

OPEN MEADOW

Portland, OR

Report to the Community 2004-05
Carole Smith, *Executive Director*



Community *Creativity* Conscience

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.



PROGRAMS

Middle School, High School

OPEN MEADOW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Elizabeth Jensen,
Program Director

7602 North Emerald
Portland, OR 97217
503.978.0809



Middle schoolers learn African drumming from Homowo.

Responding to a request from Portland Public Schools for alternatives for middle school students, Open Meadow Middle School began serving sixth to eighth grade students in 1998. Located in a building originally occupied by a Catholic high school, the large classrooms, cafeteria, and gym accommodate this active age group. Students study reading, writing, math, social studies, and science, as well as participating in a vibrant program of visual and performance arts through partnerships with local arts organizations.

Admissions:

Call for a schedule of admissions interview sessions for all Open Meadow programs:
503.978.1935

OPEN MEADOW ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Carole Smith, *Executive Director*
Andrew Mason, *Associate Director*
Karl Souza, *Finance & Operations Director*
Emily Munro, *Director of Development*
Gillian Abendroth, *Executive Assistant*

7621 North Wabash Avenue
Portland, OR 97217
503.978.1935



OPEN MEADOW HIGH SCHOOL

Marcia Gross, *Program Director (retired June 2005)*
Rosemary Donnelly, *Program Director*

7654 North Crawford
Portland, OR 97203
503.285.0508



Marcia Gross, retiring Program Director, and Andrew Mason, Associate Director.

Located in the historic Benson-Chaney estate on the bluffs overlooking the Willamette River, Open Meadow High School serves ninth to twelfth grade students. The home-like atmosphere supports the high school's highly personalized approach to education. The high school works diligently to help students "get smarter." Curriculum supports the pursuit of a Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) and Certificate of Advanced Mastery (CAM). A high school diploma is the goal.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

In 2006 Open Meadow will celebrate its 35th anniversary, an opportunity to reflect back on the rich traditions that have made Open Meadow what it is today, and look toward the challenges and opportunities of the future.

This fall I will leave Open Meadow to join Portland Public School's secondary education leadership team as the Director of Alternative Education. I am very pleased by the Board's decision to hire long-time staff member, Andrew Mason as Open Meadow's new Executive Director. This is an exciting way to launch the beginning of the next 35 years!

Open Meadow's roots are strong. Our board and staff have been drawn to Open Meadow because our mission of re-engaging young people in their education resonates for them personally, and their values are in close alignment with the beliefs and values of the organization. There is a strong heart connection for each of us individually in doing this work. We are passionate about what we do.

Open Meadow staff master the art of truly listening to our students. We seek to know and understand our students more fully every day. Our programs continue to

evolve and grow based on our knowledge of our students, and on their increasing knowledge of themselves. We are constantly seeking ways to challenge ourselves, our students, and to improve our practice. This is the heart of program development, and the force that will guide Open Meadow into the future.

Looking forward to the next 35 years, I believe that Open Meadow will continue to lead the way in creating opportunities for young people to engage in their education, to relate positively to their community, and to develop the capabilities to move confidently into their futures.

I have so loved working on cutting-edge educational issues in partnership with all of you on behalf of the youth of North Portland. I feel honored and enriched to have had the opportunity to play a leadership role with such a vibrant organization, and to have the pleasure of spending my days with a group of people I love deeply. Thank you.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in my new capacity, continuing to create quality educational options for Portland's young people.

— Carole Smith, *Executive Director*

Open Meadow Transition Programs

Andrew Mason, Associate Director
Michael Hoover, Program Director

7633 North Wabash Avenue
Portland, OR 97217
503.488.5150

CRUE

CRUE stands for Corps Restoring the Urban Environment. Older high school youth choose to study in either Marketing/Communications, Natural Resources, or Social Services crews that perform project-based "real world" work for community customers in addition to classroom academics. CRUE students call Open Meadow's newest facility their home; since August 2004 they have been studying in its professional and creatively-designed atmosphere. A high school diploma is the goal.



CRUE student, C.J. Breninger, presents at Portland World Trade Center.

YO!

For several years, Open Meadow has been one of nine local organizations working in partnership to offer employment services for youth 14-24 in Portland's North and Northeast Enterprise Community. The federal funding is winding down with limited follow up services planned for 2005-06.

CORPORATE CONNECTIONS

The first cohort of students in Open Meadow Corporate Connections completed their internships this summer and are working in mentored, career-track employment with corporate partners. Students are introduced to corporate culture, complete job readiness training, and must successfully complete a 10 week internship before being offered jobs. Partners are The Standard, Preston Gates & Ellis LLP, Comcast, Trail Blazers, Inc., Bullivant Houser Bailey PC, Thomason Autogroup, City of Portland, and Portland State University School of Business Administration. (see pages 12 and 13)

"The Open Meadow faculty makes an art form of encouraging the kids to do everything they can do. I think it is very empowering, what you see happening here."

— ROB HERTERT,
parent of 2005 graduate

PROGRAMS

Transition Programs, STEP UP

STEP UP

Hanif Fazal, Program Director

7633 North Wabash Avenue
Portland, OR 97217
503.488.5150

Open Meadow STEP UP completed its second year providing summer and after-school academic and support services for Roosevelt High School students most in need of academic assistance. In the fall of 2004, STEP UP expanded to serve Portsmouth, George, and Open Meadow Middle Schools. STEP UP helps students make the often difficult transition from middle school to high school. Participants work to develop the personal behaviors, habits, and attitudes they need to achieve success both in and out of school. (see pages 10 and 11)



Rope challenge course takes student to new heights.

