

the TROY Center

An alternative school for the youth of northeast Indiana



7

Students per teacher

Students enrolled with help from funds raised at the Mersey Beatles benefit concert.

43

High school credits earned by scholarship students since August.

41

71

National percentage of high-scoring but low-income 8th graders who do not go to college.

A 20-Year Policy of Persistence



The story of TROY Center is the story of a refusal of the heart. Our motto, "Whatever It Takes," holds that children deserve to have someone in their corner; someone who doesn't give up on them. We have built a place for young men and women who have never experienced that kind of love and are about to abandon hope of ever finding it.

It began almost 20 years ago when a group of us had an idea for an alternative school that could solve a problem in our community. The problem was that no single teaching method was reaching an increasing number of children who were drowning in the education system.

This realization was not ours alone. It is why turnover in youth-serving fields can be high.

It marks the point where many teachers and related professionals become resigned that the children who most need their help cannot be helped.

Something inside us, though, could not accept the idea that rejection was a given. In our heart we knew — we could see it in the eyes of even the most defiant — that each of our students was born with the capacity to succeed and to learn. We began to understand that just because there was no master key to unlock each child's potential, there was a key to each child.

Today, TROY is more convinced than ever that the education system's job — our job — is to keep searching for that key to each child, even and especially when it is the most difficult to find.

Thank you to our individual friends and business sponsors for your continued support of TROY school and for a fantastic turnout to hear the Mersey Beatles benefit concert in July. As a result, we enrolled 43 students and their families this fall, most of whom could not attend TROY without scholarship help. Your generous dollars throughout the year are put to work in these ways:

- \$600** Educate a student for a month
- \$225** Fund a classroom for a day
- \$300** Feed a student lunch for a year
- Transport a student for a semester **\$275**
- Connect a classroom to the Internet **\$200**
- \$200** Send students on a field study
- \$60** Provide school supplies for one student

Thanks To Our Friends



Where Can I Sign Up

900+

The number of students the TROY Center has reached over the last 19 years

"An email arrived from a young man last month who was at a turning point in his life. It said, "I was wondering where I could sign up?"

That is music to our ears. As you know, TROY Center grows and improves because it attracts such students: young men and women who believe their lives might be changed by a "policy of persistent love."

Ours is not a radical new experiment in education. It is the age-old job of teaching and reaching youth. Our promise to you is that it is possible to convince even the most rejected young persons that they can be loved; that they have a place in the world.

For that reason, there are things that won't change at TROY, standards that guide our daily operations:

- TROY students earn an accredited Indiana high school diploma, not an equivalency degree.
- We maintain a 7:1 student-faculty ratio, and that includes counselors and experienced teachers.
- The staff means to change the life of each individual student, not just teach rote academics. That includes "soft" skills that make it possible to work with others, interact with supervisors, hold a job, build a home and family, and contribute to their communities.

We want more of those young men and women who are wondering where they can sign up to begin a new life.

-Nicole Trier, director