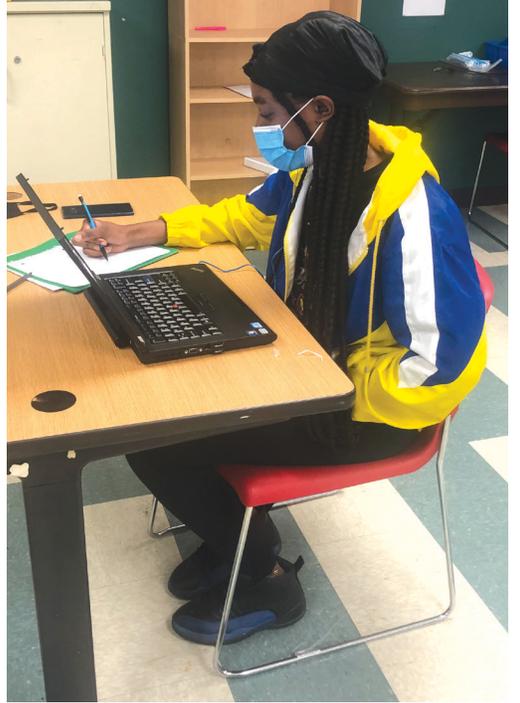
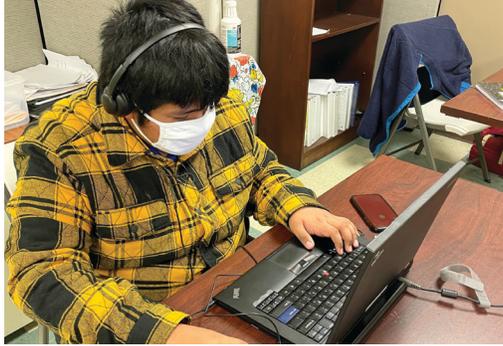
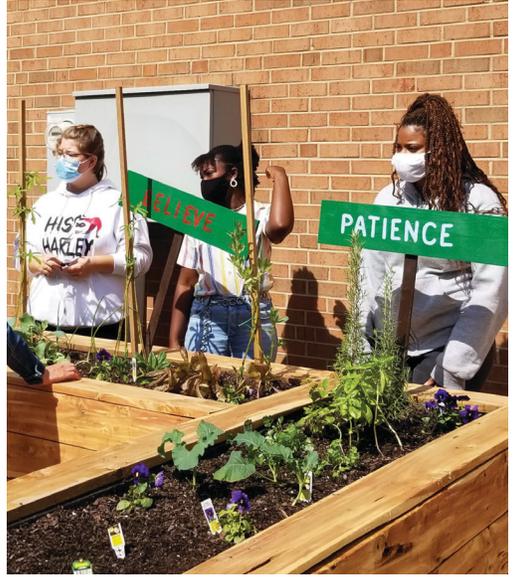




**WS SS** Winston-Salem **STREET SCHOOL**  
a road to hope

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2020-2021**



# Letter from the Director



As I write this letter, I am aware of all the beauty of the emerging spring season. Walking into the Street School parking lot this morning, I was greeted by our flourishing school garden. Planted earlier in the year by our garden club members, it is now in full bloom and bursting with color. It is truly a sign of the promise of spring and the hope the season provides. Hope is something we have

all clung to during the past year or so, and I do not think I have ever wanted spring to arrive more than I have this year. It is this same hope that is at the very core of the Winston-Salem Street School experience. We are that “road to hope” for students who often come to us after having exhausted all other options for continuing their education. It is here where they rekindle their motivation toward the goal of a high school diploma and trade hopelessness for hope.

When other schools were forced to close their doors during the pandemic, the Street School remained open with a modified, in-person learning schedule. Our students continued to learn and be loved by our teachers and staff. Thanks to our generous donors, we served 75 students in two programs and will honor 14 students in the graduating class of 2021 later this month. This will bring the Street School total number of graduates to 231.

While we celebrate all that we have accomplished this year, we recognize the impact COVID-19 has had on students throughout our community. The COVID slide is a term often used to describe the 10+ month academic loss that has caused students to fall further and further behind. Studies point out that this is particularly true of at-risk students, those who make up our student population. Students of color and low-income students have been particularly hard hit, not only suffering academic loss but also threats to their

social, emotional, and physical well-being as they have struggled to attend school remotely.

As we look forward with the hope of better days ahead, we also anticipate that the need for our services will be on the rise as students grapple with the impact of the COVID slide.

