

## **NATIONAL STREET SCHOOL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN DENVER**

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Denver, CO---Approximately 100 urban leaders and educators from more than 20 U.S. cities will gather in Denver from July 14-17, 2003 for a time of learning, encouragement and the sharing of best practices. Others will come for the first time to learn how to duplicate the Street School Model in the urban core of their own city.

Due to the uniqueness and success of the Denver Street School over the past 18 years (nearly 200 graduates and hundreds of lives impacted), urban leaders have started schools in Oklahoma City, Seattle, Chicago, Tampa, Omaha, Atlanta and other U.S. cities. The Street School Model gives at-risk students who have dropped-out or been expelled a second chance to earn a diploma.

The conference is an outreach of the National Association of Street Schools, a non-profit organization developed specifically to serve as a clearing-house of information and support for those operating and wanting to start street schools. Attendees will receive instruction in areas ranging from secondary literacy to non-profit operations and fundraising.

Many of the urban leaders will be able to attend the conference on scholarships. This is as a result of sub-grants their schools are receiving through the National Association of Street Schools as part of a 1.13 million dollar award the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation gave to help NASS improve 20 schools and start 10 new ones over the next three years. Other conference sponsors include Compassion International and Christian Schools International.

The Denver Street School and subsequently the National Association of Street Schools were founded by Tom Tillapaugh, an educator who came to Denver's inner-city in the mid 80's to apply what he knew about education to helping the poor become self-sufficient. Over the years, the Street School Model has evolved to include: literacy interventions and remediation, on-site childcare, after-school activities and the installation of a moral code in addition to academics.

The conference is open to the community at large, including six intensive seminars on Wednesday, July 16 that address the topics of federal grant writing, fundraising, literacy, case management, building resiliency in students and strategic planning.

For more information about the Street School Model or the conference, please visit the National Association of Street Schools website at: [www.streetschools.com](http://www.streetschools.com).