



Tree  
Street  
Youth

10 years of  
Grit & Growth



# Celebrating 10 years of Tree

**1,200**

youth served  
over the past decade

**26**

Languages spoken  
in our center

**111**

Staff and interns have  
worked at Tree Street  
over the past decade

**\$857,000**

2021 annual operating  
budget - a 1328% increase  
from our initial budget  
of \$60,000

**\$0.00**

cost to families or  
youth to participate  
in our programming.



**10 years of  
Grit & Growth**

To think it's been ten years since we first toured the big empty dilapidated building on the corner of Howe and Birch streets that would one day be transformed into Tree Street Youth is truly unbelievable. The amount of people and lives that have intersected within the walls of Tree Street feels almost immeasurable after so long. Simultaneously, it feels like time has gone by so fast.

On a recent walk through the center with several youth who had grown up in the program, we were struck by the wall of photos that captured moments from the past decade. The number of kids who now are adults, raising their own children, building their own careers, owning their own homes, and fulfilling their dreams, was extraordinary.

When you are "in the work" each day, you sometimes forget to slow down and reflect on how short life really is and how powerful finding one's purpose can truly be. This ten year anniversary gives us one of those unique fleeting moments to pause.

To know that you can come every day to a space or even reappear after months or years and still be met right where you are, loved exactly for who you are, and encouraged to be whatever you dream was not what we initially set out to do. But it is what was created. We just wanted to hang out with kids and help them with their homework! Little did we know that first day walking through the building that it would truly just be the beginning. To this day, it still remains a privilege.

With utmost gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Kim Sullivan  
Tree Street Youth  
Co-Founder

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Julia Sleeper-Whiting  
Tree Street Youth  
Co-Founder





# 10 Years of Tree

- **501(c)(3) tax-exempt status granted**
- Programming expands across the former childcare facility in the heart of the “Tree Streets” of downtown Lewiston

**2012** <<<<<<<

## 2011

- **Doors open!** First summer camp led by the two founders, 3 college-aged interns, and 8 high school-aged **StreetLeaders**
- First After School program begins, including the **BRANCHES College Access Program**
- Initial operating budget was \$60,000

## 2013

- **First internship program** with both summer and academic year internship cohorts

## 2014

- **“Our roots are planted!”** We purchase the building thanks to a loan from the Genesis Fund

## 2015

- **CEDAR Program launched** (Community Engagement to Develop Abilities and Readiness) created to engage alumni as interns

**2017**

- **SEQUOIA Program** launched in partnership with Dept. of Corrections to reduce juvenile contact with justice system
- Renovation is completed and the **Geiger Center for Leadership & Learning** opens

## 2018

- **Next Step High** begins its pilot year as a collaborative partnership between Tree Street Youth and Lewiston Public Schools and engages 20 high school-aged youth who want to “do high school differently”
- **Phase 2 of construction begins** on the “Little Kids” side and we say goodbye to the original building wing

**2020** <<<<<<<

- Dramatic pivot to **virtual programming and remote learning support** for youth in response COVID-19 pandemic

## 2019 <<<<<<<<

- The **REDWOOD Program** is founded by a group of students and alumni as a space for girls' and young women's empowerment
- Additional \$1M raised; Phase II of building construction completed and **Marge Murphy Center for Exploration and Growth** opens

2021

- **Tree turns 10!** We celebrate, honor, and reflect 10 years of Grit & Growth
- Tree Street **paid off the mortgage on the building** and established a Sustainability Fund



# “The Farmington 4”

Four years after the BRANCHES College Access Program began, the “Farmington 4” became Tree Street Youth’s first four-year college graduates.

The **BRANCHES College Access Program** started the same way as all things at Tree Street: youth at the center expressed a need for it. Many youth were the first in their families to pursue a college degree and wanted support to navigate and overcome the barriers to their goals. After Tree opened its doors in 2011, Kim Sullivan, Tree Street’s co-founder, worked together with high school seniors through the college application process. After countless hours spent editing college essays, filing financial aid applications and applying for scholarships, we knew there was a real need to assist other students. The BRANCHES College Access Program was born!

