



**WS** **Winston-Salem**  
**SS** **STREET**  
**SCHOOL**  
 a road to hope

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2019-2020**



# We are all part of the Street School family...

**The word “family,” an accurate description of the Winston-Salem Street School’s program for the last 16 years, has taken on a whole new meaning in 2020, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. For many of our students, the Street School is a second family, a place where they find encouraging teachers, supportive friends, enough food to eat, and a refuge from oftentimes difficult home situations. Not being able to attend school and having to transition to an online program has been an adjustment.**

In a year where our students and the Street School have experienced so many successes, new collaborations and partnerships, and creative approaches to education, being forced to hit the “pause” button was difficult, but we have been resilient and we have adapted. Students who were ready to enjoy their last quarter, completing classes, taking field trips, and making memories with friends, now find themselves finishing out the year at home. Thanks to you, however, they are able to connect daily with their fellow students and teachers through Zoom class meetings and maintain that all important “family” connection.



Amy, one of 16 students set to graduate this semester, has successfully made the transition to distance learning all while fulfilling parenting duties, helping make ends meet for her family, and maintaining her spot on the A/B Honor Roll. Without the support of stakeholders like you, who helped us purchase laptops and acquire internet access, students like Amy would not have had the opportunity to finish out the year and graduate on time. Thanks to you, Amy’s plan to attend college this fall remains on track.

As we prepare for our future and plan for summer and the upcoming school year, in person or online, I am confident the Street School can meet any challenge it faces. I cannot help but think how similar this feeling must be to that of Amy and our other graduating seniors. The Street School has a way of inspiring that kind of confidence, even among students who once thought earning a diploma was unattainable. We hope you will continue to be part of the Street School family and help us create that “road to hope” for students like Amy and every student who will have the opportunity to follow in her footsteps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Foster".

Mike Foster  
*Executive Director*



**“ Having a place to go is a home. Having someone to love is a family. Having both is a blessing. ”**



# Graduate Spotlight



**STEVEN GODWIN,**  
High School

**What was your reason for coming to the Street School?**

I just needed to complete a couple of credits to graduate, so the Street School was a good option. I never thought I would make so many new friends, play on the basketball team, and enjoy my time here so much.

**What are your plans after graduation?** I hope to be able to continue doing landscaping work and possibly get into construction work.



**NICOLETTE GATTISON,**  
High School

**Tell us why you are proud of your accomplishments at the Street School?**

I never gave up when others might have. I've had a lot of challenges, but the Street School has been there for support all along the way.

**Are you excited for life after graduation?** Yes, I plan to attend Forsyth Technical Community College and then transfer to a four-year school to pursue a degree in psychology.



**JUDITH GRACIANO-ROBLE,**  
High School

**What brought you to the Street School?** I just needed a new school environment, somewhere I felt supported. The Street School gave me hope and helped me believe in myself.

**If you were trying to encourage someone to come to the Street School, what would you tell them?** If you want a school that is different, challenging, and makes you feel like you are part of a family, the Street School is for you.



**ASHLEY KLINGER,**  
Adult On-line Program

**Why did the Adult On-Line Program work for you?** The adult online program worked really well with my schedule. Plus, it provided the motivation I needed to finish school and earn my diploma.

**What are your plans now?** I want to attend Forsyth Technical Community College and eventually study to become a veterinarian technician.

**MICHELLE MINNICH,** Volunteer Spotlight



**How did you get involved with the Street School?**

At the start of 2010 I began looking for and praying about somewhere to volunteer. John Williams suggested I check out the Winston-Salem Street School, and my initial reaction was “I

don't think I can work with teenagers.” I guess the thought intimidated me. He asked me to join his small group in serving lunch at the WSSS just to check it out. From then on, I was hooked. I began officially tutoring that fall and have been involved since. John passed away after a battle with cancer a year and a half ago, and though I am grateful to him and his wife, Laurie, for many things... connecting me to the WSSS is high on the list.

**What makes the Street School so unique and special?**

The thing I hear from students over and over again is that they feel like the people at the WSSS really care about them. The reason they feel that way is because it is true. That does

not necessarily mean it wasn't true at their last school, but the Street School is set up to place the well-being of each individual student—the WHOLE student—as a top priority. Everyone involved—from the administrators and staff and teachers to volunteers feels that way about the students. If a student is hungry, the WSSS feeds them; if a student needs a coat, the WSSS finds them one; if a student needs an outlet, the WSSS shows them one; if a student needs to learn a life-skill, someone from the WSSS teaches them; if a student needs a job, the WSSS serves as a connection or a reference or conducts a mock interview. And all of this happens while earning a high school diploma.

