



Possibilities

Connecting People, Changing Communities.



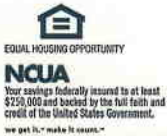
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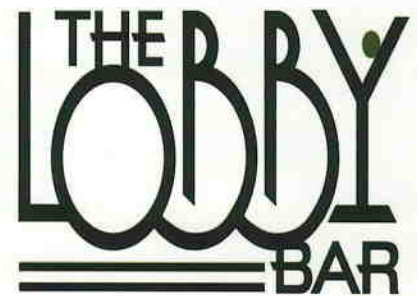


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make it count.



Monday's for a Change

Please join us for "Monday's for a Change"

Our restaurants will be donating 10% of each Monday evening sales to the Western Avenue Charity of your choice.

Every Monday

5:00 pm to Close Sushi Neko and Musashi's

7:00 am to Close on tickets \$5.00 or more at Will's and Lobby Bar

Please join us in supporting our Western Avenue Charities



President's Message

"As each year passes, I find I can look back with pride and more than a little amazement at the work that has been accomplished by the small and talented staff of Possibilities, Inc.

The use of the personal relationship to develop communities is a formula that has spelled success time and again for our organization. From the first moment a community partner gains the confidence instilled by the power of the Possibilities method, another chapter in community development is written. Because the growth occurs within the community worker, it is a change that lasts and prospers. Providing assistance is helpful, but providing confidence and support is everlasting.

In this time of economic uncertainty, Possibilities, too, is concerned for the fulfillment of its community program work. If you have supported Possibilities in the past, we are most grateful. Please join in supporting in the efforts of Possibilities so that we may continue our support of communities in the Oklahoma City area."

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Lucy Fritts
American Fidelity Assurance Company
President, Board of Directors

Values & Principles

Dignity

We believe in the worth of each person.

Participation and Inclusiveness

We believe local people have the solutions to local problems & every person is a part of the solution.

Growth

We believe success and failure give opportunity to learn.

Responsibility

We believe people support what they help create.

Service

We start where people are and join their journey.

Trust

We believe people function best when they feel safe.

Integrity

We believe our success depends on our actions matching our words.



Mission:

To strengthen the ability of people to work together for community change.

A Brief History of Possibilities

In response to the goal of “strengthening families through neighborhood based systems, *Possibilities* originated as an initiative of Central Oklahoma 2020, a 1994 planning process led by Leadership Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, and more than 90 citizens from all walks of life. Established in 1995, largely due to the efforts of founding president, Linda Lambert, *Possibilities* has become one of Oklahoma City’s leading sustainable community initiatives, having evolved into a unique organization that builds capacity in individuals and groups “**to strengthen the ability of people to work together for community change.**” *Possibilities* builds local community initiatives and facilitates citizen-managed projects in declining areas to create a sustainable Oklahoma City. *Possibilities* specializes in engaging citizens at the grassroots level where the power of cooperation, creativity and community can be leveraged to create lasting change. *Possibilities* is recognized as a model program among only 31 acclaimed sustainable communities initiatives across the nation (Portney, 2003).

Possibilities works where communities make an invitation for partnership and it is a good fit for the mission. Historically, work has centered around the inner-city of OKC within 95% low-to-moderate income areas. *Possibilities* partners with over 40 schools, neighborhood associations, business districts and other civic groups to improve their communities.

Oklahoma City’s inner-city neighborhoods have problems consistent with urban areas across the nation such as poverty, crime, declining properties and struggling schools. Rather than helping low-income residents take on economic and social challenges, the very policies put in place to tackle problems lead to dependency on external resources and expertise (Hilderbrand, 2002). *Possibilities* specializes in engaging citizens at the grassroots level where the power of cooperation, creativity and community can be leveraged to create lasting change.

Each year, *Possibilities* trains 20-40 grassroots leaders in more than 40 of Oklahoma City’s most challenged neighborhoods. More than 160 people have completed *Camp Possibilities*, the organization’s intensive, annual, yearlong training program. These trained leaders continue their grassroots efforts, creating stronger families, safer neighborhoods and economic growth throughout Oklahoma City communities. *Possibilities* provides ongoing support to trained leaders to carry out community change initiatives in their own communities.

