

**OPEN  
MEADOW  
SCHOOLS**

**PORTLAND, OR**



**REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2006-07**

**ANDREW MASON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



## From Open Meadow's Leaders

*For well over three decades, Open Meadow has been effective at three things in particular. First, we instill confidence in our students—in their ability to realize their dreams using their own voice, skill, and vision. Second, we hone critical thinking skills that serve to sharpen their vision. And third, we connect youth firmly to the next step in their lives, whatever that next step may be. No student is like the rest; no year is like the last.*

*This year saw Portland Public Schools embrace our STEP UP program by making plans to expand next year into two new high schools as our remarkable results for incoming freshman continue. Our Career Services programs provided stronger connections to post-secondary education and employment through new partnerships with Portland Community College and the addition of bank teller training with six new banking partners. More youth than ever participated in Open Meadow's Middle School, High School, and CRUE programs, experiencing academic success that most thought wasn't possible.*

*What remains most impressive amidst the growth is the constancy of Open Meadow values. Through fearless advocacy for youth—meeting them where they are, working with what they bring—Open Meadow continues to breed confidence, critical thinking, and connection for Portland youth so that they are empowered to chart their own future, and the future of our community.*




Yvonne L. Deckard  
Board President



Andrew Mason  
Executive Director

### We Invite You to Get Involved!

Check out our website at [www.openmeadow.org](http://www.openmeadow.org) for blog entries, news updates, volunteer opportunities, student success stories, and much more.

Please send us your email address for short email updates on late breaking news. You can do that on our website or via the reply envelope in this report.

Community support allows Open Meadow to offer relationship-based programming vital to our students' success.

[www.openmeadow.org](http://www.openmeadow.org)

## 2006-07 PROFILE

**Total Unduplicated Students Served: 582**

Middle School	82
STEP UP	243
High School	117
CRUE High School	86
Career Services	147

Open Meadow Middle School Promotions: **18**

Open Meadow CRUE and High School Graduates: **29**

Attendance rate: **93%**

Middle School and CRUE/High School retention rates: **97.5%**

Youth placed in jobs and/or internships: **91**

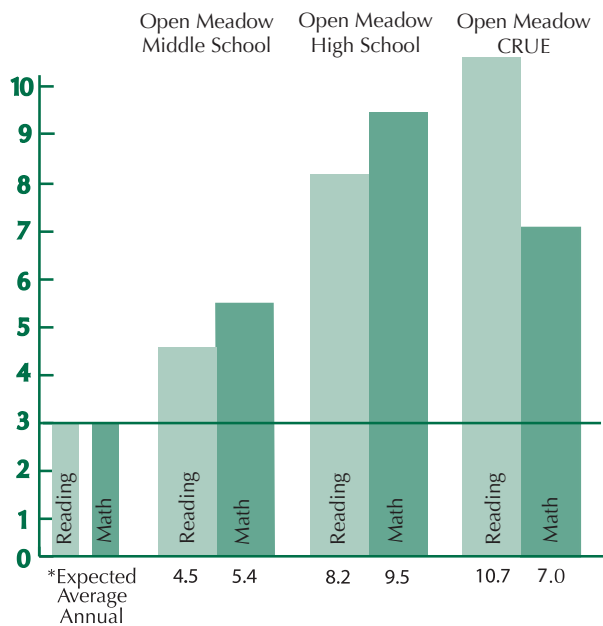
Graduates who passed a college class prior to graduation or were admitted to a four year university: **55%**

Graduates entering post-secondary education and/or employed at graduation: **86%**

Students qualifying for free/reduced lunch: **73%**

## MAP TEST RESULTS

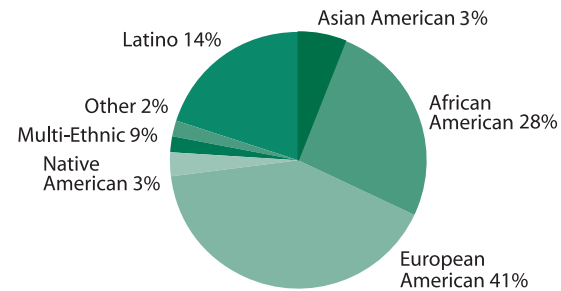
**\*Average RIT Score Gain**



## STEP UP

- **Prevents dropout** – STEP UP retained all 243 participants, for a 100% retention rate among the most challenged students at Roosevelt and its feeder middle schools.
- **Raises achievement levels** – On average, STEP UP participants earned grade point averages an impressive 27% higher than their non-STEP UP peers.

