

OUR MISSION

The Soulard School is an independent Pre-K - 5th grade school located in the historic Soulard neighborhood. Our mission is to build a warm, welcoming learning environment that serves as an example of the profound and real possibilities of a community dedicated to educating its children; one in which children and adults are encouraged to ask questions and broaden their understanding of themselves, others and the world.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-FOUNDER

A Connected Community

The Soulard School takes the time and makes the space for the very personal and intimate side of learning. Each school day, our students are opening themselves up to new experiences and challenges, and deepening connections within themselves. It is a continuous cycle of confirming who they are, how they see themselves and what they know they are capable of.

As adults, we look at the vulnerability and openness of children with awe, a bit of jealousy, and a little fear sprinkled in. We want it for ourselves, and while we celebrate their discoveries, their honest observations can push us into a place of uncomfortable vulnerability.

The Soulard School's response to those feelings is to lean into it, learn about it, turn it on its side, and look at it in a new way. What do we need to know, what are we missing, and what is that telling us?

We are taking this process and applying it to the work we want to do in and with our adult community. At the end of 2016 in partnership with Metro Theater Company we hosted New Kid, a play that gave an opportunity for parents and children to not only take the perspective of others during the performance, but take that story home to continue conversations and grow from the shared experience.

We followed this up with community conversations and began a dialog within our school about issues of diversity and inclusion. We have also established a Diversity & Inclusion Committee of staff and parents. This committee is initiating the work of leaning into vulnerability and learning how we can look at ourselves in a new way, how we can build our diversity, and how we can grow our community through curriculum, discussion and recruitment.

The school continues to grow in its size and social emotional capacity. We strive to be a school that reflects our great city and a place where our supporters see their participation making an impact. Thank you for joining us in this endeavor and making it possible for us to accomplish this depth of work.

Executive Director,

Sarah Christman

Schools are neighborhood anchors and with the support of our generous donors and community building, we are making a bold statement to reclaim schools as the community hub. The Soulard School reflects the rich diversity of its neighborhood and surrounding communities. In the 2016-2017 school year:

IN THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

39% Families qualified for free or reduced-price lunch

74% Elementary students qualified for our Equitable

31 Teachers & Staff Employed

137 students served

Soulard School families came from 24 different zip codes representing St. Louis city, county and the surrounding metro area



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: LYNDSAY'S JOURNEY



"I love to get in the car and head to boat races, then get in my boat and race it."

-Lyndsay McGrath, Soulard School alumni class of 2012 The Soulard School prides itself in our ability to build strong community, and forge long lasting relationships with our students beyond their graduating year. We also take great pride in seeing the inspiring human beings our graduates become. We teach and watch our students' apply 6 core values that are instilled during their Soulard School tenure. Gratitude, Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Philanthropy and Reflection is our practices. It's amazing to see those values reflected in our alum as they branch out and navigate this big world.

We are so proud of Alumni, Lyndsay McGrath, as we have followed her path beyond the Soulard School's hallways. She has developed into a unique, intelligent and multifaceted individual. Her interests include boat racing, photography and music. She is going into her senior year of High School and has boldly carried on the Soulard School's core values. Here are her REFLECTIONS:

What years and grades did you attend the Soulard School?

I attended the Soulard School from nursery to 5th grade, then went to 6th grade at Grand Center Art Academy starting middle school.

Please share one of your fondest memories at the Soulard School?

That's a tough one, the Soulard School was a lot of my childhood. I'm not sure if I can pick one; I enjoyed going on field trips to places like the Shaw Nature Reserve. Violin was always an entertaining class. I also enjoyed making gingerbread houses and counting candy and snacks on the 100th day celebrations. We once had this store idea with the Thrive class and I remember all the Thrive kids expressed themselves in really cool ways like making comics. We would buy them with fake money.

What are some of the skills that you learned at the Soulard School that you still practice today?

Honestly, there are many psychological concepts I feel like I've learned. One being, to treat others how you want to be treated. I really try to

understand others points of view and connect with others as well as I'd want to be connected with. Respect and responsibility, making actions and then understanding the chain of events that may happen. Also, being able to have good communication with others.

What influence did your time at the Soulard School have on you throughout middle school and high school?

It was really sad leaving the Soulard School when it happened, I was quite nervous, but I'm also always excited to start something new. So I just tried to remember all the things I've learned and make new friends and understand a new environment.

Tell us about the Media Intern opportunity you had at Saint Louis University?

