FOOTPRINTS

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GULF BREEZE SCHOOL HONORED

Gulf Breeze Elementary School has been named a "SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE," by the State of Florida Department of Education. This award means more than a plaque to display in the hall. It also includes a cash award of about $37,000, to be used by the school.

Gulf Breeze was one of two schools in the Santa Rosa School District which was asked to submit information for a SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE award. G.B.E.S. Principal Karen Murray asked Mrs. Aldridge to prepare the explanation of strategies and programs implemented which put their School in a class above others in the district. One which was cited was the Accelerated Reader Program administered by Helen Lusoe, faculty coordinator and Mary Morris, Media Specialist. Using funds granted by the Foundation, Mrs. Morris purchased books and tests to implement this program. Its success is attested by outstanding advances in reading comprehension by a group of students over one year. This is one of several projects at the Gulf Breeze Elementary School which the Foundation has helped to fund. Other items funded EASY LISTENER Phonics Ear amplification systems and EASY WRITERS for children with special needs.

Principal Karen Murray has done an excellent job of enlisting local businesses as educational partners, as well as building a vigorous and active Parent Teacher Association. Her faculty has the freedom to utilize new and innovative programs for the benefit of the pupils. We enjoy our work with principals like Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Linda Novato of Navarre Intermediate, Navarre, Florida, Dr. Maxine McNair of Horse Creek Elementary in Okaloosa County, and Mrs. Nancy Knott of Crested Butte, Putnam City School District. These administrators have built a cadre of caring teachers, concerned parents and community cooperation which is working.

There is so much negative comment in the national media about the sorry state of our public schools. We find that there are still capable administrators, dedicated teachers and concerned parents who make these schools top-notch.

SCHOLAR GRADUATES

Shannon Herold, who was the first to receive the Aldridge Scholarship at the Michael Price School of Business Administration has graduated with honors from Oklahoma University. Miss Herold has accepted a position with AMOCO "in Las, Oklahoma where she and her new husband will make a home. We wish you success and happiness.

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Trends across the country and the world
Education Department

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**FOOTPRINTS**

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**COMMUNITY LITERACY CENTER**

**PROGRAM ACHIEVES GOALS**

The L.E.A.P. program (Learning, Enriching, Achieving, Preparing) was initiated last year by the Community Literacy Center funded by a grant from the Foundation. This was a cooperative effort in which the Community Literacy Center partnered with other Oklahoma City nonprofit organizations to provide literacy training for their clients on site.

It was designed to have CLC introduce the program, train agency staff and volunteers, and prepare them to run their own literacy program after one year.

Four L.E.A.P. sites were established. At them six teachers and one hundred nineteen volunteer tutors were trained. Teachers and tutors served 655 clients during the grant period, 357 of whom were men, 390 were women.

As of the report date, June 11, 1998, two sites have secured funding to continue training, two were still seeking funding.

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**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

**HONORS VOLUNTEERS**

The Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity honored its volunteers with a Mexican Fiesta at the Oklahoma City Council Tuesday October 6, 1998.

Board Chairperson, Ann Felton reported that the 200 by 2000 program for building new homes was on schedule. In the homes already built 500 people, over one-half of them children, will benefit, not only from better living conditions, but also from knowing that there are caring individuals willing to sweat and get dirty in order to provide them a better place in which to live.

It was inspiring to learn the many sponsors who have made the building of these homes a reality. Local Churches, Area Radio and TV Stations and both local and national corporations have united to provide the funds and materials required to build these homes.

Many local businesses provided door prizes which were distributed among the nearly three hundred people who attended.

Habitat provides affordable housing for hard-working families with limited income. Each homeowner has invested 300 hours of "sweat equity" in the construction of his or her home.

The finished property is owned by the new owner with a non-interest-bearing mortgage for 15-30 years. Monthly mortgage payments are recycled to build more homes for other families in need.

We were proud to underscore the cost of this celebration.

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**O.B.I.T.D. BECOMES NATIONAL INSTITUTE**

The Oklahoma Benediction Institute for Total Development has expanded its scope to the national level. This is a result of a second visit by Dr. Johannes Munzel, a leading expert in Social Pediatrics Development, consulting with representatives of Universities, Hospitals, and the Press about the need to implement the Volta Diagnoses, Therapy, and Intervention treatment in the United States.

