

OUR HISTORY

A TIMELINE OF FAITH IN ACTION



1991 FOUNDATION OF INFLUENCE

REV. DR. HENRY M. WILLIAMSON, SR. BECOMES NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF OPERATION PUSH. THE CANTER TEMPLE-BUGLES PARTNERSHIP BEGINS, AND THE ART BRIDGE INITIATIVE PROGRAM IS DEVELOPED — LAYING EARLY GROUNDWORK FOR STRUCTURED CHURCH-SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT.



1993 RAPID GROWTH

OCOS EXPANDS TO 26 CITIES ACROSS TEN STATES, DEMONSTRATING THE SCALABILITY OF THE PARTNERSHIP MODEL.



1995 FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

OCOS CONVENES ITS FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND BEGINS A WEEKLY TELEVISION BROADCAST TO EXPAND NATIONAL VISIBILITY.



1997-1999 INTELLECTUAL & SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

NATIONAL CONFERENCES FEATURE LEADING SCHOLARS AND THOUGHT LEADERS. OCOS PROMOTES THE THEME: AWAKENING THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF EDUCATION.



2002 NATIONAL PLATFORM EXPANSION

REV. DR. HENRY M. WILLIAMSON, SR. ELECTED SMO BISHOP OF THE ONE CHURCH. OCOS EXPANDS ONTO A BROADER NATIONAL PLATFORM.



1992 NATIONAL INCORPORATION

NATIONAL ONE CHURCH ONE SCHOOL PROGRAM INCORPORATED. LAY COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL BOARDS JOIN OCOS STRIVE, SIGNALING INSTITUTIONAL CREDIBILITY AND EXPANSION. WORKING ALONGSIDE REV. DR. HENRY M. WILLIAMSON, SR., PHEDONIA JOHNSON, AN ACCOMPLISHED EDUCATOR AND FORMER CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRINCIPAL, HELPED LEAD THE MOVEMENT'S EARLY FAITH-DRIVEN, BUT ACADEMICALLY GROUNDED, EFFECTIVELY BRIDGING CHURCH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION WITH STRUCTURE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND VISION.



1994 VISION AFFIRMED & DREAM KEEPERS LAUNCHED

THE CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ADOPTS OCOS AS A NATIONAL CAUSAL. OCOS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES ITS NATIONAL CAAMPACA. THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DREAM KEEPERS WORKSHOP IS ESTABLISHED, CENTERING YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY INSPIRED BY MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



1996 NATIONAL RECOGNITION

OCOS RECEIVES NATIONAL ATTENTION IN EBONY MAGAZINE.



2000 FREEDOM SCHOOL & STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

OCOS SPONSORS ITS FIRST FREEDOM SCHOOL IN CHICAGO. STUDENT EMPOWERMENT, MENTORING, TUTORING, SCHOLARSHIP, AND ATTENDANCE BECOME CORE PROGRAM PILLARS.



2008-2012 NATIONAL CONFERENCE MOVEMENT

NATIONAL CONFERENCES CONVENED IN DALLAS, MEMPHIS, JACKSON (MS), BIRMINGHAM (AL), AND CHICAGO. OCOS RECEIVES THE "FOODIES FOR TOMORROW" AWARD FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.



2015-2024 CONTINUING THE WORK

ONE CHURCH ONE SCHOOL SUSTAINED AND STRENGTHENED ITS MISSION THROUGH A DECADE MARKED BY TRANSITION AND SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES. CHURCH-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS REMAINED ACTIVE AND ENGAGED. SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS CONTINUED TO RECOGNIZE STUDENT EXCELLENCE. MENTORING, TUTORING, AND ATTENDANCE INITIATIVES ADAPTED TO SHIFTING EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS TO ENSURE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WERE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED. DURING THIS PERIOD, OCOS MAINTAINED AND SUPPORTED OVER 200 PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS 50 CITIES IN 15 STATES, DEMONSTRATING BOTH THE DURABILITY AND NATIONAL REACH OF THE MOVEMENT. THE COMMITMENT TO SERVING CHILDREN, STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS, AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES DID NOT WAVER. THE WORK CONTINUED — STEADY, FAITHFUL, AND IMPACTFUL.



2024 HONORING THE FOUNDER

IN 2024, HENRY M. WILLIAMSON SR., FOUNDER OF ONE CHURCH ONE SCHOOL, TRANSITIONED FROM LABOR TO REST. A VISIONARY BISHOP AND COMMUNITY LEADER, HE ESTABLISHED OCOS ON THE CONVICTION THAT FAITH MUST ACTIVELY ENGAGE PUBLIC EDUCATION. HIS LEGACY CONTINUES THROUGH GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS, CHURCHES, AND SCHOOLS IMPACTED BY THE MOVEMENT HE LAUNCHED.



SEPTEMBER 2025 NEW LEADERSHIP, ENDURING VISION

ONE CHURCH ONE SCHOOL ELECTED A NEW NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM AND PRESIDENT, REV. LEON J. PARKER, II, A FORMER OCOS STUDENT FROM THE FIRST PARTNERSHIP AT MARTHA BUGLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. HIS ELECTION REPRESENTS THE LIVING TESTIMONY OF THE PROGRAM'S IMPACT. FROM STUDENT PARTICIPANT TO NATIONAL PRESIDENT, THIS MOMENT REFLECTS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE FOUNDING VISION: WHEN CHURCHES INVEST IN CHILDREN, COMMUNITIES ARE TRANSFORMED FOR GENERATIONS. OCOS NOW ENTERS A BURNING SEASON OF STRATEGIC GROWTH, PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENING, SCHOLARSHIP EXPANSION, AND MEASURABLE NATIONAL IMPACT.