The first graduating class of BRANCHES seniors in 2012 included four students - Ibrahim, Abdirahman, Dahir, and Abdikadir - who were accepted to the University of Maine at Farmington to pursue their Bachelor’s degrees. It was a big decision: there weren’t many youth in the community who had gone away to live on a college campus and they were the first in their families to do so. After much hard work and dedication, the Farmington 4 graduated and became Tree’s first four-year college graduates, serving as inspiration for many youth in the community to dream big and pursue their goals.

In the past ten years, BRANCHES has grown to provide future exploration programming for all youth across the center, starting with the littlest learners. The program creates a culture of excitement as youth dream about the future, provides opportunities for youth to explore different educational and career pathways, and supports high school seniors to pursue any direction they choose, whether college, trade school or entry into the workforce.

10

Years of Grit and Growth

277

Graduates of the BRANCHES College Access Program

180

College & Career Trips, Events, and Workshops

154

Average number of students receiving academic support in BRANCHES each year

Move-In Day 2012



## Where are they now?

### Ibrahim Achekh

“Right after I graduated from UMF, I returned to Tree Street Youth to work as the Volunteer Coordinator for a year. I then moved to Chicago and worked at a Currency Exchange business before returning to Maine. When I came back to Maine, I started working three jobs. I was working for TD Bank as a Loan Operations Specialist, working as Direct Support Professional (DSP) for JFM, and I also was coaching soccer for Seacoast United Maine. I continued my work as a DSP for a few other agencies and learned more about the field. Recently my co-founder, Djamal Hissein, and I opened a Personal Care Agency named Peace Care Services and now we are in the process of adding Sect. 28 services. I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency and look forward to growing my business.”



### Abdirahman Hussein

“Since graduating from college, I continued my education and obtained two Master’s degrees from the University of Iowa: a Master of Science in Data & Analytics and a Master of Business Administration. I started working with John Deere Financial first as a Credit Specialist in Financial Services and now as a Data Scientist for their Business Intelligence team. My favorite memory at Tree was when I was a StreetLeader: I learned leadership and communication skills, being patient, problem solving, and about being a role model in my community. Current Tree students, utilize Tree Street Youth as a resource to get where you want to go in life!”



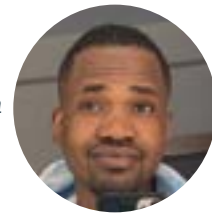
### Dahir Muktar

“After graduating from college I took a job with Walmart as an Assistant Manager. After 2 years, I began working at Nouria Energy, where I became the General Manager. I have since become interested in rental property investment. I currently own two apartment buildings for a total of 7 units. I also recently bought a house with my beautiful wife and college sweetheart, Taylor, and my almost two year old son. Thanks to Tree Street for helping me get where I am today.”



### Abdikadir Hassan

“Tree Street believed in me when others doubted me. They saw a lot in me which meant a lot. I carried that encouragement and let it guide me. I went to college, worked my socks off, and graduated 4 years later. After graduating college, I have worked in the Lewiston Public Schools for 4 years as an Ed Tech III. I’m currently subbing at Park Avenue Elementary School in Auburn and working as a Direct Support Professional. I continue to strive for the best so I can have a better life and keep tackling challenges ahead. I am grateful for my time at Tree Street.”



Graduation Day 2016







Jaleiah



Jayden



Javahn



Jacariya

# One Big Tree Family

Jayden, Jacariya, Javahn, and Jaleiah are four siblings who have attended Tree Street since we opened our doors in 2011. First, they were youth program participants and now proudly, they have taken on leadership positions in the center. The story of these four represent the core of our Tree family.

When **Jayden**, the oldest sibling, was in elementary school, he was known as one of the most helpful youth at the center. He always offered to shovel after big snowstorms and help staff clean up at the end of the day. His desire to help others led to his first job as a StreetLeader when he entered high school. In summer 2021, Jayden then began working as an intern for the summer program. **Jacariya**, the second oldest, had a strong interest in cheering and dance and led several cheerleading classes at Tree and danced for I Am Tree events. Jacariya joined the SquadLeaders program as a middle school volunteer before then getting hired as a StreetLeader when she entered high school. **Javahn**, the middle child, has always loved athletics and was known for spending each afterschool throwing a football back and forth. Entering middle school, he joined the SquadLeaders as a volunteer mentor to youth in our summer program. **Jaleiah**, the youngest, was known for her gymnastics skills, cartwheeling around the playground and running up into a jumping hug to her favorite staff. As soon as she entered sixth grade, she immediately joined the SquadLeaders to serve as a role model for younger kids. It has been an honor to see each of these four grow into the leaders they are today.

