

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Street School Offered \$50,000 Challenge**

**TULSA, Okla.** – Street School, Tulsa’s award winning alternative high school has received its single largest challenge gift for general operations. Carol Robinson, president of the Canada Company, provided details of the \$50,000 challenge during a media event at Street School.

“Like other members of this community, I’m frustrated with the sweeping state cuts for education funding,” said Robinson. “When I learned that Street School was looking at a budget shortfall, I knew I needed to do something for Tulsa’s most at-risk students who need our support the most.”

“I’m challenging this community to donate to Street School where I will match, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000.00,” said Robinson. “All donations to Street School must be received by June 30, 2016.”

Street School is facing a budget shortfall of \$107,000 for this fiscal year, ending June 30 primarily due to state funding cuts. Fortunately, the Canada Company, a longtime, supportive community partner of Street School decided to offer a challenge grant.

“This challenge could not have come at a more crucial time,” said Street School executive director Lori McGinnis-Madland, Ed.D. “What an honor to receive this opportunity for our general operating budget that could potentially end this school year in the black.”

Founded in 1973, Street School is a non-profit alternative high school of choice that has become a national model for helping at-risk youth. By combining academics with therapeutic counseling, the school has a unique approach in working with teens who have a myriad of academic, social, emotional and even substance-abuse problems. On average, Street School has a 90% graduation rate.

Dollars that flow into Tulsa Public Schools directly, finance the salaries and benefits of four of Street School’s 10 teachers. The district also provides the building Street School operates from in addition to in-kind support for facility and technology services.

“The impact of this challenge grant comes directly to Street School,” said McGinnis-Madland. “Our budget of \$1.4 million dollars must cover salaries and benefits for staff plus other expenses necessary to serve more than 130 students annually.”

Street School is calling the challenge “Double Impact” because every dollar will be matched thereby doubling the donation.

Donations can be made by visiting the Street School website at [www.streetschool.org](http://www.streetschool.org) and clicking on the *Double Impact* link.

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# STREET SCHOOL

Street School is an alternative high school with a therapeutic counseling program accredited by Tulsa Public Schools. The school's mission is to create a supportive community for students in grades 9 through 12 who have chosen to work toward graduating from high school in a non-traditional setting. Street School is a dropout prevention, intervention and recovery program and recognized nationally as a leader in dropout prevention. Students *choose* to attend the school because they are committed to graduating, to learning and practicing life skills, to resolving substance abuse problems, to dealing with behavioral issues and to filling the void of support traditionally provided by family.

Street School is a non-profit organization governed by a board of directors made up of Tulsa community leaders. Street School does not receive funding from the Tulsa Public Schools Foundation; however, the Tulsa Public Schools district is an invaluable and essential since 1973.

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**Donations:**

Made payable to Street School, Inc.  
Mailed: 1135 S. Yale Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74112  
Online: [www.streetschool.org](http://www.streetschool.org) (Look for the Double Impact link.)  
Deadline: June 30, 2016

**Photos:**

Group Pic 1 DOC: Street School staff members along with the Street School Board of Directors and Carol Robinson, Canada Company pose with a picture of the \$50,000 challenge check. (Left to right: Lori McGinnis-Madland, Ed.D., executive director, Street School; Nimish Dharmadhikari, board member; Mark Wilson, board member; Jana Emerson, associate executive director, Street School; Sandra Thornton, development director, Street School; Adam Paluka, board member; Cyndi Kernan, board member; Judy Gadlage, board president; Carol Robinson, Canada Company)

Lori Carol Sandra Judy Lockers Cropped DOC: Left to right: Lori McGinnis-Madland, Ed.D., executive director, Street School; Carol Robinson, president, Canada Company; Sandra Thornton, development director, Street School; Judy Gadlage, president, Street School Board of Directors.)