



# The Aldridge Foundation

Tom S. & Marye Kate Aldridge Charitable & Educational Trust

## FOOTPRINTS VOL 1 - ISSUE 2 - JAN 1999

# FOOTPRINTS

Volume 1, Issue 2

1999

### ANNUAL REPORT TOM & MARYE KATE ALDRIDGE CHARITABLE & EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

"Lives of great men  
all remind us,  
We can make our  
lives sublime,  
And departing  
leave behind us,  
footprints  
on the sands of time"  
*Longfellow*

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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 Kim 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 Laucella, 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 Phonic 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 Novota of Navarre Intermediate, Navarre, Florida, Dr. Maxine McNeill of Horace Mann Elementary in Oklahoma City, and Mrs. Nancy Krodel of Coronado Heights, 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 Herrold, 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 Herrold has accepted a position with AMOCO in Tulsa, Oklahoma where she and her new husband will make a home. We wish you success and happiness.

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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 which were men, 298 were women.

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

Another outgrowth of the program was the creation of the Literacy Provider's network. This group meets monthly to explore avenues to reach and train those who do not read well enough to function in our society.

L.E.A.P. has allowed Social Service agencies to recall some job placement clients back into their programs for literacy training. In the past, they had to refer them or simply tell them that they did not have the skills required to enter that agency's program.

This allows them to be a part of their "home" agency's program so that self-esteem is improved and successfully moving into more advanced programs does not seem beyond their grasp.

Much was learned from this program, including which agencies were more likely to provide support required for success.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HONORS VOLUNTEERS

The Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity honored its volunteers with a Mexican Fiesta at the Omniplex 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 550 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 T.V. Stations and both local and national corporations have united to provide the funds and materials required to build these homes.

Many local business firms 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 another home.

The finished property is deeded to 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 underwrite the cost of this celebration.



### 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 Pediatric Development, consulting with representatives of Universities, Hospitals, and the Press about the need to implement the Vojta Diagnosis, Therapy, and Intervention treatment in the United States.

This methodology provides early diagnosis of motor deficiencies and trains parents to provide therapy. It has proved successful in clinical tests in Europe, India and in Mexico. Many problems never develop. Those that do are less severe, less disabling than they would have been had not

early diagnosis and therapy been available.

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

When completed it will become a center from which the Vojta 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 Zahler, you have come a long way in these past twenty-five years.





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### 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 1967, City College has graduated over 1500 students.

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

Each new 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 these 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.



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

From Left: Parris Aldridge Ferguson, Rusty Aldridge, Mickie Aldridge Smith, Barbara Foerster, Robert Aldridge, LaVerne Aldridge, Kimberly Aldridge, Tom Aldridge

### 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.

Jaimie Paige Rexroad of Owasso, Oklahoma was selected as the first LaVerne Aldridge scholar. She will receive first preference to receive it again as a Senior.

Like the Coker Scholarships at University of Central Oklahoma, the plan is to add another Junior as Jaimie goes on to her Senior year; and to have two scholars in the program from 1999 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.



Clockwise from Left: Robert Aldridge  
Dr. Patricia Fornl, Dean, College of Nursing  
Jaimie Rexroad, Scholar  
LaVerne Aldridge

### 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 McNeill, principal of Horace Mann Elementary in Oklahoma City was engaged in a project to improve the appearance of that fifty-seven 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 Educator's meeting, NAEA, in Chicago. It was well received and appreciated by all 50 participants. This is an idea that will be repeated.



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### 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 a part of this fellowship, the Board voted to provide scholarships for the Summercamp at O.U. July 7-10, 1998.

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 older 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 vocalize 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".

"It showed me 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.



### THE COMMON THREAD

Each grant reported upon in these pages has certain characteristics in common. Wittingly or unwittingly, the Directors have established criteria which they look for as they select proposals to be funded. We recognize the following:

It should be a new approach, innovative, and if successful capable of being replicated in another area.

Funds requested are matched, either by hours of volunteer labor, funds raised through local efforts, or funds from another granting agency.

It should benefit as many lives as possible. We look for the most, "bang for our bucks".

We want to know if the goals were reached, and, if not, why. Since we are so interested in innovation, we realize that all of the programs will not attain all of their goals. If we can collect and categorize all of the, "OOPS", and errors we can learn from these mistakes to our benefit.

We enjoy active involvement in projects we fund. Sometimes, due to distance, this is in the form of photos or letters. Sometimes we visit the sites. Each grant funded has a Director assigned to do, "follow-up".



### 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 A.P. 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 Packs 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.





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**HOLLEY - NAVARRE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL  
OFFERS PHOTOLAB**

... Alice Carnley 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.

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### GLOBAL MESSENGER TRAINING

JULY 1997

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

#### SPECIAL OLYMPIANS SPEAK OUT

A new voice is being heard telling the world about Special Olympics.

Special Olympians 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 Okla. State University. Each was teamed with a volunteer speech coach who will assist them with writing, arranging and delivering presentations.

Adrian DeWendt, S 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 peers 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 been advised that Santa Rosa County, Florida Commissioners have voted to construct a multi-purpose facility near Navarre High School. Use of the \$725,000. 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, Start-Up 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 Akin 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 657 participants in the first year.

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

Congratulations to Brian, to his Board of Directors, Bart Pullum, Dr. Henry Loper, 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 & Marye Kate Aldridge Foundation. They are:

Mr. Sam Hinkie 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 Coker, 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. Coker Scholars are:

Mr. Chris Suddeth and Mr. Joshua Forsythe

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

Visual Arts: 1996 Donna Sandager  
1997 Robert Wood  
1997 Emily Lipscomb  
1998 Clint Stone  
HPERD: 1996 Shawna Armstrong  
1997 Lisa McCormick  
1998 Kelly Ann Curtin  
Special 1996 Lajuana Pierce  
1996 Adrian Beck  
1997 Tima Sue Krausse  
1997 Deborah Smedler  
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 & Marye 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.

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

OKLA. COUNTY SHERIFF: Rusty Aldridge  
Equipment for SWAT team  
HOLLEY-NAVARRE 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  
Provide 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 phonic ear and easy writer boards  
WHIZ KIDS: Robert Aldridge  
Literacy program for disadvantaged youth  
SALVATION ARMY BOY'S & GIRLS CLUB  
Educational program to prevent smoking  
CORONADO HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY: Rusty Aldridge  
Writing around the world, socialization of youth with severe learning disabilities  
HEARTLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE: Rusty Aldridge  
communications equipment, computer  
DONNA NIGH FOUNDATION: LaVerne Aldridge  
Construct a 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, 1998. 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



...Mr. Sam Hinkie 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.

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



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CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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