



The Aldridge Foundation

Tom S. & Marye Kate Aldridge Charitable & Educational Trust

FOOTPRINTS VOL 5 - ISSUE 1 - JULY 2002

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Footprints

Volume 5, Issue 1 July 2002

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

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 Consultant

Shaun E. Palmer

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

June 30, 2002 marks the end of our sixth year.
In 1995 we adopted this mission statement:

"The Tom and Marye Kate Aldridge Foundation shall, through charitable grants, provide means whereby individuals can improve their lives; and by attaining their fullest potential, help to improve the community in which they live."

Now it is time to measure ourselves by this benchmark. Have we done what we set out to do?

Looking back, we get a great deal of satisfaction from the many times we have heard, "Your grant was an answer to prayer. Without it I could not have attained my dream." We follow with pride the achievements of our scholars and relish the success of programs we have sponsored.

Many times it is smaller grants that best fulfill our mission statement. Purchasing of "Baby, Think It Over" dolls for a family center, matching funds for a program that brought together Art Education students and elementary school pupils to work together on a mural, sponsoring a Perfect Attendance Club that helped a school earn "A" status, buying materials for an innovative program to teach English through letter writing were great ways to accomplish the goals we set for the Foundation.

Not all grants have produced successful programs. Some were too innovative. From those we learned some things that do not work. Most failures were programs that were swallowed up by bureaucratic inertia when there was a personnel change. We have learned to enforce post-grant requirements of reporting and accountability stringently. Currently the Foundation makes grants only in areas where on-site visits by Advisory Board members are practical.

Looking forward, we plan to continue to look for innovative programs of limited duration that can, if successful, be emulated in other venues. We hope to serve as a repository of ideas providing examples of successful programs that may be copied, and unsuccessful ones to be avoided for non-profit organizations.

Our scholarship programs are to be adjusted to reflect tuition and cost of living increases. Our goal for them is to earn their degrees without accumulating a crushing load of debt to face after graduation.

God has smiled on our efforts thus far. We pray that we can proceed to provide a blessing for individuals and communities for years to come.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert S. Aldridge





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LONE OAK TEXAS LIBRARY GETS NEW BUILDING!



In less than one year, the Lone Oak Area Public Library outgrew its downtown location. Through the generosity of the Heritage and Cook Foundations, they were able to build a new 40'x80' facility. Aldridge Foundation grant was used to provide air conditioning, matched by in-kind donations of materials and labor from local businesses and artisans.

The library now has a membership of 350 who continue to raise money by operating concessions

at the O'Pry each month. They also staged a WOMANLESS WEDDING, that will be a topic of conversation for years to come. This project has breathed a new sense of community into a town that reported exactly the same population, 483 souls, in the 2000 census as in 1990. The new library building is the first new construction not paid for with public funds in many years.



Navarre Library's Reading Club



As part of a ten thousand dollar grant to the Navarre Library the Marye Kate Aldridge Reading Club was established. Initially the purpose was to communicate the availability of new books in the young adult section to the school population. This was accomplished in cooperation with teachers and administrators. From this start, the club took a new direction. Now a group of a dozen students, mostly from grades eight to ten, meet together to discuss the books they have been given to read. I attended one of their meetings. It was a fascinating demonstration of leadership in development. These young people had formed their own opinions of the material and were willing to defend those opinions passionately against their peers.

My compliments to Librarian Donna Holovack and her assistant Bobbi Knowing for a program that will continue to enrich lives.





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GULF BREEZE HIGH SCHOOL DOLPHINS TRACK PROGRAM



Track and field events are the Cinderellas in most high school athletic programs. While football and basketball get the attention and budget, athletes and coaches have to sweat for every dime spent on equipment and travel.



Aldridge Foundation support of the track program has allowed G.B.H.S. to host five meets. Participation in Cross Country racing has nearly doubled. Timing equipment purchased with grant money was made available to the racing community in the Florida panhandle, and extended to younger age groups via the "RAISING RUNNERS" outreach. Also purchased were "AQUA JOGGER" belts making possible non-impact workouts for team members that reduce incidence of soft tissue injuries such as shin splints by 98%. Having the sophisticated timing equipment has resulted in entry fees being waived for the Dolphins and generation of income to cover team expenses.



CROWN CENTER CHURCH and CITY COLLEGE: An experiment in SYMBIOSIS



The dictionary tells us that symbiosis is a relationship between two or more different organizations that is of mutual benefit to all concerned. An example is bees pollinating flowers as they gather food.

Crown Center Church and City College are neighbors in what was once the Outlet Mall building in Moore, OK. Crown Center Church numbers many families with young children in its congregation. City College has many students with young children. They also offer a certification in Child Care Studies. Both could benefit greatly from upgrading the nursery and didn't need it at the same time. Consequently a proposal was presented and approved to fund such an upgrade. The pictures below show what a fine facility resulted for use by the Church on Sundays and during weeknight meetings, and by City College students when it would otherwise be sitting idle.





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Current Scholars

University of Oklahoma:

- Price College of Business:
 - Rachel Carollo Class of 2003
 - James Manor Class of 2004
- School of Nursing:
 - Jessica Schantz Class of 2002
 - April Brooks Class of 2003



City College Graduate
Stephanie Creed and family.

