

Using the Arts to Enhance the Lives of Children and Young Adults Suffering from Chronic and Life-Threatening Illnesses

ARTWORKS BENEFIT RAISES OVER \$125,000!



On Thursday, November 5, 2009 ArtWorks presented its third fundraising auction, titled **Art Rocks**, at Hudson Terrace in NYC. The music-inspired event featured a live and silent auction with items including tickets to the **Grammy's** complete with airfare and 3 night stay at the **Thompson Beverly Hills** hotel, an electric guitar signed by **Chrissie Hynde** of **The Pretenders**, and an acoustic guitar signed by **James Blunt**. The evening featured artwork by ArtWorks' inspiring children who suffer from

chronic and life-threatening illnesses. Board members Adam Hirsch, David Kaufthal and Mo Koyfman chaired the event where guests enjoyed a live auction with **Christie's** auctioneer,



Guests bid on items in the live auction

Charles Antin; hors d'oeuvres and dessert by celebrity chef, **Alexandra Guarnaschelli** of Butter Restaurant and IOAK; delicious wine donated by **City Winery**; and tunes by **DJ E-Love**.

Children's artwork and personal narratives adorned the walls and many pieces were included in the silent auction.

Sponsors included The Diller-Von Furstenberg Family Foundation, The Russell Berrie Foundation, News Corporation, Iconix Brand Group, Theory and BlackRock.



(left to right) Elaine Hirsch, Richard Hirsch, Adam Hirsch

124 CHILDREN IN EXPRESS YOURSELF-NEW JERSEY 2009!

On Sunday, November 15, 2009 ArtWorks held its 6th annual *Express Yourself-NJ* event at the Montclair Art Museum. This event highlighted 124 artists and performers, ages 3-20, from 10 participating New Jersey healthcare agencies and featured 134 pieces of artwork.

long and dark tunnel. We will be a happy and normal family again once my brother finishes his tunnel of treatment." Zach and his brothers, Josh and Jake, sang "Don't Stop Believin" by Journey while playing their electric guitars.



16-year-old **Eleanor Hahn** created this piece after her cancer diagnosis. She wrote, "When I first heard that I had cancer I was

stunned. At times I thought, 'I can't do it.' Then I thought, 'I think I can do it.'"

Sibling **Zach Epstein**, age 9, drew a picture entitled, "There is a way out of cancer." Zach shares that, "even though it is hard when someone you love has cancer, there is happiness at the end of a



13-year-old **Rowan Zubi** participated in her 5th *Express Yourself* show dancing to "Boom Boom Pow" by The Black Eyed Peas with her siblings Samer and Nadine. Rowan also created a piece of artwork entitled, "Bloom of Life" and described her work saying, "I did this piece when I was in the hospital when I was going



through my bone marrow transplant. This piece is about how life can grow and change. Life always goes through difficult days but there is always a way to bloom it up."

Express Yourself-NY

March 14, 2010

Kimmel Student Center

@ NYU

ARTWORKS TEAMS UP WITH ELEPHANT ENSEMBLE THEATER!

ArtWorks has partnered with Elephant Ensemble Theater to launch a new tour of their theatrical production, *The Busy Little Bee*, at 8 healthcare facilities throughout New York and New Jersey.

The Busy Little Bee tells the story of a worker bee who is forced to venture out of her hive. Through the bee's journey children learn about the importance of good friends and how small efforts make a big difference in the world. The play will be coupled with an art activity,

coordinated by ArtWorks, to enhance the production.

The tour will debut in March at PSE&G Children's Specialized Hospital in NJ. At this facility, program participants have been affected by brain injury, spinal cord injury, or developmental disabilities and will utilize many artistic modalities throughout the interactive production and art activity.



The Busy Little Bee Tour Dates:

- March 8-** Children's Specialized Hospital
- April 6-** Maimonides Children's Hospital
- May 3-** Ronald McDonald House in NYC
- May 23-** Hackensack University Medical Center
- July 14-** Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center
- August 5-** Bellevue Hospital Center
- Sept. 7-** Saint Joseph's Children's Hospital
- October-** Jacobi Medical Center

WRAPPING UP *INTENSIVE CAIR* AT GORYEB CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL WITH A FINAL EXHIBITION!

For the past year, ArtWorks' *Intensive CAIR* (Creative Artist In Residence) program has been providing art workshops for children suffering from chronic and life-threatening illnesses in the **Goryeb Children's Hospital** at Morristown Memorial Hospital.



Artwork created during one of the *Intensive CAIR* workshops

Each week the artist-in-residence spent half of her time working with children and young adults up to 22-years-old in the hematology and oncology clinic waiting to be seen by a doctor or begin treatment. The remaining time was spent working one on one with children bedside providing patients who are unable to leave their room with the opportunity to participate in art activities. Often family members engaged in activities with patients and created projects together.

