



The Aldridge Foundation

Tom S. & Marye Kate Aldridge Charitable & Educational Trust

FOOTPRINTS VOL 6 - ISSUE 1 - SEPT 2003

Volume 6—Issue 1

September 2003

Footprints



Annual Report

Tom and Marye Kate Aldridge Charitable and 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

Trust Committee

Chairman:
Robert S. Aldridge

Vice Chairman:
LaVerne R. Aldridge

Managing Director
Barbara J. Foerster

Advisory Committee

Parris R. Nicholson
Mickie B. Smith
M.L. Aldridge
Tom S. Aldridge
Kimberly Aldridge

Systems

Shaun E. Palmer

Joshua Expeditions: A Dream Come True

In July of 1988, Aldridge Foundation voted to provide a grant to match up to \$10,000 to be raised by the newly established Joshua Expeditions. Their stated goal was and is, "to educate students through hands-on experiences in the discovery of God's creation."

That first year over 200 students were "inspired and educated" on a field trip to Costa Rican rain forests, volcanoes, and seashores.



In 1999 Aldridge Foundation provided \$5,000 for partial scholarships for students who lacked financial support to pay their own way.

By 2003, Joshua Expeditions has grown to serve as many as 10,000 students annually with expeditions to Europe, Australia, Central America and over a dozen sites

in the United States. Each expedition has two facets, education and service. Children of privilege feed the homeless, teach orphans, do street evangelism, and aid with construction projects.

Joseph Moore had a dream. We bought into his dream, providing the spark that has grown into an outstanding educa-



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Living Stones *shaping the future by caring today...*



Brenda Sharp with Mrs. Aldridge
Laverne Aldridge Nursing Scholar at OU/Lawton



Vanetta King
Laverne Aldridge Nursing Scholar at OSU/OKC



Doug Manor and Tera Hagan
Aldridge Scholar at O.U. Price College of Business



Mandy Grove with daughter Alexis
OSU/OKC—December 2002 graduate



Abby Reed with Mrs. Aldridge
Nursing Scholar at OSU/OKC

Scholarship Awards

University of Oklahoma

Price College of Business:
Tara Hagan
James "Doug" Manor

School of Nursing:
April Brooks
Brenda Sharp

Oklahoma State University

School of Nursing:
Jerry Turner
Vanetta King

Rogers State University

Business Information Technology
Debra Nix
Vicki Shisler
Josh Lee
James Carmen

University of Central Oklahoma

Homer Coker Scholars:
Cheri Robards
Reba Perry

Bob Palmer Scholars:
Nick Bayer

Special Education:
Shana Wever
Ted Smith

Presidents Partner Award:
Kris Janzen

Easter Seals Oklahoma Intergenerational Daycare Center

Since opening one year ago the census of Adult Day Care Services has steadily grown from thirteen to over twenty daily. The inclusive child development center serves one hundred children comprised of over 10% with special needs. Elderly clients have visited the children, and children have visited the "grandparents". However regular integrated programming has not yet begun. The adult clients have planted a vegetable garden. The children will plant pumpkin seeds for Halloween.



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The Chairman's Letter

"We choose to invest our funds in individuals."

by Robert Aldridge

Tom and Marye Kate Aldridge arrived in Ada, Oklahoma in 1927 with little more than new jobs, high hopes and a willingness to work hard to make that hope a reality.

Sixty years later they planned the Foundation that would, at their death, use the fruits of their success to benefit the area that afforded them the opportunity to succeed.

Marye Kate died in 1994, Tom in 1995. This Foundation was created by their will. My first task was to compose a mission statement that would express their philosophy, and to map the route it would pursue to accomplish that mission.

Boiled down, the Mission Statement says, "We believe that our community can be made the best it can be by helping individuals reach their highest potential."

Many fine Foundations put their money into "brick and mortar" funding construction of much needed facilities that will bear their name. We choose to invest our funds in individuals, living stones that will boldly carry our name into tomorrow.

It is our great privilege to buy into their aspirations, ambitions, and dreams.

This year, on advice of counsel, the Board voted to limit funding to continuing programs such as scholarships and fulfilling multi-year pledges. We accepted no proposals for funding in the fiscal year, July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. Our endowment had been eroded by poor performance in the equity market and the lowest interest rates in decades. This policy will be reviewed at our December meeting. We hope to be able to open the door to new proposals for the fiscal year, July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

Sometimes, our "living stones" surprise us. There is a commercial on television that goes, "We don't make the products you buy, we make the products you buy better." In that same sense, we have found that while our funding was only a small part of the eventual project, it struck a spark that grew and expanded far beyond the initial goal.



Read about:

- JOSHUA EXPEDITIONS,
- SELMAN LIVING LABORATORY
- LONE OAK AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY
- NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS
- and MARYE KATE ALDRIDGE READING CLUBS.

These are all projects that have exceeded the goals visualized when the proposal was approved.



Impacting the community one person at a time.

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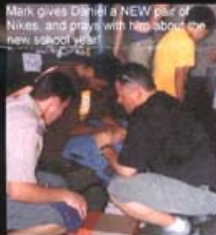
Blood-n-Fire: Lighting fires of Christian Compassion

Director Mark Royce and his crew work with purpose as they feed hungry people, distribute groceries, and provide Christian witness in San Antonio, Texas. They also work with groups from area churches, teaching them what it means to serve the less fortunate.