"I have done more work here than I ever did in public school. I have teachers that show they care about my future; everyone gets along and knows one another. I learned that no matter how hard something is, if you want it badly enough, if you don't give up, the outcomes are awesome."

— NICOLE NICKILA, age 18, 2005 graduate



First graduating class for Corporate Connections.

PROFILE

Students Served, Test Scores, Awards, Presentations

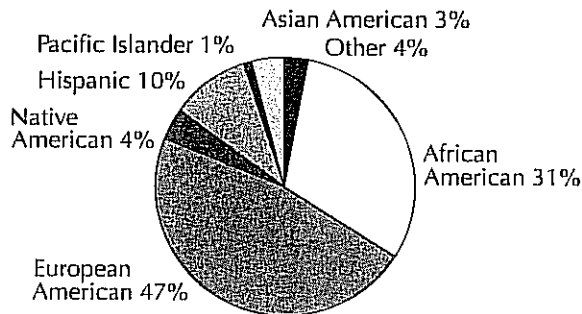
2005 PROFILE

Total Students Served: 706

Middle School	86
STEP UP	300
High School	134
CRUE	81
YO!	85
Corporate Connections	20

Open Meadow Middle School Promotions: 19
 Open Meadow High School Graduates: 29
 Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM): 8
 Certificate of Advanced Mastery (CAM): 7
 Attendance rate: over 93%
 Completed college class prior to graduation: 60%
 Students transitioning to post-secondary education
 and/or career track employment over the past three
 years: 84%
 Students qualifying for free/reduced lunch: 74%

STUDENT ETHNICITY



RECENT AWARDS

2005

- ▶ NSTA Toyota Tapestry Award

2004

- ▶ Bank of America - Neighborhood Builders Award
- ▶ NSTA Toyota Tapestry Award

2003

- ▶ PEPNet (Promising & Effective Practices Network) - National Youth Employment Coalition & US Department of Labor

2002

- ▶ NSTA Toyota Tapestry Award

2001

- ▶ Leadership Award - Columbia Slough Watershed Council

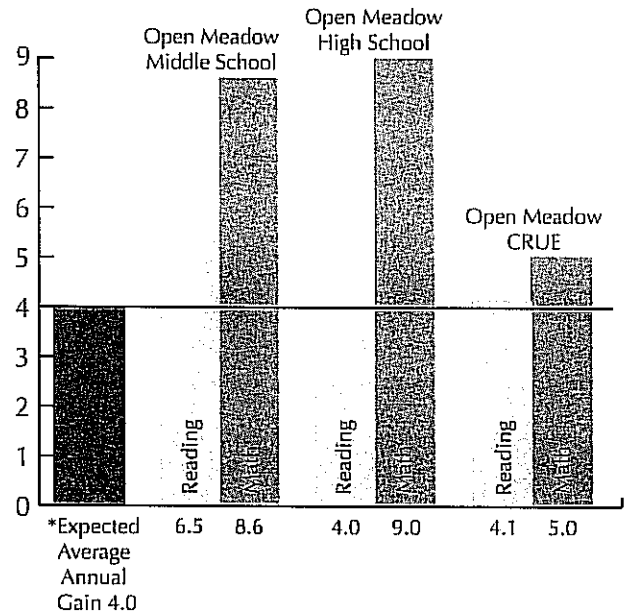
2000

- ▶ Feature Article in Alternative Network Journal

Open Meadow Students Exceed Average Expected Gains in Reading and Math

CAT Test Results

*Average RIT Score Gain



SIGNIFICANT STAFF AND STUDENT PRESENTATIONS 2004-05

- ▶ 2nd National High School Leadership Summit, US Department of Education, Washington, D.C.
- ▶ Small Schools Northwest Conference, Lewis & Clark College, Portland
- ▶ Carnegie's Schools for a New Society Learning Institute, San Diego & Sacramento
- ▶ Carnegie's Schools for a New Society Summer Institute, Chicago
- ▶ National Association of Workforce Boards Conference, US Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.
- ▶ Leaders Roundtable Forum on High Schools, Portland National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education, & Families, Portland
- ▶ Alternative Education Pathways Conference, National Youth Employment Coalition, Washington, D.C.
- ▶ PGE Community 101, World Trade Center, Portland
- ▶ Urban Ecology & Conservation Symposium, PSU, Portland

2004-2005 STAFF

Open Meadow Middle School
Elizabeth Jensen,
Program Director
Lauren Breau
Elizabeth Crocker
Myrna Gininwa
Brian Smithers
John Stewart
Tab Waterman

Open Meadow STEP UP
Hanif Fazal, *Program Director*

George Middle School
Holly Rosenblum,
Program Coordinator
Candice Anderson
Georgia Komons
Stephen Osserman
Susannah Reese
Caleb Wilkinson

Portsmouth Middle School
Michael Navarro,
Program Coordinator
Fred Green
Adriana Meyer
DaLove Woods

Roosevelt High School
Connie Mills,
Academic Coordinator
Marty Ruybalid,
Program Coordinator
Eddie Abadi
Kris Bumpus
LaShelle Chardé
Fiona Creed
Kima Garrison
Mary Grover
Sierra Hill
Jerardo Marquez
Robin Mayther
Jon Munn
Karyn Renehan
Brandt Schweikert
Becky Shine
Kent Smith
Brook Steussy-Edfeldt
Amy Stewart
John Stewart

Open Meadow High School
Marcia Gross,
Program Director
Eddie Abadi
Dave Amundson
Mark Burton
Leslie Chester
Rosemary Donnelly
Paige Knight
Laura Modena
Michele Taylor
Cara VanGorder-Lasof
Bruce Weidel

Transition Programs
Andrew Mason,
Associate Director
Rochelle Barry
Newel Briggs
Angie Estep
Sierra Hill
Michael Hoover
Dion Jordan
Nicholas Knudsen,
Corporate Connections
Coordinator
Krista McNeil
Marianne Oberdoerster
Alan Porter
Dan Senffner
Lauren Taylor

Administration
Carole Smith,
Executive Director
Andrew Mason,
Associate Director
Karl Souza,
Director of Finance and
Operations
Emily Munro,
Director of Development
Gillian Abendroth
Chris Creviston
Wayne Curtin
Ilene Moss
Ann Wawrukiewicz

PROFILE

Staff, Graduation

GRADUATION

June 12, 2005



Cray Hudson celebrates!



