



# The Aldridge Foundation

Tom S. & Marye Kate Aldridge Charitable & Educational Trust

## FOOTPRINTS VOL 3 - ISSUE 1 - JAN 2000

Foundation Headquarters: 3035 N.W. 63rd Street, Suite 207N • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73116 • 405 / 840-9916

# Footprints

Volume 3, Issue 1  
January 2000

### 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. Ferguson  
Mickie B. Smith  
M.L. Aldridge  
Tom S. Aldridge  
Kimberly Aldridge

### Systems Consultant

Shaun E. Palmer

### LaVerne Aldridge Nursing Scholarships Made Available At O.S.U. Oklahoma City

The LaVerne Aldridge scholarships first instituted at the Health Science Center of the University of Oklahoma have been broadened to include nursing students at the Oklahoma Campus of Oklahoma State University. Working with Dr. Lois Salmeron, Dean of the College of Nursing, the Aldridge Foundation now provides scholarships for students of the two year program there. Scholarships awarded at the start of the second semester continue for three semesters. Since there are new classes twice yearly, we will soon have three student's under scholarship.

The first recipient is Misty Joyner. Misty, the mother of two children, commutes from Wynnewood, Oklahoma.



Misty Joyner and LaVerne Aldridge

### Baby-Think-It-Over

...COMES TO MID-DEL CENTER!



Two life size computerized dolls were purchased with money granted by The Aldridge Foundation to teach teenage girls some things they may not have thought about. They will have hands on experience in how to hold a baby, how to change a diaper, how to bathe and feed an infant, and what happens when a crying baby is shaken too hard.

Teens making decisions between becoming sexually active and abstinence will have 24 hour responsibility for a baby. After feeding, bathing, burping and changing the doll, she may feel differently about her decision. The 2 A.M. feeding is a real mind changer. The following day

the pre-programmed computer strips are read to see if the babies needs were met. Intensive counseling on the responsibilities of baby care are provided.

Twenty-three girls under age 16, and thus not eligible for the local school pregnancy prevention program were enrolled. After 24 hours of intensive child care, one participant stated, "I am not going to get pregnant, I realize that I do not have enough time in my young life to spend taking care of a baby".

The Aldridge Foundation has approved for distribution nearly one-half million dollars to date!



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*"Since its inception at the death of Tom Aldridge in June of 1995, the Tom and Marye Kate Aldridge Charitable Foundation has distributed, or has approved for distribution of nearly a Half Million Dollars. (\$497,672)"*

### Aldridge Foundation Milestones

Of this money \$155,308. (31.2%) has gone for individual scholarships awarded to Recipients selected by the educational institution. Continuing Scholarship programs are in place at Michael Price College of Business at University of Oklahoma, the University of Central Oklahoma, O.U. School of Nursing, and the O.S.U. at OKC School of Nursing. Scholarships have also been awarded through the American Bible College, Baby Steps, and Joshua Expeditions.

107,657. (21.6%) has been or is being distributed to various Social Service Agencies such as. Boy Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club, S.W. Youth & Family Services, Y.M.C.A., Oklahoma Special Olympics, Oklahoma County Sheriff SWAT team, Heartland Search & Rescue, Mid-Del Youth & Family Center, Daily Living Centers, Ronald McDonald House, Donna Nigh Foundation.

107,657.00 (21.6%) has been distributed to various Social Service Agencies

155,308.00 (31.2%) has gone for individual scholarships selected by the educational institution.

103,007. 00 (20.7%) has gone to provide direct assistance to innovative programs in secondary schools in Oklahoma, Texas and Florida.

29,700.00 ( 6.%) has gone to Religious Outreach Programs such as International Students Outreach and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

21,000.00 ( 4.2%) went specifically to a Literacy Program.

16,000. 00 ( 3.2%) went to Libraries.

60,000. 00 (12.1%) went to the National Institute for Developmental Delays in support of their work.

5,000. ( 1.0%) helped to fund the Oklahoma City Memorial at the site of the Murrah Building.

### Aldridge Mini-Grants

The Board of Directors voted during the June 28, 1998 meeting to allow the Chairman Discretionary authority to make up to ten grants \$200 or less. This enables us to react to causes that don't fit into our published procedures such as the \$200 granted for tornado relief after the May 3, 1999 storm ripped through Oklahoma.