Youth groups and college students come to clean up, fix up, and paint area homes. Programs such as "Share Your Sole" provide shoes and clothes for the children to attend school.

Aldridge Foundation funded a grant of \$10,000 to purchase a portable grill, an ice machine, and evaporative coolers to make the old warehouse used as headquarters more comfortable.

Mark gives Daniel a NEW pair of Nikes, and prays with him about the new school year.



Make a Difference.

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SPECIAL CARE

A childcare facility for children with special needs such as Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Autism, Down syndrome, Visual or Hearing impairment. Special Care serves the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. We funded a proposal to paint colorful murals in the hallways and gym to provide visual stimulation and learning opportunities. The sand pit is also a dinosaur dig where



children can uncover buried fossils and other treasures of the earth. Based on the concept that early intervention coupled with parental education will help prevent the cumulative effects of a child's disability, teachers, parents and therapists work together to develop individualized programs for children 6 weeks to 21 years old. Aldridge Foundation is proud to have joined with the charitable community in Oklahoma City to provide a state-of-the-art facility for this unique and irreplaceable service.

mini grants

MAKING A HUGE IMPACT

ONE BRICK AT A TIME.

Directors have continued the policy of allowing up to 10 mini-grants of \$200 to support worthy causes that arise between normal award periods. This year such awards have included: City Rescue Mission, Christmas Dinner for Homeless, Fellowship of Christian Athletes: Business Fellowship luncheon, United Way of Oklahoma City, Salvation Army Tornado relief, High Point School: Christmas gifts for patients at a residential psychiatric facility, and Blackshear Place Baptist Church helping sponsor a medical mission to Ecuador.





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Looking Back

OSU/OKC

Eight LaVerne Aldridge Nursing Scholarships have been awarded at OSU/OKC. Of these Misti Joiner, Jeri Carter, Amanda Diggs, Stephanie Regier, Mandi Grove and Abby Reed have graduated and become Registered Nurses. Jerry Turner will graduate in December of this year and Vanetta King in May of 2004.

ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY

The first two Aldridge scholars to graduate, Thomas Harris and Chris Pierce were both accepted into the elite Cyber Corps Program at the University of Tulsa. They will train to be this country's first line of defense against internet hackers and terrorists.

Debra Enix, mother of five children and a non-traditional student who came back to school, graduated magna cum laude in December 2002. These honors speak well of both the University and the scholars selected.

LONE OAK AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The people of Lone Oak, Texas have responded enthusiastically to the opening of a Public Library for their use. The original facility was soon outgrown, so they proceeded to build a new and larger one. The Aldridge Foundation had voted to grant ten thousand dollars per year for four years. The people of the Lone Oak Area have overmatched our grant with countless hours of labor, donation of materials, and endless fundraising events. We are proud to have provided the spark that set this in motion, and very proud of the tireless work of the Library committee to keep it growing. The grand opening is scheduled next month. Watch for pictures in the next FOOTPRINTS.

PENSACOLA FLORIDA RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

The people of Pensacola have been very generous with Ronald McDonald House, remodeling the interior and providing new equipment. The Aldridge Foundation was approached with a proposal to underwrite a portion of the expense of the Firecracker 5K, the charity's principle fund raising effort. We agreed to match, up to \$5,000, the value of donated services and products. Eight hundred forty-five runners participated resulting in over \$19,000 in net profits. This program is an all round winner in which we take great pride.



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Special Olympics Global Messenger Program

For several years Aldridge Foundation has provided grants in support of this program training Special Olympians to be spokespersons. Talk about enthusiasm! These young people are afire with it. They, together with their mentors, accept speaking engagements at schools, churches, and civic clubs actively recruiting athletes, coaches and officials.

Three of the Global messengers participated in the Athlete Leadership Program in San Francisco, October 2002. Five were a part of the twenty-member delegation representing the United States at the Special Olympics Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland in June 2003. By means of this program, they are truly, "attaining their fullest potential."



2002 Special Olympics Oklahoma Global Messengers



2002 Special Olympics Oklahoma Global Messengers, Speech Coaches, and Volunteers

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

Since inception, Aldridge Foundation has been a supporter of the work of National Institute on Developmental Delays. We have seen the program grow from a local service to the Shawnee, Oklahoma area to become statewide, national and now international in scope. While continuing to provide services locally, the institute is currently focused on implementing the Vodja method of early diagnosis and early intervention in Mexico.

Father Paul Zahler's methodology for working with those with developmental delays, building on the "Experience Quotient" rather than relying on I.Q., has been codified and published.

SELMAN LIVING LABORATORY

Even in this era of tight budgets, the Living Laboratory continues to grow. The newest additions are five portable building to be used as shelter for both equipment and star Gazers. The buildings are in place, the next step is to wire them for electricity.





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MARYE KATE ALDRIDGE READING CLUB

Navarre Public Library asked our help in creating a special section for young readers.

They had a beautiful new facility, but were short on funds to purchase books. As a part of a ten thousand dollar grant, we made provision for creation of a teen reading club. Young people were provided books to add to



their library at home, and a place to meet and discuss what they were reading. The grant was made in 2000. The club became so popular that Friends of the Navarre Library have continued it in the years that followed. This photo is of the final meeting of the school year. There is a waiting list for next fall.

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