**Can you describe the feeling you get from volunteering at the Street School?**

Seeing the students is a highlight of my week. This time of separation has been tough during the COVID-19 pandemic, but I'm grateful that I can text the girls I work with. I suppose the best way to describe how volunteering here makes me feel is that it makes me feel grateful. I'm grateful for the time the students invest with the other mentors and me each week, that they engage and learn and demonstrate that knowledge as they link the lessons to real-life situations. But honestly, their determination, grit, perseverance, and smiles inspire and bless me.

“ Family is not an important thing.  
It’s everything. ”

Michael J. Fox

## Winston-Salem Street School

### Mission

The Winston-Salem Street School is dedicated to the belief that a quality education is the most effective way of transforming many disenfranchised members of our society into productive citizens.

### Vision

The Winston-Salem Street School seeks to provide an opportunity for students to earn an accredited high school diploma and gain the necessary skills and tools to insure educational, vocational, and personal success in life after their experience in our program.

### Summary

As environments and challenges change, the primary goal of the Winston-Salem Street School remains steadfast: to do our part to cut down on the increasing number of high school drop-outs in our community and give them the opportunity for a bright future. Unfortunately, the need for the Street School is as vital as ever. Last year, 19 students not only received their diplomas but also gained a new lease on life and opportunities for a productive future that they would have otherwise not experienced.

We celebrate our students’ accomplishments, from the little daily improvements to graduation day. We also applaud their ability to adapt to change this year in the face of COVID-19. With all that our students battle in their personal lives, self-esteem and expectations are often lacking. In many cases, little is expected of our students before they arrive at the Street School. No matter the barrier or challenge, we work daily to change that mindset and are thankful for the strides we see.

### Curriculum and Programs

#### Core Classes

##### English

English 1, 2, 3, 4  
Elements of English

##### Math

Math 1, 2, 3  
Consumer Math  
Pre-Algebra  
Algebra 1, 2

##### Social Studies

American History  
World History  
Gov/Econ

#### Electives

Personal Finance  
Office  
Keyboarding  
Bible

#### Clubs

STEM  
Leadership  
Running  
Music  
Games  
Spoken Word  
Gardening  
Art  
Basketball

#### Student Service Opportunities

Second Harvest  
Food Bank  
Forsyth Humane  
Society  
Habitat for  
Humanity

#### Partnerships

Goodwill Industries  
of NWNC  
Winston-Salem  
State University  
Forsyth Technical  
Community  
College  
Catholic Charities

Only private initiative  
in Winston-Salem  
that specifically targets  
at-risk students  
to offer them a diploma

Serves up to  
70 students  
in 3 programs:  
High School, Distance Learning,  
and Young Adult On-line

16-year history,  
OVER 230  
graduates

High School diploma...  
Not a G.E.D.  
(Accredited by the National  
Association of Private Schools)

Financial support  
comes from  
individuals,  
businesses,  
churches, and  
private foundations



## How can I support the Winston-Salem Street School?

### **VOLUNTEER**

Provide lunch for students

Become a mentor or tutor

Join us as a guest speaker

Organize a fundraising event for the school

### **IN-KIND DONATIONS**

School supplies

Paper towels and wipes

Paper plates, cups, plasticware

Snacks: chips, granola bars, crackers



### **FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Monetary donations

Give through a Donor-Advised Fund

Gifts in honor or memory of a loved one

Donations of stock / matching corporate donations

Set up monthly contributions or commit to becoming a Champion's Club member

### **SUPPORT STREET SCHOOL EVENTS**

Annual Luncheon (Fall)

Share the Love Gala (Winter)

Feet for the Street 5K (Spring)

For more information, visit [wsstreetschool.org](http://wsstreetschool.org)



# How does the Winston-Salem Street School operate?

## Our People

### Staff

Mike Foster, *Executive Director*  
 Nick Wright, *Principal*  
 Megan Lawson, *Development Coordinator*  
 Camille Galloway, *Director of Finance*  
 Kathy McClean, *Teacher*  
 Jessica Moore, *Teacher*  
 Daniel Pagan, *Teacher*  
 Myra Aargaard-Espersen, *Teacher*  
 Terrance Hawkins, *Teacher*  
 Cheryl Tilley, *PT Counselor*  
 Anne Wallen, *Teacher*  
 Cindy Watson, *Adult Program Supervisor*  
 Larry Barron, *Spoken Word Instructor*