#### Other mini-grants went to:

- Pregnancy Help Center, Clute, Texas for program development
- High Pointe School, OKC, OK for Christmas gifts for inmates of an inpatient psychiatric facility
- YMCA, Navarre, FL for Youth in Government excursion to Tallahassee, FL.
- Oklahoma Goodwill Industries, for Christmas Dinner for clients and staff
- Gulf Breeze Elementary, to replace headphones in kindergarten classroom
- Community Literacy Center, OKC, OK for Annual Awards Banquet
- Navarre Intermediate School, Navarre, FL facilities for Jump Rope for Heart
- Crossroads Church, Chicago, IL for Mission trip to Jordan.

We try to distribute our funds in the most efficient way possible. However, some needs won't fit into our planning calendar. For this reason the mini-grants serve an important function.



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### OUTREACH SERVES YOUTH IN AT-RISK SCHOOLS

As an outreach program Omniplex provides portable science kits which are taken to schools "at-risk" in the areas of science and math. This provides hands-on instruction with materials which may not be available in the school as well as able instructors to stir interest among the students.

We are proud to report that at Westwood Elementary School in Oklahoma City students showed remarkable improvement in post-program test scores rising from the 33rd percentile to the 52nd. Faculty credited Omniplex for this progress. One Teacher commented about her class's enthusiasm for the Omniplex sessions, even admitting that she learned a few things about science herself through participation in the program.

Currently kits are being offered for the following areas:

- |                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sound            | "Good Vibrations"              |
| Geology          | "Inside and Outside the Earth" |
| Astronomy        | "Spacey Places"                |
| Meteorology      | "Rain or Shine"                |
| Space Technology | "Grasping Stardust"            |
| Paleontology     | "Dinosaurs"                    |
| Human Anatomy    | "Magnificent Machine"          |

The Aldridge Foundation provided \$2,500 in support of this program in 1998 and has granted a like amount for the current funding cycle.



### F.C.A. REPORTS CAMP RESULTS

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes reports that 192 boys and 137 girls attended the week of camp at Oklahoma University this summer. A number of the kids made life changing decisions. They improved their skills in their respective sports and learned to compete in the right manner, a key component that some older athletes seem to be missing today.

Twenty-two students were granted scholarship assistance. Each was involved in doing some task to earn their scholarship, either before or during the week of camp. Seventy-two boys and Twenty-eight girls made decisions to follow Christ during that week.

A camper writes, "Thank you so much for donating money for scholarships. It is because of you I was able to attend this F.C.A. Camp and get better at basketball. The most important thing about this camp is I got closer to God. I appreciate you so much."


Another commented, "You don't know how much fun I am having learning about the Lord without your help I wouldn't be here... I wouldn't have recommitted my life to Jesus Christ. I really appreciate your help."

The Aldridge Foundation grants \$5,000 to provide scholarships.

*"Thank You For Your Letters of Kindness..."*

Dear Mr and Mrs Aldridge,  
It's nice to hear the  
love of you again. My own best  
being able to meet you letters are  
enjoyed talking with you.

My first one was and I'm home  
in Tulsa for the summer. I hope  
you have a fun and relaxing summer  
I will forward to meeting with  
you again. Thank you for your  
kindness and generosity. Sincerely,  
Dustin



Dear Mr and Mrs Aldridge,  
I am so glad to hear from  
you. I have been busy  
with school and the State Spring  
Session. I was elected Secretary  
of the Oklahoma Young Student  
Association.

I hope you find you both  
well. I really enjoyed our time  
together at our special meeting the  
10th of you and staying in your  
to and family support. I hope to  
visit with you again soon. I hope  
your Thanksgiving is full of  
happy memories! You will find a  
letter in mine!



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### WORKS IN PROGRESS

Mesquite High School, Mesquite, TX:  
Advisor, Mickie B. Smith purchase of  
equipment to allow training of tire  
specialists in automotive technology  
program

Sam Noble Museum of Natural  
History at Oklahoma University:  
Advisor, Rusty Aldridge Internship in  
paleontology to provide educational  
services to visiting classes from schools.



