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Possibilities
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Through
the lens of
Possibilities



NURTURING *growth*

In 1950, seeking a good home for their young family, Alton and Evelyn Fritts built a simple farmhouse and chicken coop on a 160-acre farm at the southwest corner of what is now Southwest 19th Street and Telephone Road in Moore, Oklahoma. The area was rural, shopping was limited and services were few, but a supportive community made it an ideal place to raise a family.

Fast-forward over half a century, and Moore is still a great place for families, and Fritts Farm hosts a bustling retail development where neighbors find everything they need. As we plan for future generations, our vision is to provide a high quality, mixed-use development that will grow alongside our neighbors' families. Come join us.



ON THE FARM...

Young Fritts makes friends and learns how to live in the country, just like Pop and Grammy Fritts' family did in 1950. Read about their adventures in Moorey Mole books! Available online from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

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Del Taco
Dairy Queen

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750 S.W. 19TH
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Through the Lens of *Possibilities*

Have you ever driven a route day after day, and then one day, walked the same route? You suddenly notice many things you have never seen before; a tree, a front porch with a unique awning, a dog chasing you. Our lives can be like that as well. We go about our business, day after day, and when we do something out of the ordinary, we notice things we have not seen before. It is like looking at our life through a new lens.

When we live a life of possibility, we can live lives of joy, compassion and connection. It comes down to the lens that we see life through. You can look at the world and see fear of differences, violence lurking in every corner, and a world that you cannot trust. The same world, looked at through a different lens, can be a place where people care for each other. A world where diverse people work and live together in peace. We can have a world of kindness and compassion.

At *Possibilities*, we teach tools that create leaders who change our world and how we view it. We work with individuals and groups and help them to look at what they do through a different lens, while building their leadership skill set. Through *Possibilities*, people experience how life affects each of us in different ways. But at our core, we are all more alike than different.

How can this be helpful in your community? Paying attention to our relationships and how we work together makes all the difference in the world for what we can accomplish together. People that first see each other as strangers, or even enemies, become trusted friends who work together to create innovative transformations in our communities. In fact, *Possibilities* partners impact around 50,000 people each year. We invite you to take a look at what is possible when we see the same world through a different lens.

Possibilities, Inc.

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President's Message

Given our current environment of instant communication, is it any wonder that we are moving toward technology in every area of our lives; work, home and even personal communications? Although I held out as long as I could, the outcome of the battle of text messages versus phone calls from my young adult children was inevitable. However, certain facts haven't changed since the beginning of time. Quite simply, if one wants to make a lasting change, it takes personal involvement. It takes a perspective that allows a change to occur for those who make and live the change. Often, we find the difference between a one-time and a permanent change is the perspective of those who make it.

At some time in all of our lives, we have been faced with an issue that seemed to have no viable solution. We need involvement and support to reach the point of developing a solution. Many times, this process involves examining what has not worked in the past. *Possibilities* staff is able to provide the mentoring and tools to allow our

Community Innovators to step back and view the issues from a different vantage point. Have you ever been suddenly aware of something that has eluded you in the past, but upon discovery seems so blatantly obvious that you wonder why it escaped you? All of us have experienced this. Perhaps we were busy or preoccupied. But, on that given day, we gave ourselves permission to spend the time to really look at the issue. In other words, we saw an everyday scene through a different lens.

Possibilities lives this methodology in everything they do. They support our Community Innovators through the discovery process, the analysis of the issues and solutions, and they are there at the conclusion to celebrate. The most significant differential in this process from other traditional not-for-profit assistance is simple, yet compelling. Our organization supports the solutions determined by those who are living through the issues and caring enough to take personal risk to solve them. No success can be present without the trusting relationship that exists between the Community Innovators and the *Possibilities* staff. People own the processes they make happen themselves, and change is sustained by owners who believe in it.