## STUDENT ETHNICITY



## RECENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### 2007

- *STEP UP* received the 2007 Pew Partnership Civic Change Award for exemplary drop-out prevention
- *The Oregonian* recently called Open Meadow's STEP UP "... Portland's most ambitious – and demonstrably effective – dropout prevention program."

### 2006

- *ING Unsung Heroes Award*, Open Meadow Middle School teacher, Brian Smithers, for innovative science teaching
- *American Youth Policy Forum*, featured for reconnecting out-of-school youth

### 2005

- *Northwest Area Foundation*, featured for innovative solutions to poverty
- *Institute for Educational Leadership*, featured for successful school-to-work programs and youth leadership opportunities

### 2004

- *Bank of America Neighborhood Initiative* honored Open Meadow with the *Neighborhood Builders award*

## Tyra Credits STEP UP for Her Success in School



Tyra is 16 and has completed her sophomore year at the Roosevelt campus. She exudes confidence. With a 3.8 grade point average, her sights are set on an academic scholarship to Howard or Columbia. She hopes to become a journalist and is excited that she has already had a letter to the editor published in *The Oregonian*.

She wasn't always doing this well. As an eighth grader at Portsmouth Middle School, she was spending a lot of time hanging out with friends. Although her test scores showed she was learning, her grades were suffering because she wasn't turning in her school work.

A friend suggested that she go to STEP UP, so she gave it a try. Staff were there to listen and help her with homework. Tyra credits Open Meadow's STEP UP program for helping her get organized and focused. Soon she was getting better grades.

For Tyra, the one-week STEP UP summer camp was a highlight. At first, she said, the students from Portsmouth and George Middle Schools didn't get along, but that quickly changed. Activities like the ropes courses helped them to learn about each other and become friends. She especially liked when each student got the chance to tell their story to the group and hear their peers' feedback. When peers told her she was smart and reliable, she was a bit skeptical, but it meant a lot.

Tyra enjoyed STEP UP so much that during her sophomore year she decided to become a mentor for freshmen in the program. She likes helping younger peers with their homework and enjoys keeping in close touch with them, checking up on them and urging them to come often to tutoring. Also, being a mentor meant she got to attend camp another year.

Tyra's advice: "Have STEP UP for juniors and seniors too. Some kids just need the extra attention and help. We need all the support we can get to push us forward to get our education."

### RESULTS

Four years ago, Open Meadow launched STEP UP in partnership with the Roosevelt cluster to prevent dropout among the most challenged students as they transition from eighth to ninth grade. STEP UP provides tutoring, mentoring, leadership development, and summer programming. STEP UP participants have had a 100% retention rate for three of its four years. An annual evaluation by the Northwest Regional Education Lab indicates that average grades and test scores are significantly higher than their non-STEP UP peers.



## Portland Public Schools Increases STEP UP Funding

A patchwork of public and private funding has kept STEP UP running the last four years. Nearly 1,000 struggling students are the beneficiaries. Open Meadow would like to thank all of our funders and partners for their support of students who are succeeding with the extra support that STEP UP provides.

**We have great news for the 2007-08 school year.** Due to STEP UP's success in preventing drop-out, Portland Public Schools is investing heavily to **expand the program** to two more high school campuses: Marshall and Madison. STEP UP will also serve more students at the Roosevelt campus.

**The City of Portland's Children's Investment Fund (CHIF)** has funded a lion's share of STEP UP middle school services for the past three years. Other public funders have been **Portland Public Schools (Title I and No Child Left Behind Supplemental Education Services), GEAR UP, and Oregon Department of Education.**

Recognizing the need, **The Comcast Foundation** was STEP UP's first private funder. Comcast has made a significant investment by contributing over \$200,000 in the last four years. These funds paid for student computer labs and some staffing so STEP UP could serve students not eligible for Title I public funding.

STEP UP also received private funds from the **Portland Schools Foundation, PGE Foundation, The Collins Foundation, Portland Trail Blazers, Piper Jaffray Foundation, NW Natural, and many individuals.**

STEP UP also appreciates the partnership of **Caldera, University of Portland, YMCA Camp Collins, Synergo, Multnomah County SUN Schools, and Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory.**



### STEP UP

*"STEP UP is an exemplary model of private-public collaboration that is making a significant difference supporting at-risk students' transition from middle to high school in north Portland, Oregon...The result has been an impressive collection of organizational resources that are helping some of our most at-risk students flourish."*

*—Vicki Phillips, former Superintendent of Portland Public Schools*



## Barrett Graduates and Prepares for a Career



After more than four years at Open Meadow, Barrett has solid plans for his future and the education and skills to launch a self-sufficient adult life. Open Meadow programs helped him make it happen.

