

# Prevention in Progress

A quarterly report from Operation Aware Winter 2008-09

**Operation Aware**

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## Operation Aware Named Exemplary National Program Curriculum Effectiveness Leads to Honor



*A student from St. Mary's assists Matthew with handling the organs during a first quarter field trip to St. John's emergency room. The trip helps give students an idea of the medical impact of using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The field trip is a favorite and impactful lesson for many students.*

Operation Aware (OA) of Oklahoma was recognized as an Exemplary Award winner for Innovative Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, Practices, and Policies by the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD).

Operation Aware was one of six organizations, and the only one from Oklahoma, that received the honor this year. The award recognizes programs that have proven their success through extensive evaluation and scientific research, meaning that the programs have been proven to be effective.

"This award represents the next step in the development of the Operation Aware program," says Martha Desmond, Executive Director of Operation Aware. "The validation of our efforts by a well-respected group like NASADAD will open new doors for Operation Aware and allow us to further improve our efforts in the classroom, benefiting students in northeastern Oklahoma."

Representatives of OA attended the NASADAD conference in Indianapolis earlier this summer to receive the award.

"Being among such notable organizations and peer groups was an inspiring experience," says Steve Hahn, Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Operation Aware. "We were able to learn more about efforts across the country and how to fine-tune our program to best benefit Tulsa."

Operation Aware equips youth, through prevention education, with the knowledge and skills to make positive life choices. It was founded in 1979 and has served more than 600,000 students in its almost 30 year existence. Prevention Educators are in the classrooms in nine counties surrounding and including Tulsa County. The program is an eight-week curriculum that involves interactive discussions, small group activities, video presentations, field trips and role-playing, all designed to give students information and tools so they can make educated decisions throughout their lives.

## InStyle - What Drugs are teens using?

Are you watching your child for signs of pot use and missing the signals that they are doing Xanax instead?

Today's teen's drug of choice is not the same as even 5 years ago. Do you know what to warn your kids about?

At Operation Aware, we do. As part of our staff's regular professional development, they learn about the latest trends and issues so they can be current in the classroom. And, we are not afraid to ask.

A recent query to some classes revealed that students see other students taking prescription drugs more than any other activity.

According to a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) report in 2007, "10.6 percent of adolescents aged 12 to 17 drank alcohol for the first time in the past year, and 5.8 percent used an illicit drug for the first time." Additionally, "on an average day during the past year, adolescents aged 12 to 17 used the following substances for the first time: 3,577 used marijuana for the first time, 2,517 used pain relievers non-medically for the first time, 1,603 used inhalants for the first time, 1,281 used hallucinogens for the first time, 909 used cocaine for the first time, 860 used stimulants non-medically for the first time, 236 used methamphetamine for the first time, and 86 used heroin for the first time."

Knowing what is going on in teens' lives is just one of the reasons the Operation Aware curriculum is the go-to prevention program for area schools.

Support Operation Aware by making a secure online donation today.  
www.operationaware.org

*The Operation Aware program is made possible by your generous gifts of support. Many thanks to these donors.*

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## Your Donations at Work!

### First and Second Quarter Schools Being Served

**T**his fall, the Prevention Educators have been busy in the classroom. With a change in policy for Tulsa Public Schools, every sixth and eighth grade classroom in the district is benefiting from the Operation Aware curriculum. Depending on funding, we hope to also be in seventh grade classrooms. In addition to TPS schools, Prevention Educators are driving all over the area serving schools in several counties.

As many long-term Operation Aware supporters know, there is a gap between the cost of presenting our curriculum and what we charge the schools. Your gifts to Operation Aware help us cover this funding gap. Without your support, our students would not be getting the benefit of Operation Aware's effective, science-based curriculum. Your gifts are an investment in our children today which will, hopefully, prevent costs to the community in the future.

Here is a list of the schools benefiting from Operation Aware during the first semester.

All Saints	Madison MS	Ram Academy
Andersen (Union)	Mayo Demonstration Academy	Roosevelt Elem
Anderson (S.Springs)	McClure Elem	Sperry Intermediate
Art Goad	Metro Christian	St Mary's
Barnes Elem	Mills Elem	St Pius
Beggs MS	Moore Elem	Whitney MS
Berryhill MS	Nimitz MS	Wilson-6th
Berryhill Elem	Northeast Elem	
Bristow Elem	Pawnee	
Bristow HS	Project 12	
Bristow MS		
Byrd MS		
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Clinton MS		
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Foster MS		
Garfield Elem		
Gilcrease MS		
Hamilton MS		
Holland Hall		
Jenks East Elem		
Jenks SE Elem		
Jenks West Elem		
Jennings		
Keystone		
KIPP		
Lewis & Clark MS		
Liberty Elem		

*If your school is not on this list, make sure that they have signed up to receive the program this year! Request forms are available at [www.operationaware.org](http://www.operationaware.org) or call 918.582.7884.*

## Get Involved!

Want to contribute your time and talent to Operation Aware? Sign up to be on one of our committees; Red Ribbon Run, Golf Tournament, Rick Couri Event, Fundraising, 30th Anniversary, Volunteer Coordination, Programs, Board Development, Long Range Planning or Public Relations. Contact the Operation Aware office if you are interested.