The process of making “forever” changes requires our long term goals for funding be sustainable. Although the journey begins with our new participants, the continuation of the goals and dreams of ALL Community Innovators must be supported so the changes can continue to benefit those whose lives are affected. The full benefit of viewing change “through the lens of *Possibilities*” cannot be experienced unless the changes implemented today are supported in the future.

For the fourth consecutive year, we have a **Founders Vision Match in honor of Linda Lambert and John Rex** to match December donations. Please join in the continued life cycle of permanent positive changes! We are truly grateful for your support.

Lucy Fritts, President
Possibilities Board of Directors



PROUD TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.

Oklahoma Natural Gas is committed to making a difference in the places we serve. We're proud to partner with Possibilities as they provide Oklahomans with the training and tools they need to transform their communities.

A photograph of a training session with a large sunburst graphic in the background. The text "Innovative Team Solutions with Possibilities" is overlaid on the image.

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Possibilities Innovation Program

People's Network



Possibilities Innovation Program (PIP) teaches tools to create community, help people feel safe, and create unity and a shared vision for transformation. Participants, known as Community Innovators, range in age from teens to senior citizens and represent multiple cultures, economic and education levels. They are leaders who transform communities through projects as diverse as they are. *PIP* is a yearlong, ongoing program that includes training, practice, projects planned and carried out by participants and coaching, mentoring and support during and after the initial program year. The progress 330 program graduates, representing 132 communities, make in their neighborhoods, schools, houses of faith and business districts is impressive.



A few recent impact examples include: regularly connecting a school community with health/wellness resources, year-round mentoring and education programs for youth, including those at-risk for school failure and gangs, beautification efforts, and community events to promote safety.

A big part of *Possibilities Innovation Program* is the regular People's Network dinner gathering. The People's Network is your opportunity to meet our amazing partners, stay in touch with grassroots efforts right here in Oklahoma City, share a meal and discuss what's happening in local communities. Dinner is served at no charge. All that is missing from the People's Network is **you!**



This is a gathering that travels through local communities. Please visit us at possibilitiesinc.org or call (405) 525-3131 to find the next gathering. Join us and explore the possibilities!



