



streettalk

Congratulations Class of 2009!

23 Students Participate in Commencement Ceremony

Street School is honored to present the class of 2009: Darneisha Austin, Shana Avison, Lacey Brown, Kaigan Clapp, Justin Colley, Scott Cosner, Jennifer Dayton, Charlene Driver, Abigail Furgason, Joseph Griffey, Aaron Hamilton, Brooklyn Heritage, Whitney Heuett, Kenneth Highers, Christian McManus, Tieu My Thi Pham, Mikel Robinson, Alexander Rumley, Catrina Solomon, Christine Stanford, Aarion Taylor, Kelsey Tidwell, Keifer “Milan” Ward. A commencement ceremony was held on May 21, at Will Rogers United Methodist Church for the graduates.

Life after Street School will include many varied opportunities for our graduates. Eighteen of the graduating seniors will begin college in the fall. Most of the seniors completed their college entrance exams and were enrolled in Tulsa Community College by the end of April. Others have been accepted into Tulsa

Technology Center for the 2009-2010 school year, and a few of the students have lined up jobs.

This past school year, a total of 126 students participated in our dropout prevention, intervention, and recovery program. Each six-week session, we reach full enrollment quickly with students who have chosen to attend Street School. There are also approximately 20 students who are on our waiting list with an additional 20 teens being referred to other alternative programs. Our one of a kind program is in great demand as youth understand the benefits of our program, but keeping classrooms small with 13 students in each class and our student body at 90 students is critical to our success.

Commencement speeches were given by graduating seniors, Brooklyn Heritage, Chris McManus, and Rena Pham. Pham said, “Students receive an excellent



Student commencement speakers, pictured left to right: Brooklyn Heritage, Chris McManus, and Rena Pham.

education at Street School. Through the hard work and dedication of the Street School staff, I am ready to step out and take on whatever challenges come next in my life.”

Commencement took place at 6:30 p.m. followed by a catered reception. Street School wishes to thank the Tulsa Accordion Band for donating their services and the Will Rogers United Methodist church for hosting the graduation ceremonies.

Good luck to our graduates!



Street School Class of 2009

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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 grades.

Street School Staff

Lori McGinnis
Madland, 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



Spanish Lessons in Spain

Spanish Language Club Takes Once In A Lifetime Field Trip

Thanks to a grant from the Hille Foundation, students in Street School's Spanish Club experienced the ultimate field trip when they went to Spain April 15 – 21. One student, Sara, said, "I can't believe I live in Tulsa when there is so much to see here in Spain," as she toured Toledo.



Pictured left to right: Alma Bonilla, Wilton Cuevas, Sara Packard, Christine Stanford, Kristie Rodriguez, Christian McManus, Anais Garcia and Monique Harris

The six students, one counselor, and one Spanish teacher made Madrid their home for the seven day trip. "This is a lesson our students will never forget," said Anais Garcia, Spanish teacher. "Our program focuses on the world as our classroom, and coming to Spain brought our classroom lessons to life because it is more than learning the language; it's about learning other cultures."

While in Madrid, students visited museums including the Prado museum, palaces, a fortress, a cathedral, and the 12th century St. Mary's synagogue. They also toured several towns in addition to Madrid

including El Escorial, Segovia, and Toledo. Students also saw art by Velazquez, Goya, and El Greco, and went to a damascene workshop where they saw how swords are made and decorated with threads of gold. While traveling between cities, students saw a countryside much different than that of Tulsa. One student said, "The landscape is beautiful; especially the snow-capped mountains."

Upon returning home, students created a presentation of their trip along with a photo album and shared it with their fellow students at an all school assembly. They also shared the presentation with the Hille Foundation while thanking them for making such a wonderful learning experience possible.

Thank You!

A big Street School thank you goes out to Jeremy Coman for his support of Street School. Jeremy is a Holland Hall student who wrote and produced a film titled Entropy, which premiered April 24. The proceeds raised through ticket sales and sponsorship, which totaled over \$10,000, he donated to Street School.



