



# Washington Street Foundation

## Newsletter

APRIL 2009, VOLUME 18

### *Let Us Welcome...*

- 3 new students from Mountain View Elementary,
- 4 new students from Roadrunner Elementary,
- 2 new students from Orangewood &
- 9 new mentors

### *Getting to Know Our New Students*

#### Fun hobby or talent...

"I like to make paper airplanes," John Truong

#### What job do you want to do...

"To be a nurse," Kari Linares

"NFL football player for the Cardinals," Jerry Hernandez

"Lawyer," Lizbeth Alague-Sillas

"Baseball player," Michael Baldenegro

"Be a pediatrician," Meyla Millian-Sanchez

#### Fantasy Vacation...

"The Colorado Bell in Laughlin," Mina Rodriguez.

### *Getting to Know Our New Mentors*

#### Funny Story...

"The train doors closed on me in Boston and we got on going the wrong way. After that the train station closed and we had to call a friend to pick us up," Kari Brill

#### Favorite movie...

"Goonies," Becca Waldron-Miller

#### Favorite book...

"Rich Dad, Poor Dad," Sean Carson

#### Something about you that nobody really knows, but is interesting...

"I am a hair dresser," Lynne Bridgewater

"I am really strong even though I'm small," Sarah Schmaltz

"I fly a hot air balloon," Linda Liguore

### *Dedicated to all WSF students by Brooke Lofton, mentor*

*Love yourself because there is only one you.  
You are beautiful and special in every way.  
There is only one like you and extraordinary with  
the things you do.*

*When you smile, it makes me smile too, so, love  
yourself because there is only one you.*

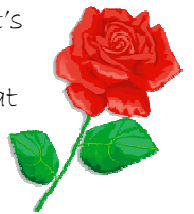
*Only you can do what you do.*

*Your hopes and dreams can easily come true.*

*It is not about doing and having, it's  
about being the wonderful you.*

*Life's purpose is to be the best you that  
you can be.*

*Love yourself because God made you,  
You!*



AT THE MENTOR APPRECIATION PARTY, BARRY & CARMEN LIBMAN PRESENTED ROGER MILLER WITH A STORYTELLER FOR HIS SUPPORT TO WSF AS MENTOR AND GROUP LEADER OVER THE YEARS.



### *What Is Spring?*

*by Alyssa Ramirez, 5th grade*

*Spring is the time of year  
when  
the unbloomed flowers bloom,  
new life begins  
and cold winter days turn to  
warm sunny days.  
Spring is the seasonal phase  
between winter and summer.  
Spring shows the emergence of  
new life in flowers.  
Spring enriches natural beauty  
and it seems  
as if nature is dressed in a  
beautiful green gown,  
that is what spring is.*

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### *Basketball*

*by Alex Chavez, 11th grade*

*When I play I feel free  
Being lower than the ball,  
No one will pass me  
I am not very tall  
But with my speed  
I will go right by you  
Taking the lead  
Up by two  
one defensive play  
Will win us the game  
He screams to his team to get  
put of his way  
As he tries to take all the fame  
He shoots the ball at the buzzer  
Now he feels like a loser*

## AEP Testing

by Mirina Higginbothan, 6th grade

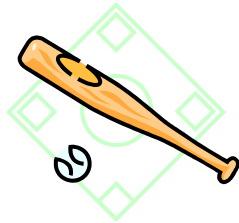
At my school, Madison Meadows, has a test every year for people who are really smart. Sometimes the teachers sign you up because they think your really good at the work in the class, but some parents sign their kids up because they feel the need that their child should be challenged a little more. That's what my parents did. They signed me up for AEP testing. At first I didn't really want to take the test because I thought, "Oh great, now I might be stuck with the worst teacher for 64 minutes and I'll get more homework!" Luckily my mind changed after I thought about it for awhile. I realized that now finally I might not have to complain that the work in the class is so

easy. Now I could be challenged. Also I would get the same amount of homework, but just a little harder, so I felt a whole lot better. To pass the AEP test, you have to score at least a 95% or above. The questions on the test were pretty easy. There were six sections to the test. Each section was timed. You only got about ten minutes to finish each section. That put a lot of pressure on my because I kept thinking, "What if I don't finish this section of the test? Would I automatically not make it into AEP?" Luckily I finished all of the questions in time, but I had to rush. I hope I pass the test.