This methodology provides early diagnosis of motor deficiencies and training parents to provide therapy. It has proved successful in clinical tests in Europe, India and in Mexico. Many problems develop. Those that do are less severe, less disabling than they would have been hadn't early diagnosis and therapy been available.

Plans call for construction of a faculty to train physicians, therapists and other health care providers in Shawnee Oklahoma. St. Gregory's Abbey has graciously voted to provide land on which to build this faculty.

When completed it will become a center from which the Volta method would be shared throughout the nation.

In recognition of these plans for the future, the Institute has adopted a new name, The National Institute for Developmental Delays. Fr. Paul Zale has come along way in these past twenty-five years.
PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

In cooperation with the Norman Junior League, the TEAM program of Moore Public Schools and City College of Norman, the Aldridge Foundation is providing scholarships for girls who interrupted their schooling to have a baby.

In spite of receiving little or no financial or emotional support from their families, each has finished high school and earned a diploma.

This cooperative plan provides them with an opportunity to receive post-secondary education in professional and business careers that will offer sufficient earnings to permit financial security and independence.

City College offers just such training. It also provides on-campus child care for students.

Since its founding in 1987, City College has graduated over 1560 students.

Placement of City College graduates into the field for which they have trained exceeds 90%.

Each group of graduates gives employers cause to repeat that old question, "Are there any more at home like you?"

The Aldridge Foundation is glad to be working side by side with the selfless ladies of the Norman Junior League, who invest so much time, energy and money into the future of those young women.

Orchids too for Moore Public Schools and Mrs. Hutchinson. TEAM coordinator, for making the extra effort to assist girls who, too often, are forgotten by society.

Through the joint efforts of these partners for opportunity, these girls can complete their education successfully and go into the job market debt free, and prepared to make a happier, more independent home for themselves and their children.

NEW NURSING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The most recent addition to the scholarships offered by the Aldridge Foundation is the LaVerne Aldridge Scholarship in nursing. Awarded by the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, it goes to a student, selected by committee, who is entering the Junior Year.

Jamie Page, a senior at Edmond Memorial, was selected as the first LaVerne Aldridge scholar. She will receive first preference to receive it again as a Senior.

Like the other Scholars at University of Central Oklahoma, the plan is to add another junior as Jamie goes on to her Senior Year and to have two scholars in the program from 1996 on, so long as the program exists.

The award is designed to allow a deserving student to graduate from the College of Nursing free from the load of student loan debt, and ready for life.

University of Central Oklahoma Art Project
At Horace Mann Elementary

A WINNER!

Dr. Bob Palmer, head of U. C. O. department of Visual Arts and Design proposed the Foundation become a partner of the University in a project to use Art Education students as mentors for elementary school pupils in the painting of a mural at the school. Dr. Maxine McNellis, principal of Horace Mann Elementary in Oklahoma City was engaged in a project to improve the appearance of that fifty-seventy year old school. Over 1700 hours of volunteer labor were already accomplished.

A Rainforest theme was selected. Paint began to fly, and good things began to happen.

Horace Mann children developed pride in their school. Instances of vandalism dropped. The mural became a magnet to attract new enrollees.

Dr. Palmer presented a paper at a professional Art Educators meeting, NAEA, in Chicago. It was well received and appreciated by all 900 participants. This is an idea that will be repeated.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

From left: Pamela Aldridge Ferguson, Ruby Aldridge, Wokie Aldridge Smith, Barbara Pinover, Robert Aldridge, LaVerne Aldridge, Kimberly Aldridge, Tom Aldridge
F.C.A. SUMMERCAMP RESULTS

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes proposes to present to athletes and coaches, and all whom they influence, the challenge of receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church.

Having known some of the young men and women who are part of this fellowship, the Board voted to provide scholarships for the Summercamp at O.U. July 7-10, 1999.

A total of fifteen boys and six girls received these scholarships. Each was involved in some task either before or during camp to earn their scholarship.

Mike Whitson, Area Director reports: "Of course they all had a great week and improved their athletic skills in their respective sports. They also learned to compete in the right manner, which seems to be a lost trait these days amongst other athletes."

Of the 281 youngsters who attended, 60 boys and 18 girls made decisions to follow Christ during the week of camp.