Jeremy Coman & Kathleen Berger, Street School board president

Other special THANKS goes to:

The Coury Collection & The Hotel Ambassador
10 Year Anniversary Celebration Benefiting Street School

The Hardesty Family Foundation
Classroom Smart Boards

Hille Foundation
Student Field Trip to Spain

The Gelvin Foundation & ONEOK, Inc.
TABE Testing Equipment

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.

The Outsiders Party – You Made it A Success!

Street School's 14th annual fundraiser The Outsiders Party – Act II was a record setting success raising \$210,000 - an all time record! Through the generosity of 83 sponsors, ambitious Coolest Outsiders contestants, and many student art auction items, Street School held its fundraiser on April 18 at the Crowne Plaza Tulsa hotel. A resounding "thank you" goes to all the many volunteers and donors that made this event possible including Tulsa author S.E. Hinton for the theme from her classic book, *The Outsiders*.

Responsible for the event's success are event co-chairs Kathleen Berger and John Villareal, and honorary event chair Stacy Schusterman. They were supported by a volunteer organizational committee, which included: Julie Blake, Amanda Bullock, Kevin Clayton, Tom Cobb, Kenny Dean, Howard Doak,



John Stancavage & Kerry Malone

Annette Ellis, Sarah Hansel, Kathleen Harris, Lise Inman, Joy Jenkins, Missy Kruse, Kerry Malone, Jim Millaway, Kathryn Offermann, Donna Ogez, Jennifer Pettey, Kerry Walsh, Donna Weatherl, and Nicole Wier.

Highlights of the evening included our contest winners. The winners of the Coolest

Outsider contest were Kerry Malone & John Stancavage. This honor was bestowed upon the couple that received the most "votes" a.k.a. raised the most money as donations for Street School. Contestants were: Marnie Ducato & Shane Fernandez, Sarah & Braxton Thomas, Tracey Southard & Cole



Donna & Jack Murray

Miller, Renee Stevens-Sheehan & Mark Sheehan, Maren & Lance Lively, and Kerry Malone & John Stancavage. This year's Coolest Outsiders couple raised \$3,680, with the all participants raising \$11,500!

Other contest winners included Maren & Lance Lively in the dance contest; Lori McGinnis as the Best Dressed female, and Chris Lopez as the Best Dressed male.

Street School students helped to make the event a success as well. Not only by helping move supplies, decorations, and auction items from Street School to the Crowne Plaza, but by creating one-of-a-kind works of art, which were included in the auction, and raised \$3,880.

A Special Thank You to our Outsiders Party Sponsors:

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Stonehorse Café
Thyme Bistro & Catering
The Wild Fork

Mardi Gras Magic

Mardi Gras Magic was the theme of this year's student prom, held on May 2 at Street School. This all-student prom was organized by the Street School Key Club, which has 13 members along with Street School representatives Sheila Jones, English teacher, and Pat Moran, counselor. Key Club members raised money through a school store, and invested many hours over the week leading up to the dance



Abby Rigsby & Brent McDonald

decorating the school gym for the very special occasion. A record 97 students participated dressed in their prom attire for a night to remember.



Nocia Cowen & Yasmine Espinoza

Students Awarded Outside the Lines

Street School student, Yasmine Espinoza, won Honorable Mention in the Outside The Lines 2009 writing contest sponsored by Tulsa Community College, and was published in the annual anthology. Poems and short stories from nine area high schools were published in this year's anthology.



Shown left to right, front row: Heather Hayes and Nocia Cowan. Second row: Charlene Driver, Clarissa Spencer and Yasmine Espinoza. Back row: Ryan Leslie, Alex Martin and Aaron Hamilton.

Congratulations to Nocia Cowan, Charlene Driver, Aaron Hamilton, Heather Hayes, Ryan Leslie, Alex Martin, Ben Morris, and Chrissy Spencer for their poems. Students were honored at an awards ceremony held at Tulsa Community College. They each received award certificates and a copy of the Outside The Lines 2009 anthology.