## Softball

by Mirina Higginbothan, 6th grade

**Have you ever played a sport that you would want to keep playing for the rest of your life? I do. The sport I like is softball. I've been playing softball for about three weeks going on my fourth year in a couple of weeks. Currently I'm on a softball team called the Dragons. We're pretty third and but I'll where needs me. I was so uncoordinated. My second year, I was better, but I struck out a lot. My third year, is probably the best year because so far I struck out once. My dad is going to be the coach for my new softball team. I'm really looking forward to that. I hope this year I'll hit a homerun.**



## University of Arizona

by Armando Durazo, 6th grade

For one of my field trips I went to the University of Arizona. When we got there, there were a lot of people going to classes. First we went to one of the buildings. When we got in there, there were different types of fish everywhere. We got into groups and the first thing I went to was to dissect a squid. I got to cut out the ink part, and when I did it splattered all over my friend. After that we went to go eat. They had a big food court and after we ate we went to the football field. It was really nice. Then we went to the basketball stadium. We saw the girl's basketball team practice. We went walking around the stadium, it was nice. Later we went to the gift shop, there was a lot of stuff to buy. Finally we went back to phoenix. I'm glad I went to the trip they taught me a lot of stuff and told me why it's good to go to college and why you need to. It was a great time.

## Have you ever been...

by Willow Herber, 9th grade

Have you ever been to the Botanical Gardens? Well this month they are featuring some glass artwork from Dale Chihuly. He makes glass artwork that is hand blown. He was born in 1941, and he went to the University of Washington. He has revolutionized the world of hand blown glass; some even say his artwork is liquid light. In 1968 he got a scholarship from the Venini glass factory in Venice.

I think his artwork is just so beautiful. His installment at the Botanical Gardens is the first to be displayed outside. Some of his art-

work actually looks like plants, flowers and others look like balls of fire. Vicki and I went down to the Botanical Gardens on Saturday February 7th. We went around sunset which is the best time to go because of the lighting. With the sunset some of his artwork looks even more extraordinarily beautiful. His glass art is all over the world. Some of his creations are just more than outstanding. I think that to be able to hand blow glass is outstanding even if you have an eye-patch.

## Willow and I... by Vicki Guffey, mentor

Willow and I went to see the Chihuly Exhibit at the Desert Botanical gardens at sunset. I was awestruck by the marvelous pieces we saw and curious about his eye patch. I wondered if he had had a glass blowing accident. Read what I found out about the artist and you'll find the answer.

Dale was raised in Seattle. His brother died while in the military, when Dale was 16, and his dad died then next year when he was just 17. His mother, a waitress at a bar, raised him. She was an important force in his life. He said the only reason he went to college was because "his mother told him should". After getting a degree (interior design and architecture) he became interested in glass blowing. In the 1960's he worked until he saved enough money to attend the University of Wisconsin's hot glass blowing program; a first of its kind in the U.S. After receiving a degree in sculpture he went to the famous

Rhode Island School of Design and established a glass program there.

Chihuly had the idea of artists collaborating; teamwork. The teams are synchronized, like a team of cardiac doctors, to develop the complex, multipart, colorful sculptures. What you will see is so dramatic, so colorful, so beautiful, and so bigger than life that you will be astonished. Light seems to bounce through the vibrant colors and wild shapes.

For 40 years, Chihuly pieces have graced table tops to museum ceilings. In 1976, he was thrown through a windshield in an auto accident while in Great Britain. It took him a year to recuperate but his left eye could not be repaired. He gave up glass blowing in 1979 but continues to inspire. His job is to set the wheels in motion, keep the energy high and let the teams create. Other interesting facts I found out were:



DALE CHIHULY: ORANGE HORNET AND EELGRASS CHANDELIER



DALE CHIHULY: RED REEDS

- ◆ The first 10 years of his career never made more than \$1,000/year on glass blowing, he supported himself by teaching.
- ◆ The glass pieces sell from \$3,000 - \$50,000+
- ◆ Installing 12 pieces costs a million dollars.
- ◆ He has no depth perception.
- ◆ He was the first American to study in Murano, Italy at the Venini glass factory.