**We need you now more than ever to help us prepare for what we believe will be a record year for enrollment for the 2021-22 school year. We want to be ready to offer a second chance to every student who comes to our door seeking the support, guidance, and hope the Street School has to offer.**

Blessings,

Mike Foster  
Executive Director



## Save the Dates!



Memorial Fall Luncheon

Sylvia Shelton Memorial Fall Luncheon  
Tuesday, October 5, 2021, Noon  
Forsyth Country Club

Guest Speaker: Dr. Gary Chapman, author of *The Five Love Languages* and senior associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church.



Share the Love Gala  
Saturday, February 12, 2022  
7:30-10:30 p.m.  
Old Town Club

If you would like to be a sponsor for these events, please contact Megan Lawson in the Development Office, 336-721-1110.

# Letter from the Chairman of the Board of Directors



If you are a sports enthusiast like me, you are looking forward to the day when fans can return full force into arenas, ballparks, and stadiums. I have certainly missed in-person basketball, baseball, and football games over the past year, and the thought of a 100% return to sports fills me with hope. When I think about athletic competitions, the physical and mental challenges

athletes encounter, and the thrill of victory, I am reminded of the students we serve at the Winston-Salem Street School. We gasp when we see our favorite athlete or team stumble, make a bad play, miss a shot, or face an injury, yet we rejoice when a play goes right: a three-point shot is made at the buzzer; a game-winning home run is scored in the bottom of the ninth; the extra point sails through the uprights to win the game. Just like loyal fans, our Street School faculty and staff are there for our students during the good times and the bad.

While we have cheered on our current students as they have achieved success during this difficult school year, we realize that not all of our community's at-risk students have been as lucky. Throughout our community, high school students have faced the unique challenges of the COVID crisis, but for at-risk youth, these obstacles have been compounded. Hundreds of teenagers in

Winston-Salem have left the traditional educational system over the past year as they have entered the workforce to provide financial support for their family, felt hopeless with the demands of virtual learning, or become mentally overwhelmed by the pressures of the pandemic. Like the athlete or team who faces a setback, these young people are especially vulnerable and are seeking guidance as they look to shake off an attitude of defeat, refocus their goals, and re-energize their efforts. **At the Street School, we must be ready to welcome so many high school students who have lost their way during 2020 and beyond.**

How can we meet this challenge? We must step up to be the biggest fans and most determined coaches for our current students and the ones we have yet to meet. **We must prepare for the expansion of our facilities and programs to meet this oncoming demand, show our love and support through volunteering at the school, make giving a priority, and we must pray.** Let's provide the Street School team with all they need to make 2021–2022 a game-changing year for even more at-risk students in our community.

Blessings,

Richard C. Harrington  
*Board of Directors, Chairman*

## Graduate Spotlight – Class of 2021



**DIVINA,**  
High School

**What makes the Street School unique?** The teachers here are very helpful, thoughtful, and they really care about your education. My experience here

has helped me go from a girl to a better, more responsible woman. Before I was at the Street School, I never used to show up for classes or do my work, but that's because I didn't have the support of my teachers like I do at the Street School.

**Why should people support the Street School?** The Street School gives kids with not a very good past the encouragement to do something great in life. I look forward to graduating in May and becoming a dental assistant. I will be starting a program soon.



**ANDREW,**  
High School

**What obstacles did you face that led you to the Street School?** I dropped out of high school my sophomore year and went into the work force. I'm

so glad for the second chance the Street School has given me. The Street School changes the lives of many people, and I'm happy to say I'm going to be one of those people.

**What do you like most about coming to the Street School?**

The teachers and other students are always making everyone feel welcome, something I didn't feel at the schools I went to before. The two and a half years I've been here, I don't think I've heard a single argument. We always feel like family.

# Letter from the Development Office



## Thank you to our Donors!

A lot of things have changed since our last annual report went out in May of 2020, but one thing that has not changed is the concern and dedication of the Winston-Salem Street School. Despite the pandemic, the Street School has been steadfast in our commitment to keeping our doors open to in-person learning, but we could not have done it without the generous support of our donors.

Although our events looked a little different this year, with our annual Sylvia Shelton Memorial Luncheon going virtual, our Share the Love gala becoming a “to-go” event, and not one but two Feet for the Street 5K races being held, we felt the support from our friends, and our fundraisers remained successful. You, the individuals, churches, businesses, and foundations that support the Street School, always step up to make certain we can continue our mission of providing a “road to hope” to our students.

