

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A
**WORLD
CHANGER?**



“Be the change you want to see in the world.”

- Mahatma Gandhi, Indian independence movement leader, 1869 - 1948

World Changers

sounds pretty “pie in the sky,” but OPI students are impacting the world on a daily basis. Whether it’s making the world easier to navigate for children with special needs in Amarillo or researching counterfeit drugs in Indiana or travelling around the world to get a better understanding of other cultures, lives are being changed thanks to the dedication of students and alumni who would not have been able to make that impact without financial support from Opportunity Plan, Inc.

It’s been said that change is the only constant in the world, and OPI students are creating and experiencing that change. OPI has even experienced our own change this year as we re-brand the organization with a new look and new website. Long gone is the typewriter I used to complete applications 30 years ago. Sitting at a desk to complete an application, print it and then deliver or mail it, is also a thing of the past. Scholarship applications are now completed on a hand-held device when students have precious minutes here and there to complete them. OPI must adapt if we want to continue assisting these world changers.



Literature is full of quotes about change. I’ve selected just a few of those quotes to highlight the changes OPI is making and the changes being made as a result of OPI’s work.

Were it not for you, it wouldn’t be possible for our students to have that impact. On behalf of them, thank you for helping to change their world so they can change ours.

To our students’ success,



M. Keith Brown
Executive Director



VOCATION OF

“There is nothing quixotic or romantic in wanting to change the world. It is possible. It is the age-old vocation of all humanity.”

- Gioconda Belli, Nicaraguan poet and author

Some of the most fulfilling awards OPI makes are to well-rounded students whose strong academic record is balanced with extracurricular and an community activities. Elizabeth Innis, a 2015 graduate of Randall High School, is an excellent example of that.

“Despite never having heard of St. Mary’s College before high school, I felt a great desire to do whatever I could to make it there,” Elizabeth said. “My campus visit was in February, not the greatest time to visit Northern Indiana from the Great Plains of Texas, but it felt like a second home, and I felt like women were being made into leaders and being challenged to raise the bar.”

St. Mary’s ranks among the top liberal arts colleges in the United States, and according to its website, is “a pioneer in the education of women...where women develop their talents and prepare to make a difference in the world.”

Sounds like just the place to further develop a well-rounded student into a world changer.

Located in South Bend, Indiana, Elizabeth is enrolled in a one-of-a-kind joint program where she will complete a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from St. Mary’s and then complete an engineering degree from Notre Dame, all in a five-year time frame.

And her academic involvement is just the beginning of her well-rounded experience. In addition to two STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) degree programs, she also participates in both the St. Mary’s and Notre Dame bands, works in the Gender and Women’s Studies department at St. Mary’s and volunteers in the original convent of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Last fall, she joined the Militia of the Immaculata, which, according to Elizabeth, helps “spread the faith through works of volunteer service.”

“I have greatly enjoyed being a part of the group, and find it refreshing because of its diversity and change of pace from my daily STEM activities,” Elizabeth said.

And, her two bachelor’s degrees will not be the end of her education.

“I plan to go on to graduate school to earn my doctorate. My greatest hope is that my life will have been used for the betterment of the lives of others,” she said.

ALL HUMANITY

“I am currently working on a research project testing a device targeted for use in third world countries that can detect counterfeit drugs and save the lives of helpless and innocent people who believed the drugs to be pure. I am greatly honored to be a part of a project that is already making a difference.”

OPI is honored to assist students in changing the world whether they are going to school locally or at world-renowned institutions. With the experience Elizabeth is garnering, the world is no doubt going to be a better place.

Opportunity Plan, Inc. is pleased to recognize the following individuals, families and organizations for their inspirational illustrations of philanthropy. Membership in the President's Circle of Honor is given to those who have provided cumulative gifts of \$25,000 or more to any of OPI's programs. Members who joined or whose giving increased their level during 2016 are indicated in bold type.

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The Sustainers Society was created in 2009 and the Diamond Circle in 2014 to recognize membership contributions. Support has grown by more than 50 percent with the addition.

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Statement of Financial Position July 31, 2015 and 2016

ASSETS	2015	2016
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$8,402,409	\$8,865,419
Prepaid Expenses	23,452	25,437
Accrued Interest Receivable:		
Student Loans	8,896	3,966
Investments	46,159	44,843
Investments	19,009,157	18,724,851
Student Loans Receivable	2,644,419	2,125,605
Property and Equipment, Net	70,653	57,777
Land	7,500	7,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$30,212,645	\$29,855,398
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LIABILITIES		
Payroll Taxes	\$1,115	\$287
Severance Plan Payable	49,790	49,897
Total Liabilities	50,905	50,184
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NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted		
Operating	10,381,875	9,757,284
Board Designated	848,709	852,122
Total Unrestricted	11,230,584	10,609,406
Temporarily Restricted	293,316	273,171
Permanently Restricted	18,637,840	18,922,637
Total Net Assets	30,161,740	29,805,214
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$30,212,645	\$29,855,398
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CHANGE YOUR

“You’re going to change the world? Well, go ahead and try. You’ll give it up at a certain point and change yourself instead.”