## My 13th Birthday Party by Kaycee Torres, 8th grade

*The Days Pass by so Sadly  
(In Ponyboys perspective)  
by Phillip Gough-Stone, 7th  
grade*

*The day is bright.  
So why do people not see the  
light.  
The day is clear.  
So why do people despair.  
As dawn turns to day the light  
is here to stay.  
And yet people in despair think  
our world isn't fair. As some of  
us see the light burning so  
bright.  
The others cry in the lair of  
despair.  
While this isn't right.  
Many of us just can't see the  
light.*

It was last year in November, but it was so cool that I remember like it was yesterday. In October I started to plan out what could I do to have a fun birthday party? Then Andrea started giving me ideas she found on the internet. So out of all those choices I picked Scavenger Hunt at the mall.

Andrea created riddles that went along with thing at the mall. Split into four teams. All teams got \$20 and 1 penny. All my friends were so excited to go, since no one else has ever done this before. My group and one other got in trouble by the security for running around the mall. It was kind of funny.

When we first got the penny everyone was confused with why we got it. Later on down the riddle list we find out we

had to feed the alligator at Rain Forest Café. Also we had to take a picture of one of us giving the penny to it. I loved the list because mostly everything they bought with the \$20 went to me as a present (all presents from Andrea since it was her money). My group came in 2nd place. I was sad because I wanted 1st, and the last group we had to go looking for because it took them along time to find everything.

After the whole game, we had a big, huge cookie with my name on it, wanted to change it up without a cake. Afterwards some how we ended up having an after party at Gameworks. Spent a whole hour in there just playing all the fun games.

## Our 1st Spring Play by Vinder Lopez, 5th grade

**Our 1st spring play is going to be a hit! It is on March 6, on my sister's birthday. That will be my gift to her. I am reporter number one. It will be at 6pm in the cafeteria at Mountain View. We've been working on it for the past few months and are delighted to finally share**

**it with you. We've all worked hard to make it. We memorized all of our lines even though they were long. Back drops drew some beautiful paintings so we could use it for the play. It will be so cool and if you want, come and enjoy the show.**

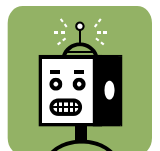


**NEW MEMBERS LIZBETH AND BECCA ENJOY THEIR FIRST EVENT, ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC, IN MARCH.**

## Happy New Year by Cameron Nutt, 5th grade



Happy New Year! I hope you are having a great year like I am. I stay very busy! I take violin lessons at school. I take karate lessons 3 days a week, and I'm in an after school robotics class. I really like and Brian, and my mentor Lori their family. They have taken me to movies, and in January they are taking me to High School Musical on ice. They are really nice to me and I really like being in the Washington Street Foundation!



## Kid of the Week

by Angel Camacho, 8th grade



I am going to tell you all how I got chosen to be “kid of the week”.

Well it all started

on January 12th, 2009. That day I was at school when this all happened. I was shocked that they came to my class. Then I saw Gina the principal, 96.9 and my mom by then I was freaked out. Later they explained to me that I was nominated by Gina to be Kid of the Week, I was glad that this all hap-

pened! The prize was ninety-six dollars and a ten dollar gift card to Toys R Us. The way I spend my money is another thing well, I gave my mom half, my brother ten ,he needed to get a new bus card and the rest I will put in the bank. That same month I was on the radio (I was recorded first then they put it on air). The experience of being Kid Of The Week was amazing I recommend you all to get nominated it’s fun that 96.9 goes to your school and embarrasses you for a while , but hey it’s all worth it .THANK YOU!!- Washington Street Foundation for all the amazing opportunities this program has given me.

## My Favorite Thing About WSF

by Joe Libman, group leader

There are many things I enjoy about the WSF program. I enjoy the students, the other mentors, and the activities we do on a monthly basis. My favorite thing I enjoy is watching how the people, students and mentors, have developed over the years. The program was founded in 1998 and I have been a part of it since the very beginning.

I have seen a lot in those first 11 years. I have seen Jon Coury, leader of group B, go through a lot during his tenure here. He has had a job change, a move to a different house and has added two more children to his family. I have seen students go from a young scared 7th grader to a High School graduate, a small skinny 6th grader to a corner-

back on the high school football team, and a small 2nd grader to a 6’0 tall young man.