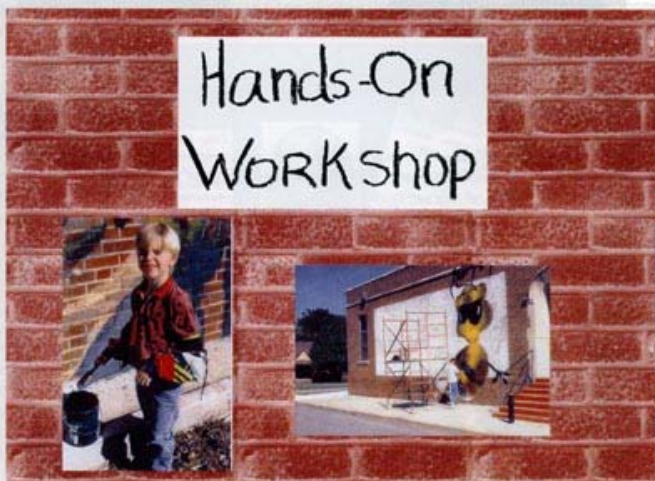
*Dr. Richard Cifelli, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, shows the Aldridge's the workroom where displays are prepared. The monster hanging on the wall is a neck frill from a horned dinosaur.*



*"Watch out Ian...it might bite!"*



*Ian Aldridge examines a raptor skeleton being prepared for display at Sam Noble Museum of Natural History. Grandpa Robert Aldridge looks on.*





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### FOUNDATION SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS



The Foundation sponsors Scholarships at three Universities. Receipts are selected by a Scholarship Committee, based on criteria established by the Foundation such as academic achievement, leadership potential, and demonstrated financial need as defined by each University's Office of Financial Aid.

At University of Oklahoma in the Michael F. Price College of Business, our scholars are:

**Mr. Sam Hinkie and Miss Kelley Jennings**



At the University of Central Oklahoma, the scholarship in the School of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance is named in honor of Dr. Homer Coker, retired Chairman of that department and mentor of both Rusty and Tom Aldridge.

Senior: **Tammeria Hubbell**  
Junior: **Dawn Marie Davis**



At O.U. Health Science Center School of Nursing scholarships are named in honor of Vice-Chairman LaVerne Roye Aldridge.

LaVerne Roye Aldridge Scholars are:

Senior: **Jaimie Rexroad**  
Junior: **Nicole Frost**



At Oklahoma State University of Oklahoma at Oklahoma City School of Nursing LaVerne Roye Aldridge scholars are:

2nd year: **Misty Joyner**  
1st year: **Jeri D. Carter**



Aldridge Foundation also participates in the President's Partners program at U.C.O. These are awarded annually by the Chairman of each department using their own criteria. Awards are sponsored in Visual Arts, HPERD and Special Education.





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### Whiz Kids



#### ***...WHIZ KIDS HELP INNER CITY YOUTH***

The \$1,000 granted to City Care Ministries for their Whiz Kids Program resulted in the creation of two new Whiz Kids sites on the South Side of Oklahoma City. Twenty-seven youngsters were matched one-on-one with a tutor mentor. All had greatly improved their reading skills when tested and had built a relationship with a caring adult. About 80% were Hispanic with non-english speaking parents. Bridges of "caring" spanned cross-cultural gulfs.

This "inclusion" added to the improved reading skills should help these boys and girls intergrate into our community. Oklahoma's first lady Cathy Keating recognized more than 200 volunteers and children at the "Spring Fling" Celebration May 29, 1999.



#### ***ANDREW JOHNSON SCHOOL GETS NEW PLAYGROUND***

The Aldridge Foundation in partnership with Donna Nigh Foundation is furnishing specialized playground equipment for developmently disabled children at Andrew Johnson Elementary School. This school serves a unique and diverse population of 282 students in northwest Oklahoma City. One hundred seven are disabled, with disabilities ranging from mild communication disorders to profound health and physical conditions which seriously impact their education. Recess is often listed as a child's favorite part of school. This will allow appropriate integration of disabled and nondisabled students in a "real" setting so that all can participate in this favorite time.



#### ***SCOUTING GROWS IN INNER CITY***

The program goal was to aid in establishing Scouting, with its high moral and ethical standards, in the disadvantaged inner city area of Oklahoma City.

The Aldridge Foundation granted \$5,000 toward funding this project. In Fall 1998 seventy-seven boys were enlisted in four new packs, troops, or posts. This brought to 15 the number of Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops and Explorer Posts in the area, and to 225 the number of youth served. A new Scout executive has been hired to provide leadership in this area.

In support of this program an additional \$5,000 was granted for 1999-2000.



#### ***LITTLE AXE SCHOOL PROVIDES COUNSELING***

It was a tough year for students at Little Axe High School. Their community had been rocked by the discovery of a young boy who had been killed by abusive treatment, then stowed in an abandoned freezer. The next blow fell when a popular cheerleader was kidnapped, raped and murdered by classmates. There were no funds in the school budget for grief counseling. The Aldridge Foundation granted \$8,000 to provide counseling, therapy, and mediation programs for elementary and middle school students as well as high school.