Sheila Jones and Michael Easter are Street School's English teachers. Jones said, "Street School students have been published in Outside the Lines for the past seven years. Each of our published authors should be proud of themselves."

Glass Blowing – A New Class for Students

Thanks to support from the Hille Foundation and other local donors, six Street School students learned how to make glass art at the Tulsa Glassblowing Studio. These charitable contributions enabled students to take a two-hour class once a week for 21 weeks.

Sarah Diggdon, Tulsa Glassblowing Studio artistic director, explained that students were taught the process of glassblowing including the variety of tools and techniques used. Students learned how to manage the 2,200 degree oven and molten glass with special glassblowing tools. As their classes continued, their skills and glass-making techniques became more advanced as well. Students began by making simple solid sculptures and progressed to hollow pieces and then adding other pieces of glass and color to their work.



Another important aspect to glass making is the teamwork involved. As students advanced in their class, they worked more and more as a team. There was a team leader who gave directions to his/her peers as they worked together to create beautiful pieces of art.

Jennifer Dayton, Street School student said, "The class taught me a lot about patience as you cannot rush the process. It was a great opportunity to see a different art form that we wouldn't otherwise experience, and we developed teamwork and good communication because you have to work as a team to make glass sculptures."

Lacey Brown



Jennifer Dayton

Writing Across America

“Students having pen pals is a great way for them to learn about life in other parts of the country,” said Mark Kohan, teacher with Barnes Alternative Learning Center in Fairmont, West Virginia.

Street School formed a pen pal relationship with the school in West Virginia when Sheila Jones, Street School English teacher, met Mark Kohan at the Freedom Writers Institute in Long Beach, California in August 2008. As the only two alternative education teachers attending the conference, they began talking about their alternative programs sharing what their schools had in common as well as some of the differences.

In October, Sheila’s and Mark’s students began writing each other. “Mark sent details about his students so we could match our students together based on common interest,” said Jones. After months of exchanging letters, the pen pals were able to meet each other face-to-face. Through the generosity of Open Arms Youth Project, the West Virginia pen pals came to Tulsa, April 1 – 4. Street School students showed their pen pals around Tulsa visiting the Gilcrease Museum,



Heather Hayes, Street School student and Justin Cunningham from West Virginia.

Tulsa’s Air & Space Museum, and the Kaiser Holocaust Exhibit at the Sherwin Miller Museum. The West Virginia students also attended classes with their Street School pen pals.

“It was a great experience getting to know someone from another part of the country, and it is something I couldn’t have had without Street School – thank you,” said student Heather Hayes.

Planning That Makes a Lasting Difference

Our focus at Street School is to provide students with the education and counseling they need to motivate them to learn, grow, and become socially competent productive citizens in spite of the variety of challenges they face. By providing services for at-risk teens, we can make a life changing difference that will affect them and the generations that follow. At Street School, we have taken this task to heart by solidifying our program through establishing an endowment.

Through Street School’s participation in the Tulsa Community Foundation Partnership Program with The Advancement Group, we are now able to provide free expertise and assistance for customized gift planning to individuals like you. Planned gifts are personally designed to meet your family and philanthropic goals, and depending upon your specific situation, there are ways to structure your gift so that you can save on taxes, receive lifetime income, or both.

Did you know that 94% of planned gifts are simple bequests, and the average bequest is \$35,000? Consider bequeathing 1% of your estate to Street School.

If you would like to learn about this exceptional opportunity, please contact David Urich, Street School development director at (918) 833-9813 or email him at urichda@tulsaschools.org.

Reading Buddies

It’s Much More Than Reading!

Students in Sheila Jones’ English class are Reading Buddies with kindergarten students at Hoover Elementary school. Throughout the school year, Street School students read to their buddies once a week, and this year they also took a special field trip to the Oklahoma Aquarium. Thanks to a grant written by Street School students from the George Kaiser Family Foundation, students from both schools were able to spend the day at the aquarium.