Jeremy Shropshire addressing the audience.



Rachel Thompson and her family share a happy moment together.



Aaron Salazar speaks at graduation.



A happy graduation day.

2004-05 HIGHLIGHTS

Bank of America, Birds on the Edge

Bank of America Honors Open Meadow

Open Meadow Receives Neighborhood Builders Award

Bank of America Oregon and SW Washington president Roger Hinshaw presented the Bank of America Neighborhood Builders Award to Carole Smith, Open Meadow Executive Director, at a reception in the Bank of America Financial Center's lobby in downtown Portland on November 10, 2004.

Open Meadow was one of only two Portland area non-profit organizations chosen for this prestigious award from over 70 local applicants. The Neighborhood Builders Award is part of the Bank of America Neighborhood Excellence Initiative, which also includes recognition of "Local Heroes" and "Student Leaders." Hacienda Community Development Corporation of Portland was also selected.

"The Bank of America Neighborhood Excellence Initiative is about celebrating local leaders," said Hinshaw. "We want to help build organizational and community capacity by recognizing, supporting, and developing the individuals and organizations that make a difference in our neighborhoods." Hinshaw cited Open Meadow's "significantly above the norm" attendance and test scores, good administrative systems, stable leadership and staff, and collaborative spirit as "things that stood out in their application."

Hacienda and Open Meadow each were awarded a total of \$200,000 over the course of two years in addition to leadership training for the executive and an emerging leader. The leadership training takes place in locations around the nation and includes award winners from 30

Bank of America



Roger Hinshaw, President Bank of America, Oregon and SW Washington.

Bank of America markets.

"The funds given with this award are especially beneficial. Bank of America places no restrictions on how the funds are spent, only that they are used to strengthen the organization," remarked Smith. "We are also excited to have this wonderful opportunity to attend leadership training with non-profit leaders from around the country."

A local selection committee of key members of the Portland community assisted in the selection of the award winners. Committee members included retired Senator Mark O. Hatfield; Doug Stamm, Executive Director, Meyer Memorial Trust; Gale Castillo, Executive Director, Metropolitan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and Gwyneth Gamble Booth, President, PGE Foundation, as well as Bank of America executives.

Open Meadow is using the grant monies to advance substantial components of our current strategic plan in the areas of program strength, economic stability, effective infrastructure, and staff development.

Roger Hinshaw joined Rich Brown, Bank of America Senior VP for Market Development, to honor Open Meadow by participating in the all day activities of Principal for a Day in February. They spent the day at Open Meadow and Roosevelt High School with Carole Smith and Andrew Mason, Open Meadow Associate Director.

Birds on the Edge

Open Meadow students in teacher/advocate Dan Senffner's class do some very cool things. Students in the CRUE program's Natural Resource crew spent eighteen months studying bird populations and restoring their habitat along the Willamette Bluffs. They also restored about one acre of habitat at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, worked with biologists to survey bird populations in North and Southeast Portland, and developed a Birds on the Edge website soon to



Senffner and CRUE students spot birds on the Willamette Bluffs.

be posted.

With funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and technical assistance from Portland Audubon staff, they created survey protocols and completed two seasons of weekly point-count surveys with local area professional biologists at twenty-nine locations along the Willamette Bluffs. Students shared their findings with Portland Parks and Recreation and Bureau of Environmental Services as part of the Urban Migratory Bird Program. Their data will inform future restoration along the Bluffs with the objective of preserving habitat for migratory birds.



Students keep survey records.

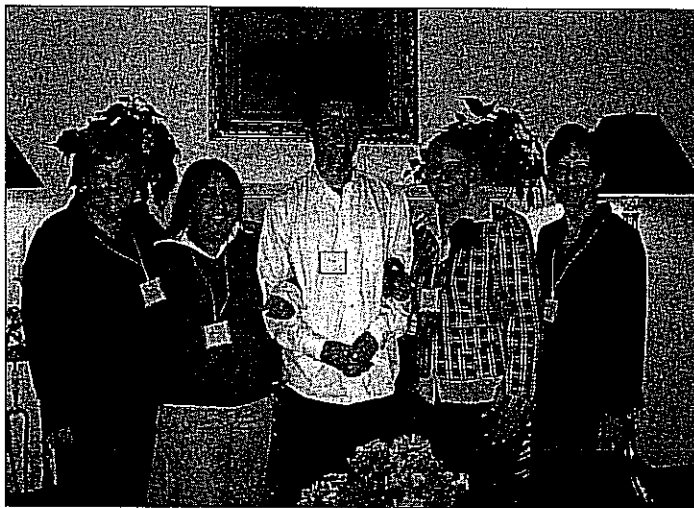
Students Make Algebra Relevant

Six freshman girls in Open Meadow's STEP UP program were tired of algebra problems about trains and planets and coastlines. They wanted algebra to relate to things in their lives like predicting how many cell phone minutes they would use talking to their best friend or figuring out how much their shoes would cost if discounted at the mall.

