

Prevention in Progress

A quarterly report from Operation Aware. Spring 2009



Operation Aware
7226 E 41st Street
Tulsa, OK 74145

Ph: 918-582-7884
Fax: 918-582-7886
www.operationaware.org
info@operationaware.org

Operation Aware Staff
MARTHA DESMOND
Executive Director

MERCEDES MILLBERRY
Community Relations Director

SUSAN MORALES
Office Manager

WES PEBSWORTH
Manager of Program Operations

PREVENTION EDUCATORS

Jeni Dolan
Liz Gustafson
Jackie Howard
Pam Lee
Shelly McIntosh
Brenda MacAlmon
Mindy Paschal
Kristin Pebsworth
Amy Richmond

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Kendall, *President*
Tyrance Billingsley, *Chair Elect*
Susan Walker, *Past Chair*
Kim Fairchild, *Treasurer*
Barb Osteen, *Secretary*
Kay Kittleman, *Assistant Secretary*
Carey Baker
Raj Basi
James F. Consedine, II
Margarita Gaberino
Lamar Guillory
Thomas Graves
Alex Gravely
Frank X. Henke IV
Dan A. Hughes
John T. McGinnis
Michael Merten
Dana Kay Nickel
Debbie Reed
Charles Strauser

2008 Annual Meeting Highlights Success

Members of the Operation Aware family gathered in December for our Annual Meeting. In addition to the election of new officers and board members, attendees were treated to a PowerPoint of the highlights of OA's 2008. (The PowerPoint is available online at www.operationaware.org.)



Susan Walker, outgoing OA Board Chair with incoming OA Board Chair Jeff Kendall at the Annual Meeting.

Outgoing Chair Susan Walker was recognized for her service and she handed over her gavel to 2009 Chair Jeff Kendall.

Highlights of the year include:

In 2008, Operation Aware:

- Served 23,491 students in 1,066 classrooms at 111 schools in 9 counties
- Received the NASA-DAD Award for exemplary prevention programs
- Presented at the Conference of Southwest Foundations in Austin about prevention education programs
- Received a Tulsa Public Schools Commendation from MGT America for our impact in the classrooms
- Participated in the Task

Force for School Innovations in Alternative Education

- Collaborated on education efforts, including "Bully Proof Kids" Seminar, Crystal Darkness and Suicide Prevention Training

2009 looks to be a critical year for Operation Aware. The Long-Range Planning committee is discussing business models for the organization, we are working with Muskogee Public Schools on a bold saturation project that will change the nature of the Muskogee community and we are looking at ways to expand our services to schools that have not had Operation Aware before. All of these projects are possible because of our dedicated supporters. We look forward to updating you throughout the year.

OA's Impact in the Classroom

"Students are more aware of who their real friends are and know the dangers of drugs and not to be pulled in by negative buddies". (teacher)

"Children are solving more problems on their own." (teacher)

"My class has talked about different types of bullies, about being honest and the fact they won't take drugs." (teacher)

"I have had Operation Aware in my school for years and it seems to get better every year!" (principal)

"I am very impressed and grateful for such a health and social education program in action to inform children about life skills that affect them now and in their futures." (teacher)

"... I believe every student took away something positive/important through your program." (teacher)

"Students are saying that 'I never knew this' or 'I will never do that' and they are defining their personal standards." (teacher)

"I credit Operation Aware with keeping my son off drugs, and I want my grandchildren to have the same program." (father/grandfather)

"The students have been more patient with each other [as a result of the program] – listening more and talking less. I have also heard students promise each other that they will not use drugs." (teacher)

"They really enjoy being able to speak freely about drugs, relationships, and what can happen to them depending on their choices." (teacher)

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

OA Supporters

Thanks to these donors who have contributed to prevention education by supporting Operation Aware. Gifts included were received between November 1, 2008 and February 19, 2009.