## Interview with Brandi, Tree Mom



*"I know the kids were the original children of Tree Street from day one. Tree Street has supported my kids in whatever they have wanted to accomplish in their lives. From school work, extracurricular activities, dancing, to transitioning from a child to an adult, Tree has just supported whatever they need in life."*

*Being such a large family we've had many obstacles thrown in our path in life and I can honestly say I don't know where my children or myself would be without Tree's services. I would tell another family not to think twice and get their children involved. It is so worth it in the long run!"*

- **Brandi Mills**, mother of Jayden, Jacariya, Javahn & Jaleiah and original Tree mom.





# Sequoia's Summit

Climbing Mount Katahdin wasn't exactly on the bucket list of the boys who attended the Sequoia program in 2017. Being some of the most vulnerable young men at Tree, most were too busy figuring out how to survive their day to day lives, make good decisions, and graduate from high school. Camping in tents and climbing mountains didn't cross their minds and choosing to climb Maine's highest mountain for fun...well that was just absurd!

If previous experience with the outdoors had been a prerequisite, we would never have made it out of the parking lot. What this unique group of boys did have was grit, determination, and a willingness to experience something new (albeit with trepidation).

**14 youth climbed that day in August.** Trekking up the Cathedral Trail and across Knife's Edge, these young men had to rise to meet the challenge. For all of us, it was a mental and physical battle. It was not unusual to hear threats to give up and turn around and at certain points, some refused to continue any further. However, with encouragement from staff and more importantly from each other, every person pushed through and made it to the summit at 5,269 feet.