These dynamic young women sacrificed weekends, holidays, and school vacations to work with STEP UP tutors Becky Shine and Sierra Hill to develop an algebra curriculum they dubbed, "Math Our Way." Badana Ali, Debbie Long, LaQuisha Minnieweather, Valerie Pilon, Kim Rodriguez, and Tiana Ross developed a website and convinced several math teachers to pilot the curriculum. They secured a Youth Innovation Fund grant to make all of this happen.



Open Meadow High School students entertain guests at Open Meadow's annual student art show held at Wieden + Kennedy's lobby on the First Thursday of May.



Margie Goldschmidt (l), Open Meadow volunteer, and Mary Oberst (r), wife of Governor Ted Kulongoski, hosted a dinner party fundraiser for Open Meadow at Mahonia Hall (the Governor's Mansion) in October 2004. Student speakers were (l to r) Toni Durvin, Cray Hudson, and Keyshia Henry.

2004-05 HIGHLIGHTS

Algebra, Student Foundation, Gift Boxes

Students Form Their Own Foundation



CRUE students made grants to three non-profits including New Avenues for Youth, NAYA (Native American Youth Association), and Children's Relief Nursery. Open Meadow students awarded the grants at the Portland World Trade Center in May. Northwest Health Foundation gave the students \$5,000 to grant. This is a project of PGE Community 101.

Holiday Gift Boxes a Hot Item

Open Meadow partners with The Wetlands Conservancy to pilot revenue generating project

The Wetlands Conservancy is a long-time partner of Open Meadow's Corps Restoring the Urban Environment (CRUE) program. This past year the partnership took a new and exciting turn creating a model project that highlighted the common vision between private enterprise, Open Meadow, and The Wetlands Conservancy. They developed and marketed holiday gift boxes with products from Oregon businesses. The box sent a message of strong community support, integrating education, the environment, and local business.

In its pilot year, the project sold 250 gift boxes to corporations and individuals located in Portland. The companies gifted the boxes to their clients and used them as holiday gifts for their employees. The gift boxes sold out quickly. Open Meadow and The Wetlands Conservancy hope to build this project into an ongoing source of revenue for our partnership activities.

If you are interested in ordering boxes for the coming season for friends, clients, or family, please contact Heidi Rahn at 503-488-5186.



ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Successful Model Expands

Open Meadow Grows Advocate Sponsor Program

Open Meadow's Advocate Program expanded by 64% during the 2004-05 school year. 300 students were served in 25 advocate groups, up from 192 students in 16 groups in 2003-04. Advocate growth took place as Open Meadow brought advocate groups to two North Portland public middle schools – George and Portsmouth.

Advocate Groups are the life blood of Open Meadow's relationship-based approach and have operated at Open Meadow High School, CRUE, and Middle School since each program's inception. The advocate model has proven to reconnect previously disengaged youth with their education. Carefully planned activities give students the personal connection and support they need to be successful in school and in life.

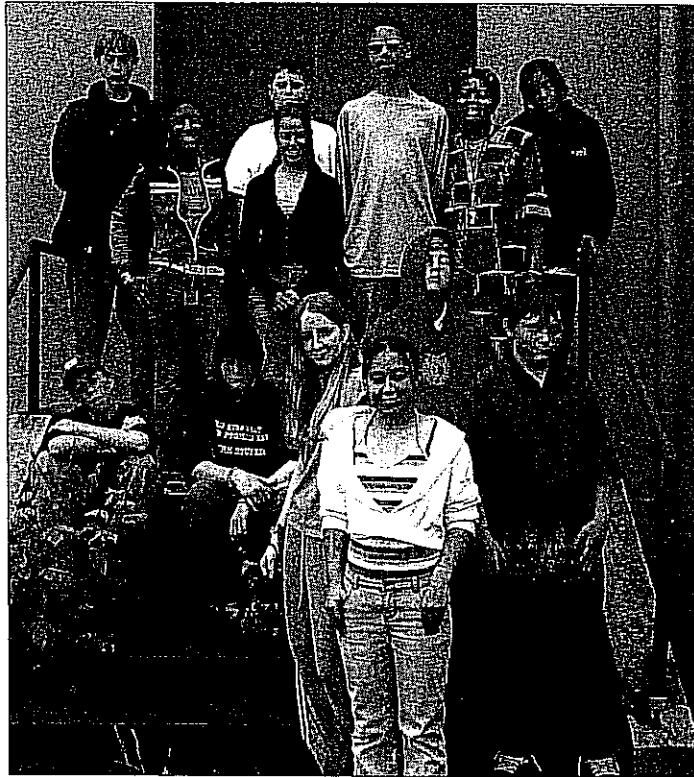
The Advocate Program expansion to the public middle schools is working. In the words of a participating middle school administrator, "These kids perform at a higher rate when they have a relationship with someone...On the discipline side, it is really powerful to partner with the (Open Meadow) STEP UP advocate when there is an issue."

"Listen to the staff; it's all love."

– BRANDON MEANUS, 2005 graduate



High school Advocate Group.



Middle School Advocate Group.

KEY FEATURES OF THE ADVOCATE PROGRAM:

- ▶ Each group consists of 12 students and a staff Teacher/Advocate.
- ▶ Students stay in the same Advocate Group throughout their time at Open Meadow. They change classes and teachers, but the Advocate relationship remains constant.