Tulsa Route 66 Marathon, Inc.
 E.L. & Thelma Gaylord Foundation
 The Williams Foundation
 Mr. Raj Basi
 Mr. & Mrs. Whit Kittleman
 Ms. Pam Stoullil
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Fairchild
 Mr. & Mrs. Pete Leininger
 Mr. Steve Canary
 Mr. R.C. Diehl
 Ms. Jamie Elliott
 Mr. Kurt Zumwalt
 Grace and Franklin Bernsen Foundation
 Mr. & Mrs. Otto Cantrell
 Mr. John Thistleton
 Mr. Frank Henke
 Ms. Lynn Conard
 Mr. James Consedine
 Eagle Eye Royalty Management Co.
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas. Keffer
 Dr. & Mrs. Richard Stamile
 Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Cianfrone
 Dr. & Mrs. David Thomas
 Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Wootton
 Gelvin Foundation, Inc.
 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Conway
 George Kaiser Family Foundation
 Ms. Karen Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Paschal
 Mr. Kenneth Bays
 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Palma
 Mr. & Mrs. William Jackson
 Mr. Joel Swanson
 Ms. Betty Satterfield
 Ms. Marian Foldberg
 Mr. Doug Limson
 Flint Energy Services Inc.
 Cuesta Foundation
 Mr. & Mrs. David Bryant

Meet your 2009 Operation Aware Board of Directors



Seated: Jeff Kendall, Barb Osteen, Raj Basi, Tyrance Billingsley, z Alex Gravely
 Standing: Dana Kay Nickel, Jim Consedine, Margarita Gaberino, Tom Graves, Frazier Henke, Susan Walker, Debbie Reed, John McGinnis, Dan Hughes, Carey Baker, Charlie Strauser
 Not pictured: Kim Fairchild, Lamar Guillory, Michael Merten, Kay Kittleman.

Why Support Operation Aware? Board Members Share their Reasons

JEFF KENDALL, ARVEST BANK OA BOARD CHAIR

“I first saw the benefits of the organization through my three kids who received the OA program in their school. Prevention education is vital to reduce the risk of poor choices our children may make that have negative consequences on them individually and on our society as a whole. Prevention is a much more cost-effective solution.”

CHARLIE STRAUER, THE FLINTCO COMPANIES FUND RAISING CHAIR

“I am involved because I believe that our youth today are faced with many issues that require very difficult decisions on their part. It is often easier to just “go along with the crowd” than make a correct decision that might not be popular among their peers. I feel

that the Operation Aware curriculum assists young people in making good decisions that might affect them for the rest of their lives.”

JAMES CONSEDINE, BENEFIT PLAN STRATEGIES

“OA was a great program for my kids; it works and there is evidence to back it up. I am particularly drawn to the Blood and Guts Program to teach good health and healthy choices. Oklahoma has a huge problem with obesity and illness in general. OA provides a great opportunity to get a quality program in front of our young people to propagate good choices.”

JOHN MCGINNIS, PROJECT XII

“My reason for taking the second term as a board member for Operation Aware

is that I have watched Operation Aware from its start in 1979. As Principal, I have welcomed the program to Nimitz Middle School, Foster Middle School, Memorial High School, and Project XII. Also, while serving as Superintendent at CFS Kids, our kids were involved in the Operation Aware Summer Program.

I am convinced Operation Aware is a nonthreatening positive drug and decision making program for all students from K-12 grade. I feel now more than ever our community should come together so we don't lose the program.

This program works and we need to see it flourish in Tulsa Public Schools, as well as surrounding schools. Operation Aware helps kids and saves lives.”

Memories of OA



BY CAREY DUNKIN BAKER
 OA Alumna and Board member

2008 Financial Information

As part of the Annual Report to our supporters, we share with you the previous year's financial statement. Here is the 2008 unaudited report. *Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2008*

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Total Checking/Savings	441.56
Total Accounts Receivable	147,378.00
Total Other Current Assets	355,041.20
Total Current Assets	502,860.76
Total Fixed Assets	17,347.92
Total Other Assets	883,419.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,403,627.68

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Total Accounts Payable	1,150.61
Total Other Current Liabilities	23,369.34
Total Current Liabilities	24,519.95
Total Liabilities	24,519.95
Equity	
Restricted Net Assets	883,419.00
Temp Restricted Net Assets	142,778.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,135,677.39
Net Income	-782,766.66
Total Equity	1,379,107.73
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,403,627.68

It is not too early to get your school on the schedule for next year! Contact Wes Pebsworth at wpebsworth@operationaware.org or call 918.582.7884 to get on the fall schedule now!

I went through the Operation Aware program in the 6th grade at Monte Cassino. To this day (20+ years later) I still remember the field trip to St. Johns. I remember seeing firsthand the effects that smoking, excessive drinking and drug use have on your body. I think the biggest take away for me was seeing how something can have such drastic and devastating effects to your insides but how so many people continue to abuse drugs, alcohol or choose to smoke because the effects cannot always be seen on the outside. I remember going home from the field trip and

talking to my mom about what I saw. She, at the time, was a smoker and I told her how much I was afraid for her and her health. I also remember breaking a few (maybe more!) cigarettes she kept in a drawer. She quit smoking a few months later and never picked one up again. I don't know if my talk with her was the reason for her quitting, but I think deep down she knew she needed to be a positive influence on me. It truly changed my perception and taught me the importance of taking care of yourself physically and mentally.

