percent, versus the state average of 76.4 percent. Last year, the school met or exceeded all 17 state-established criteria for Alternative

Education Programs, with notable achievements in intake and screening, community collaboration, individualized instruction, counseling and social services,



Emily Stratton with Lori McGinnis-Madland and the Street School staff.

student graduation plans, life skills instruction, self-evaluation, effective instruction and arts education. Street School has also become an alternative education model for educators from around the world through a partnership with the Tulsa Global Alliance.

In a letter of recommendation praising Street School's programs, curriculum and

staff, Marvin Jeter III, Tulsa Public School's assistant superintendent for School Innovations, wrote, "I have been associated with alternative programs in a variety of capacities and levels for approximately 20 years in three states. I have observed few programs that consistently demonstrate the quality of services to students that I have witnessed at Street School."

A parent of a Street School student recently wrote, "Street School is able to take students who have not fit in for years in the public school setting and help them realize their educational dreams. It's also able to take students whose home life has been difficult and teach them

how to make better lives for themselves. Basically, Street School gives students the confidence to become who they were meant to be."

A Real Street School Ambassador



Paul Coury

The historic Hotel Ambassador celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a private fundraiser benefiting Street School. The Hotel Ambassador and The Coury Collection matched the total donations received at the event up to \$10,000. The event took place at the hotel and featured live entertainment as well as appetizing hors d'oeuvres from the Chalkboard restaurant.

Street School thanks Paul Coury and The Coury Collection staff for their generous support!

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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.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Hey Kim,

I just wanted to check in with you. This year, I started teaching and have my own class. Things are going great. I am very happy with it. It's very challenging and worth every second of the time it takes to prepare crafts and activities as well as lesson plans and snacks.

I must say I learned so much from you and I appreciate the things you have taught me and more importantly, the skills and drive you gave me to pursue my biggest dream. Other than the school going great, my life is going great. I am 3 years clean as of today and could never use again. Bob and I are still together and talking about marriage, kids, and buying a house. I have lost all connections with the people that brought me down and only fill my life with positive people.

I knew you'd be happy to hear from me and I know you are smiling knowing that you changed my life for the better, and a teacher's biggest desire is to impact the life of their students in a positive way. I thank you and everyone at Street School for the support and keys to getting my life on track.

Thanks, *Kara*

You're Needed!

Positive Adult Role Models Mentor Youth

Call Lorraine at 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.



Pictured left to right: Mentor Virginia Wood with Heather Hayes.

"The mentor program has really motivated me," said Heather Hayes, Street School mentee. "For three years now, I look forward to every Thursday when I spend time with Virginia, my mentor. She has really inspired me in every way."



Street School mentors at the annual mentor orientation luncheon.

Street School Staff

Lori McGinnis-Madland, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Teachers

Laura Abbott

William Allen

Kim Camp

Michael Easter, NBCT

Anais Garcia

Sheila Jones, NBCT

Matt Livingood

Julie Moeller

Donna Shelton

Milannie Siegfried

Counselors

Wilton Cuevas,
LPC, LADC

Jana Emerson, LSW

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



Leadership Class Builds Brighter Futures

Students in Kim Camp's, life skills teacher, leadership class participated in a six-week service learning project supporting Tulsa's Habitat for Humanity. Students supported the organization in a number of ways including raising money.

Students worked in Habitat's woodshop building flooring and walls for sheds, and they volunteered in Habitat's ReStore organizing donated merchandise for resale. Back at Street School, students organized fundraisers. They created and sold

special t-shirts, sold cans of pop, and held a "Hats for Humanity" fundraiser where classmates paid a \$1.00 to wear a "fun" hat to school. They proudly

donated \$225.

As part of their class, students attended a Habitat for Humanity orientation and tour, participated in a new family screening process and application, learned about the need for safe, decent, affordable housing, and learned about mortgages and closings.

"This type of service learning is a good example of Street School's *The World is Our Classroom* approach to education," said Camp. "Students learned about the Habitat for Humanity organization while helping make home ownership a reality for a family in need."



Pictured left to right, holding check: Jamie Cox and Heather Hayes. Left to right, back row: Austin Pelletier, Sean Donica, Kayla Davis, and Jessica Morse.

Students Help Shape School's Future

Students formed a visioning group led by Barbara Berry, of the Berrywood Group, last year. The visioning group focused on developing a vision of Street School's future. The group met every Friday and discussed a variety of topics focused on what the future would look like for such things as the school building, the student body, fundraising, education, staff, and other future possibilities.