Advocate activities include:

- ▶ Daily peer support group meetings and informal check-ins
- ▶ Additional issue-focused groups
- ▶ Community service projects
- ▶ Team building events

In addition, Teacher/Advocates provide:

- ▶ Crisis intervention and referral
- ▶ Case management
- ▶ Communication with parents and other significant adults in the students' lives
- ▶ Academic planning and monitoring
- ▶ Transition planning

ADVOCATE SPONSORS

\$20,000 +

OCF - Donald W. Reynolds Foundation
in honor of Dr. Kenneth I. Shine

Alice Alexander

Jon Dickinson & Marlene Burns

OCF - Schamp Family Fund

The William A. Furman Charitable Remainder Unitrust

\$10,000

The Collins Foundation

Jubitz Family Foundation

Phileo Foundation

Francis & Eric Reichl

The Standard

Stimson Lumber Company

Washington Mutual

ADVOCATE CO-SPONSORS

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Willard L. Eccles Charitable Foundation

Margaret Goldschmidt

William and Kathryn Smith

Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust

U.S. Bancorp Foundation

Juan Young Trust - Eastern Division

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Employees' Community Fund of Boeing, Portland

Catherine Brown

The Campbell Foundation

David Clarkson

DB Professionals, Inc.

Yvonne Deckard

Mark Edlen

Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation

Helen & William Gilbert

Gregg & Teri Harrod

The H. W. & D. C. Irwin Foundation

Lawrence King

LWO Corporation

Deborah Luppold

Lori & Andrew Mason

OCF - Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation

PacifiCorp Foundation for Learning

Preston Gates & Ellis LLP

Traci Reandeau

The Renaissance Foundation

Holly & Stuart Rosenblum

Barbara Scrugham

Carole L. Smith

Marjorie Smith

Mary & Robert Sparkes

Sterling Savings Bank

Wells Fargo

Patti & Michael Westby

Lynn Weyand

Wheeler Foundation

Michael & Darcy Winslow

ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Become an Advocate Sponsor

Change Young Lives as an Advocate Sponsor

For the second year, Open Meadow dedicated our primary fundraising efforts to meeting our most critical need and success—Advocacy. We invite the community to directly support our most powerful tool in changing young lives.

Advocate Sponsors include a growing group of individuals, corporations, and foundations who are investing in Open Meadow's award winning services. Community leaders can partner with us by becoming an Advocate Sponsor or Cosponsor. \$10,000 underwrites the cost of an Advocate Group of 12 students for one year.

"Open Meadow staff care about you and you know and feel it. They help you with your future, not just teach you math."

—RACHEL GALE, 2005 graduate



Painting can make it easier to talk with a teacher/advocate.

Sponsors Boost Open Meadow to Goal

Along with growth of the Advocate Program came the need to raise more funds. Once again, sponsors stepped up and helped Open Meadow to meet our Advocate Program goal of \$250,000 for 2004-05. We are delighted that many sponsors renewed their support and are pleased to welcome many new sponsors. In order to stabilize funding, we are encouraging multi-year commitments.

Thank you to the sponsors who helped us meet our 2004-2005 goal
25 Advocate Groups sponsored at \$10,000: \$250,000

STEP UP PROGRAM

Program Completes Second Year

Open Meadow Expands STEP UP to Public Middle Schools

"I could not imagine kids moving, with good standing in school, on to high school without the support of the STEP UP program. Never have we needed it more than this year; it just came at such a good time."

— Portsmouth Middle School teacher

During the 2004-05 school year, Open Meadow expanded the highly successful STEP UP program to serve two North Portland public middle schools – Portsmouth and George. STEP UP services also continued for the second year at Roosevelt, where the program adapted to serve Roosevelt's three small schools.

Open Meadow developed STEP UP to address the high drop-out rate in North Portland. Briefly, STEP UP provides academic and social support services as well as a summer leadership camp experience for students most at risk of not making a successful transition from middle to high school.

STEP UP is accomplishing strong results. Students participating in STEP UP achieved above average gains in math and reading test scores, reductions in disciplinary actions, and better grades and attendance.

Two years of funding from the City of Portland Children's Investment Fund (CHIF) supported the STEP UP expansion at Portsmouth Middle School. No Child Left Behind funds made the expansion possible at George Middle School and funded the second year of services at Roosevelt along with another generous grant from the Comcast Foundation.

The STEP UP expansion made it possible to initiate services at the beginning of students' 8th grade year.



A hug of congratulations after STEP UP student overcomes fear of ropes course.



Student gleefully displays her "old me" and "new me" lists at STEP UP summer camp.

Middle school STEP UP:

- ▶ supports academic and social success.
- ▶ provides after-school Advocate Groups four times a week.
- ▶ offers after-school tutoring by local college students twice a week.
- ▶ prepares students for the critical transition to high school.
- ▶ helps students to develop the personal behaviors, habits, and attitudes they need to be successful in and out of school.

STEP UP students then participate in a week-long summer leadership camp prior to their freshman year, followed by summer tutoring. Tutoring and social support services continue throughout the entire freshman year and may continue into the sophomore year as well.

STEP UP addresses themes such as the importance of education and hard work, making good choices, and maintaining a positive attitude. Open Meadow believes that consistent positive messages combined with strong academic and personal support is giving these students what they will need to succeed for many years to come.



Students pose at STEP UP summer camp.

STEP UP Outcomes Strong

Portsmouth Middle School STEP UP

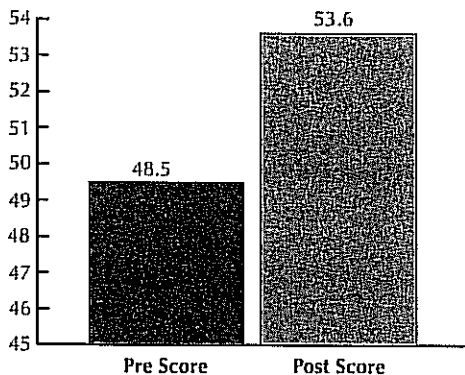
- ▶ Portsmouth test scores were not available at time of printing.
- ▶ Disciplinary actions decreased 49% from 1st to 2nd semester.
- ▶ Average grades increased.