We are especially blessed by a group of individuals who have committed to make annual gifts of \$5000 or more. These are our **Champion donors**, and over the past three years, their gifts have totaled more than \$300,000, or 60% of a full year’s budget. During these three years, remarkable things have happened at the Street School:

**57 NC accredited diplomas presented**

**4,000 hours of instruction, tutoring, mentoring, and club activities offered**

**20,000+ meals and take-home food bags distributed**

**250+ new donors added**

**100% of budget met and exceeded**

**Priceless gifts of confidence, self-esteem, and hope provided to over 200 students**

As great as the past three years have been, the future looks even brighter! We hope you will consider becoming a **Champion** and help us continue to make students’ dreams come true. With plans to expand our school and add a satellite campus for our adult program, we are on track to offer our life-changing program to even more students who need it most. Our **Champion** partners are critical to our success, and I hope you will consider joining their ranks.

Blessings,

*Megan Lawson*

Megan Lawson

*Development Coordinator, Winston-Salem Street School*

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### Dress for Success

Located in the same building as the Street School, Dress for Success has become a good neighbor and friend. Over the years our female students have benefited from the professional attire and interview tools the agency has to offer our students as they seek employment while still attending classes or upon graduation.

### greeNest

A local non-profit agency that provides household furnishings to individuals and families transitioning to sustainable housing, greeNest has been a blessing to our students in both the traditional high school and adult program. As a partnering agency, the Street School can refer students who are transitioning into their first apartments, often from homeless shelters or other unstable or unsafe living conditions, and help them furnish their new homes.

### MiXXeR

The Street School has partnered with this amazing, creative organization that provides its members access to high-tech tools and the space to use them. Through our collaboration, students receive vocational training in various fields including welding, woodworking, sewing, and 3-D printing/modeling. Students gain self-confidence and skills to help them become more successful in school and employable as they enter the work force.

# Spotlight on Volunteers

## Street School Garden Club - Penny Rothrock and Andrea Nugent



Just off Buxton Street in the Winston-Salem Street School back parking lot is an urban oasis, a space where vibrant vegetables, aromatic herbs, and fragrant flowers bloom. Nestled in an unlikely spot between the basketball goal and a waste management receptacle, an inviting space sprung up in the early spring of 2019 thanks to two of the school's finest volunteers who had a vision of a community garden and a club to benefit the students at the Street School.

The idea was planted when Penny Rothrock and Andrea Nugent made a Christmas donation to the school in 2018 through their local garden club, *The Club of Twenty Gardens*. "We knew school gardens could come in all shapes and sizes, but we also knew we wanted the space to provide healthy foods and fresh flowers, a place where there was always something to touch, taste, smell, and hear," Penny explained.

When Penny and Andrea approached Executive Director Mike Foster with the idea, he knew immediately how to make it happen. Mike connected with the BB&T (now Truist) Lighthouse Project and the real work began. Using Andrea's creative design, members of the Lighthouse community outreach team crafted two sturdy outdoor raised garden beds with benches where students could relax and learn. The Street School garden club, "The Plant Heads," named by club member McKenzie Plant, blossomed from there.

According to Penny, "We wanted the space to provide nutritious foods and beautiful flowers to share and be an educational tool for gardening with hands-on learning experiences to study plant growth, insects, weather, and soil composition." Other community volunteers, particularly staff from the Community Gardens Program

through the NC Cooperative Extension Program, soon joined the project and contributed to the success of the garden club. In no time the little garden was providing harvests for The Plant Heads to use for culinary sessions in the school kitchen, providing healthy meals for students and staff, including fresh soups, salads, tacos, and pizza.

Penny and Andrea hoped that students, even those not involved in the club, would learn the nutritional value of fresh garden vegetables as well as the endless benefits of a natural space.

**"When Penny and I began this project, we wanted to see it through so that not only could the first class experience the joy of gardening, but future students would also learn the value of a garden."**

Several students have gone on to create garden spaces at their own homes. Club member Nileyah said, "I enjoy learning about plants, making art, and cooking with them too. I've even started growing cucumbers in an indoor garden at my house."

The garden spot serves all students, providing an outdoor space for science classes as well as a spot removed from the traditional classroom where students can relax, read, write, and learn. In the back parking lot of the Street School, Penny and Andrea's hope has bloomed. They have helped create a place where Street School students are taking away the benefits of gardening and are learning life-long skills of respect, responsibility, teamwork, and ownership. Penny and Andrea and other dedicated friends of the school have carved out a small piece of paradise in the school parking lot.