I joined a journalism class in my school in 7th grade, and I followed with the class until I was on the yearbook committee. My teacher at that time had been told to advertise the SLU internship and he asked us all to think about it and I signed up. Again, I always like different things so it sounded interesting. I knew that I could learn useful things to start a good future idea. I liked the internship because It involved media and creating posters on a topic that we would research and create more ideas. We would talk them through with the guides and then start working on the poster idea for it. My favorite part was how free thinking I could feel there, how I'd have my own time to it.

What are your plans after high school?

I've created many plans for after high school, but I'm going to let time continue moving and figure it out as it comes closer.

Anything else you would like to share with us?

Thank you for being interested in me! I liked answering these questions. Made me think back on memories from the Soulard School a lot.

Letter from Jim Holloran, Board Chair

Dear Friends of The Soulard School,

It has always been the mission of The Soulard School to serve our students based on their ability to learn and succeed rather than on their family's income. As you look through the pages of this annual report, we hope you are encouraged and proud of all the efforts, yours included, that have helped grow our school into the innovative learning environment it is today. Your generosity not only helps with our Equitable Tuition Program, but helps us enhance learning through unique and integrated learning approaches.

In the 2016-2017 school year, we were able to offer financial assistance to 97 students (70% of our enrollment) including the 47 students in our school who qualify for the Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program through our Equitable Tuition Program. Several corporations have made leadership gifts to support specific projects such as our STEAM Lab, Family Science Night, and Diversity and Inclusion seminars- making a innovative learning approach hands on even after the school day is over.

Thanks to several parent volunteers and committee members, the 2017 Soiree was the most successful in the school's history raising almost \$70,000. We have expanded our Board to 8 strong, involved and passionate leaders. These individuals are leading experts in their fields and we are so grateful to have them willing to serve our learning environment.

Thank you to all The Soulard School communities, especially the benefactors who continue to drive our school to greatness. Through your generosity and hard work, you're doing more than keeping our school open and running- you are the fire that changes the lives of the young learners at our school so they can go on and change the world. For that, we are incredibly grateful.

Kind Regards, Jim Holloran President of the Board

2016-2017 Board Members

Jim Holloran, Board Chair

Sarah Christman, Executive Director

James (Jay) Delong

Michael Harrold

Anne Coggan Johnston

Dr. Theresa Mayberry-Pruitt

S. Nick Reding

Dr. Basiyr Rodney, Ed.D.

Revenue

HOW YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Built on a philosophy of inclusion, The Soulard School maintains a commitment to socioeconomic diversity. The Equitable Tuition Program is a sliding-scale model* that enables all Soulard School families to educate their children as equal members of an economically, racially and culturally diverse community.

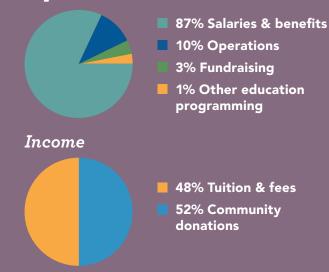
Because tuition covers only half of the school's operating expenses, meeting the budget each year depends on a combination of funding streams. These include gifts to the Annual Fund, income from fundraising events, corporate and foundation contributions, and generous benefactors who support The Soulard School's vision of socioeconomic diversity.

The Soulard School would not be here today without the continued generosity and support of dedicated parents, grandparents, alumni families, and friends in the community. Thank you to all of those who made a gift or attended, contributed, or volunteered at a fundraising event during the 2016-2017 school year. Your support allows The Soulard School to continue to offer unique educational experiences that encourage students to be inspired learners and good, productive citizens in the community. **Thank you.**

Total Contribution Income

Individual Donors	\$258,000
Corporate & Foundation Donors	\$269,000
Fundraising Events	\$174,000
Total Raised	\$701,000

Expenses



*We acknowledge and are grateful to Manhattan Country School, which inspired our sliding-scale model and has successfully implemented it since 1972.

Donor Highlight: Peter Miller A Vested Interest in Education

Sons and Daughters of Soulard co-founder, Peter Miller says, "It all started over a couple a beers." Peter, a former financial services executive, teamed up with Jay Shields President of Schaeffer Manufacturing and together they started Sons and Daughters of Soulard also referred to as a "Chamber of Commerce with Heart" in 2015. The Sons and Daughters of Soulard work to strengthen the community fabric among the (often) historic and vibrant group of Soulard businesses through networking and charitable outreach.

One of the first people Miller and Shields reached out to was Soulard School Board Chairman and long time supporter, Jim Holloran. Together the three of them have been active in the Soulard community and strong supporters of The Soulard School. Both men recognized the importance of a good, well-rounded education. As the St. Louis Public Schools struggled, they wanted to ensure quality education was accessible in Soulard and surrounding areas.