George Middle School STEP UP

- ▶ Average reading test scores up over 1.5 grade level.
- ▶ Average math test scores up over 1 grade level.

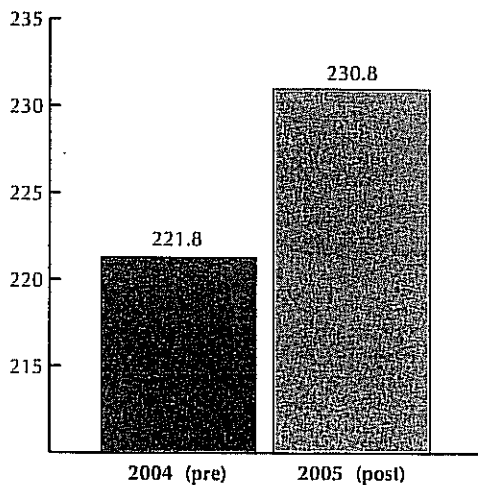
Roosevelt STEP UP

Roosevelt STEP UP Reading Gains 2004-2005



4 points = 1 grade
STEP UP students (5.1 gain) = 1.28 grades

Roosevelt STEP UP Math Gains Students Previously Below State Standards 2004-2005



4 points = 1 grade
STEP UP students (9.0 gain) = 2.25 grades

STEP UP PROGRAM

Program Outcomes Strong



Flying high above the ground at summer camp ropes course.

"(The summer leadership camp) gave kids primarily from poverty a chance to examine their dreams and then through [challenging] activities put kids in a position to substitute the excuses they always use for failure with reasons why they should succeed. Once the kids go through the summer school experience, they are bonded for life like a family...they look out for each other, they care for each other, they hold each other accountable."

— ROOSEVELT ADMINISTRATOR



Student watches peer as she prepares to take the challenge.

2004-05 STEP UP FUNDING

- ▶ Portland Children's Investment Fund
- ▶ No Child Left Behind Supplemental Education Services
- ▶ PPS Title 1
- ▶ For the second year, Comcast Foundation made a substantial grant for computers and additional capacity to serve students who would not otherwise have been eligible, so that no student who needed services was turned away.

CORPORATE CONNECTIONS

Open Meadow Expands Student Options

New Program Connects Youth With Corporations

Corporate Connections, Open Meadow's newest program, began services in January 2005 with the first cohort of 20 youth. "Corporate Connections is devoted to raising the assets of low-income youth by providing the opportunity for workforce training, internships, and entry-level career track positions at partner companies throughout Portland. Our goal is to end the cycle of poverty by empowering youth to take control of their futures," stated Nick Knudsen, Program Coordinator. Funding comes from the City of Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development's *Economic Opportunity Initiative*.

One of the program's objectives is to increase participant's salaries by 25%. The first cohort of youth greatly exceeded the expectation with an enormous 250% increase. "I think it's a fabulous program! It should be replicated at every high school and community college," exclaimed Shannon Grosswiler, Community Affairs Liaison for Comcast – one of the program's corporate partners.

The program serves low-income, underemployed high school graduates and GED recipients between the ages of 17-24. To be accepted into Corporate Connections, youth must express an interest in a corporate career

Corporate Connections is funded through The City of Portland's Bureau of Housing and Community Development *Economic Opportunity Initiative*.

and convince Knudsen and the steering committee of corporate partners that they have the ability to sustain a commitment to Corporate Connections and the rigors of subsequent corporate employment.

The second cohort of 10 youth was formed in July 2005. Each cohort begins with eight weeks of classes held in corporate offices. Corporate Connections offers exposure to soft skills and the corporate workforce that would otherwise be difficult to access for low income youth. Program coordinator Knudsen said, "We are asking the students to make a big cultural shift, and by holding the classes in corporate offices, they see right away what the behavior and atmosphere is. They are expected to fit in right from the start."

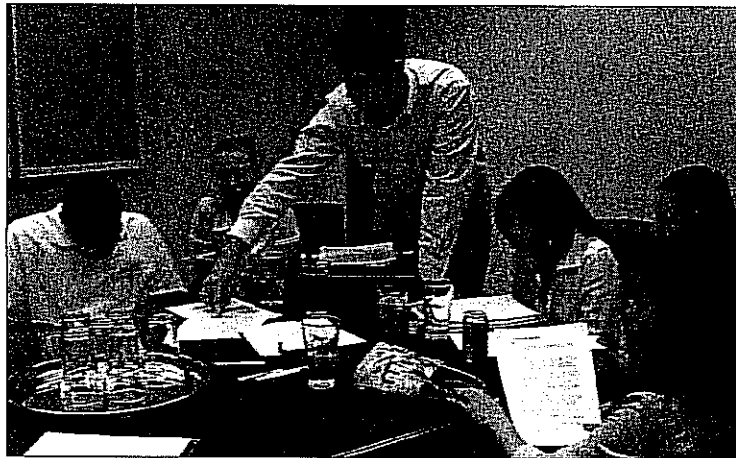
Classes are followed by paid internships with partner companies and the opportunity to apply for full-time, mentored career track positions. The variety of corporate cultures in the program increases the possibility of identifying a match for a variety of youth personalities. The program offers a financial incentive in addition to paid internships – payments into individual development accounts to be used for college and to encourage financial discipline.