Four years ago as an eighth grader in a large public middle school, Barrett was having serious academic and behavioral problems: “I was going to school every day, but I wasn’t learning and was becoming more and more frustrated.” He attributes the problem to large class sizes; there were 45 students in his science class. “The only space I could find to sit was the back counter,” he says.

Barrett and his mother began to search for another school. Barrett decided that Open Meadow sounded like the best fit for him. “My mom was not too excited because she thought that an alternative school might make me even worse, but I talked her into going with me for an admissions interview at Open Meadow Middle School. I was very excited when I got in,” says Barrett.

Barrett describes his early days at Open Meadow Middle School as “culture shock.” He was astonished to discover that he could choose where to sit in his classrooms, that teachers and students were on a first name basis, that all staff were eager to help, and that subject matter was presented at a pace that worked for him. “With smaller classes, I found it easier to learn and started doing better,” remembers Barrett.

Although many Open Meadow Middle School students choose to transition to a public high school after eighth grade promotion, Barrett decided that Open Meadow still was best for him and moved on to Open Meadow High School. High school math teacher Mark Burton became his Advocate. Barrett speaks very fondly of Mark: “He was so helpful to me. He would show up a half hour early every day to meet with me and encourage me.”

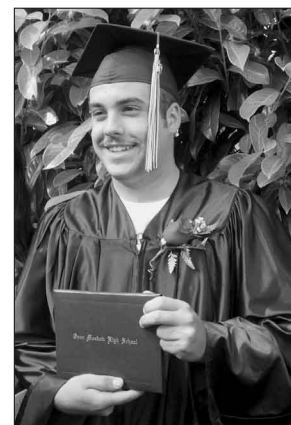
Over the next three years, Barrett steadily earned credits at Open Meadow High School, before joining the Transition Crew, which prepares students for the next steps after high school graduation. Barrett says, “My transition group of seven students became very tight, good friends.”

### FULL DAY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Open Meadow Middle School serves sixth–eighth grade students. Open Meadow High School serves ninth–twelfth graders in a classroom setting. Corps Restoring the Urban Environment (CRUE) serves students ages 16–21 in a project-based high school program, emphasizing three areas of work experience: Natural Resources, Technology, and Social Services.



Toward the end of his last trimester, Barrett got worried because to graduate he would have to make a public presentation in front of his peers, teachers, and outside guests. This was the only time he considered leaving Open Meadow. “Public speaking is not my thing. The thought terrified me. The Transition Program Director said I could make the choice to leave, but he knew I could do it and was willing to help me prepare,” said Barrett. He reluctantly decided to give it a try. They practiced over and over, and Barrett surprised himself by making a successful presentation. He says, “I have never felt that good before in my life.” With no coaxing he later agreed to speak at an Open Meadow Board meeting.



After finishing his graduation requirements, staff encouraged him to explore Open Meadow’s Career Services programs. He noticed a flyer about Open Meadow Career Pathways that offers full scholarships for three- to six-month trainings at Portland Community College in high-growth, high-paying career fields. Barrett chose a certificate program in Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC). He said, “I am an action-oriented person who has always been interested in mechanical things. Installing heating and cooling systems seemed like a better fit for me than working in an office.”

Barrett thought college was scary but, “Shafina (Career Services Advocate) helped me through every step of the process.” “Barrett did very well at PCC,” said Shafina. “He worked through some initial fears and proved he is capable of being a college student. He was truly a role model for others in the program.”

At age 18, Barrett was excited about finding a job in the HVAC field and using his newly obtained skills. “I think HVAC will be a job I can enjoy while it gives me enough income to pursue my interests in guitar, skiing, and my favorite pastime – professional free-ride mountain biking.” (BMX style tricks including huge jumps and dropping off cliffs). We are thrilled that Open Meadow has prepared Barrett for a solid future.

*“Open Meadow staff are amazing. They are all more than willing to work with any student who is putting in an effort. A student can get out of Open Meadow as much as what the student puts in.”*

—Barrett,  
2007 Open Meadow graduate

## CAREER SERVICES

Open Meadow Career Services works to ensure that all Open Meadow youth reach their long-term career goals by providing access to advanced employment and educational opportunities, focused training, and comprehensive support. Programs are designed to provide incremental and continuous support for youth from the time they first define their career goals, through their first employment experience, and on into college and career-track employment.