Throughout the year, 300 children and their family members participated in weekly workshops of printmaking, collage making, storytelling, storyboarding, poetry, puppet-making as well as learning how to draw superheroes and cartoon faces. Many

pieces that were created by children in *Intensive CAIR* are now permanently displayed throughout the pediatric unit.



Siblings Emily and Jakob with artwork created together during a workshop

The residency culminated in an art festival on December 11, 2009 in an event featuring a drum circle, drumming workshop, juice and cookies and an exhibit displaying the children's artwork.



Drum circle leader, Reese, directs the drummers which included patients, parents, and hospital staff

This unique collaborative twelve month program is embraced by hospital staff and patients as it celebrates children's artistic accomplishments and emphasizes the importance of creative expression in the process of healing.



Emily Neglia and her mom at the exhibit

The program teaches patients new skills and helps them explore different materials, expanding their resources to communicate their thoughts and experiences in an individualized, self-empowering and positive way.



Emily Neglia's artwork created during an *Intensive CAIR* workshop

TWO ART CARTS LAUNCHED AT HACKENSACK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER!

ArtWorks' *Surprise!Supplies* program provides hospitals with fully stocked mobile art carts containing art supplies and craft kits. The goal is for hospital bound children, and their siblings who accompany them, to have their own kit of crafts to keep busy creating while undergoing treatment or anticipating a long day in the hospital.



Fully stocked art cart

February 4, 2010 - ArtWorks' 13th and 14th art carts were launched at the Tomorrows Children's Institute at the Joseph M. Sanzari Children Hospital at Hackensack University Medical Center. The carts, placed in the outpatient clinic and the inpatient unit, will bring supplies to an estimated 105 patients with cancer and serious blood disorders and 85 of their siblings each month. The program will provide these children with the means to unleash their creative energy, helping them cope with the challenges of stressful and painful hospital visits and admissions.

The *Surprise!Supplies* program in the outpatient clinic of the Tomorrows Children's



Institute is sponsored by **Ira's Run**, an annual benefit to honor the memory of Ira Sohn, raising funds for organizations assisting children and their families battling illness and other disabilities.



Art cart bedside

The *Surprise!Supplies* program in the inpatient unit is sponsored by **The Caroline Fund**, established by the parents of 6-year-old Caroline Sakovits who is a two-time survivor of pediatric cancer and was treated at Hackensack University Medical Center. Art was a tremendous outlet for Caroline during her hospital treatments and she continues to express herself through art and dance. She has also been featured in ArtWorks' *Express Yourself - NJ* shows.



ARTWORKS INTERNSHIPS!



ArtWorks offers internships for college students looking to work as part of the ArtWorks team in exchange for college credit or volunteer experience. ArtWorks interns assist in many aspects of program and event planning as well as helping to manage the ArtWorks office.

For information on internships with ArtWorks, please call **201-608-0146**.

ArtWorks Now Offers Monthly Donation Option

Help support ArtWorks by making

a donation online at www.artworksfoundation.org



Or send checks, payable to **ArtWorks**

**96 Engle Street, Suite 120
Englewood, NJ 07631**

Donations can also be made
"In Honor" or "In Memory"
of a friend or loved one

ARTWORKS ARTIST PROFILE - EMMA CURTIS

Emma Curtis has participated in every *Express Yourself-New Jersey* show since the first event in 2003, when she was 11- years-old.



Now college bound at age 17, Emma has always used music to express herself and cope with difficult times in her life. In describing the first piano piece she composed at 11-years-old Emma wrote, "This represents different feelings I had while I was in the hospital. I was angry

because I was sick, sad because I missed my normal life, bored because I was there so long and happy because I knew I was getting better."

Over the years Emma has sang "Angel" by Sarah McLachlan, "Hands" by Jewel and "To Where You Are" by Josh Groban. In 2008 she shared her motivation for singing, "I performed at my first [*Express Yourself* event] with my best friend Nicole. I played the piano, which was nerve-racking enough, but then I watched Nicole get up and sing. I had never sung by myself in front of that many people before and I remember thinking how brave she was. Three months later, Nicole passed away. Every year since, I have sung at [*Express Yourself*]."

In 2008, Emma dedicated the song, "To Where You Are" to Nicole. She shared, "This February will be the 5 year anniversary of Nicole's death, I am singing this song for her. It says everything I want

her to know, how what is most important to me is that she is smiling and happy in Heaven, but how I will still always love and miss her and am comforted knowing she is still with me, giving me the strength and bravery I need to make it through each day."



This past November Emma's rendition of "I Will Remember You" by Sarah McLachlan marked her final performance at an *Express Yourself* show before she leaves for school. Emma will always be an integral member of the ArtWorks family. Best of luck Emma!



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Claudia & Nicole Sroka stand proudly in front of their artwork at the *Express Yourself-NJ 2009* event