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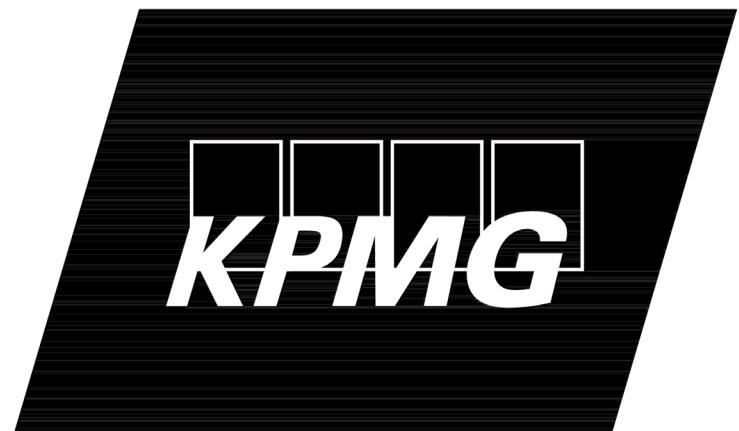
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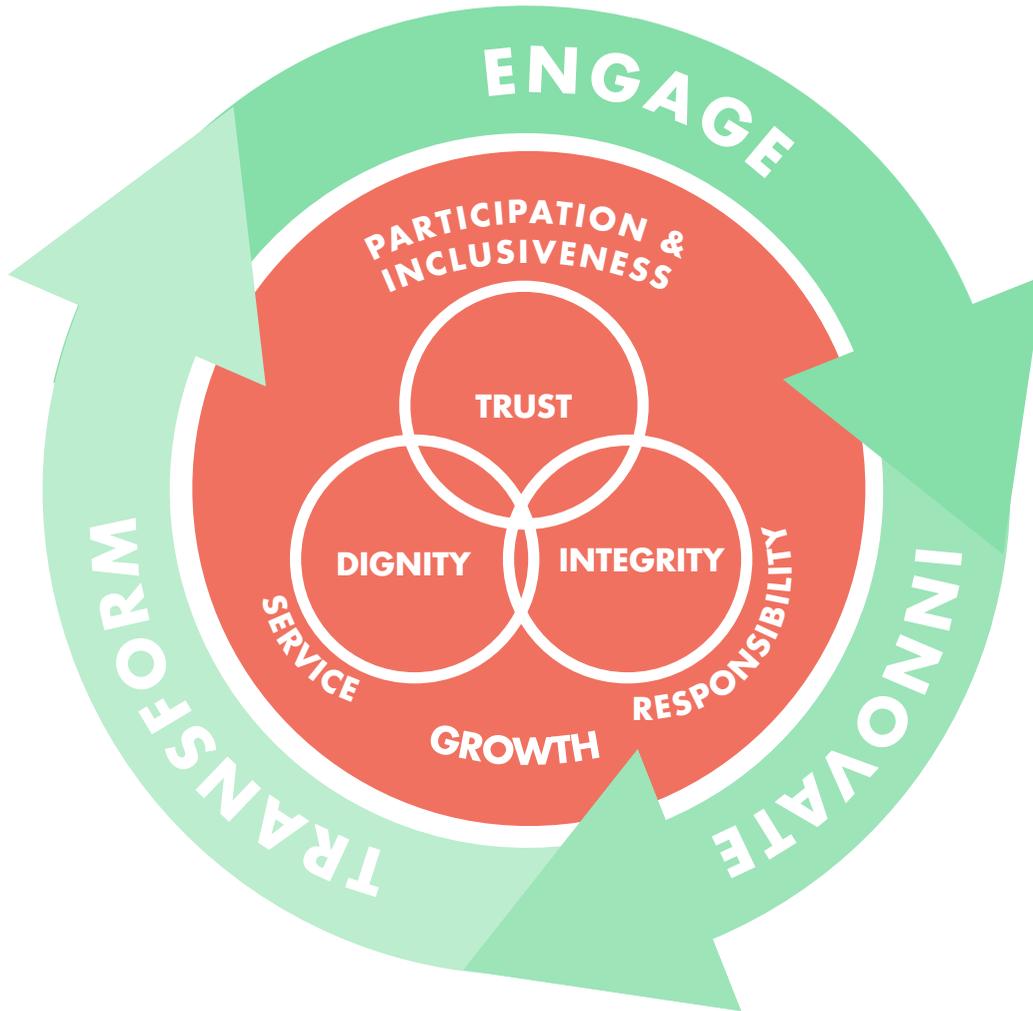
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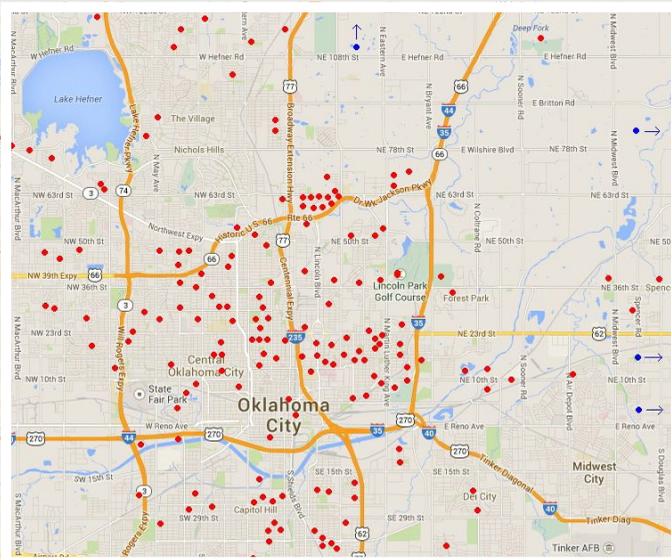


Possibilities Innovation Program Framework

Mission: To strengthen the ability of people to create community change.



