



NEWS

INSIDE:

- Volunteer Lunch 2
- Staff News 2
- OSS Speakers' Bureau 3
- Keeping in Touch 3
- School Lunch on Friday's 3
- Calendar of Events 3
- Classroom Essentials 4
- 1 How You Can Help
- 1 Shopping List

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:

Bill Morrison
 Acting executive Director
 451-5234 Ext. 153
 bmorrison@omahastreetsschool.org

Kathleen Salach Thies
 Director of Development
 451-5234 Ext. 156
 kthies@omahastreetsschool.org

Dwayne Hawkins
 Principal
 451-5234 x151
 dhawkins@omahastreetsschool.org

Tracy Morrison
 Office Manager
 451-5234
 tmorrison@omahastreetsschool.org

Member:
 National Association of
 Street Schools
www.streetsschools.com

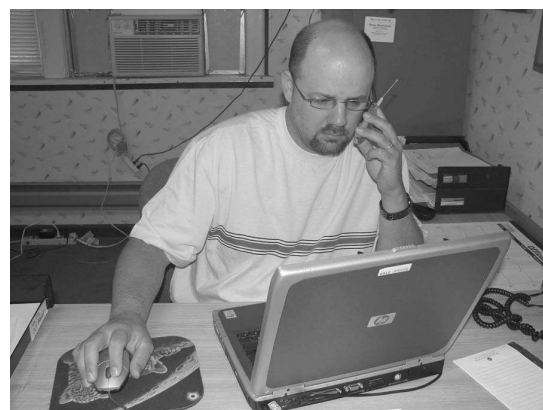
Phone: (402) 451-5234
 Fax: (402) 451-7046
www.omahastreetsschool.org

PONDERINGS: A Tribute to John Parsons

By Bill Morrison

In the fall of 2000, I met a man with big dreams, big plans and a bigger heart. This man was following God's lead and fulfilling his dream by developing a high school that provides the last chance for an education for some of Omaha's most challenged teenagers. That man was John Parsons.

It has been my privilege to fill in for John while he takes a well-deserved respite from the Omaha Street School. So, given freedom of the key-board, I could write about anything I wanted! I thought about writing an essay on the damage the designated hitter has caused the game of baseball, or maybe the value, or lack thereof, the penny holds in today's megabuck society. All of my thoughts, though, kept coming back to the Parsons' story and



Bill Morrison, Acting Executive Director

the reasons the Omaha Street School has been so successful over the past seven years. So I chose to use this space for a small tribute to the man himself. Many of you know the Parson's story so I won't recount that here, but if you have not, by all means give John a shout.

In every person's life, there should be hope for the opportunity to be a positive contributor to society. However, in many cases that opportunity is vanquished due to consequences of bad decisions or ill-fated actions. It's bad enough when adults lose that hope, but even more damaging when it happens to a young adult, in the prime of their teenage years. With so much life before them, hope crumbles and they search for a haven of peace and understanding. The Omaha Street School is one such place. Thank You, John!

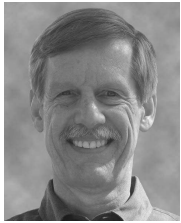
In President Bush's 2003 State of the Union address, he spoke of compassion. He said, "For so many in our country—the homeless and the fatherless, the addicted -- the need is great. Yet there's power, wonder-working power, in the goodness and idealism and faith of the American people." The Omaha Street School is providing those positive characteristics on a daily basis to more than five dozen young adults every year. These are kids from dysfunctional families, from fatherless homes and, for one reason or another may have been cast off from the public school system. Some even have children of their own. Where are these teens to go to get their hope back? The answer is the Omaha Street School. Thank You, John!

....continued page 2

The school is run by loving, caring people who have devoted this time of their lives to the betterment of these kids. Why? Because the demand is great and the supply is few. Because altering young men and women's lives and providing hope for their future is priceless. Because the time spent sitting and counseling a single teenage mother is invaluable. Because John and Lorri Parsons responded in obedience to a higher calling. Thank You, John!

My experience at the school has been overwhelmingly positive. From the smiles on the student's faces as I walk the halls, to the classroom activity to the special events, it is increasingly obvious the school is filling a tremendous need in metropolitan Omaha. I consider it an honor to be associated with the school and with the Parsons' clan. Thank You, John and all glory to God!

STAFF NEWS



Omaha Street School Welcomes — A hearty welcome to Monte Lund. Monte has been a friend of OSS for several years and has been part of a team of caring individuals providing lunch for students and staff from The Gallup Organization. Monte will teach English and be recertifying his State of Nebraska teaching credentials. Monte will begin the 2006 -2007 school year with us in August.

Omaha Street School Congratulations — Congratulations to Dwayne Hawkins, Jackie Kelsey, Tracy Morrison and Charles Wilson in their new roles.



Dwayne Hawkins held the position of principal at OSS for the past three years and was school Chaplin for the three previous years. His new title is director of student outreach and support services. In this position, Dwayne will be responsible for working with OSS students and staff in spiritual development, student career and vocational development, alumni programming, and athletics.



Jackie Kelsey begins her seventh year teaching at OSS with a new role as coordinator of literacy programming. Mrs. Kelsey's new responsibilities will include alternative education and planning each student's academic needs based on testing, long range interests and abilities. She will continue to test students to determine grade level improvements.



Tracy Morrison has worked in the front office at OSS since January. In the new school year, Tracy will move into the role of office manager. She will be responsible for obtaining, creating and maintaining student records and related documents, financial recordkeeping and will capture school statistics.