This is the seventh year for the Reading Buddies program. Approximately 60 students participate in the program each year. Goals for the program include students being role models for the kindergartners, for the kindergartners to increase their reading skills, and to instill a love of reading. The kindergartners also draw and write in their journals each week, which helps with spelling and writing.

“The kindergartners look up to the high school students, and the Reading Buddies feel needed and valued through the relationship. It’s a great program for both sets of students.” said Jones.



Congratulations Sheila Jones!

Teacher Awarded National Board Certification & Teacher of the Year

Sheila Jones was selected as Street School's Tulsa Public School (TPS) Teacher of the Year. She was among the top 12 chosen by an Education Service Center committee, and interviewed to be one of the top five teachers in TPS. Jones said, "I was very honored to be nominated as Street School's Teacher of the Year. It means a great deal to me to be recognized by my peers."

In November 2008 Sheila Jones received her National Board Certification, and screams of excitement were heard throughout the halls of Street School when the announcement was shared with the school.

The journey to become Nationally Board certified began in March 2008 and included training sessions and peer mentoring. During the 2007-2008 school year, Jones worked on four portfolios that consisted of analyzing

student work, video-taping small and large group student led discussions, and a community based portfolio. Throughout the process she analyzed her teaching strategies and her teaching practices. Jones said, "I learned a lot about myself, my students, and what really works in my classroom. Through my students' hard work and dedication we accomplished a great deal during the year. It was an invaluable experience."



Sheila Jones and Catrina Solomon

featured in her writing portfolio. "Catrina was always willing to go the extra mile when more revisions were needed," said Jones. Catrina said, "It was an honor to participate in Sheila's National Board certification. It's a pleasure to know I helped."

Real Life Education & the Family

Class Has Life-Long impact

The Tulsa Public Schools *Parents as Teachers* program is offered at Street School and is facilitated by parenting educator Lorie Smith. Ms. Smith individualizes lessons for each pregnant and parenting teen to best help them become more knowledgeable about their own child's development. They learn about age appropriate reading materials, play, music, and various activities that are best for their children. The parent educator helps the parents guide their children to become more advanced in cognitive abilities as well as social adjustment.



Lorie Smith (left), parenting educator, and Chris Maricle, Parents as Teachers director.

Kim Camp, Street School life skills instructor, also teaches a parenting class through the Family and Consumer Science class to all students – not just those with children or expecting. The six-week curriculum includes field trips and studying course topics such as relationships, parenting, and health and safety as these topics relate to the family. For example, students learn about positive relationships, knowing the difference between love and infatuation, making parenting decisions, caring for an infant, nurturing children, and meeting family responsibilities.

Students Speak Out

Three Street School students, Shaina Zeff, Heather Hayes, and Amy Pullen, presented their ideas at this year's *Listen Up! Tulsa* conference at the Greenwood Cultural Center last February. The conference, presented by the Mental Health Association in Tulsa, gave area high school students the chance to voice their concerns and advice on topics that affect youth and is held every two years.

Students gave 17 presentations on topics ranging from safety in schools to sex education.

Zeff gave a presentation about education reform, highlighting the reasons why students tend to lose interest in classroom material, and gave advice about how to

refocus class time on understanding worthwhile material rather than simply "jumping through hoops" to get a grade. "It was a challenging but worthwhile opportunity to share our thoughts about education," said Zeff.



Heather Hayes & Shaina Zeff

Heather and Amy gave a presentation together about preserving downtown Tulsa's distinct historic elements. "We want to see downtown become a lively economic center without destroying architecture and other things that are unique to Tulsa," said Hayes.

"I'm incredibly proud of these girls," said Stephen Zedler, Street School's social studies instructor. "They researched their topics and spoke passionately about them."

The World Is Our Classroom: A Rock Climbing Adventure

Street School's Wilderness Group went rock climbing with Matt Nida of the LeFlore County Health Department at Robbers Cave State Park in May. Six students took on the challenge; four of them for the first time. "Generally, they think they can't do it their first time, but I've watched them have great success and many of them make it to the top their first time. Knowing they made their first climb makes their second time out even more special for them," said Julie Moeller, Street School science teacher.