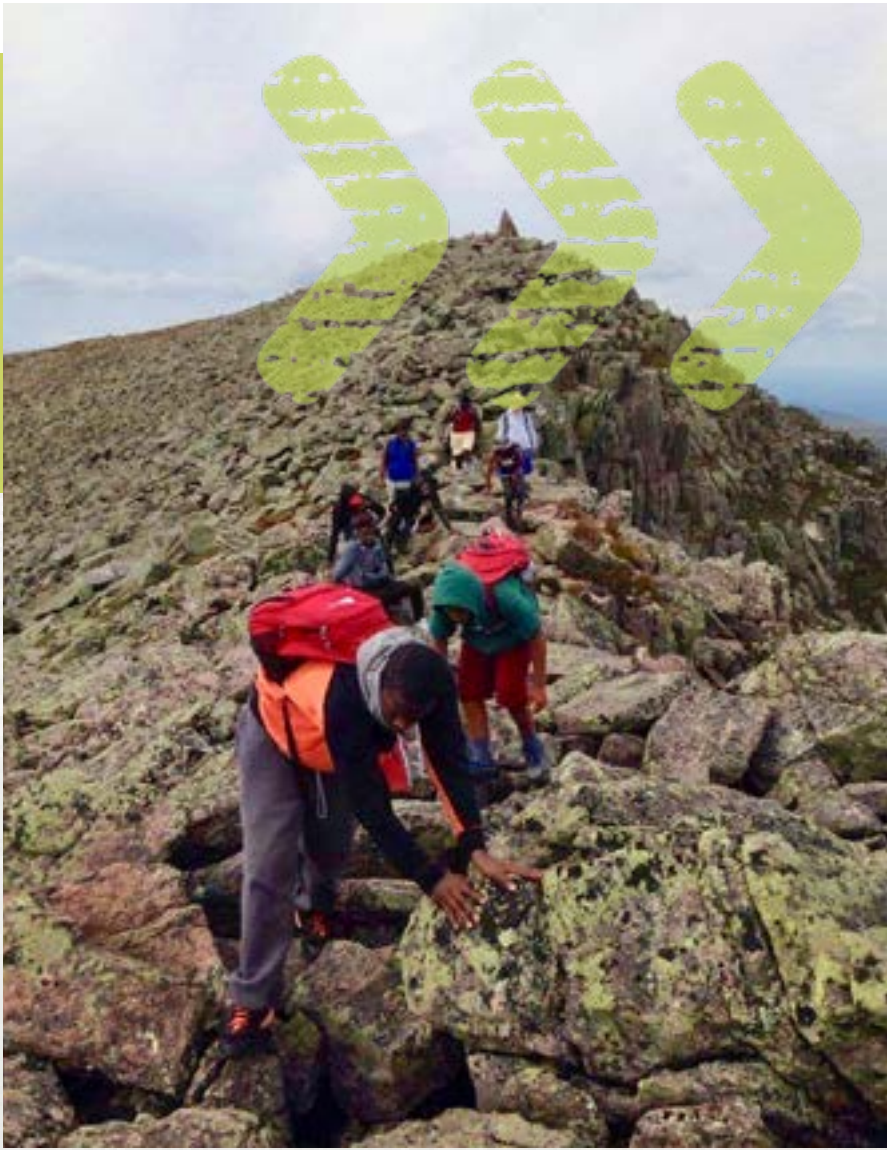
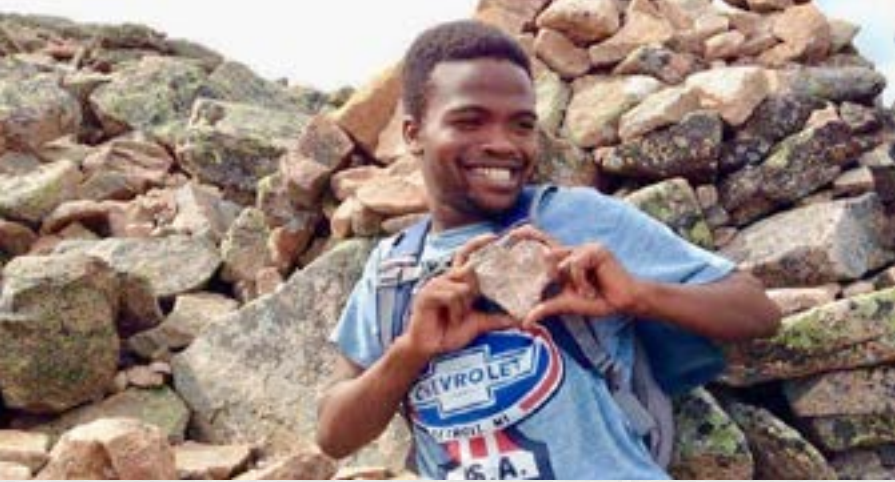
Reaching the top meant so much more than the view. The 12.5 hour climb up the tallest mountain in Maine represented the fight to surpass barriers, overcome hardship, and push through struggles in their own lives with resilience and conviction.

In the language of the Penobscot Native Americans, Katahdin means the "Greatest Mountain." How fitting that this experience was one of the greatest of our lives.



*"Climbing Mount Katahdin was the most connected with nature I have ever felt in my life. No one wanted to leave and we inevitably grew closer to each other. We bonded in ways you cannot do with all the distractions going on around us in today's world. There's something about being able to disconnect from society, it made me feel at one with our planet and centered me on my path on how I viewed our home. Earth. I wanted to learn more. I just wanted to protect it."*

- **Taheim Brimage** Sequoia Program alumnus & Tree Street staff member



**The Sequoia Program** started in collaboration with the Department of Corrections with the goal of reducing juvenile contact with the corrections system and reducing recidivism rates. The program engages the boys and young men of our community through group activities, athletic programming, novel experiences, outings, and 1-1 mentoring.

Our goals are to create an atmosphere of trust, accountability, vulnerability/ openness, camaraderie, and support. This, in return, creates a space of encouragement, kindness, and friendship. We challenge one another to take ownership of the things within our control whether it be decisions, mistakes, behavior, schoolwork, and the choices we all make each day.