"NICK DOESN'T GIVE UP ON YOU.

That's how all of Open Meadow is – they don't want you to fail. They go above and beyond. If it hadn't have been for Open Meadow I'd be at home, asleep, with no degree and no job."

– LATIAH KRISTENSEN,

Graduated from Open Meadow in 2005, completed Corporate Connections, and currently employed at Trail Blazers, Inc.



Program Coordinator Nick Knudsen instructing the second cohort.

photo by Sue Clark

PARTNERSHIPS



CORPORATE CONNECTIONS

New Program Involves Partners

Partners Praise the Program

Joan Brambani, Open Meadow Board member and the Administrator at Preston Gates & Ellis, gives Corporate Connections high marks. "Preston Gates & Ellis has a goal of giving back to the community. I feel the program is tops. I'm thrilled to be a part of this project! We want the students to see that it's more than the job and the money; it's about being a good citizen," stated Brambani.

Another Open Meadow Board member and Human Resources Director for Trail Blazers, Inc., Traci Reandeu serves on the steering committee with Brambani. Reandeu remarked, "Trail Blazers, Inc. values being connected to the community. We are involved in Corporate Connections because it has a direct impact on the community. It's a great project for us!"

Scott Adams, Site Manager, IKON Office Solutions, Inc. (a company that provides administrative services on-site for Bullivant Houser Bailey PC) is also a member of the Corporate Connections Program Steering Committee. Adams recently stated, "I think the program is very good. It gives the students skills that other people don't pick up this early in their working lives...I'm really happy we were able to participate and that they have been able to continue the program."



LaTiah Kristensen concentrates at Trail Blazers, Inc. reception desk.
photo by Sue Clark

"Open Meadow provides an intimate educational experience, and in Corporate Connections we're trying to honor that, so there can be a close connection between the youth, Nick and the employer. With the small size we want to make it possible for everyone to have a touchpoint that works."

— GREGG HARROD, The Standard
Chair of Open Meadow Board of Directors

Corporate Partners Actively Involved

A by-product of Open Meadow's several year partnership with The Standard, the idea of creating Corporate Connections began in conversations with executive leaders at The Standard including Open Meadow Board Chair Gregg Harrod, Assistant Vice President of Strategic Initiatives; and Mike Winslow, Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary.

As the concept for Corporate Connections grew, several companies decided to participate. 2004-05 partners were The Standard, Preston Gates & Ellis LLP, Comcast, Bullivant Houser Bailey PC, Trail Blazers, Inc., and the Thomason Autogroup. The City of Portland and Portland State University School of Business Administration participate as well.

Corporate Connections enjoys solid buy-in from the corporate partners. They assist Open Meadow in the development and delivery of the curriculum, provide business tours, job shadow opportunities, internships, and assign mentors to each graduating student obtaining full-time employment with their corporation.



Christie Haynes found a spot at Preston Gates & Ellis LLP.
photo by Sue Clark

"I felt a CONNECTION with Joan, and felt I was supposed to be here."

—CHRISTIE HAYNES,
completed Corporate Connections
and is currently employed full-time
at Preston Gates & Ellis LLP, speaking of
Joan Brambani, Preston Gates & Ellis Administrator.



Michael Begay enjoys his full-time position with IKON at Bullivant Houser Bailey PC.

photo by Sue Clark

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Funding Partners (7/1/04-6/30/05)

CONTRIBUTORS

\$200,000

Bank of America

\$50,000+

Comcast Foundation
OCF - Donald W. Reynolds Foundation
in honor of Dr. Kenneth I. Shine
Portland Development Commission

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Alice Alexander
Jon Dickinson & Marlene Burns
OCF - Schanip Family Fund
The William A. Furman Charitable
Remainder Unitrust

\$10,000 - \$19,999

The Collins Foundation
Jubitz Family Foundation
Phileo Foundation
Frances & Eric Reichl
The Standard
Stimson Lumber Company
Toyota Tapestry
Washington Mutual Bank

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Willard L. Eccles Charitable Foundation
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Portland Schools Foundation
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U.S. Bancorp Foundation
Juan Young Trust - Eastern Division

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Barbara & Philip Moss
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Debra & Charles Carroll
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Vintage Real Estate LLC
Harriet M. Watson
Joan Williams
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Marti & Ronald Yoder

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In memory of Eddie Marie & James Deckard
from Susan Boardman
In honor of Michele Taylor
from Alison Taylor Fastov
In honor of Elvis Waterman
from Danielle & Cliff Johnson
To the Harry & Dorothy Hogarth
Memorial Scholarship Fund
from Nancy & Henri Hoover
from Patricia Hogarth
In memory of Kenneth L. Gathman
from Barbara Scrugham
In honor of Carole Smith
from Jay Bloom
In honor of Paula Rosenblum's 90th birthday
from Charlotte Fligel

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

DONORS (through 6/30/05)

Leadership Gifts (\$75,000+)

The Paul G. Allen Charitable Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
The James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation
The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
Portland Development Commission
Foundations
The Autzen Foundation
The Campbell Foundation
The Collins Foundation
W.A. Gilbert Family Foundation
Lucy Carrington Jones Fund of the Com-
munity Foundation of Greater Memphis
William C. McCormick Foundation
OCF - Schamp Family Fund
Spirit Mountain Community Fund
U.S. Bancorp Foundation
Corporations
A. Marble Graphic Arts & Illustration
LWO Corporation
Quiktrak, Inc.
T.I. Design Group
Organizations
Metro North Portland Enhancement
Committee
North Portland Trust Fund
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C. Lynn Attwood
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Andrea & Bill Baker
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Karen Belsey
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Janett Nichol
Jeff & Emory Oeding
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Wally & Dawn Pfeiffer
Christine Rains
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Weyand
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"Despite many challenges, these individuals did not quit. They listened to the voice deep inside themselves that told them that they COULD do it, the voice that told them never to give up. And they didn't give up."