**ADVOCATE SPONSORS****\$25,000+**

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**Volunteer Profile - Kevin Reedy**

Kevin Reedy is a career mentor for an Open Meadow High School student and has been a financial contributor and Advocate co-sponsor since shortly after he moved to Portland five years ago. “I agree with Open Meadow’s philosophy that there are no throw away kids. They have proven this with their successful programs and low drop-out rate. Failure is not an option,” stated Reedy. “I am particularly impressed with Open Meadow teachers for their dedication and determination. Every teacher I have met there has shown that they care about each individual student.”

As a former corporate vice president now working as an investment manager, Reedy knows the skills that are needed to do well in a career. “Open Meadow’s mentoring program uses a successful approach that matches students’ interests and skills with a practical path to achieve their goals,” remarked Reedy. “I have found mentoring to be a rewarding experience for me, as it allowed me to connect with a high school student in a way that is both useful and enjoyable.”

**Community members interested in mentoring a high school student may contact Michele Taylor, Community Partnerships Coordinator, at 503.488.5176.**

**A sincere thank you to the sponsors who ensured that nearly 600 students received Advocate Program services in 2006–07.**



**You can partner with Open Meadow to give students tools for success by sponsoring or co-sponsoring an Advocate group of 12 students for the 2007–08 school year. A teacher/advocate works with each group of students in daily peer support groups and provides an array of support services designed to build relationships and help students thrive.**

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Ty K. & Melissa Wyman

*"You guys have a great program. I appreciate it greatly. It has been day and night with my son, just in the changes that he has made from last year to this. I am excited for him to go to high school this fall."*

*—Parent of Open Meadow STEP UP participant*

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 Ann Allen, The Standard  
 Thomas Aschenbrenner, Northwest Health  
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*"It still amazes me to this day that this is the only school through my entire school history that has made me feel completely comfortable."*

*—2007 Open Meadow graduate*

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 Kevin Reedy  
 Will Reese, Ziba Design  
 Maggie Reilly, Mercy Corps

Jed Schlanger, The Commerce Company  
 Lisa Shane, Sterling Savings Bank  
 Jefferson Smith, Bus Project  
 Kimberly Smith, Hands on Greater  
 Portland  
 Zeke Smith, Portland Schools Foundation  
 Laura Staples, Ajilon Finance  
 Susie Steinman  
 Elaine Stewart, Smith & Bybee Lakes  
 Wildlife Area  
 Kristen Stiff Arm, The Standard  
 Sarah Stutheit  
 Dave Swain, Comcast  
 Molly Theda, Umpqua Bank  
 Sue Thomas, Portland Parks and Recreation  
 Ethan Thrower, Portland State University  
 Tiana Tozer, The Standard

Oregon Tilth  
 Portland Impact  
 Portland Schools Foundation  
 Sisters of the Road Cafe  
 SMART at Astor Elementary School  
 SMART at James John Elementary School  
 SMART at Peninsula Elementary  
 Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area  
 Trillium Charter School  
 Whitaker Ponds Natural Area  
 William Temple House

### Internships/Employment

A-Temp Heating  
 AJ Java  
 Ajilon Finance  
 Albertson's

Multnomah County  
 New Columbia  
 Nordstrom  
 Open Meadow  
 Oregon Association of Minority  
 Entrepreneurs  
 Outside In - Virginia Woolf  
 Papa Murphy's  
 Pasta Bangs  
 Portland International Airport  
 Portland Parks and Recreation  
 Rose Garden Arena  
 Safeway  
 Six Point Inn  
 Sparky's Pizza  
 Standard Insurance Company  
 SUBWAY  
 Taco Bell  
 TacoTime  
 Target  
 TODAYS Staffing  
 Trail Blazers, Inc.  
 United Salad Company  
 US Bank  
 Washington County  
 Wells Fargo

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

*"The change to my household has been really huge since my daughter has attended Open Meadow. She had been slipping away and not communicating, but at Open Meadow with the small class size, the focus on right behavior, and the absolute disallowance of abuse – she has blossomed and succeeded."*

*—Hope Piantini, parent of 2007 graduate*

Kirsten Rian, Writers in the Schools  
 Sierra Robbins, Ziba Design  
 Kristina Rodriguez, The Standard  
 Amanda Rogers, Building Quotes  
 Marjan A. Rotting, RG  
 Frank Santos, The Standard  
 Jo Schaefer