## 10 Years of Grit and Growth

<b>2017</b> marked the first year of the Sequoia Program	<b>132</b> youth served in the program	<b>43,000</b> miles traveled in our Sequoia van for outings & novel experiences
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CEDAR Interns 2017 Cohort during the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Geiger Center for Learning & Leadership. Pictured left to right are: Mekole Whitmore, Rakeem Sullivan, Timôteo Carlos, Chris Suazo, and Tyree Antoine

## From a first job to a career.

*"Tree has always been a strong pillar in my life. The first year Tree Street started, I was a StreetLeader with my best friend at the time and it was our first real job. I remember that summer both of us were able to buy our own clothes for school that upcoming year! We don't come from much just humble beginnings. Another moment I will never forget is the I Am Tree event - it was the first thing I hosted in my life and I was honored and happy to be a part of something so much bigger than myself. Tree has given me purpose in a lot of dark times in my life. I got my driver's permit because of Tree and I worked at Community Credit Union because of Tree. I'm bound to Tree for life."*

- **Chris Suazo** TSY Class of 2013, StreetLeader 2011, and CEDAR Intern 2016-2017

10 Years of  
Grit & Growth

21  
CEDAR interns

47  
Summer and  
Academic Year  
Interns

68  
Tree Street Interns  
over the past decade

# Internships at Tree >>>

Interns have come to the Center from all over the United States, abroad, and some from right down the street. No matter where our interns were raised, or went to school, Tree has been their home away from home.

Tree has always been a place for young people to come to gain skills and confidence, while at the same time, offer their experience, passion, and energy to our youth.

Starting with the very first summer program in 2011, interns have been an integral part of our staffing model and influential in developing our ethos. The relationships they cultivate with youth and families helps make Tree Street the warm, accepting, and loving place we envision.

The internships we have offered have varied from leading summer program to providing social-emotional support during the academic year. Most recently we have offered our CEDAR internships, designed for program alumni to refine their soft skills in preparation for entering the workforce.



**Isha Matan**  
CMCC Intern  
2018-2019

Isha is a Tree alumna and worked as a StreetLeader for two summers while in high school. She graduated from high school and the BRANCHES program in 2015 and began working towards her Associate's degree in Human Services from CMCC. As part of her program, she decided to return to Tree to complete her Human Services practicum. She logged over 300 hours interning with Development & Marketing at Tree, doing everything from event planning to donor recognition.

From Isha, "Tree Street has given me the opportunity to be myself and taught me that I can be anything I set my mind to." Isha has since graduated from CMCC and is now pursuing her Bachelor's in Social Behavioral Sciences at the University of Southern Maine.



**Prosper Ishimwe**  
Academic Year Intern  
2014-2015

After recently arriving to Maine, Prosper found out about Tree's internship program and joined the 2014-2015 cohort.

From Prosper, "As a new Mainer who had just arrived from Rwanda, Tree Street literally became and has remained my family away from home." He has since completed his Master's degree and moved to Arizona where he works as a small business support manager with Local First Arizona. Prosper is also the published author of *Neither Tutsi, Nor Hutu: A Rwandan Memoir*.



**Ana Choban**  
Academic Year Intern  
2013-2014

Ana formed part of the first academic year internship cohort in 2013. She joined Tree Street after graduating from the University of Oregon. Reflecting on her time as an intern Ana said, "Tree taught me humility and the joy of getting to know people with entirely different backgrounds than my own."

Ana has since gone on to obtain her Master of Public Health focused in Global Health from Emory University. Ana now works in Public Health communications at the CDC.



**Rakeem Mickey-Sullivan**  
Summer Intern  
2016, 2019

Rakeem first attended Tree Street as a youth in 2012. After graduating from the Wayfinder School, Rakeem worked at Tree as a summer intern for two summers, sharing his many artistic talents with the kids at Tree.

Rakeem said, "Tree has always let me know that I am not alone. Being able to come back as an intern after years as both a student AND StreetLeader! I was able to teach dance classes, which was the thing that brought me to Tree Street. Being able to teach dance brought it all full circle." Rakeem continues to work as a performer and dancer.



# Dreams for 144 Howe St.

Julia and Kim must have driven by the big old white building on the corner of Birch and Howe St. a thousand times, never once noticing it until the early spring of 2011. One day however, Julia saw the freshly posted “For Rent” sign. The old Sandcastle Pre-School facility more often known as the former Polar Paints became “the building” that Julia, Kim, and the kids had always talked and dreamed about, but never believed would actually happen. That day Julia put the contact number from the sign into her phone and saved it as “*Want this.*” And as they say, the rest is history! Tree Street Youth Center was born and its roots planted.