Possibilities is a United Way partner agency.

As a father and a teacher, Jimmy has devoted his life to working with young people. Knowing that students arrive to school with many different needs, and taking notice of the fighting, suspensions, and students not feeling heard, Jimmy created a mentoring program that would give Middle School students someone to talk to who would listen without judgment. Targeting students with office referrals for behavior and discipline issues, the Memorial Mentors program focuses on conflict resolution, problem solving, respect, integrity, peer pressure, communication, and offering opportunities to experience new things. After just the first year, Jimmy is able to report a 73% decrease on office referrals, suspensions, and fights, as well as grades improving.

When Jimmy met *Possibilities* at the Oklahoma A+ Schools conference, he was immediately attracted to the balloon animals and hats from *Possibilities'* booth. He took a chance, and became a camper in *Camp Possibilities*. Jimmy says working with *Possibilities* has opened his eyes to what "family" could like from "outside of the box." He immediately noticed that *Possibilities* "talks the talk and walks the walk," and appreciated the reliability, commitment, and the willingness of someone from outside the community being willing to help.

Possibilities had the opportunity to regularly facilitate the Memorial Mentors class, and assisted Jimmy, other campers, teachers, and the Memorial Mentor students to create a community carnival in the school to help build community within and outside of the school. Through that process, Jimmy was so pleased to see what the students could accomplish, and was thankful that *Possibilities'* process allowed the students to feel it was about them. In fact, it was about the students; they designed and carried out their own ideas to make the carnival a success. More than 700 attended, and the students earned the appreciation of the entire school. Jimmy feels bright about the future, and looks forward to the day his students lead our country with compassion and know-how to be successful.

Meet Jimmy Phillips





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Meet **Madeline
 Fowler**




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My name is Madeline Fowler. I am 22 years old. I have been with Possibilities since I was 12.

I first got involved when a young girl knocked on my door and asked me what I wanted for my neighborhood. I answered her questions as best as I could.

A week later I got a call from the girl asking me if I wanted to join a youth group to help my community. I went to the meeting and never turned back.

The day I joined Possibilities was the best day of my life. I have done neighborhood cleanups, surveys, and graffiti removal. I have attended 3 Camp Possibilities. In doing all of this I realized my ability to make a difference. I didn't have to just walk past that trash and debris on my street anymore. I could actually get together with friends and create a community and clean it up.

It wasn't just something that I talked about or wrote down. I was actually given the chance to jump in and do it. That's what Possibilities did for me. They gave me a voice and let me use it.

Garden Community

Meet

**Mrs.
McClellon**

After a lifetime of teaching, Mrs. McClellon says that there are times when she is tired and just wants to give up, so she comes to *Possibilities* for inspiration to go on. But usually it's Mrs. McClellon who does the inspiring. The *Camp Possibilities* graduate teaches craft classes at Community Action Agency's Northeast District Center. Her students, who are all residents in the community, say that she teaches them more than just crafts. Bobbie Thomas says she wouldn't have survived when her husband passed away without Mrs. McClellon's words of wisdom and gentle spirit.

Mrs. McClellon shares herself with her community, and tirelessly encourages others to find their passion and share it. Mrs. McClellon shares *Possibilities* with everyone she meets, telling them they will meet new people and learn how to do new things.

When they ask her how, she tells them to look at her and watch what she does. Thanks in part to Mrs. McClellon, more Garden Community residents are finding and sharing their passions through *Camp Possibilities* this year.



From our campers directly...

Margie Dumas, Wanda Nealy, and Bobbie Thomas all attended Camp Possibilities 8. There, we learned to develop skills as a community worker for community change. Since a large portion of our community are senior citizens that can no longer care for their flower gardens, Margie wanted to help. Our project was the help these seniors restore their gardens. The *Possibilities*' staff helped us every step along the way - [from] time scheduling, tools and equipment, snacks, to recruiting other community neighbors. The project was a success and truly rewarding; it was truly a labor of love.

Meet Mary Sosa