Possibilities Innovation Program Graduate Communities



View a full list of graduate communities at possibilitiesinc.org "At A Glance"

Dignity

We believe in the worth of each person.

Participation & Inclusiveness

We believe local people have the solutions to local problems and every person is 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.

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Community Innovator Lens

Christopher Berry Oklahoma City Public Schools



When I first heard about *Possibilities*, I was a bit skeptical and not quite sure that I wanted to be part of it. I decided to go ahead and give it a try. I'm glad that I did. *PIP* really helped me begin to come out of my shell. I learned a number of things about

myself, and about others. I was able to reflect on the similarities between all of us going through the program, even though, on the outside, we seemed so different. I think that out of all the things I gained from *Possibilities*, the most poignant has been to continue to look for the similarities between myself and others, rather than focusing on the differences between people.

Before going through *Possibilities*, I focused mainly on work. Now, I still love my job and work hard, but I am focused more on people; their experiences, their views, their gifts and their needs. I don't think

this shift would have been possible without having gone through the program and working with Byron and Shannon. *Possibilities* has helped me grow tremendously as an individual by getting me out of my comfort zone and to lean into discomfort, in a safe, supportive environment, where others are doing the same thing. This has led me to be more effective and enjoy the work that I do with others more, specifically as it relates to my work with parents and the greater community.

The tools that *Possibilities* teaches are important in that they are relational in nature. They assist in breaking down barriers, perceived or real, and facilitate honest, mutually respectful communication and interaction. They serve to grow relationships. Going through *PIP* has enabled me to have a number of paradigm shifts that will continue to help me in the work that I do, in the relationships I have, and also personally. I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the program and highly recommend it.

Derrick Sier Northeast Oklahoma City



I am a learner. I am curious. I pride myself in gleaning and absorbing from situations that simply pass by most people. So, when I heard of *Possibilities*, I joined their organization to increase my ability to do better, that which I thought I already did well. I wanted to

learn how to communicate, connect and build with the best of those in my profession.

However, over the last year, what I have received has been more than I expected. I have been able to acquire not only what I wanted, but even more so, what I needed. Since being involved with *Possibilities*, my perspective has changed from acquiring to giving, from gleaning to growing, from building myself to building others. I am learning how to live in the moment and see all people as extensions of my community, instead of just another resource. This organization has broadened my horizon, deepened my love for people and opened my eyes to new...*Possibilities*.

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Community Innovator Lens

Kimberly Zachery Rockwood Elementary



When I became a principal at Britton Elementary, I bought a home near the school to be a part of the community. Seeing the children at the grocery store and really getting to know my parents, that's what it's all about. Before *Possibilities*, I had a vision of

what I wanted, but wasn't quite sure why we hadn't gotten there yet. I want my students to give to the community and understand their importance. With *Possibilities*, I discovered there are people just like me who want to make a difference.

Possibilities helped me think outside of the box. I realized I am part of a team, and we can reach our goal together. I share the skills I learned and apply them to my everyday life. *Possibilities* helped me become a better administrator, parent, colleague,

community leader, neighbor and friend. Learning to communicate and really listen to others is so important. Now, I volunteer more and try to really get to know my neighbors. Instead of waiting on someone else, I have initiated activities such as welcome and bereavement committees in my neighborhood.

Oklahoma needs *Possibilities*. So often, we go on with our everyday life just trying to make it, sometimes just trying to exist. With *Possibilities*, you learn that change is good, and to embrace it and look at the bigger picture. *Possibilities* helps you to understand the plight of others, and you learn to trust others again. There is opportunity for collaboration, networking, reaching different heights, team building and motivation. Investing in *Possibilities* is giving support to our community and to our future.