Charles Wilson begins his fourth year with OSS this fall. His first year, Charles taught Bible class and coached sports. The last two years he has taught social studies, math, career and coached sports. Charles will move into the role of dean of students. He will be responsible for conducting student interviews, enrollment, student discipline, training and oversight of the student advocacy program.

Congratulations to everyone. We all look forward to a great year!

OSS Hosts Volunteer Appreciation Event



On June 29, a sunny, pleasant day provided the backdrop to about 65-75 OSS volunteers and staff members as we gathered in the courtyard area of Turning Point, home of the Street School. A catered picnic lunch was enjoyed by all. School year calendars were distributed and lunch schedules were confirmed. Thanks to Hy-Vee for providing support for this special appreciation event. If you haven't yet confirmed or updated your group's lunch schedule for the upcoming

school year, please contact Tracy Morrison at: tmorrison@omahastreetschool.org, as soon as possible. Our students and staff really appreciate each one of you. Thanks for volunteering your time and talents and for making a difference at the Omaha Street School!



Introducing the OSS Speakers' Bureau

We are excited to provide this new service to the community!

Please help us spread the word.

Need a speaker for a presentation at your church or organization? Just call or email us with your name and contact information, organization, date and time, and approximate number of people expected, and any other information you want us to know. We will get back to you with any additional questions and to confirm your date. Please allow three weeks notice. Please email tmorrison@omahasteetschool.org or leave a message at 451-5234.

Keeping in Touch

Have you moved recently or changed your phone number? Have you given us your email address yet? Please send an email with your new information to tmorrison@omahasteetschool.org, if any of these apply to you.

School Lunch on Friday's

This year we will have a full day of classes on Friday. Can you or your group provide a lunch for students and staff once a month on a Friday throughout the school year? Please email or call Tracy Morrison at tmorrison@omahasteetschool.org or leave a message at 451-5234.

How the Street School is Funded

The real cost of educating each OSS student is over \$9,000. With more than 70% of our students coming from households who earn \$30,000 or less a year, our families are able to pay little tuition. In the past two years, the average income from tuition is less than 4% of overall annual expenses. How do we make up the difference?

As of May ending 2006, grants from foundations represented 41% of income; individual donors like you represented 35% of income; monthly and special contributions from churches represented 11% of our total operating budget. The remaining 13% comes from corporate matching, fundraising events and tuition.

Monthly donors provide the foundational support for daily operations of the Omaha Street School. They enable us to predict and manage our expenses while we provide the best quality education to our students. If you would like to join the monthly donor club, please complete the enclosed card and return to the school. Please contact Kathleen, Tracy or Bill for additional information. Thanks for making the difference in transforming lives.

OSS Calendar of Events

▼ 2006 First Semester ▼

August 21	First day of school
October 19	OSS and MISSION: Educate (formerly National Association of Street School's) holds a Special Fundraising Event. Save the date: don't miss this event!
October 20	Quarterly Student Awards Ceremony
October 20	OSS Hosts MISSION: Educate (formerly National Association of Street School) Annual Fall Board Meeting
November 21	Thanksgiving luncheon event for students, staff and volunteers
December 22	Christmas Celebration for students and staff; Quarterly Awards Ceremony

▼ 2007 Second Semester ▼

February*	Mavs Hockey: Omaha Street School Recognition Night
March*	OSS Sports Awards Banquet and Silent Auction
March 15	Quarterly Student Awards Ceremony
May*	Golf event — Look for more in the upcoming Newsletters
May 13	Graduation Ceremony
June*	Annual Volunteer Picnic

Events without published dates will be announced in future newsletters and on the web site.

Classroom Essentials

Every year our school provides students with the supplies they need to fully participate in the classroom. This enables them to walk in the door the first day of school and immediately go to work learning. Because many of you have participated in church, business and social groups to collect classroom supplies, we thought it would help to provide a shopping list. Thanks everyone who has participated in this essential service to our students.

Wish List for Student Back Packs

- 1 Back packs
- 1 Pens (blue, black and red)
- 1 Pencils (mechanical with filler lead and regular wooden)
- 1 Erasers (the click type with refills)
- 1 Highlighters (retractable if possible)
- 1 Zip carry pouch that can hook into a three ring binder
- 1 3-ring binders (2 inches)
- 1 Pocket folders with brads
- 1 Loose Leaf paper (wide and college ruled)
- 1 Composition Notebook
- 1 Calendar/Agenda/Assignment Notebook
- 1 Individual boxes colored pencils (10-12 count)
- 1 Thin line markers
- 1 Book covers
- 1 Refillable water bottle with a lid/straw
- 1 Flat compass
- 1 Glue sticks
- 1 Mat bus passes

Other Wish List Items

- 1 New or used laminating machine & supplies for student ID cards
- 1 10' to 20' long white boards
- 1 2-6' long white boards
- 1 Book shelves
- 1 Carpeting for offices
- 1 Laptop computers
- 1 Fireproof locked storage for documents and media
- 1 Liquid Antibacterial hand soap
- 1 Paper towels
- 1 Tylenol/Advil (for staff)
- 1 44 gal. trash bags (heavyweight)
- 1 Bags for 5-6 gal. trash cans
- 1 Toilet paper
- 1 Tampons
- 1 Bottled water
- 1 Prepackaged snacks that store well
- 1 12-cup coffee maker and serving carafe/s (new)
- 1 Coffee and coffee supplies
- 1 Soda pop
- 1 Powdered drinks for lunch and snacks

4



3223 N. 45th Street
Omaha, NE 68104-3711

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OMAHA, NE
PERMIT NO. 407

Mark your calendars now to reserve October 19 for a fantastic evening of food, fellowship and festivities. More details will follow.