

2021 ODF Grant Funds Assist Yale Avenue Christian Church With Needed Technology Equipment Upgrades

Yale Avenue Christian Church (YACC), Tulsa, was the recipient of 2021 ODF Grant Funds. The grant allowed the church to purchase necessary equipment to enhance their worship service experience within the church as well as their online presence.

“On behalf of Yale Avenue Christian Church,” said Rev. Sei Touhang. “We would like to say thank you for the grant we received. It was much needed.”

YACC has a diverse community within their church and they have applied different worship and music styles for

many years. The church has had one set of audio/visual equipment to use for services in the sanctuary and worship in the Family Life Center. In the past, they moved the audio/video equipment back and forth between the two spaces as needed for events, which was very cumbersome and time consuming. The grant allowed for purchase of extra equipment including a Mac Mini, iPad and Audio Mixer so they could have proper technology equipment in each space.

In their grant application, Yale Avenue wrote, “The future of online worship is still a story to be written, but we know that we will be there helping to write the story. Surely there will be additions to technology that churches will seek out to enhance the online experience; however, this project should sustain itself for the foreseeable future.”

In their final grant funds report, Yale Avenue stated, “Our audio/visual people were the invisible heroes of the pandemic. This project and the new equipment has not only made life easier, it has allowed them to be even more creative with the service. We have also maintained a consistent online audience with the live service broadcast.”

Check out Yale Avenue’s Facebook post (<https://bit.ly/3mLMnq7>) of the first day of 2021 Vacation Bible School held in the Family Life Center last month while evening worship was being conducted in the sanctuary. New technology is worth dancing about!



New digital mixer at Yale Avenue Christian Church. New MAC equipment.

Family Establishing “Savanah's Legacy Fund” at ODF In Memory of Savanah (Sam) Stanley to Benefit Youth Summer Campers

Do you remember or have you seen the 1982 movie entitled Savannah Smiles? It’s a “feel good” movie one remembers, makes you smile and tugs at your heart.

This issue’s newsletter shares a different story about Savanah and her smile. One you will remember, make you smile and tug at your heart. It’s the story of Savanah Michelle Stanley (Sam) and her legacy. It’s a story of family, faith, friends and a passion for church camp. It’s also a story about goodness, gifts and hope for the future.

Savanah was a member of the First Christian Church, Sulphur. She spent many summers as a camper and counselor at Texoma Christian Camp. Church camp helped deepen her faith and the friendships she cultivated there shaped her life. Unfortunately, Savanah’s life was cut short when she suddenly passed away in November 2020 at the age of 28.

Her family and friends were devastated. In the months following her passing, her family considered ways to honor her life and her giving heart for

which she was known for and loved by all who knew her. Savanah’s family ultimately decided to honor her legacy by establishing a permanent scholarship fund at the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation (ODF) that would allow churches to apply for grant funds through ODF’s Grant Program. The funds would be dedicated to assist with tuition for youth who may want to attend a Christian church camp, but would otherwise be unable to afford it.

On September 4, 2021, what would have been Savanah’s 29th birthday, the family is publicly announcing the establishment of “Savanah’s Legacy Fund” in honor and memory of Savanah (Sam), her smile and her giving heart. The family has created a dedicated website (<https://www.savanahslegacyfund.org>, going live on September 4, 2021) and an Instagram account in which to promote gifts to this fund as taxable donations to charity as well as share stories of Savanah, information about the fund and the camper/churches helped by this fund.



(L to R) Taylor (Johnston) Procascy, Rev. Colton Lott, Savanah Stanley and Megan Doner at FCC Sulphur before Colton left for Divinity School.

ODF has also created a “Savanah’s Legacy Fund” donation page and will be sharing stories of the grants provided by this fund and the individuals they touched.

“Her favorite activity as a child and a young adult was attending the Texoma Christian Camp with her home church in Sulphur,” wrote her aunt Amber England. “She attended as a camper and as a counselor for many years. Our family would love to continue that legacy by gifting scholarships to children in need of tuition assistance.”

Savanah graduated from Sulphur

(continued on other side)

ODF Celebrates \$ 31 MM in Assets

In the fourth quarter of 2017, ODF celebrated a milestone marking \$20 million in assets. Despite the volatility in the stock market, swings in the economy and COVID, the Foundation celebrated another milestone at the first in-person Board meeting since March of 2019.

The Foundation reached \$31 million in assets during the second quarter of 2021!

The board and staff thanked Bank of Oklahoma advisors for their diligence and oversight of ODF funds. The occasion was celebrated with cake (Below L to R: Board Chair Frank Gresh and Executive Director Eric Gray).



Savanah's Legacy Fund (continued from front page)

High School in 2011 and attended the Ardmore Higher Education Center and Seminole State College before spending most of her young life working in the service industry. Prior to her passing, she had decided she wanted to have a career in social work to keep children safe from dangerous situations. Children were her passion. She loved kids and was very protective of them.

"She loved being with children, and children loved her," said Rev. Colton Lott, El Reno, in Savanah's (Sam's) eulogy. "She would stand up for the underdog each and every day."

"I met Savanah at camp. She was my best friend," he said. "She was wonderful, easy-going, non-judgmental, accepting, childlike and sometimes a bit mischievous."

"Savanah had such a heart for seeing people who might be feeling ill at ease in a group or in need of a listening ear," said Kathy Standridge, Youth Director at First Christian Church, Sulphur. "She was active at camp through her years in school and came back a few times as a counselor in training helping with younger kids."

Savanah's obit stated, "Savanah's legacy will be how she made those



FCC Sulphur Youth Group. (L to R) Taylor Johnston, Ethan Burroughs, Cole Harrison, Hattie Standridge and Savanah Stanley.

she loved and those that loved her feel – always welcoming and kind, friend for life, forever loved and never judged."

Click <https://okdfd.org/donate-now-savanah/> to make a gift to Savanah's Legacy on ODF's website.

OKLAHOMA DISCIPLES FOUNDATION
 301 NW 36th Street
 Oklahoma City, OK 73118
 www.okdfd.org 405.525.6530

The Foundation newsletter is published quarterly. Email Julie Bowers (jabowers@okdfd.org) to opt out or advise of any errors, changes, or to update your email and contact information. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this publication.

ODF STAFF
 Eric S. Gray, Executive Director
 Rev. Kyle V. Maxwell, Minister of Faith & Giving
 Dr. Vicki Rose, Director of Operations
 Julie Bowers, Development Associate
 Holly Day, Administrative Assistant



Oklahoma Disciples
FOUNDATION, INC.
 301 NW 36th Street
 Oklahoma City, OK 73118
 Phone: 405.525.6530
www.okdfd.org

Mail this form and check to the Foundation at the address listed above. Or, gifts may be made via PayPal or credit card online at our website listed above.

THANK YOU!

I am interested in establishing a permanent endowment to benefit a heartfelt cause or church mission.

I am interested in receiving information on making a bequest to the Foundation.

*Gifts to Oklahoma Disciples Foundation are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Gifts may be made to a specific Endowment Fund or to Disciple Club. A list of funds is available on the Foundation website at www.okdfd.org. We are grateful for your gifts, support and prayers.

***//We Wish to Make a Tax-deductible Gift to:
 Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, Inc.***

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Yes! Please sign me up for email news updates.

My gift is given in (honor/memory) of:
 circle one

Name: _____

YES! I would like to make a gift to ODF in the amount of:

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

Please invest my gift in:

Disciple Club supporting ODF Operations.

Named Endowment Fund as listed below:

 (Please list fund name)

Yes, I have included ODF in my estate planning. Please call me to discuss my wishes.