We moved into the building in 2011 and despite its run-down condition, including the vacant warehouse wing, we called it home. As programs and the number of youth we served grew, so did our desire for more functional space. Building systems needed to be upgraded to provide a safe, secure and comfortable atmosphere. Renovating older buildings always involves challenges and surprises but we were up to the task. Now all we needed was the money!

## \$1M

fundraised during the  
Little Kids Rock 2 campaign

## 44%

of gifts came from individuals,  
with **56% of donations** from  
foundations, corporations,  
and public partners

## \$1.5M

fundraised during the  
Campaign for Growth

## 341

Campaign for Growth donors,  
with **70% of gifts** from new donors

In late 2014, we were notified that our grant application for \$400,000 from Next Generation Foundation was approved and we were off and running. A loan from Genesis Community Loan Fund provided bridge financing as we launched our first ever capital fundraising campaign - **The Campaign for Growth**. After raising over \$1.5M, we were able to begin construction in 2017 on our “Big Kids” side. *The Geiger Center for Leadership & Learning* includes a gym, several classrooms, and a large multipurpose space known as the “Chill Room”, all of which transformed our building and enabled us to serve more youth than ever.

Four short years later, we knew it was time to complete our vision: stabilization of the building and dedicated spaces for the “Little Kids” (pre-K to 5th grade). While our team didn’t exactly want to jump back into fundraising mode, we knew the timing was right. Construction costs were rising, and one wing of the building was slowly sinking. We launched **Little Kids Rock 2**, a \$1M capital campaign. Upon successfully raising the necessary funds, we were able to start construction on *the Marge Murphy Center for Exploration and Growth* and complete our “Littles” wing in 2019.

**Our vision became our reality.** Thank you to all who gave their time, talent, and treasure to increase our physical and programmatic capacity.

# Evolution of Our Space



2011



2013



2016



2018



2021



# Doing High School Differently

In 2018, Tree Street partnered with Lewiston Public Schools to design a whole new way of doing high school.

Not many people can put “school designer” on their resume, but that’s exactly how you can describe the members of the Next STEP community. After years of stagnant low high school graduation rates and many students struggling academically, we set out to work with Lewiston High School to answer the question “**how can we do school differently?**”

The result after hundreds of conversations was simple:

1. Students need relevancy - if they are learning it, how does it apply to their day to day lives?
2. Everyone in schools needs to talk and learn openly and honestly about race and social justice issues.
3. Students have unique social emotional needs and want non-traditional responses and support that are present daily.

With those findings, the original design team set out to create the school that was only of dreams. The result? **Next STEP was born and has continued to grow far beyond the initial vision.** From the name of the program to the school’s logo, students continue to design their own education. Through collaborative partnerships with countless community groups, businesses, and companies, students are using their own education experiences to shift the way school works in both Lewiston and beyond. Since it’s 2018-2019 pilot year, **29 students have graduated from the program, earning their Lewiston High School diplomas.** “Walking across the big stage” at graduation was a MUST in the design from day one as it is a day that lives change and a moment Next STEP strives to make possible for all.

## What’s so different about Next STEP?

### Forever Forgiveness

“The way the staff let us be ourselves. In the first half of school, I was not even showing up or doing well, but because the staff motivated me, I started to come. The staff were superheroes and they dealt with a lot. **To the current Next Step students, we walked so you guys can run.**”



**Mohamed Matan** Next STEP Graduate 2020

### Co-Creation

“There are few things as powerful as students opting into an education that is built on collaborative design. The will to work together and challenging the norm translates into student success. This is what the collaboration is building between Tree Street and Lewiston Public Schools...This is the “Next Step!”



**Jake Langlais** Lewiston Public Schools Superintendent



Next STEP Logo. Students designed the school logo as part of an independent project.