Comments made by the campers included:

- "Being committed to Christ means that you have to vow your faith and love unconditionally."
- "I've learned not to be afraid of showing my faith to others."
- "Camp helped me by showing me how to receive Jesus."
- "I asked myself that I need to be a leader at my school."
- "I have gained strength through this camp, and now I know that there are other Christians that face the same problems I face."

These young men and women are leaders and role models for their peers as well as younger boys and girls who admire and want to emulate them. Their dedication to witnessing their faith will touch other lives as well as changing their own.

Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial Groundbreaking Ceremony Celebrated

Vice President Al Gore and Attorney General Janet Reno attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the National Memorial to be built on the site of the 1995 Murrah Building destroyed April 19, 1995.

The Aldridge Foundation is proud to join with other private donors and the public to memorialize the one hundred sixty-eight persons who lost their lives, the five hundred who were injured, and the countless others whose lives were forever changed by this terrible event.

LAST FRONTIER COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS
TO INITIATE SCOUTING PROGRAMS
FOR INNER-CITY YOUTHS

Aldridge Foundation granted $5,000 to the Last Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts of America to help fund a program to establish scout troops or Cub Scout Pack in five Churches located in high risk, inner-city neighborhoods. It is estimated that as many as 200 boys will have opportunity to experience the fun of scouting while being exposed to educational and character building activities.
...Alice Carmley and Renee Sebastian of Holley-Navarre Intermediate school have initiated a new dimension into the school's “Inclusion model” program. The program goal is to include special needs students in a general education classroom in such a way that they may be, and feel successful. Many students that do not excel in the classroom do excel in the arts. While the arts program covered many mediums, there was no access to photography.

...A grant from Aldridge Foundation made possible the purchase of a Deluxe Darkroom Kit containing an enlarger, chemicals, paper, darkroom timer and print washer. Using this Alice and Renee have converted a rest room into a darkroom and challenged their students to new levels of creativity, at the same time making tie-ins with history, science ( the chemicals used ) mathematics ( ratios involved in enlarging ) and current events.
GLOBAL MESSENGER TRAINING
JULY 1997
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL OLIMPIANS SPEAK OUT

A new voice is being heard: telling the world about Special Olympics.
Special Olympics are being trained through a program called Global Messengers to become spokespersons for Oklahoma Special Olympics.

These young men and women, who have participated in the games for as many as fifteen years, are prepared through a three-day workshop at Oral Roberts University. Each is teamed with a volunteer speech coach who will assist them with writing, arranging and delivering presentations.

Adrian Denton, D.O Executive Director, says “Since our athletes have first-hand knowledge of the benefits of the program, having them become spokespersons and athlete recruiters is a great fit”.

Global Messengers are prepared to give formal presentations to peer and potential athletes, civic, sports, and church groups, school and community administrators and families. The purpose of each presentation is to recruit new Special Olympics athletes and the volunteers needed to expand programs.

What a thrill it was to see John Lowery make a presentation at the VIP reception preceding the state games in Stillwater.

Aldridge Foundation provides funding for the Global Messengers.

NAVARRE Y.M.C.A. TO USE COUNTY FACILITY

The Foundation has assisted the Santa Rosa County, Florida Commissioners to construct a multi-purpose facility near Navarre High School. Use of the $275,000 structure will be shared between the Navarre Y.M.C.A. and the Navarre Sports Association.

This exciting news comes only two years after the Aldridge Foundation awarded its first Grant-Lup grant of $5,000 for the purpose of making “Y” programs available to the people of Navarre.

Using the grant money from the parent organization, the Y.M.C.A. of Greater Pensacola, a local Board of Directors was formed, and Brian Allen was hired to become branch director.

Brian and his Board, “hit the ground running”. They raised over $10,000 from the Navarre Community to qualify for the $10,000 challenge grant offered by the Foundation.

Using borrowed facilities, Brian initiated programs like roller hockey, day camps, and water safety which served 857 participants in the first year.

Again, in 1998 the Foundation challenge grant was oversubscribed by money raised from local resources. This money has been set aside to expand a facility when their dreams become reality.