Anais Gracia, Spanish teacher, and Wilton Cuevas, intake counselor, sponsored the visioning group. "It's exciting to see how motivated and involved the students are in this group," said Garcia. One student, Kristie, commented, "I've learned more in this group than any other class I've ever had."

The group also discussed the skills they would need for the future, and what the school would be like in order to develop those skills. Berry explained the Seven Survival skills, as authored by Tony Wagner in his book *Global Achievement Gap*, as key to the visioning group's future.



Pictured left to right, back row: Yasmine Espinoza, Sean Donica, Steven Donica, Caitlynn Jenkins, Collin Heritage, Kristie Rodriguez and Jenna Wilson. Front row left to right: Monique Harris, Barbara Berry and Wilton Cuevas.

Those seven survival skills are:

1. Critical thinking and problem solving
2. Collaboration across networks & leading by influence
3. Agility and adaptability
4. Initiative and entrepreneurialism
5. Effective oral and written communication
6. Accessing and analyzing information
7. Curiosity and imagination

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.

STUDENT PROFILE

Meet Kristie!

Meet Kristie, a Street School junior with some aspiring goals who is very grateful for Street School.

Before choosing Street School as her high school, Kristie was having problems at home. She lived with her two younger brothers and a mother with a drug addiction problem. School attendance was suffering as a consequence of her family problems, and she needed to make a change. So she moved out, began living with her boyfriend's family, and enrolled at Street School.

What a difference Street School has been for Kristie. When asked what she likes most about Street School, Kristie said, "The great opportunities I have to see and do things I haven't done before." Kristie was one of six students to go on a field trip to Spain with her Spanish class. "It was the first time I've flown or left the country. I took away a love for travel and expanding my boundaries," she said. Kristie also participated in a glass blowing class where she made glasses, bowls, flowers, and ornaments. One of her favorite classes was the visioning group. Kristie said, "It was a great class because we looked at things in a different way – outside the box."

After hearing Ralph Gum, Street School mentor and pharmacist, speak to Kristie's class, she has been inspired to become a pharmacist. Kristie is currently attending Tulsa Technology in the morning taking a health and science class, and plans to take a pharmacy technician class at Tulsa Technology Center her senior year, before continuing her education at Oklahoma State University.

Good luck Kristie!



Giving Thanks to You at Thanksgiving

Street School's 28th Annual "family" Thanksgiving luncheon was held Tuesday, November 24 at Street School. "This tradition brings together Street School students, their families, volunteers, mentors, and supporters. All of them make our program a success," said Howard Doak, with Cityscape Home Mortgage, Thanksgiving luncheon chair, and Street School board member.

Thanks to the generous donations from Street School board members, staff, and Lise and Tim Inman with the Stonehorse Café, guests were served a free Thanksgiving meal. This tradition is an example of how Street School is much more than a school – it is family.



Howard Doak



Street School – Not Your Typical Spring Break Destination

Students from Boston University spent their spring break helping Street School, and the students and staff sincerely thank them! Each year students from Boston University select a community service project they would like to do for their alternative spring break. On March 9 and 10, a group of 12 students volunteered painting rooms at Street School.

"They could have gone anywhere and had your typical college spring break experience, but they chose to pay their own way and drive 32 hours to help the youth of Tulsa, and that's truly amazing. They are great role models for our students, and we appreciate their generosity," said Wilton Cuevas, Street School intake counselor.

On the Boston University students' last day at Street School, they split into groups and visited with the Street School students about college life. "The group was very inquisitive. It was neat to relate to them in that way because no matter what school you're in, it's a rocky transition from high school to college," said Alex Shuck, Boston University student.

The Boston University Alternative Spring Breaks program has been dispatching students throughout the United States since 1987, and has helped the Open Arms Youth Project (OAYP) located here in Tulsa for the past three years. It is through the support of the OAYP, that this year's students were able to



Boston University students

help Street School. The college students spent two days helping Street School and three days completing projects at OAYP.

Internship Program Expands - Helping More Students Succeed

When Street School began its student internship program five years ago, it was on the cutting edge of this form of education. The program's expansion mirrors a current trend in alternative education through which students receive hands-on learning opportunities to enrich their educational experience.