#### ***FIFTH GRADERS PROVIDE PHOTOGRAPHS FOR YEARBOOK***

Navarre Intermediate School fifth graders, students of Alice Carnley and Renee Sabastian, became so adept at taking and developing photographs that their work was included in the school yearbook. Skills were developed, new knowledge of chemistry, and optics was learned along with photography. Finally, the students had a real part in the production of the yearbook. I'll bet they will be retained for years.

Lesson plans are available through the Foundation for replication of this program in other schools.



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### VOJTA THERAPY COMES TO U.S.



Oklahoma Chancellor of Higher Education Dr. Hans Brisch, his wife Dr. Margaret Brisch, Dr. Theodor Hellbruegge, and Father Paul Zahler celebrate signing the contract to bring Early Diagnosis, Early Intervention systems to Oklahoma.



A new baby is born in an Indian hospital. Immediately the pediatrician does a Vojta diagnosis, looking for any anomaly which might portend a developmental delay later in life. If one is discovered, therapy begins immediately. The child's parents receive training in physiotherapy procedures to be done at home. These have proved effective in eliminating or lessening the effects of the potential disability in 90% of the children.

How lucky is this baby to be born in India. This system, developed by Professor Dr. Theodor Hellbruegge of the University of Munich, now used in 25 nations around the globe is not currently available in the United States.

The National Institute on Developmental Delays, a recipient of Aldridge Foundation Grants since our inception, seeks to bring this program to Oklahoma. A contract has been signed whereby Dr. Johannes Meunzel, who implemented it in India, is designated to introduce it here in cooperation with the Health Science Center of Oklahoma University.

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OUTREACH TOUCHES STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND

I.S.O. seeks to provide to some of the 4,500 international students enrolled in colleges and universities in the North Texas region with assistance in improving their daily living conditions, their English language skills and their understanding of American culture. It also provides emotional and spiritual support during times of crisis or difficulty with warm friendship and the support of a surrogate family.

Who knows when or how these acts of friendship will effect these young people? The Taiwanese father of one of these students, who travels extensively in China wrote of being asked frequently when in private if Americans are devilish and ugly. He said he was proud to tell them of an American family who loves "lost sheep"; then go on to share the parable Christ told of the lost lamb.

The Aldridge Foundation provides funds to lease and operate a van which is used extensively doing excursions, picking up students at airports, delivering donated furniture, and traveling between the various campuses involved.



The rear seats are designed to quickly and easily allow the seat back to fold down and then for the whole seat to fold forward to provide about 3 feet of additional unobstructed hauling space in the rear. This allows large chairs, desks, etc. to be hauled without having to remove seats. These Taiwanese students live in an apartment with no furniture, i.e. no beds, chairs, etc. We delivered some chairs and a table to them that we had been given.



Cameron and Shu-Chi both recently graduated from UTA and now work in the area. They are buying a home and we are preparing to take them to a local nursery to discuss American gardening, yard care, etc. Their home country is tropical and it is difficult for them to understand the rigors of Texas gardening.

### HEARTLAND SEARCH & RESCUE GRANT PAYS OFF AFTER TORNADO

Four thousand dollars was granted to Heartland Search & Rescue for the purpose of obtaining computer and communications equipment to support their field activities. May 3, 1999 a killer tornado tore through the Oklahoma City area, killing 38 and destroying hundreds of homes and businesses. Devastation was so great that people had no idea which pile of wreckage had been their home.

Heartland had created a database on its computers which made it possible to print out street by street maps so that rescue efforts could be organized most efficiently and no possible survivor would be missed.

Half of the grant not used for equipment was used for training in First Aid and CPR. One instructor was certified to train other volunteers as well as other law enforcement and rescue agencies.

Hats off to Mike Jack, Ernest Brandon and all the men and women of Heartland Search and Rescue for being there and for being prepared.



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### THE SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS

Boys and girls of Navarre Intermediate School enjoy a Popsicle treat after their efforts for the American Heart Association's "Jump Ropes For Heart" event. For the second consecutive year this school has lead all Florida schools in the amount of money raised. The Aldridge Foundation provided tents for volunteer record keepers, portable toilets, and a Popsicle party for those classes with 100% participation. Nine hundred thirty-six young people took part raising \$30,000 for the charity. Florida Governor Jeb Bush sent a letter of congratulation and appreciation for the effort, which was dedicated this year to former Governor Lawton, "Walkin' Lawton" Chiles who succumbed to a heart attack last year.

Thank You For the Popsicles Mr. Aldridge!

Thank you for Popsicles

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