

## 10 Updates from Tree Street Youth! 10 Fun Things Happening This Fall

2 messages

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 In honor of Tree Street's  
**10 Year Anniversary**  
we present...

**10** program updates

In recognition of Tree Street's 10 Year Anniversary, we will share highlights and updates **in the theme of 10.**

This week's update shares 10 program updates this fall! We hope you enjoy learning more about what we've been up to during the start of this academic year.



# 10 program updates

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## Next STEP Expansion

This fall, Next STEP expanded their high school program to now begin serving middle school students. Next STEP now has the largest number of youth attending in the history of the program. There are **50 students** enrolled in the high school and **10 students** in the middle school program.



Next STEP is a school program created in partnership with Lewiston Public Schools and sets out to **do school differently**. Upon graduating from the program, students earn their Lewiston High School diploma.

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## Pre-K Program Pilot

This fall, Tree Street started a pilot Pre-K afterschool program!

From 1-3PM, 4-year-old children are part of Tree Street's Pre-K classroom where they **explore art, culture, cooking, STEM, music, dance, nature, dramatic play, and social-emotional learning**.

From 3-5:30PM, children extend into Tree Street's WILLOW Elementary Afterschool Program to have mixed-age interaction and enrichment with children ages 4-11. Youth have a daily snack and weekly field trips. As always, **this program is offered at no cost to families**.



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### Welcome Dunkins!



We are excited to welcome our new **Sequoia Program Manager**, Dunkins Pierre. Dunkins is originally from Brooklyn, NYC and has been living in Maine for the past 15 years. "I came to Tree Street because I love to be a part of an organization that is actively engaging its community."

In his first week running Sequoia, Dunkins has been getting to know the boys and getting the group together to discuss the types of things they want out of the program. The first thing? Playing musical chairs together. We are thrilled to welcome Dunkins to our team!

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### Street & Squad Leaders Start Mentoring!

With the new school year underway, Tree Street Youth's **StreetLeader and SquadLeader Program** has kicked off their **2021-2022 cohort**.

The StreetLeader Program offers high school students an opportunity to work as mentors with elementary-aged youth, earning a stipend in the process. SquadLeaders are our middle school-aged volunteers who learn what it takes to become a StreetLeader! Currently there are **10 StreetLeaders** and **4 SquadLeaders** in the program.



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### Armory Basketball



This fall, Tree Street is excited to **collaborate with the Lewiston Rec** to offer open gym basketball at the Lewiston Armory for our youth!

Starting this October, we are starting by **offering weekly open gym space for Tree Street students** to access with support from Tree staff. The goal is to build capacity to have some community-wide tournaments in the spring.

So far our young men and women have really enjoyed their weekly trips to the Armory and we are looking forward to seeing this initiative continue to grow!

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### WILLOW's in Full Swing

Tree Street's WILLOW (Wonderful Inspired Little Leaders Of the World) Elementary Afterschool Program is in full swing! This fall, the Littles team has been offering many types of enrichment activities for the **53 students** who attend the program.

From daily art-making, dancing, and building to special events like "Movie Night" or a walking field trip to the park, there has been a lot happening on the Littles side.

New this year is offering a **"walking school bus"** led by staff members for families who need support with transportation to and from Tree.



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## REDWOOD Has Been Busy!



The REDWOOD girls have been busy this fall **trying new activities, enjoying old favorites, and spending lots of time together.** This year there are two REDWOOD groups - one for the high school girls and another for the middle school girls.

Every day the REDWOOD Program offers different activities and trips, including: dance choreography (pictured), pumpkin carving, painting, cookie making, team-building, scavenger hunts, and trips to the apple orchard and the movies.

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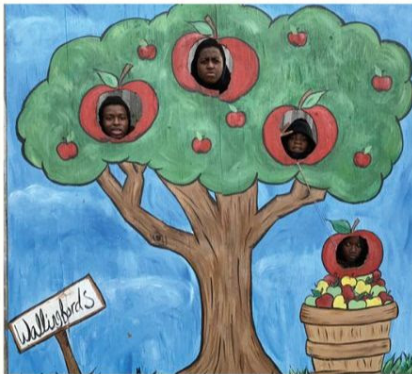
## BRANCHES Job Fair

The BRANCHES (Becoming Responsible Adults 'N Cultivating Higher Education Success) Program has been supporting Tree students with academics, providing homework help, assisting seniors with college applications, and **bringing students to a job fair!**

In October, the BRANCHES team brought a group of interested students to a job fair at a local grocery store, where students were able to interview for open positions. Any career and educational path youth are interested in, BRANCHES is there to guide youth through the steps to achieve their goals.



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## Tree Heads to the Apple Orchard!



There's no better way to take advantage of the fall time in Maine than to head to the apple orchard! Both the REDWOOD and SEQUOIA Programs loaded up the Tree Street vans to spend an afternoon enjoying apple picking, seeing the farm animals, and of course trying apple cider donuts.

One of our Tree philosophies is **engaging in novel experiences.** Through each of our programs, youth have the opportunity to visit new places and try new things as a way to inspire growth and discovery.

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## Early Release Wednesdays

Wednesdays are a special day at Tree. Lewiston Public Schools has a once monthly Early Release Wednesday while Next STEP has them weekly. Tree Street opens early on those days in order to serve youth right when they get out of school.

In addition to providing extra academic time, open gym, and workshops, Tree Street has started a **partnership with the YWCA** to offer Next STEP students an opportunity to swim in the pool! "Pool Party" as it's been affectionately referred to, has been a highlight for staff and students alike.





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**Learn about all the ways we've celebrated our 10 year anniversary so far**, including our 10 year video, our impact report, and a recap of our two events this summer.



[Tree's 10 Year Anniversary](#)



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If you'd like to support our mission and our programs, consider checking out [our Giving Grove](#).

Thank you for thinking of Tree!

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