

For Immediate Release
November 2, 2005

First Lady Interested In Street Schools

On October 27, Denver Street School founder Tom Tillapaugh attended the first "White House Conference On Helping America's Youth" at the invitation of First Lady Laura Bush.

"Mrs. Bush has an incredible heart for urban at-risk youth," said Tillapaugh. "More importantly, she has the strong vision needed to find solutions for the challenges that plague this vulnerable population."

A select number of researchers, policymakers, faith-based and volunteer organizations, foundations and educators attended the conference to discuss problems facing America's youth.

More importantly the conference was an opportunity to look at programs that are successfully addressing these challenges. Mrs. Bush's Helping America's Youth initiative was sparked by her concerns about dropout rates and juvenile delinquency.

"It was satisfying to know that the Denver Street School already implements so much of what the conference revealed has been shown to work," said Tillapaugh. "Our small, family-like environment, mentoring and extracurricular activities have proven to be successful not only at DSS but at NASS member schools across the nation."

Tillapaugh is the founder and executive director of the Denver Street School (DSS), a non-profit Christian school that seeks out the at-risk youth of Denver providing them the opportunity to earn their high school diploma, turn their lives around and learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"Mrs. Bush indicated that she was 'very interested' in the Denver Street School and its proven model of success in reaching troubled youth nationwide through the National Association of Street Schools (NASS)," Tillapaugh said.

For the past 20 years Tillapaugh has devoted his life to thousands of youth in Denver and across the nation by founding NASS which has successfully helped to replicate the Denver model. Having grown the school from five students the first year to over 200 street school graduates- Tillapaugh won't give up until all have a chance for a quality education and an opportunity to experience Christ's love.

It is through Tillapaugh's commitment to these youth that Mrs. Bush and Congressman Bob Beauprez recognize the importance of the leading roles DSS and NASS play.

"Denver is proud to have Tom represent us at this conference," said Beauprez. "With 20 years of success bring hope to our city's at-risk youth and giving them a quality education, I am confident [in his valuable participation]."

For more information please go to the Denver Street School's website; www.denverstreetschool.com and the NASS website; www.streetschools.com