"I believe as human citizens there are four major areas we need to look into to be successful, shelter, food, good health care and education", Miller says, "I believe The Soulard School supports those efforts." Peter invests in the school because he believes for a community to grow, children must be educated "When we invest in our schools we invest in the future."



The unique learning environment makes learning fun for each student."

-Peter Miller, longtime friend and supporter of The Soulard School

FOUNDING DONORS

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Joan & Lance Callis

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James Dowd

Laura & Norman Eaker

James P. Holloran

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Orville Middendorf

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The Saigh Foundation

Today & Tomorrow Education Foundation

The Joan & John Vatterott Family Foundation

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\$5,000 - \$25,000

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Lynne Christman

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The Disruption Department,

supported with funding from Monsanto Fund

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Mike & Mary Harris, E.M. Harris Construction

John D. McGurk's

Bella Sanevich & Brad Fogel

Sons & Daughters of Soulard:

Jay Shields, Schaeffer Manufacturing

Anne & Tom Herrmann, Schaeffer Manufacturing

Peter Miller

Webster University, supported with funding from Boeina











2016-2017 Contributors

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Frazer's Restaurant & Lounge

Heather McCorkle & Adam Maness Ingrid Weise & Brent Williams Jane & James Gallagher Jerie & Jerry Rhode JJ Lane & David Woldow JoAnna McKeever-Daniels &

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GRANDPARENT SCHOLARS

\$500 + Anne Coggan Johnston Carolyn White Cathy & Tom Fisher Gara & Jim Loskill Jacqueline & Kent Bettale Kathy & Jeff Bredahl Laurie & Rick Buckles Loretta Smith Louise & Paul Cameron Martha & William Gavin Mary & Bill Christman Rosemary & Billy Charles Sandy & Jim Fredrick Sarapage McCorkle Veronica Ruffin

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Virginia & Earl Heitzenroeder

Angie & Pat Clancy Glenda Kirby Jacquette Bergmann John DeSpain John Scott & Fred Hudson Sean Scott Takisha Bovd Todd Hefele

Tributes

In Memory of Ted Christman In Honor of Anne Coggan Johnston

> Nancy Grove & Joseph Tiernan Gail Fisher **Emily Wilson** Mildred Paden

In Honor of Henry & Nora Lewis

Rosemary & Billy Charles

6

Lynne Christman

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VOLUNTEERISM AND IN-KIND GIVING

One of the most important ways that families and friends help to support The Soulard School is through volunteer hours and in-kind giving. To those of you who served on committees, prepared food for an event, worked in the kitchen, library or classrooms, or contributed an item, service or time, we thank you. The generosity, creativity, passion and community spirit you bring is profoundly appreciated, and our success is directly attributable to wonderful friends like you.

GIFTS-IN-KIND

4 Hands Brewery Addison Hanna Glass Ann & Tim Chance Ann Callis & James P Holloran Bailey's Restaurants Be Lovely Photography Benton Park Cafe Beth & Rob Hyser Big Muddy Dance Co Bissinger's Blues City Deli Bogart's Smokehouse Booksource **Bouffant Daddy** Brian Curran Butler's Pantry Cakery Bakery Caleres Cantina Laredo Cape Cod Lavender

Capitalist Pig Central Studio Citizen Kane City Museum CityFit Studio Civil Life Brewing Company Climb So III Concordia Turners Courtney Keefe Crown Candy Kitchen Dabble St. Louis Diane & Bill Keaggy Dressel's Public House East & West Eleanor & Brad White **Endangered Wolf Center** Evangeline's Bistro Everybody Yoga Flowers to the People Fortune Teller Bar Frazer's Restaurant & Lounge

\$75,000+

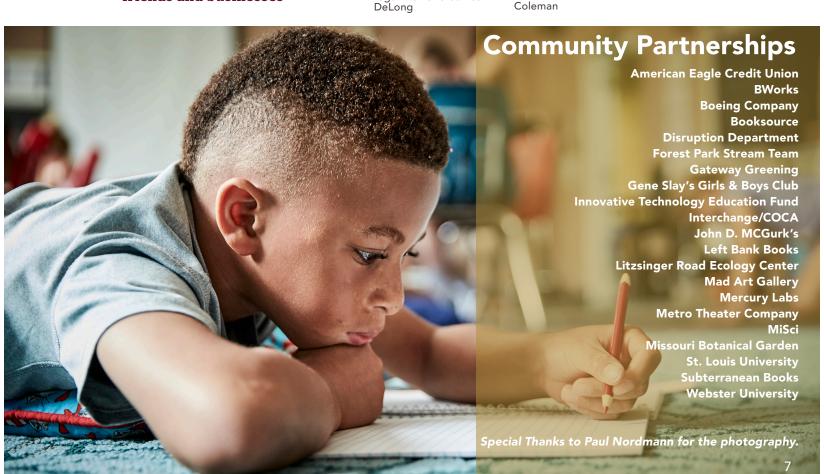
Creative Resources – in-kind contributions by families, friends and businesses

