

# Profiles in Leadership

## Danielle's Story

*Finds a voice while pushing for cultural recognition, safe schools.*



Danielle has been a powerful activist for youth in Wichita during her high school career. The recent South High graduate has been at the center of numerous youth-led school reform initiatives including modifying USD 259's zero-tolerance policy and working closely with the school district to institute positive alternatives to suspension and expulsion. Because of Danielle's work, during the 2003-2004 school year, expulsions were cut in half (47% decrease) from the previous year's total. She received front page coverage after she led a Students United effort to get her school to celebrate black history month. She was also

recently selected from among thousands of leaders of local community organizations to chair a coordinated national campaign to fight out nation's inadequate school funding situation. Danielle leaves a legacy of passionate youth civic engagement, as well as safer, better funded, and more effective schools.

She first became involved in Hope Street later than most. As a Sophomore she was already a good student, but she credits her involvement in Hope Street for teaching her about leadership and giving her confidence that made her stand out from the pack. She says, "I always thought I could never change anything. I used to complain and complain. Since I joined Hope Street, I can create change on my own. I don't have to wait for an adult to help me."



### From the Director

The greatest testament to the power of Hope Street Youth Development is in the lives of young people that are changed everyday.

This series contains a mixture of current students and graduates of Hope Street.

We provide these stories because we know that the work of youth development is not abstract philosophy but instead personal, intensive work with real people. These are their stories.

We measure our success by the differences that we make in the lives of individual students, because its the only true measure of leadership development.

I hope these stories will help you believe in the work of Hope Street as much I do, and that you consider joining us as we make a difference by changing lives.

Aaron Fowler  
Executive Director



**The mission of Hope Street Youth Development is to provide opportunities for youth to build power and reach their full potential so they may think for themselves, speak for themselves, and act for their community**

**For more information how Hope Street Youth Development is making a difference and changing lives, visit other Profiles in Leadership at [www.hopestreet.com/profiles/](http://www.hopestreet.com/profiles/)**

**If you want to get involved or help support our work please visit [www.hopestreet.com/involved/](http://www.hopestreet.com/involved/) or call (316) 263-7325**