Barbara Davis Douglass Mid-High School



I began a journey with *Possibilities*. I was hesitant at first. I felt that it was another thing that the district chose for principals to do, like we don't have enough to do already. I decided to go, out of curiosity more than anything. I did a lot of soul searching and looking

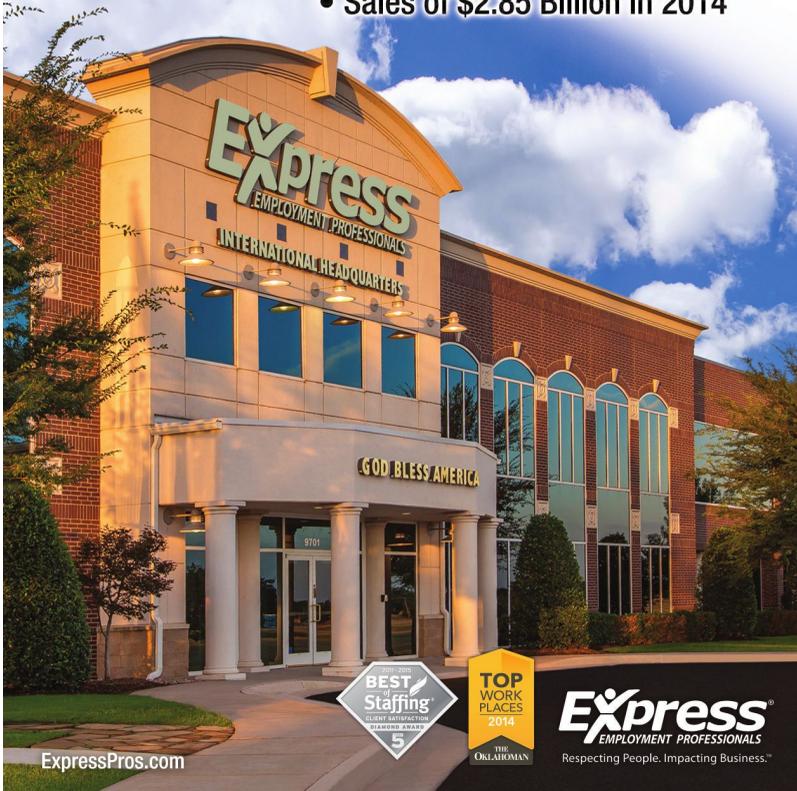
inside and outside the box. It made me realize that I had trust issues of believing and having faith in others. *Possibilities* made me discover some areas that were preventing me from growing as a good leader.

Possibilities helped me to become a visionary. I launched my own crusade to help my school create a better working environment. One that has respect not only for your colleagues, but for the patrons and students that we serve. *Possibilities* gave me the compassion and strength to empower my teachers, staff and students to do their best and accept that failure will never be an option.

I hope *Possibilities* reaches others in our district and allows them discover that we all have the same frustrations, and we don't have to walk through this journey alone.