Sohrab Vossoughi, Ziba Design  
 Tim Watters, Ben & Jerry's  
 Nanci Werts, The Standard  
 Minoosh Zarrineh, TODAYS Staffing

### Service Project Sites

Beech Elementary School  
 Black United Fund  
 Blanchett House  
 Community Cycling Center  
 Growing Gardens  
 Habitat for Humanity  
 Luscher Farm  
 Mercy Corps  
 New Avenues for Youth  
 Northwest Health Foundation  
 Open Meadow High School  
 Oregon Action  
 Oregon Food Bank  
 Oregon Humane Society

Albina Community Bank  
 Arby's  
 Baxter Auto Parts  
 Big City Produce  
 Big Kahuna's BBQ & Catering  
 Bon Appetit  
 Bullivant Houser Bailey, PC  
 Burgerville  
 City of Portland  
 Elmer's  
 Fred Meyer  
 Holladay Park Plaza  
 Hollister Co.  
 Huntleigh, USA  
 IKON Office Services, Inc.  
 Just Sports  
 King Burrito  
 Little Caesars  
 McDonald's  
 Metro

### Student Presentations

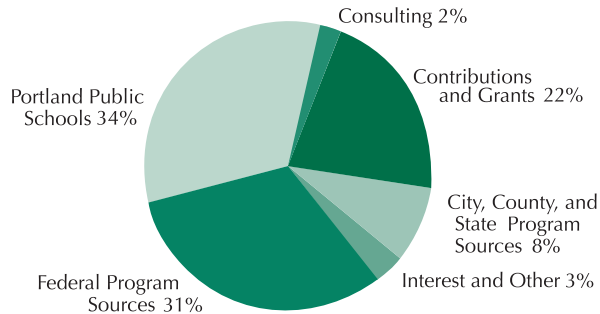
Connected by 25 Initiative  
 James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation  
 site visit  
 Oregon Youth Conservation Corps  
 Advisory Committee  
 Portland City Council  
 Portland Public Schools Board  
 Portland Schools Foundation  
 Open Meadow Development &  
 Marketing Committee  
 Whitaker Ponds Management Committee  
 Youth Recruitment Fair and Celebration,  
 Umpqua Bank Tower

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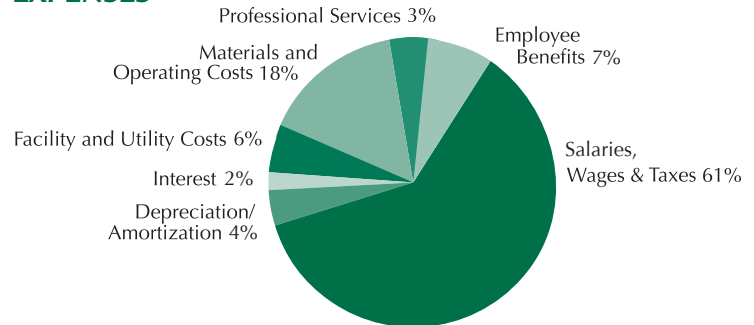


## FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2006-07 FISCAL YEAR

### REVENUE



### EXPENSES



Audit available upon request

Engage. Educate. Empower. 11

## STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Andrew Mason**, *Executive Director*

**Karen Belsey**, *Associate Director*

**Elizabeth Jensen**, *Middle School Program Director*

**Hanif Fazal**, *STEP UP Program Director*

**Rosemary Donnelly**, *High School Program Director*

**Michael Hoover**, *CRUE Program Director*

**Nick Knudsen**, *Career Services Director*

**Michele Taylor**, *Community Partnerships Coordinator*

**Karl Souza**, *Director of Finance & Operations*

**Ilene Moss**, *Finance Manager*

**Emily Munro**, *Director of Development*

## MISSION

To educate youth in small, relationship-based programs that emphasize personal responsibility, academics, and service to the community.

## VISION

A community strengthened and enriched by young people with a vision for their future, a love of learning, and an ethic of contribution to the community.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006-07

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City of Portland

**Ty Wyman**, *Vice-President*

Dunn Carney Allen Higgins & Tongue, LLP

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FreeRange Communications

**Gregg Harrod**, *Treasurer*

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**Nan Poppe**

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**Traci Reandeau**

Trail Blazers, Inc.

**Tripp Somerville**

Portland Schools  
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**Nola Wilken**

Wilken & Company, P.C.

## OPEN MEADOW

**Engage. Educate. Empower.**

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**Visit our website and blog at [www.openmeadow.org](http://www.openmeadow.org)**



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