4,000+

volunteer hours contributed by families, friends and businesses

Meredith Murray Gateway Arch & Metro Theater Company Riverboats Michael's Bar & Grill Gateway Greening Inc Midwest Pasta Company Great Harvest Bread Co. Mike Wyatt Gus' Pretzel Miniature Market Haley & Jason Biehl Missouri Botanical Home Skillet Garden **Productions** Missouri History Ices Plain & Fancy Museum Jackson Pianos Mona's Jada Buckner & Sherry Moneta Group Buckner Mud House Jen Feder & Chris Valier Mum's Classroom John D McGurk's Irish Novel Neighbor Pub and Garden Oakville Sports Pub Kangaroo Kids Keith Spoeneman Off Broadway Music Kelly & Chris McKenzie Venue Oracle of the Old West Kendra Lang **OSP Tap Haus** Lauren Probst Patsy King & Steve Left Bank Books Sherman Lemp Mansion Peacemaker Lobster & Restaurant & Inn Crab Lindy Murray PestShield Lisa Donahue & Karl Pikazo Stiefvater Pin-Up Bowl Local Harvest Grocery Plowsharing Crafts Loretta Smith Randall's Wines & Spirits Lucie & Steve Robller Vineyard Springmeyer Saint Louis Football Club Mango Peruvian Cuisine Salon One Six One Mary & Bill Christman Sandy Krebeck Medusa's Salon Sarah Folkemer & Justin Megan Power & James

Schlafly Brewery Seed Sprout Spoon Catering & Events Sephora Cosmetics Shelley Flynn-Harding & James Harding Sheri Mancuso Southtown Yoga St Louis Art Museum St Louis Symphony St. Louis Bread Company Stanley Cigar Lounge STL-Style Studio Carmelita Subterranean Books Sweet Monday Photography Team Central The Little Dipper The Over/Under Bar & The Royale Third Degree Glass Factory Tonya Renee Anderson Tower Grove Farmers' Market Trader Joe's Twisted Ranch Whitebox Eatery YMCA Carondelet Park Rec Complex





Program Spotlight: SOW, GROW, EAT, REPEAT

By Monica Watson Culinary Arts & Nutrition Teacher

Culinary Arts has always been a foundational part of the extended core curriculum of the school, and it's framework continues to grow in scope. The weekly classroom nutrition component includes a focus on food literacy and the effect of food on our bodies. The goal is to help students understand the importance of making healthy choices and empowering them with the knowledge to do so.

This year, a display in the Culinary Arts classroom reads, "Sow, Grow, Eat, Repeat...". It serves to remind me of how this amazing program was sown from conversations and ideas that continue to grow us forward and outward. We are now ready to enrich the CA program by connecting and deepening many of the components that have always been present. We are beginning to grow more of our own food used to prepare meals, moving us to a seed-to-table lunch program. As we expand our growing methods indoors and out, classroom involvement and cross-curricular activities can increase as well. Our chickens are our first example of these connections. Hatched last spring by the 1st graders during their life cycle study, they now eat some of our food scraps. We use their eggs for cooking and will use their waste to enrich our soil for growing. Increasing our composting system will also help complete the circle.

These plans and goals are a natural extension of what has been done for years at The Soulard School. Ask any of the older students and they will tell you, "We have conversations about these ideas all the time." A long-term goal would be to provide CSA opportunities for our greater school community. We are continuing to build relationships with local farms and other local food sources including Scharf Farms, Bohlen Farm, Urban Harvest, Mac's Local Buys, Local Harvest and Midwest Pasta. Connecting nutrition knowledge from the classroom to the kitchen and then transforming the food we've grown into healthy meals will give food preparation and eating more meaning. We will become mindful eaters and more intentional in practicing sustainability.



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SOULARD*SCHOOT.

2016-2017 Soulard School Graduates

Jaxon Hahn - Fox Middle School

Sylvia Woldow - Hixson Middle School

Dallas Thornton - Francis Howell Middle School

Alexi Hawkins - Grand Center Arts Academy

Zola Gutierrez - Grand Center Arts Academy

Hazel Johnston - Grand Center Arts Academy Colin Fair - McKinley Classical Leadership Academy

Azure Manley - McKinley Classical Leadership Academy

Chris Lawing - St. Ambrose Catholic School