Students are asked about their career interests and efforts are made to place them as interns in companies that match those interests. Six students interned at the following companies in October through November: Tulsa Glass Blowing, The Little Light House, Urban Tulsa Weekly, U.S. Army Recruiting Station, Ranch Acres Veterinarian Hospital, and Island Dream Beads.



Milannie Siegfried

employment after they graduate. Students have also expressed their enthusiasm for the program, which has encouraged many to pursue specific career paths and others to pursue related areas in college. Many participating companies have hired students who were interns.

Milannie Siegfried recently joined Street School as the program's new internship instructor. Siegfried is overseeing the expansion of the program so that it can serve more youth each year and ultimately the entire student body.



Pictured left to right: Taryn Young, Milannie Siegfried, and Clarissa Spencer.

Our student internship program has proven to be very successful in a number of ways including teaching teens how to write a resume and the techniques of applying for a job, and how to find

Key Club's Student Store

Street School's Key Club is an award winning group that has been in operation for over fifteen years, and was the first to be established in an alternative education program in Oklahoma. This group raises money throughout the school year for the school prom and other school functions by operating a student store. Students take turns during the lunch period selling snacks that they choose with guidance from the Club's sponsors.



Pictured left to right: (front row) Eveyln Fox and Raven Houston; (back row) Kiera Cole, Anteeshia Isaac and Priscilla Thomas.

Key Club students also volunteer at the Tulsa Area Food Bank and Emergency Infant Services on a regular basis, and have volunteered for Habitat for Humanity as well as provided help for individuals who are either too sick or elderly to care for their property. They also adopted a city park a number of years ago. Each Friday this community service group provides help to these

organizations in a variety of ways including packaging food, organizing donations, sorting and labeling canned goods, sorting clothes, and bundling diapers. The partnership with these organizations is a win-win relationship. It not only benefits the clients receiving the services, but the ones who are helping those in need.

Save the Date

Please mark your calendars and save the date for our 15th annual fundraiser benefiting Street School.

Rock-n-Roll Street Party

Saturday, April 10, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 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.



TULSA

United Way's Day of Caring Builds Relationships

Students spent United Way's Day of Caring not in their classes, but interacting and sharing with volunteers from Magellan Midstream Partners and Tulsa Community College. The volunteers and students formed teams doing landscaping, playing pool, volleyball, ping-pong, and making clay pieces of art.

Lindsay Boswell, a sophomore at Street School, said she enjoyed spending the day with the volunteers making pottery for the



school's silent auction fundraiser. "It's nice of them to come over here. This year we're just doing fun things together," she said. "Last year they painted a lot of the classrooms. This time, they've been talking to us and getting to know us."

Terri Stilwell, an environmental specialist with Magellan, played ping-pong with students. "I think this is a great organization that does great work. I'm more than happy to volunteer my time," she said. "The kids are awesome. Hopefully we'll have a positive impact on them."

Street School executive director Lori McGinnis-Madland said the volunteers' efforts are invaluable. "Our students are able to see the volunteers giving their time to help make their space better," she said. "This special day fits very well into our program's theme of

Pictured left to right: Ashleigh Reyes and Stacy Colpitt, Magellan employee.



Pictured left to right: Heather Hayes, Vivian Selmon Magellan employee, and Shaina Zeff.

The World Is Our Classroom as community volunteers come to Street School and share with our students."

Member Agency



"The Scholarship Program Changed My Life"

Congratulations to Kessiah, Street School class of 2000 alumni, for her continued collegiate success. Kessiah has earned her associates degree from Tulsa Community College and is currently enrolled at Northeastern State University where she is working on a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Kessiah said, "I feel I owe my education to Street School. I would not have had the motivation or resources to go to college without Street School." Kessiah has received six Street School college scholarships.



Kessiah Sopko

Prior to Street School, Kessiah's life was headed in the wrong direction. She ran away from home at 17 and found herself working at fast food restaurants. "I loathed it," she said, and she decided to go back to school. Kessiah is a first generation college graduate in her family with a message to Street School students about going to college. She said,

"Even though you feel intimidated at first and you're not sure what to do, you need to go for it because it will help you be successful."

Street School's college scholarship program is a resource made available to any former Street School student to help them meet the financial challenges of continuing their education beyond Street School. Street School's scholarship committee makes grants for spring, summer, and fall classes. Using the scholarship budget, the committee fulfills as many requests as possible at a level that helps the student pay for tuition and books yet enables as many grants to be made as possible. The annual scholarship budget is based upon the donations received specifically for the fund each year. Without donations to the scholarship fund, the program would not exist. Please consider supporting Street School's college scholarship program with your gift today.