The same can be said for other people in the program that have known me for the 11 years. I have moved to Las Vegas and back again, added two children of my own to my family and have moved into 4 different houses in my short tenure. All these changes and developments have added to the uniqueness of what makes this program special. We don’t only have the luxury of learning from each other in a formal setting, but we can also learn from each other’s experiences in life. In many programs, you can participate for a couple of years, however, in this program you can participate for as long as you would like. I

## Love I Once Had

by Rakell Verdugo, 8th grade

When I get up in the morning  
I see the lovely sun shining  
The rays stream in through my  
window  
I look at the people below

A young couple I see out there  
My heart felt heavy with despair  
To see young love still flourishing  
I fear that I am perishing

My love has left me all alone  
When they left my heart turned to  
stone  
I feel much wiser than before  
Like I have opened up a door

Age has taken my youth from me  
Left me very sad and longing for  
thee

hope as time goes on that many more of the students and mentors stay in touch with the program and let us know how they are doing from time to time. I don’t get to see Ynhi Ngyun (our first graduate) very often, but I do get to hear how she is doing from time to time. Heather and I have known Ynhi since she was in 7th grade and now she is a 23 year old woman. She has matured nicely and has many responsibilities of her own. She has a job, a child and is a contributor to society and nothing is more fun than seeing how someone has developed over time. So if I had to pick my absolute favorite thing about the program....it is watching people grow over time.



**Our current students, mentors,  
group leaders and graduates....**

GRADUATES		
STUDENT	COLLEGE	COLLEGE
Martha Castro	N/A	Scottsdale Culinary Institute
Mitzi Miranda	ASU West	Glendale CC
Carlos Sanchez	N/A	

GROUP A GROUP LEADERS: MIKE LOFTON & LAURA LIBMAN	
STUDENT	MENTOR
J.D. Brown	Brad Chelton
Gabrielle Bustos	Linda McVey
Alex Chavez	John Segler
Anthony Davis	Lee Williams
Briana Davis	Jemima Schmidt
Alsa Duderija	Monika Cheang
Brandy Flynn	Elaine Soppe
Willow Herber	Vicki Guffey
Tania Ibanez	Teresa Guella
Ivan Ibanez	John Cheang
Courtney Laycock	Regan Schwartz
Moises Lopez	Mike Lofton
Caleb Price	John Vasey
Mariela Ramirez	Gloria Hernandez

GROUP B GROUP LEADERS: STACEY HARRIS & JON COURY	
STUDENT	MENTOR
Sadat Aayar	Audra Boyd
Nereyda Eribes Borquez	Susan Atkinson
Angel Camacho	Gina Trotter
Hector Miranda Castro	Linda Triolo
Adam DeVeger	Scott Steinhagen
Philip Gough-Stone	Russ Goodman
Mirina Higginbothan	Stacey Harris
Aaliyah Jefferson	Debra Bokich
Avery Lomastewa	Andy Chen
Tiler Weeder	Brigid Dineen
Destiny Nasr	Andrea Scott
Elizabeth Ramirez	Danette Cheney
Jennifer Tolentino	Nora Hannah
Kaycee Torres	Andrea Petrof
Aaron Vargas	David Dodge
Rakell Verdugo	Ildi Schmidt

GROUP C GROUP LEADERS: JOE LIBMAN & PATRICK BLAKESLEY	
STUDENT	MENTOR
Wilmer Ayala	Charlie Sonneborn
Sajid Camacho	Bruce Trushinsky
Armando Durazo	Ryan Jensen
Tequasia Harris	Brooke Lofton
Dannien Higginbothan	Patrick Blakesley
Giselle Jaramillo	Linda Azlin
Jorge Manzanares	Renée Brodt
Guadalupe Martinez	Kimberley Grant
Rosa Martinez	Laura Podzius
Francisco Solis Valdez	Paul Steen
Mitzy Soira	Yvonne Stuckey



GROUP D GROUP LEADER: BARRY LIBMAN	
STUDENT	MENTOR
Lizabeth Alague-Sillas	Becca Waldron-Miller
Felipe Alvarez	James Roland
Michael Baldenegro	Sean Carson
Jerry Hernandez	Linda Liguore
Jase Lalande	James Roberts
Kari Linares	Kari Brill
Vinder Lopez	DJ Burrough
Mariah Martinez	Leticia Searce
Meyla Milian-Sanchez	Sarah Schmaltz
Cameron Nutt	Lori Madrid
Jaffer Ortega	Anthony Polk
Alyssa Ramirez	Rita Luongo
Mina Rodriguez	Sarah Goddard
Vianey Torres	Fernando Dominguez
John Truong	Lynne Bridgewater