# A Teacher's Perspective

## Kathy McLean, English Teacher

During the summer of 2020, when many were still wondering if they should be disinfecting their mail, Director Mike Foster and Principal Nick Wright made a brave decision about the upcoming school year. They decided that our students would be best served by meeting in-person. Having finished the school year of 2019–2020 via Zoom (“Turn your camera on!” “You’re on mute. You’re still on mute. You’re still on mute.” “Please don’t lie in bed while we are having class.”), the staff was ready to try a hybrid model.

**We missed our students, and the students missed being with us and with each other. None of us missed Zoom.**

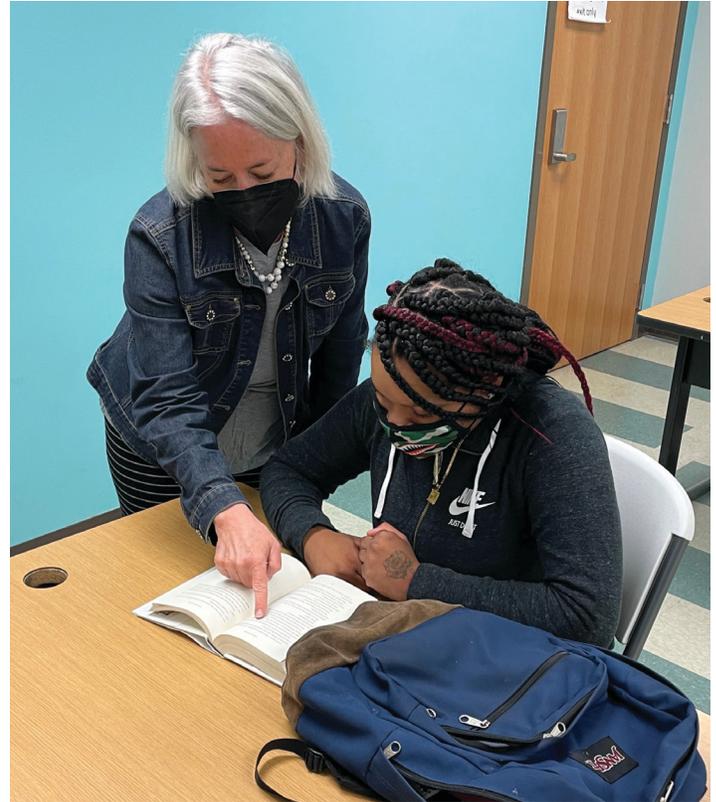
I imagined a year of intermittent “Covid breaks” due to exposure and infection and sent the class novel home with students the first day of class so they would be ready to go all-virtual at a moment’s notice. And while that happened a couple of times, the year was far more successful than I anticipated.

Toward the end of the first semester, I was surprised to realize that we had covered much of the same material as a typical semester; though admittedly, there were notable changes. “Pull up your mask” replaced “Pull up your pants” as a daily reminder. Small group work vanished from my lesson plans. I used our in-class days for instruction, and students wrote essays and completed assignments at home. I discovered that putting a straw in my reusable water bottle allowed me to get a drink and keep teaching without taking my mask off.

**Students and teachers have been resourceful and adaptive. We have depended on each other for encouragement and consistency and cooperation. We have helped each other learn and persist and stay healthy.**

It has been harder to build relationships with class time (and facial expressions) essentially cut in half. But our students know that nothing, not even a pandemic, will keep us from doing our best to connect with them and help them keep moving forward toward graduation.

I will not miss much about this school year – maybe not bothering to wear make-up or earrings – but I look back with gratitude that Mike and Nick took the lead in taking the chance to have this hybrid, hopeful, precarious, mostly successful school year with, really WITH, our students.