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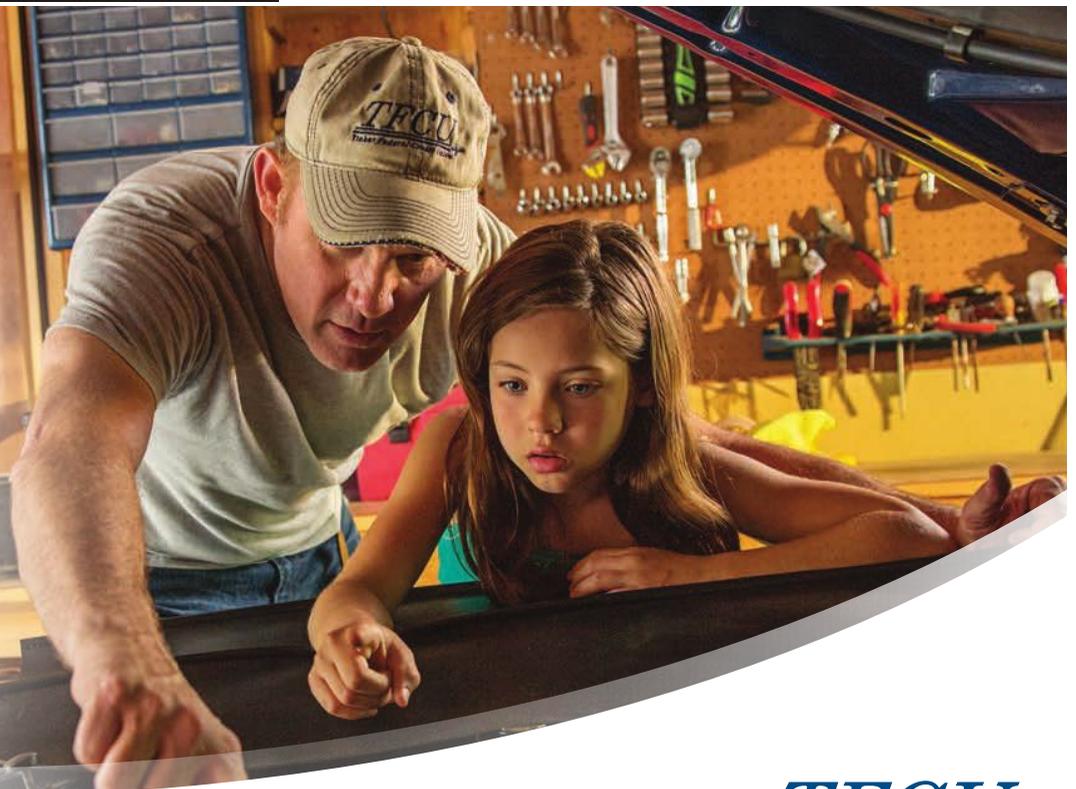
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Community Innovator Lens

Sherman Carthen Wildewood Hills Heights Neighborhood



When I first came to *Possibilities*, it was people from everywhere! People were so friendly, and the staff was so inviting. I was just amazed at how different people could come together in such a way. *Possibilities* has the ability to connect people and have a meaningful connection. Through my

work with the fire department, I have been all over the world. I have never been as impressed by an organization as I have been with *Possibilities*.

When I went through *PIP*, I was so inspired to make changes. And it wasn't them making the changes, they were inspiring US to make those changes. But it's not just helping us to work in the community, it's about pulling something out of each one of us to inspire US. I couldn't wait to do something in my community. I started talking to my neighbors, identifying block captains, and put together a list of all the resources that were available within my community. My neighbors felt great because we were finding out who were the nurses, the doctors, etc. In case of any type of emergency, we now know who to call. We identified our resources within our own neighborhood.

Turnover started occurring in my neighborhood. Established homes turned into rentals with high turnover and crime began to increase. I was coming to *People's Network* on a regular basis and I talked to people that were having the same issues

in their neighborhoods. *Possibilities* showed us the importance of working with people and meeting them where they are. Everyone has a gift. Anytime you can begin to look at people differently, and meet them where they are, change can happen.

I decided to do a survey of all of my neighbors to get to know them. Then I got the youth involved. We would walk the neighborhood, meet each neighbor, give them a small introduction to the neighborhood and ask questions. We asked each person what gifts they bring to the neighborhood. Some said they had no gifts, and I ensured them that we all have a gift to share. It gave our youth an example of what a good neighbor ought to be. Until you can get people involved and working together, change won't happen. So, I went a step further. There are so many changes coming to Northeast Oklahoma City. I felt as though we could get more things accomplished in numbers, so I formed a coalition of neighborhoods, The Ravenwood, Persimmons Hills, Park Estates North, and Wildewood Hills Heights Neighborhood, Inc.