*I see a lot of change.*

*Next STEP is more like a superhero.*

*When I think of Next STEP it's more like freedom. It's like you do you, but we're here to support you.*

*When I close my eyes and think about Next STEP: I hear music, I hear more of Lil Baby (he's always in the song when I walk in). I hear a lot of, hey, good morning. I smell breakfast - pineapple parfait.*

*I see the same people every day, eating, working, doing school stuff. I see friends dancing to the songs with their headphones on.*

*I can't speak to the future. I'm not a magician. But I hope everything goes right.*

Poem written by:

**Sharif Jimale**

Next Step Graduate 2021

**2018**

the first pilot year of the program



# STEP

# Next

**29**

Next Step graduates have earned their Lewiston High School diplomas





# The Future CEOs of Tree Street Youth

Samantha and Hawa have grown up with the program. From starting as 5 year old kindergarteners throwing tantrums during summer camp, they have now emerged as the 15 year old StreetLeaders shaping our programs today. **Sam and Hawa have big plans for Tree's future.**

## Interview with Sam & Hawa

**Sam** - "I was just three years old when Julia met me, before Tree Street even existed. Once Tree opened, it became my house. Now, the only thing that's still the same is one hallway, the building has changed so much."

**Hawa** - "Sam and I became friends on Birch Street back in first grade. We would play together because we were neighbors. I would jump over a wooden fence to bring Sam ice cream and Sam would bring me cake. We've been friends for a long time now. We always felt that we ran everything, even as kids, we would tell staff what to do and what we should have at Tree."

**Sam** - "We knew more than everybody else. Julia confided in us and trusted us to be part of a lot of things - programs, events, special trips - which made us feel special and that we were important and part of it."

**Hawa** - "Back in those days, I was hard headed. I felt like the universe was against me. Being here every day and getting to know new people made me put down my walls. When I was a kid, I had tantrums, I would bite, and have escalations. As I got older and gained more trust, I changed. I wanted to start being a role model to other kids. Seeing how I had acted and then being a SquadLeader and StreetLeader let me teach the kids from my perspective of how I used to act in the same way they did."

**Sam** - "I wouldn't be who I am today without Tree Street - I might have been a little crazier. One summer I skipped Tree Street's camp and that was the summer I got in a lot of trouble. The next summer, my family made me come to Tree to participate and that was the first year I was a SquadLeader. It really helped me grow as a person and make some forever friends. I still talk to some summer interns from that time."

**Sam** - "If I were the leader of Tree, I would keep the unity. Outside of Tree everyone looks at you for your money or looks, but at Tree it's not like that."

**Hawa** - "I would keep on telling the stories, the crazy stories and memories that give this place life."

160

StreetLeaders  
high school youth hired  
to work during  
summer program

48

SquadLeaders  
middle school youth  
volunteers during  
summer program



*Hawa and Sam ready to welcome guests to Tree Street's first Open House event in 2012.*

**"We will be the next CEOs of Tree. We helped build this place and this place built us too."**





# Longest-Standing Staff

An organization is only as strong as the people within.

We'd like to recognize all staff members who have been the heart of our organization. Each individual has brought energy, passion and diverse lived experiences to our center, enriching the lives of each other and our youth. Tree Street has served as an important stepping stone for our staff members and interns. They are pursuing careers in clinical social work, public health, restorative justice, art therapy, public and private education, public housing, civil rights, banking, law enforcement, community organizing, entrepreneurship, public policy, fundraising, case management, healthcare, and law.

10 Years of Grit and Growth

44

staff members have worked at Tree over the past decade.

111

total staff and interns have worked at Tree

**Megan Guynes**

2011-2019

#### Role(s) at Tree?

Volunteer Coordinator, Enrichment Coordinator, Program Director

#### What do you do now?

Educator at Waynflete

#### What's a lesson you learned from your time at Tree?

Immerse your authentic self into every life experience - Your voice amplified by every moment you choose to be bold and express your wants, needs, and curiosities.

**Kusow Aden**

2011-2020

#### Role(s) at Tree?

Alumnus, CEDAR intern, MAPLE Program Assistant, and Elementary Program Coordinator

#### What do you do now?

School-Age Counselor

#### What's a lesson you learned from your time at Tree?

Tree Street gave me a purpose in my place of work and it gave me a direction towards the future. It's about making a difference and helping shape the people who will later build the world and make it a better place for us, themselves, and the next generations after them.