## Curriculum and Programs

### Core Classes

#### English

English 1, 2, 3, 4  
Elements of English

#### Math

Consumer Math  
Pre-Algebra  
Algebra 1, 2

#### Social Studies

American History  
Government/  
Economics  
World History

#### Science

Biology  
Earth Science  
Physical Science

#### P.E./Health

### Electives

Bible  
Keyboarding  
Office  
Personal Finance  
Sociology

### Clubs

Art  
Games  
Gardening  
Leadership  
Music  
Running  
Spoken Word  
STEM

# How does the Winston-Salem Street School operate?

## Our People

### Staff

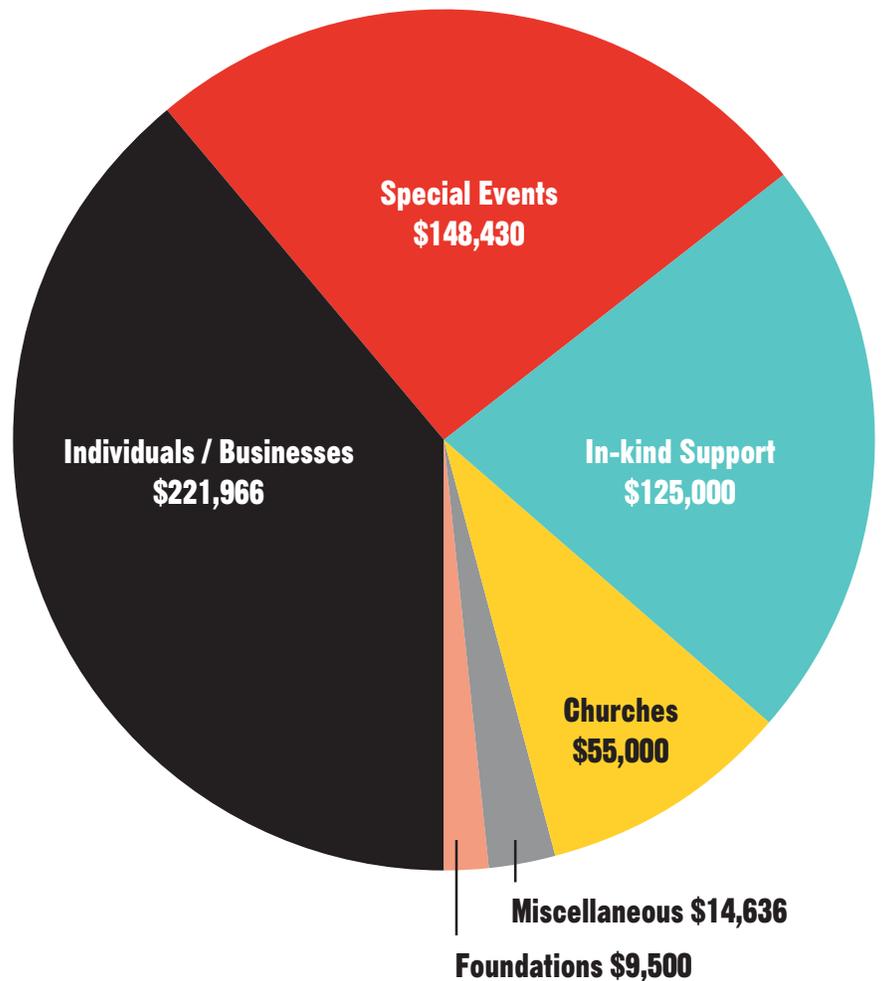
Mike Foster, *Executive Director*  
 Nick Wright, *Principal*  
 Megan Lawson, *Development Coordinator*  
 Camille Galloway, *Director of Student Services*  
 Myra Aargaard-Espersen, *Teacher*  
 Larry Barron, *Spoken Word Instructor*  
 Kathy McClean, *Teacher*  
 Jessica Moore, *Teacher*  
 Daniel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

### Board of Directors

Richard Harrington, <i>Chair</i>	Beth Day-Hairston
Dean Powell, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Melanie Holton
Jim Kluttz, <i>Secretary</i>	Ben King
Jack Lynch, <i>Treasurer</i>	Mona Lovett
Marty Brown	Chris Martin
Lee Bryan	Telisha Roberts
Paige Dillon	Rob Showfety
Jimbo Galloway	Steve Strawsburg
	Andy Ward

### Advisory Council

Kate Cooper	Steve Shelton
Mark Doughton	Julie Taylor
Paul Fulton	Parker Tegeler
Walter McDowell	Coleman Team
Sylvia Rodriguez	Jean Waugh
Penny Rothrock	



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 2020–2021 fiscal year.

Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

## WSSS Wish List

Copy Paper · 45 Gallon Trash Bags · Stamps  
 Take Out Food Containers · Paper Towels  
 Ziplock Bags · Foil and Cling Wrap · Kleenex  
 Grocery Store Gift Cards · Dish Detergent  
 Non-perishable Food Items · Snacks

Please consider making these and all your Amazon purchases through [amazon.com/smile](https://www.amazon.com/smile). Select the WSSS as your charity of choice, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to the Winston-Salem Street School.

**Individuals / Businesses \$221,966**

**Special Events \$148,430**

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

**Churches \$55,000**

**Miscellaneous \$14,636**

**Foundations \$9,500**

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**Total Budget \$574,532**

Winston-Salem Street School  
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Winston-Salem, NC 27101  
336.721.1110  
wsstreetschool.org