From the Educators ...

Every Operation Aware Prevention Educator has hundreds of interactions with students during the program. They hear from the students and the schools about how the program is making a difference on the individual level. Here are a few of the highlights from their experiences.

"My favorite experience...at lunch after teaching 3 classes of 6th graders about personal standards the teacher came and found me. She handed me a note that a girl in the class had given to her boyfriend...in the letter it said after Operation Aware she realized that he didn't measure up to her personal standards so it was over!" - Miss Jeni

"I had a great and unique experience in a Tulsa area middle school. A teacher actually wrote me a note sharing with me that she was a changed person because of the things she heard and saw during Operation Aware. It's always our goal to influence the students, but what a wonderful bonus to also positively affect a teacher!" - Miss Kristin

"One of the highlights of my year just happened. I was teaching the bullying lesson to 5th grade students at Foyil today. They were so attentive. At the end of the lesson, I had them read the OA Anti-Bullying Pledge out loud. I then encouraged the students to sign it if they wanted to help take a stand against bullying in their school. One student signed it and then said, "Ms. Shelly, I feel so much better after signing that." He said it with such honesty and conviction. I know the bullying message got through to him!" - Miss Shelly

3rd and 4th Quarters Classes

Here are the schools scheduled to be served during the third and fourth quarters of this academic year.

Angus Valley Elementary
Ator Heights
Berryhill Middle School
Berryhill High School
Byrd Middle School
Carnegie
Foyil Elementary
Franklin
Gilcrease Middle School
Hamilton Middle School
Hayward Smith
Hodson (Owasso)
Jenks Middle School
Justus-Tiawah Middle School
Lewis & Clark Middle School
Madison Middle School
Mannford Middle School
Oak Crest (BA)
Oak Grove
Owasso Middle School
Ram Academy
Remington Elementary
Robertson Elementary
Sand Springs
Skelly Elementary
St. Joseph
Thoreau Middle School
Whitney Middle School
Woodland (Sapulpa)

Recommended Resources

Are you looking for books and other materials that can be used to continue the discussion started by Operation Aware in your own home? Visit www.operationaware.org and select our Amazon Affiliate store. We have identified books and other tools that parents and educators can use to support the OA prevention message after students finish the class. In addition to accessing some great resources, a percentage of purchases made through this Affiliate store will be donated to Operation Aware. Start your shopping now!

Get Connected with OA!

Are you a social media maven? Maybe you are still learning the basics of online interactions. Whatever your experience level, you can connect with Operation Aware in cyber-space. We are on

Facebook and Twitter. Both of these venues give us new ways to reach out to our current supporters and seek new like-minded friends.

If you Twitter, look for

"OperationAware." On Facebook, search for Operation Aware. Alumni of the program are encouraged to share their OA story with us on the Facebook page. Spread the word and get connected.

Make Your Gift to Prevention Education and Operation Aware

There are many ways to support Operation Aware. You can always make a secure online donation at www.operationaware.org, send a gift to our offices in the included reply envelope or attend one or more of our special events. We appreciate your support in whatever form it comes.

We also are looking for new members of our board committees. If you would like to share your experience with Operation Aware by serving on any of our committees (fund raising, public relations, long-range planning, Red Ribbon Run, Golf Tournament, Rick Couri Event, 30th Anniversary Volunteer Coordination, Programs or Board Development) contact the OA office at 918.582.7884 or email info@operationaware.org.

Operation Aware depends on the support of friends to make sure that Tulsa area students are receiving the best in prevention education. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure make that possible. Thank you for all that you do.

OA Calendar

March 16 -20
OFFICE CLOSED FOR
SPRING BREAK

March 23
FOURTH QUARTER
BEGINS

April 8
GOLF TOURNAMENT
KICK-OFF

Golf Tournament Sponsors and OA Board members will gather for a kick-off event for this year's Golf Tournament. Contact OA at 918.582.7884 to reserve your team spot or to become a sponsor.

May
RICK COURI ANNUAL
FUND RAISER

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

August 3
THIRD ANNUAL
OPERATION AWARE
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Help us tee off our 30th Anniversary celebration season on the links.

October 24
8TH ANNUAL RED
RIBBON RUN

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