Planning For Your Dream Season

As the 2009 football season has just begun, a lot of excitement is brewing about who is going to be the best team of the season. Everyone has their opinion; however, what is usually not discussed are which teams have effectively identified their greatest weaknesses and created the most effective plans to maximize their team's full potential.

Our life in some respects is a lot like the kickoff of the football season in that only a few of us have created and implemented plans to minimize shortfalls and maximize our potential. Are you ready to start your "dream season" or are you going to remain on the sidelines?

Everyone knows that planning always pays off. Even so, most people never take the time to review their assets and properly plan. In fact, over 70% of all Americans have nothing in place as it pertains to their estate plan. Of those who do have plans created, most are out-dated and need to be revamped. Whether you have something in place or nothing at all, it is never too late to development your "game" plan or ask for a second opinion.

One way Street School can help is by providing planning services that can be customized to meet your family and philanthropic goals. In essence, you will be creating your "Dream Season" by providing something that can bring value and peace of mind to you and your family.

There is no cost or obligation for using our educational estate planning service; it's just our way of strengthening our partnership with you. For more information please contact, David Urich at (918) 833-9813.

Replacing Chalkboards with SMART Boards

Thanks to a grant from the Hardesty Family Foundation, Inc., Street School has added SMART Boards to its classrooms. The interactive nature of the SMART Board provides many practical uses for the classroom.

Teachers create unique interactive sound-enhanced lessons and link websites, Excel spreadsheets, and PowerPoint presentations.

Documents can also be scanned into slides to help create curriculum based material. The images and flash graphics in the "Gallery" are added features that help to create a 21st Century environment within the classroom.

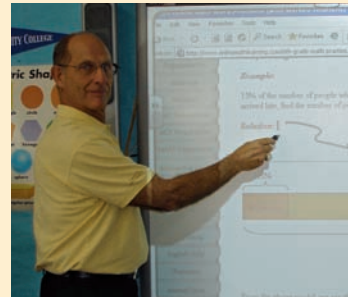
SMART Boards are presentation tools that teachers connect to a computer in the classroom. The images from the computer are displayed on the board by

a digital projector. Because the interactive whiteboard accepts touch input from a finger, pen, or solid object, SMART Boards allow teachers to use interactive applications with their

students. Teachers can make notes on the SMART Boards, highlight content, click through to various applications and also print out content to give to the students.

The SMART board has become a new methodology for

teachers to actively engage students in educational content. Teachers give SMART Boards an A+ for providing the ability to share ideas with students and offer remote-learning experiences, as well as for their ease of use. As of 2007, more than 800,000 SMART Board interactive whiteboards have been sold in more than 100 countries.



Math teacher Will Allen

Staff News!

Welcome two new teachers, Matt Livingood and Milannie Siegfried!

Matt is the social studies teacher, and vice president of the TPS board of education. Matt was recently voted one of the five most "outstanding school board members" in the state according to the Oklahoma State School Board Association. Association members awarded Livingood the All State School Board Award during the association's August 29 annual conference in Oklahoma City. Before coming to Street School, Matt was a practicing attorney in Kentucky and Oklahoma for 25 years, and has taught at Tulsa Community College for five years.

Milannie joined Street School this year as the internship instructor. Before Street School she taught elementary school at Monte Cassino with undergraduate degree from Notre Dame, and a masters degree from the University of Tulsa.

Congratulations to Pat Moran, M. Ed. who is a counselor celebrating his 20th year with Street School and to Lorraine McReynolds, program director, who is celebrating her 25th year with Street School.



Pictured left to right: Matt Livingood, Lorraine McReynolds, Milannie Siegfried, and Pat Moran.



A circle of 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

Party begins at 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 6, 2009
320 S. Boston Building – 21st Floor
\$50 / guest

Holiday casual attire. Space limited to the first 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. 24
- Thanksgiving Break. Nov. 25 – 27
- Winter Wine Party Dec. 6
- Winter Break Dec. 21 – Jan. 1
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day . . . Jan. 18
- President's Day Feb. 15
- Spring Break March 15 – 19
- Rock-n-Roll Street Party. April 10
- Senior Graduation. June 1
- Last Day of Classes June 2

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