### Board of Directors

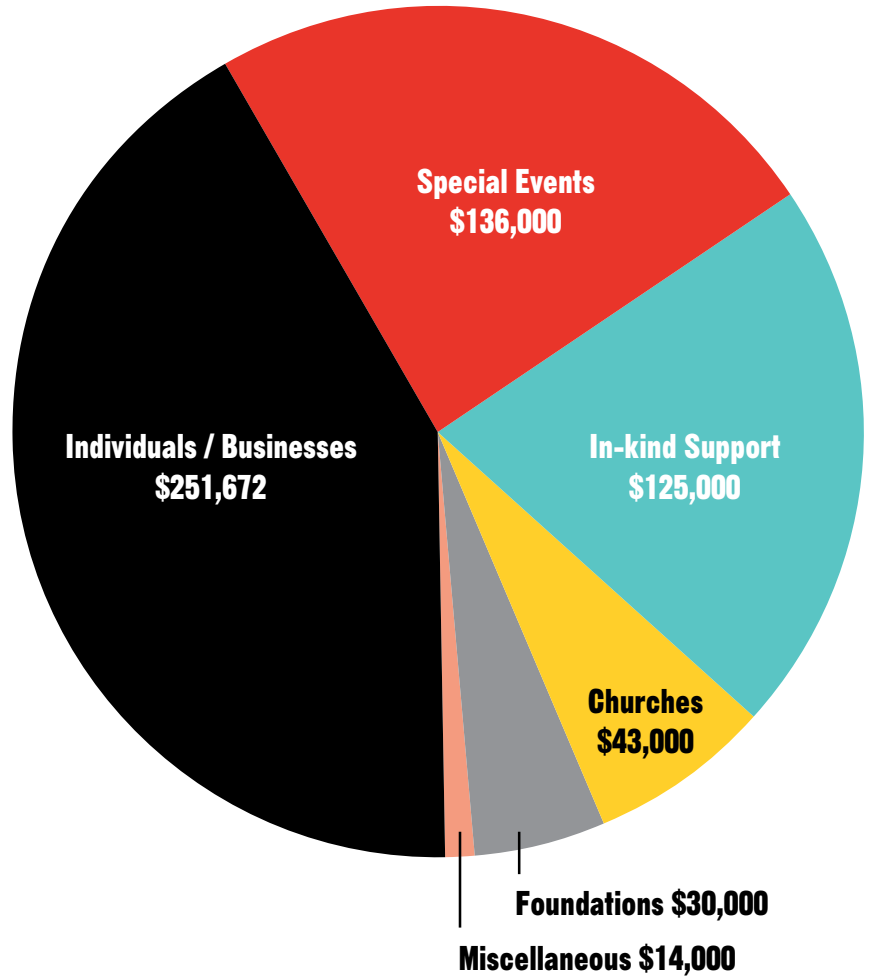
Dean Powell, *Chair*  
 Richard Harrington,  
*Vice Chair*  
 Jim Kluttz, *Secretary*  
 Jorge Camacho,  
*Treasurer*  
 Jimbo Galloway  
 Dr. Elms Allen  
 Kate Cooper  
 Steve Strawsburg  
 Mona Lovett  
 Leslie Speas  
 Marty Brown  
 Lee Bryan  
 Cornelious Flood  
 Melanie Holton  
 Rob Showfety  
 Andy Ward  
 Beth Day-Hairston  
 Ben King

### Advisory Council

Jean Waugh  
 Paul Fulton  
 Penny Rothrock  
 Scott Settelen  
 Steve Shelton  
 Julie Taylor  
 Parker Tegeler  
 Coleman Team  
 Mark Doughton

### Volunteers

The Winston-Salem Street School is blessed with an army of volunteers that handles duties ranging from providing lunch for students, to acting as mentors and tutors, to sharing life experiences as guest speakers, to leading clubs and student groups. Thanks to all! We could not do it without you!



The Winston-Salem Street School is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our programs receive no state or federal funding; therefore, our operating budget consists of the following projected revenue streams for the 2019/2020 fiscal year:

**Individuals / Businesses \$251,672**

**Special Events \$136,000**

**In-kind Support \$125,000**

**Churches \$43,000**

**Foundations \$30,000**

**Miscellaneous \$14,000**

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**Total Budget 599,672**



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