Possibilities is important because this is the only organization I know of that teaches you tools to help you grow personally and professionally. I feel all companies, schools, and organizations should be involved. If you want to grow, understand people on a deeper level, learn how to meet people where they are and get to know what gift each one of us brings to the table to accomplish a certain goal together, *Possibilities* is the place. *Possibilities* is a small organization, but they make great things happen in the community.

Possibilities Board of Directors



Back Row: Jesse Wells, Devon Energy; Ed Cunliff, University of Central Oklahoma; Tena Slaughter, OG+E; Rick Johnson, Vice President, Frankfurt-Short-Bruza Associates; April Shaw, Chesapeake Energy Corporation; Annette Ellis, Oklahoma Natural Gas; Cole Perryman, Secretary, Oklahoma Water Resources Board
Front Row: Mary Trivitt, American Fidelity Assurance Company; Lucy Fritts, President, American Fidelity Assurance Company

Not Pictured: Anna Jacobson, Treasurer, KPMG, LLC

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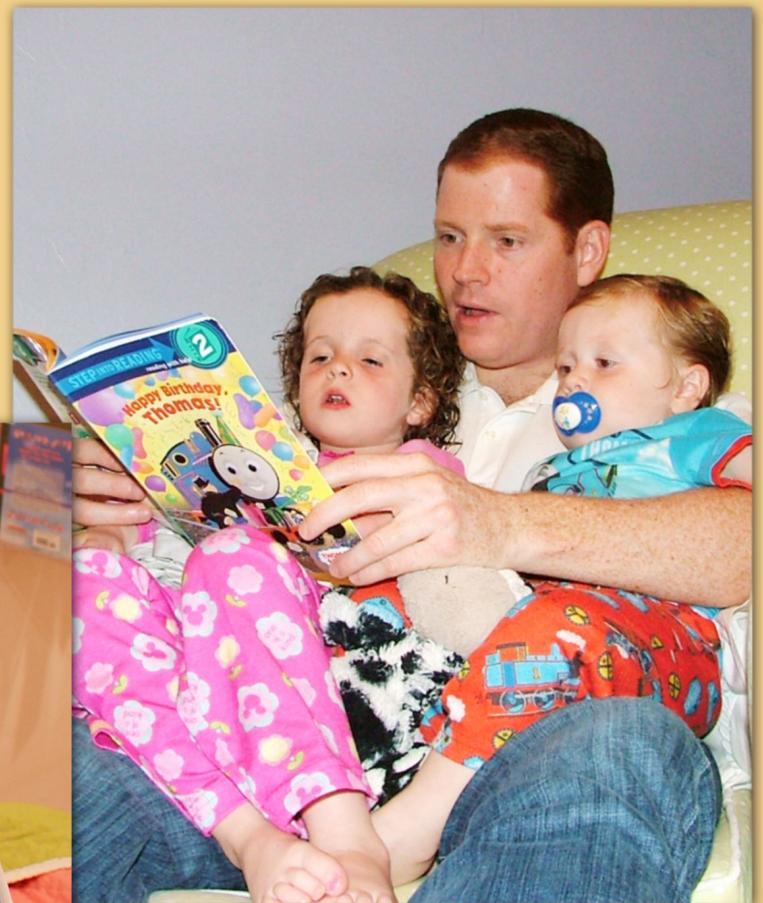
MORE THAN 50 YEARS AGO, Bill Cameron's father and grandfather started American Fidelity with the mission of **HELPING OTHER FAMILIES** face financial hardships. Now, with more than 1.3 million Customers worldwide, that vision **REMAINS THE SAME.**

American Fidelity is **PROUD TO SUPPORT** Possibilities, Inc., in its efforts to improve Oklahoma City communities.



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FOUNDATION salutes *Possibilities, Inc.*, Oklahoma City Educare and Smart Start Central Oklahoma for their work empowering neighborhoods, schools and individuals, creating the next generation of educated, productive citizens in Oklahoma City.