– Phillip Johnson, American architect,
1906 - 2005

Encouragement from his future mother-in-law changed his world when, because of his love for reading, she encouraged him to attend law school. The rest, as Bruce Moseley says, “is history”.

“I had a great job in Austin selling large equipment to hospitals; then the company decided to relocate me to Tulsa, Okla., and I didn’t want to go,” Bruce said. “I was at a critical juncture in my life, going from making great money to waiting tables and barely making ends meet.

“Law school was a radical and crazy notion because I knew I couldn’t afford it and wasn’t even sure I was smart enough. That’s when my mother-in-law told me about OPI, so I applied and took the LSAT (law school entrance exam). All of a sudden, I was accepted to St. Mary’s University School of Law in San Antonio, and I can’t think of another event that has sent my life into such a powerfully different trajectory. If not for that scholarship and the opportunities that followed, I could very well be waiting tables and just trying to get by right now.”

Instead of “just trying to get by,” Bruce now uses that law degree (as well as a Non-Profit Management Certification from University of Texas and possible pursuit of a Ph.D. program; “law school made me realize I love learning,” Bruce says) to lead the only non-profit children’s rehabilitation center in the Texas panhandle. The Turn Center offers a variety of services including physical, occupational and speech therapy, counseling for clients and families and most recently, a therapy pool allowing clients movement they cannot achieve outside of water. They also offer nine Special Olympic sports and have never turned down a patient for the inability to pay for services.

Bruce is also an adjunct professor in clinical legal education at Amarillo College and business law at Wayland Baptist University. Prior to his position at the Turn Center, he was the program coordinator for AC’s paralegal program and later served as chair of the Business Department. He was the recipient of AC’s Mead Award, recognizing the most outstanding professor, and served as Faculty Senate President.

“My positions at AC made me realize my true calling—teaching,” Bruce said. “For me, it is all about direct impact, and where I feel I am doing this most at Turn Center is with Special Olympics. I am not a therapist, so I do not get to directly help the children at Turn Center, but I coach several sports and get so much joy from playing with these kids every week and getting to know them and being their friend.”

SELF INSTEAD

Early in their careers, OPI alumni often think the reward comes in the form of salary and advancement. As that career progresses and life happens, they often learn there are other ways to find fulfillment. Bruce Moseley’s experience is the perfect example of how changing the world often begins with changing your own mindset.

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M. Keith Brown*
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XARIS SCHOLARSHIP

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* indicates OPI alumnus

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LITTLE

“We think it is complicated to change the world. Change comes little by little. Nothing worthwhile can happen in one generation.”

- Andrew Young, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations

Elizabeth Willis, a senior music education/music business major at West Texas A&M University and graduate of Pampa High School, recently participated in a six month, multi-country music internship in Africa and Europe thanks to assistance she received from OPI. Her experience will contribute to her future graduate studies in ethnomusicology, where she will study the cultural and social aspects of the people who make music by emphasizing those aspects as well as cognitive, biological, and other dimensions of musical behavior, instead of just focusing on the sound component of music.

“My ultimate goal is to be involved in a higher education institution’s music program,” Elizabeth said. “That will certainly require advanced degrees, so my bachelor’s degrees in music education and music business will give me a good background for pursuing that goal.”



Elizabeth also received the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and named for the former U.S. Congressman who retired in 2002 after a 30-year career in the House of Representatives. Only 1,100 students in the U.S. received the scholarship last year, aimed at providing a better understanding of other cultures, countries, languages and

economies, making them better prepared to assume leadership roles within government and the private sector.

“Study abroad is a special experience for every student who participates,” Congressman Gilman has said. “Living and learning in a vastly different environment of another nation not only exposes our students to alternate views, but also adds an enriching social and cultural experience. It also provides our students with the opportunity to return home with a deeper understanding of their place in the world, encouraging them to be a contributor, rather than a spectator in the international community.”

BY LITTLE

“The experience was phenomenal, and everything I could have dreamed of,” Elizabeth said. “I got to experience the local culture in Ghana, Madrid and Rome and learned not only about their customs but how music impacts their culture.”

Ethnomusicology isn’t a field many OPI students pursue. Having an opportunity to learn that in three countries isn’t possible without assistance from a variety of sources. Thanks to those combined resources, Elizabeth Willis’ opportunities for changing the world are now more possible than ever.



BE THE



CHANGE