**Taheim Brimage**

2011-2021

#### Role(s) at Tree?

Alumnus, Sequoia, Bigs, and Littles Programs Assistant

#### What do you do now?

Starting a full-time role at Tree as the Community & Directors' Assistant.

#### What's a lesson you learned from your time at Tree?

The biggest thing I can say I've learned from Tree is that everyone is worthy, regardless of who you are, where you come from, or what you've done in your past. I've learned to never give up on myself as an individual and to never give up on those in need because we're all one people and every single person deserves the best out of life.

**Nick Steverson**

2012-2017

#### Role(s) at Tree?

BRANCHES Program intern, CEDAR Internship Coordinator, Program Director

#### What do you do now?

Law Student at the University of Colorado

#### What's a lesson you learned from your time at Tree?

To be of real service to someone, you have to meet them where they're at and try to consider their needs and goals from their perspective.

**Alli Nolan**

2014-2017, 2018-2021

#### Role(s) at Tree?

BRANCHES College Access Program Coordinator and Manager, Development & Marketing Associate, Elementary Program Director

#### What do you do now?

Consulting for Tree, Early Childhood Education, Nonprofit Program Management, and working towards my Master of Education.

#### What's a lesson you learned from your time at Tree?

SO many! The greatest has been the meaning of community, purpose, unity, and confidence in who you are and where you come from.

**Spencer Traylor**

2015-2020

#### Role(s) at Tree?

Summer intern, Internships & CEDAR Coordinator, and Next Step High Educator and Design Team member

#### What do you do now?

High School Teacher

#### What's a lesson you learned from your time at Tree?

You don't need to have a lot to make a powerful impact.





# Gratitude >>>

Before 2011, Tree Street Youth was just a dream. Now, a decade later, we reflect on the growth we have experienced as an organization - and the grit it took to get through the challenges - and recognize that it would never have been possible without the contributions of our community of supporters that number in the thousands. Our youth, families, alumni, staff, interns, board members, donors, community partners, advisory council members, and volunteers have given guidance, support, resources, and love that has created a culture and community that extends far beyond the walls of our center in Lewiston.

To all who made this dream possible, we thank you for your support in all of its forms over the past decade. It truly would not be possible without each and every one of you. **Thank you.**

## Board of Directors

The dedicated and talented individuals who have been members of Tree Street's Board of Directors over the past 10 years have guided Tree every step of the way. With commitment to our community and faith in our vision, our board members have shared their expertise and worked alongside staff to ensure that our programs remained aligned with our mission and values.

We are so grateful to each of our board members and their contributions. We also recognize the leadership and commitment of our three board chairs.



**Betty Robinson**  
Board Chair  
2011-2015



**Paula Marcus-Platz**  
Board Chair  
2015-2019



**Faye Luppi**  
Board Chair  
2019 to 2021

# 35

members of Tree Street's  
Board of Directors  
over the past decade

# 10

Years of  
Grit & Growth

# 994

individuals have  
donated to Tree

# 229

businesses and  
organizations have  
made contributions

# 120

Foundations  
have provided grants

# 1,343

total donors  
over the past decade

## To Our Community of Supporters...

Tree Street Youth would never have been possible without the generosity of our donors. Over the past decade, there have been over 1,000+ individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations who have given time, resources, and energy to support our mission and our work.

From the in-kind donations that have been essential to our day-to-day operations to the large capital campaign contributions that allowed us to construct and renovate our facility. From the consistent monthly gifts of our Firewood Funders to the grants from foundations that funded entire programs.

To all who have contributed gifts of any size at any point in our first ten years, you have made all the difference for Tree.

# Thank you.

*"At Tree, I learned the importance of community and that you can make family out of people from all walks of life."*

- **Rakeem Sullivan**, TSY Class of 2015 & Summer Intern 2016, 2019





# mission

Tree Street Youth is a Lewiston-based community of youth and adults who use their diverse lived experiences and collective empowerment to co-create youth-centered programs and partnerships that encourage leadership, learning, exploration & growth.

We are grounded in radical accessibility and relationships rooted in equity and care for each other.

# vision

To cultivate leaders who fear less, love more, and dream big, boldly shaping the future and creating communities united across lines of difference.



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