— ANDREW MASON, Associate Director
speaking of the 2005 graduating class

In-Kind Services

CBG Consulting Engineers
KPF
Lease Crutcher Lewis
SRG Partnership Inc.

CONTRACTORS

City of Portland
Commission on Children, Families,
and Community
David Douglas School District
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Oregon Department of Education
Oregon Youth Conservation Corps
Portland Bureau of Housing and
Community Development
Economic Opportunity Initiative
Portland Children's Investment Fund
Portland Public Schools
Worksystems, Inc.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS

Adams Design
Carson Oil
Children's Relief Nursery
City of Portland -
Bureau of Environmental Services
Communication Across Barriers
Mario DePaola
Dex Media
Direct One Networking, Inc.
Facing the Future:
People and the Planet
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Kira Higgs
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Volunteers, Student Awards, Financials

Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Nikkei Organization
Oregon Partnership
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Mike Winslow, *The Standard*

SERVICE PROJECT SITES

Caldera
Homowo African Arts and Culture
Oregon Human Society
Oregon Food Bank
Community Cycling Center
Community Clean Up Day

INTERNSHIP/EMPLOYMENT

Air Balancing Specialty
Arby's
Blockbuster
Bullivant Houser Bailey
Burlington Coat Factory
Calagora Terrace
Chinook Apartments
City of Portland
Coastal Containers
Comcast
CPC Camp Discovery
Elmer's
Fred Meyer
Goodwill
Hollywood Video
Java Juice
Master Image
McDonalds
Olive Garden
Open Meadow
Orange Julius
Oregon Zoo
Pasta Bangs
Plaid Pantry
Portland Parks
Trail Blazers, Inc.
Preston Gates Ellis
Rose Garden
Ross
Safeway

The Standard
Subway
Taco Bell
Thomason Autogroup
Wendy's

SCHOLARSHIPS & STUDENT AWARDS

Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) -
Alesha Camardese, Toni Durvin,
Rachel Gale, Robin Hertert, Nancy
Huntley, Trevor Massey, Katie Penkert,
Rachel Thompson
Certificate of Advanced Mastery (CAM) -
Toni Durvin, Rachel Gale, Robin
Hertert, Nancy Huntley, Trevor
Massey, Katie Penkert,
Rachel Thompson
Deborah Maines Yearbook Scholarship -
Chelsie Mace
Harry & Dorothy Hogarth Memorial
Scholarship -
Toni Durvin
Heald College Scholarship -
LaTiah Kristensen
Multnomah Youth Commission
representative -
LaQuisha Minnieweather
OABSE Award -
Cielle Armstrong
OYCC Graduate Scholarships -
Aaron Salazar, Aaron Smith, Amy
Sparkes, Angela Smith, Ashley Van
Blarcom, Brandon Meanus, Chelsie
Mace, Cray Hudson, Daniel Scott
Service, Eniesha Holliman, Erica
Dowell, Jackie Ward, Jeff Landtiser,
Katie Penkert, LaTiah Kristensen,
Nicole Keeling, Nicole Nickila, Rachel
Gale, Rachel Thompson, Ricci Preston,
Robin Hertert, Taylor Sanderson, Toni
Durvin, Trevor Massey, Valerie Alleman
Post-Secondary Education Scholarship -
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Christie Haynes, Michael Begay,
LaTiah Kristensen, Eniesha Holliman,
Melissa Jimenez, Melaney Carter,
Stella Gong, Taylor Sanderson, Kris
Carpenter, Shalonda Holliman,
Jordan Burros, Jessie Singleton
Presidential Freedom Scholarship
nominees -
Katie Penkert, Ricci Preston
US Military Academy -
Robin Hertert

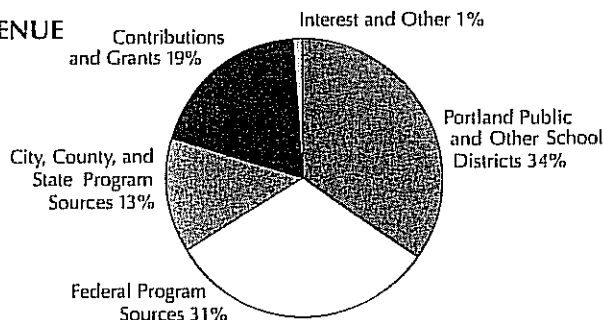
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

OPB
PEPNet
Peninsula Elementary
Portland City Hall
Small Schools Northwest
Conference
The Standard
Urban Ecology & Conservation
Symposium
World Trade Center, PGE
Community 101

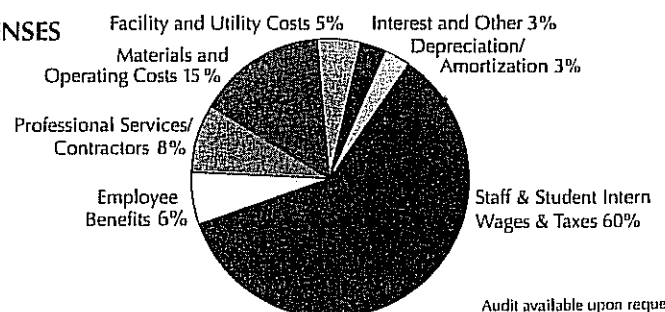
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Financial Information 2004-05 Fiscal Year

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Audit available upon request.

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