

139 Jefferson Street
Annapolis, MD 21403
Fall 2011



Dear Community Partners and Friends:

In 2012, Creating Communities will celebrate its 5th anniversary! Through a turbulent economic period, we have managed to not just survive, but thrive by keeping our expenses low, building core volunteer teams, and providing the most innovative arts programs in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County for our most vulnerable residents.

For example, we have recently begun a groundbreaking partnership with the YWCA to provide an arts and music program for youth who have been victims of domestic and sexual abuse. In an age when arts funding is too frequently seen as unnecessary, we are defying the odds by providing a safe haven and opportunity for dozens of children to excel.

How do we do it? We leverage our existing partnerships with larger organizations such as Maryland Hall and Light House Shelter so that all benefit. Additionally, we build our curriculum on evidence-based practices so that our programs are not just uplifting, but also contribute in a deep and sustaining way to the development of our clients.

On a personal note, when I started Creating Communities five years ago, I never imagined the journey it would take me on. I am honored that in 2011, I received the Martin Luther King Peacemaker Award for Anne Arundel County, as well as finishing in the Top 5 nationally for the Energizer “Keep Going” Hall of Fame. I dedicate these honors to our Board of Directors, community partners, and economically disadvantaged youth and homeless adults. We are all on this incredible journey together.

In 2012, the journey will be one of growth for Creating Communities. The Board of Directors and I are dedicated to expanding our programs to reach more vulnerable community members through quality arts programming. As always, there will be no cost to our clients. Would you please consider making a generous tax-deductible donation to Creating Communities during the holiday season to help us widen the path to allow more disadvantaged neighbors to join us on our journey?

Thank you for your support through the years. And thank you in advance for considering a gift this year; we need it now more than ever.

Yours,



Rob Levit
Founding Director, Creating Communities



CREATING COMMUNITIES BY THE NUMBERS:

- 100 talented yet economically disadvantaged youth attended the 2011 Summer Arts Mentorship Academy at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts on full-scholarships
- 125 youth, parents and guardians were served Thanksgiving Dinner, followed by arts and crafts activities made with love for low-income seniors
- 82% of parents told us that without a full scholarship, it would be very difficult for their child to attend the Summer Arts Mentorship Academy
- 93% of parents believe that the lessons learned through the artistic and creative activities of the Summer Arts Mentorship Academy benefit their child academically



WHAT OUR PARENTS AND CLIENTS SAY:

He came home that Monday with paint on his shirt and told me that someone told him that he was a great artist. And to see him on that stage made me cry because this wasn't the timid little boy that I knew.

—STEPHON, Mother of two Arts Mentorship Academy students

I want to write more poetry. It is helping me express my emotions. I learned to express my dreams through poetry.

—ASHLEY C, Sarah's House

They were eager to participate in the African drumming and the mirrors they made are absolutely beautiful. If the academy had not been 100% scholarship there is no way I would have been able to send them to such a camp. Thank you for planting a seed that they can nurture and take with them for the rest of their lives.

—MICHELLE, Mother of two Arts Mentorship Academy students