"It was a challenge, but we all overcame our fears," said, Justin Colley, Street School student. Moeller leads her students on a variety of Wilderness Group adventures each year, with rock climbing trips twice a year. This year, students have gone camping, hiking,

biking, and even visited Arrowhead Archery, where students practiced using a bow and arrows in a shooting range.

Moeller said, "In the classroom students are challenged mentally, but we all know that in the real world a self-assured attitude often becomes more important than knowledge. I see the Wilderness Group providing our young people with the opportunity to develop a sense of their own capabilities."

Moeller's Wilderness Group challenges students physically and mentally, and at the same time builds trust in themselves and their teammates, creates self-esteem, and promotes

positive attitudes. Street School partners with Matt Nida of the LeFlore County Health Department who provides much of the equipment and instruction. Other activities Matt conducts with Street School include ropes courses, orienteering, and camping.



Shown left to right: Brandon Blish, James Gladden and Abby Furgason.

Volunteers Receive National Recognition

As part of National Volunteer Week, Street School volunteers Kathleen Berger, Howard Doak, and John Villareal received the United States Presidential Volunteer Service Award based on criteria set by the President Bush's Council on Service and Civic Participation. This prestigious award was given to volunteers in the Tulsa area in recognition of their time to improve their community. The ceremony took place on April 23 at Centennial Park.



Left to right: Howard Doak, Kathleen Berger and John Villareal

Kathleen Berger joined the Street School board in 2005. She has demonstrated her strong leadership on the board of directors as board chair, president elect, fundraising co-chair, and Outsiders Party co-chair as she championed Street School's mission.

Congratulations to Kathleen for receiving this award two years in a row. "Thank you sincerely for this honor. I am proud to stand with my peers, and privileged to work with such an outstanding organization as Street School, in whose mission I believe changes the lives of Tulsa's youth," said Kathleen.

Howard Doak, with Cityscape Home Mortgage, joined the Street School board in 2008 and came to us a Leadership Tulsa intern. Howard has chaired and

served on several committees, all crucial to the well being of our program. We have been so grateful to Howard for his efforts in organizing our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon as well as his efforts with our annual fundraiser. Doak said, "What a

great honor, however I don't think I deserve to be singled out! I believe that it is my responsibility as a citizen and member of this community to give back both of my time and resources. Street School is an amazing program that has touched so many lives that I feel honored to work in growing and maintaining this great program."

John Villareal joined the Street School board in 2007, and has worked tirelessly to bring our mission to a wider audience. John has chaired two new fundraising efforts since joining the board, which have proven to be very successful. He has co-chaired the fundraising committee, and has served on a several other committees while highlighting the great things that are happening at Street School.

Member Agency



Dear Street School,

My name is Sean Wilson and I live in Redding, California. I'm a real estate broker and own Wilson Realty. I have been married for 9 years and have two children.



By the time my mom and step dad moved to Tulsa, we had moved around so much (several times a year) that I had given up on graduating from high school. I was very frustrated and had been disruptive to other students in the previous schools I attended. In Tulsa, I was enrolled at Will Rogers High School. I only attended two weeks before dropping out. An administrator at the high school suggested Street School.

From my first day at Street School, I experienced a very kind and caring attitude from the staff. This welcoming feeling took the anxiety out of attending. The time I spent there allowed me to get back on track and provided me with the education I needed at that time to move forward toward other educational and career orientated goals. Because of the way Street School helped me, I wanted to help someone else, so my wife and I decided to adopt a child.

Thank you again Lorraine McReynolds and the entire staff at Street School for all that you have done for me.

Sincerely,

Sean Wilson

Street school

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Commencement May 21
- Summer Wine Party at
The Local Table Aug. 2
- First Day of Classes Aug. 20
- Labor Day Sept. 2
- Parent Teacher Conference Oct. 14
- Student Fall Break Oct. 15 – 16
- Street School Thanksgiving Nov. 24
- Thanksgiving Break Nov. 25 – 27
- Winter Break Dec. 21 – Jan. 1
-

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