Congratulations to Brian, to his Board of Directors: Bart Pullum, Dr. Henry Lopez, Joe Lay, and Tom Aldridge; and to the entire Navarre community for their efforts in bringing to the area programs which put Christian principles into practice developing healthy minds, bodies, and spirits for entire families.
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FOUNDATION SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation sponsors scholarships at two universities. At the Michael F. Price College of Business Administration, University of Oklahoma, Scholarships are awarded to an outstanding student at the beginning of his or her Junior Year. This grant-in-aid continues for four semesters, allowing the student freedom to develop leadership abilities through participation in campus activities. Recipients are selected by the Scholarship Committee of the College, based on criteria established by the Foundation such as academic achievement, leadership potential, demonstrated financial need as established by the Office of Financial Aid.

We are proud to have two fine young people studying under the auspices of the Tom & Mayre Aldridge Foundation. They are:

Mr. Sam Hinkle and Miss Kelley Jennings

At the University of Central Oklahoma, the Foundation sponsors Scholarships in the Departments of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and Special Education. We also participate in the President's Partners Program with awards in the areas of Visual Arts and Physical Education. The Scholarship in Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance is named in the honor of Dr. Homer Collier, retired chairman of that department and mentor of both Tom and Rusty Aldridge. It is awarded to an outstanding Junior, and repeated for four semesters. Other Scholars are:

Mr. Chris Sudduth and Mr. Joshua Forsythe

President's Partners awards are determined by the Chairmen of each Department using their own criteria. They have gone to:

Visual Arts: 1996 Donna Sandiger  
1995 Robert Woot  
1997 Emily Lipscomb  
1998 Clint Stone

HPERD: 1996 Shawn Armstrong  
1997 Lisa McCormick  
1998 Kelly Ann Curtin

Special: 1996 Lajana Force  
1996 Adrian Brown  
1997 Tina Sue Krassasi  
1997 Deborah Sneider  
1998 to be awarded Spring 1999

These young people are receiving a helping hand. It is our hope that they, in turn, will extend a helping hand to those who follow them, thus providing a continuity through time whereby Tom & Mayre Kate Aldridge will be remembered and honored.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Many of the projects with which the Foundation is involved are works in progress. It will be some time before they are completed and reports are received.

Those are some of the agencies to whom grants have been made, the directors in charge and the goals to be attained:

OKLA. COUNTY SHERIFF: Rusty Aldridge  
Equipment for SWAT team  
HOLLYHAWK PRE-SCHOOL: Tom Aldridge  
Photography dark room  
LITTLE AXE, OKLA. SCHOOLS: Rusty Aldridge  
Educational training for Teachers, Counselors and students, workshops and supplies  
JOSHUA EXPEDITIONS: Tom Aldridge

Provides adventure challenge program for at risk and/or inner city youth  
BABY STEPS/TEAM: Robert Aldridge  
Educational assistance for girls who interrupted their schooling due to pregnancy  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS: LaVerne Aldridge  
Early diagnosis and treatment for developmental problems  
GULF BREEZE ELEMENTARY: Kimberly Aldridge  
Easy Listener phonics ear and easy writer boards  
WEAR KIDS: Robert Aldridge  
Library program for disadvantaged youth  
SAVATION ARMY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
Educational program to prevent smoking  
CORONADO HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY: Rusty Aldridge  
Writing around the world, socialization of youth with special learning disabilities  
HEARTLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE: Rusty Aldridge  
Communications equipment, computer  
DONNA NEIGH FOUNDATION: LaVerne Aldridge  
Construct playground for handicapped children  
OMNIPLEX: Robert Aldridge  
Science equipment kits for poor schools

All funds for this fiscal year are granted or set aside. The Foundation is accepting proposals to be considered for our fiscal year beginning July 1, 1996. Guidelines, deadlines, format and post-grant requirements are outlined in the Foundation brochure which is available at the headquarters or may be requested by mail.
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ALDRIDGE SCHOLARS NAMED AT ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

...Miss Kelley Jennings of Norman, Oklahoma, pictured here with her mother, Susan is the other Aldridge Scholar.

...Mr. Sam Hinkle of Marlow, Oklahoma pictured here with his mother, Sarita and father, Ron received an Aldridge Scholarship of $2,500 per semester. Sam, a junior, will receive preference for a like award in his Senior year.

TOM & MARYE KATE ALDRIDGE
CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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