University of Central Oklahoma:

- Homer Coker Scholarships:
 - Jennifer Bergman
 - Hosdeen Walsh
 - Reba Perry
 - April Gomez
- Bob Palmer Scholarship:
 - Yelena Jelenastojanovic
- Special Education:
 - Mindy Edney
 - Alice Price
- President's Partner in Kinesiology:
 - Julie Cyr



Scholar Mandy Groves with Bob & Bun
Aldridge and Mickie Smith

Oklahoma State University at Oklahoma City- School of Nursing Science

- LaVerne Aldridge Nursing Scholarships:
 - Mandy Groves
 - Abby Reed
 - Jerry Turner

Rogers State University

- Robert Aldridge Scholarships in
Business Technology
 - Debra Enix
 - Thomas Howard
 - Christopher Pierce
 - Vicki Ghisler



RSU President Joe Wiley
with Bob & Bun



Joe Rogers
Scholar



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scholarship Recipients



Julie Cyr and father, Dennis
with Dean Dana Cobb



Jessica Schantz and April Brooks



Sandra and OSU/OKC Scholar Jerry
Turner. Bun Aldridge, Jeff Reed and
OSU/OKC Scholar Abby.



Jessica Schantz, Nicole Frost, Dean,
Dr. Patricia Forni and Bun Aldridge



Aldridge
O.U.



Rachel Carollo, Aldridge Scholar at O.U. and family



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HIGH POINTE: *A last chance to exit*

High Pointe, an inpatient psychiatric facility, deals with failure. Young men there are mired in the failure of their parents to provide inspiration and example, failure of public schools to provide a learning environment, and, chiefly, a failure on their own part to catch the vision of a better life. Thanks to Mid-Del Schools, provider of educational services, they now have an opportunity to exit the downward spiral to disaster. A grant from Aldridge Foundation purchased the Career Scope Assessment and Reporting Program to provide testing to uncover any latent ability or hidden talent that might be nurtured into a successful career. Forty of the sixty-eight students were tested in this initial year. The program will continue with a tracking system to monitor progress.

A "life line" has been cast. Only time will tell if any will grasp this opportunity to change his life.

Since its inception in 1995, the Tom & Marye Kate Aldridge Foundation has distributed grants totaling over three quarters of a million dollars (\$796,386.00). Thirty Percent (\$239,208) has gone to individual scholarships, twenty-five percent (\$197,266) to various Social Service agencies, Sixteen percent (\$125,512) to fund innovative teaching in public schools, eleven percent (102,000) to aid a program for persons with developmental delays, ten percent (\$67,200) to libraries and literacy programs and eight percent (\$65,200) to religious outreach programs.

The Board of Directors of the Aldridge Foundation has adopted a policy whereby proposals are accepted only from areas where Advisory Directors can make on-site visits.



NIDD UPDATE: INTERNATIONAL EFFORT FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

The Tlaxcala Mexico project begun in March 2001 has become even more international in scope. Vojta practioners from Germany and Poland recently came together in Shawnee, Oklahoma to train professional therapists from Tlaxcala to do early diagnosis of newborn babies and early intervention for those evincing developmental delays.

This photograph shows NIDD founder, Rev. Paul Zahler at dinner with trainers and trainees.





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KIDS CAFÉ AT CROSS OF CALVARY CHURCH

In July of 2001, Kids Café was opened at Agnew Avenue Baptist Church. A splendid facility was sitting unused. A survey of the neighborhood revealed that the most wanted service was an after school program for children. The kids got a nourishing meal, fun activities, and mentoring on their schoolwork. In May of 2002, Agnew Avenue Baptist Church voted to close its doors. For a while it appeared that this work would have to be relocated. By a blessed coincidence, Cross of Calvary Church was looking for a larger facility. Pastor Ledbetter's daughter had worked as a volunteer in another Kids Café. She told her father of the opportunity. In a matter of days, he arranged to purchase the facility from the Southern Baptist Convention, the congregations merged, and the Kids Café went back into business in the same location. These photos were taken of the summer program, which runs from 9AM until Noon, Monday through Thursday.



Adam Ledbetter teaches breakdancing.



Genevieve, Carolyn, and Phyllis, volunteers.



The littlest kid: M'Kaila.

Leah Ledbetter with the food.



Eve Ledbetter with kids.



In Memoriam: Joe J. Aldridge



Joe J. Aldridge, Executive Director and Founder of International Student Outreach, died on February 14, 2002. Joe and his wife Ruthe Ann had maintained a ministry of friendship to International students in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area for a dozen years. They provided support in conquering language and cross-cultural barriers, opened their home for dinner and study groups, and aided young people from around the world to get established in the U.S.A.

The photograph shows Joe with a group of International Students on a Spring Break trip to Turner Falls in Oklahoma shortly before he fell ill.



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Selman Living Lab; "When you wish upon a star..."

The spot pictured above used to be a small knoll on a vast Oklahoma prairie. Now it is an emerging astronomy education site. Students in grades K-12 can visit to study the sun, stars and meteorology. Undergraduates and graduate students can have classes there and do research projects. Because there is so little light pollution, professional astronomers have become interested in the area. Certainly community groups and astronomy clubs will use it as well. This is only "the end of the beginning." In the future, the disciplines of geology, botany, zoology and anthropology can share in the bounty made possible by Mrs. Betty Selman's gift of land, the efforts of Dr. William Caire, and cooperation among the Regents for Higher Education, the Wildlife and Tourism departments, and the Universities of Northwest and of Central Oklahoma.



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