Call 918.582.7884 or email [info@operationaware.org](mailto:info@operationaware.org).

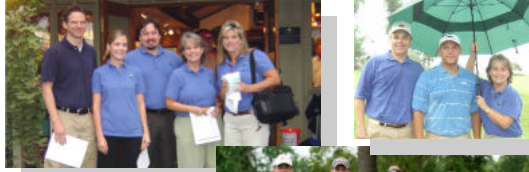
## DA On The Go - We were there, were you?

**Neighbor Fest at Veteran's Park—August 4** - OA was one of the display booths at the final Neighbor Fest of the year.

### OA Golf Tournament at Cedar Ridge

**Country Club - August 11** - On a nice cool August day, 32 teams joined Operation Aware on the golf course to celebrate resilient youth and play a little golf.

*(Top left, members past and present of the OA staff prepare for the tournament. Top right, a lucky prize patrol winner is congratulated by President-Elect Jeff Kendall and Executive Director Martha Desmond. Bottom, Golf Tournament Co-Chair Charlie Strauser, third from left, and his team tackle the greens.)*



### NPN Conference - August 25 -

**27 - Indianapolis, IN** - Executive

Director Martha Desmond and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Steve Hahn headed to Indianapolis to receive OA's award from NASADAD and attended workshops about prevention methods. *(Left, Representatives from all of this year's Exemplary Award winning programs with their plaques.)*

**WestFest - September 2** - OA staffers spent the day meeting and greeting residents of Tulsa's west side.

### Conference of Southwest Foundation; - October 2- 3 - Austin, TX -

Executive Director Martha Desmond and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Steve Hahn presented a program educating foundation representatives about our prevention curriculum.

### "Bully-Proofing Your Kids" Workshop -

**October 11** - Leading the youth portion of the workshop. A partnership with Family & Children's Services. *(Right, two students show off their certificates of completion proving they have been "Bully Proofed." Far Right, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Steve Hahn talks to workshop participants about bullying.)*



## START HERE



### Red Ribbon Run -

**October 18** - OA staffers and board volunteers organized the 7th annual Red Ribbon Run against drug use. More than 550 Tulsans participated in the 1 Mile Fun Run and 5K. *(Left, Red Ribbon Man leads the Fun Run participants. Below, The Red Ribbon Run is a family event. Here a father and daughter challenge each other to keep up the pace.)*



**Boo Ha Ha Parade - October 25** - Raising awareness about Operation Aware and handing out some healthy and educational goodies.

**To see where we will be next, check out the calendar on page 4.**

*(Continued from page 2)*

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## Save the Date - 2009 Events Calendar

### May 2009 - Rick Couri Annual Fundraiser -

Stay tuned to find out what project Rick will be tackling this year to benefit Operation Aware.

### August (Date TBD) - Third Annual

**Operation Aware Golf Tournament** - Help us tee off our 30th Anniversary celebration season on the links.

### October 24th - 8th Annual Red Ribbon

**Run** - Celebrate your pledge to be drug free with area students by participating in the Red Ribbon Run.

### Other Important OA Dates

December 10—Annual Meeting and Officer Elections  
 December 20- January 4—OA Office Closed for the Holidays  
 January 12—Third Quarter TPS begins

## Make Your Gift to Prevention Education and Operation Aware

I would like to make an investment in prevention education. Enclosed is my year-end gift to support the classroom programs of Operation Aware. I know my tax-deductible gift will help teach children how to set goals and stay on their path of life, avoiding alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Why I give to Operation Aware \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Every gift helps make a difference in the lives of youth in Tulsa and the surrounding counties. Please select a gift level.

\$25    \$50    \$100    \$250    \$500    \$1,000    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Enclosed is my check, made out to Operation Aware.
- Please charge my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to VISA/MasterCard (select one)  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your donation form to Operation Aware,  
 7226 East 41st Street, Tulsa, OK 74145 or fax to 918.582.7886.**

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