



THE TRUMPET'S BLARE

A Project Jericho Newsletter (January-March 2009)

Project Jericho changes lives through positive in-depth arts experiences for at-risk youth and families



Project Jericho Poetry Slam Rocks the Art Museum!

By Billy Rice, age 13 (Poetry Slam Participant)

As you probably know, Project Jericho's Poetry Slam was a really awesome project this year (it always is!). This year's project was led by Fred Kirchner, just like the last two years, assisted by local artist OCEAN and the Project Jericho staff, of course.

This project was held at the Springfield Museum of Art, which was a good choice. The art in the museum was so inspiring. We had a tour of the museum by Deena [Pinales, Museum Education Director], and we saw the exhibit "The Creative Spirit" which was so interesting because it was all different kinds of artwork made by regular people. Not only did we get a tour of the Museum, but we met Mark Chepp, the owner of "The Creative Spirit" and he gave a gallery talk and even let us get hands-on: we got to touch one of the artworks of our choice. We all got a one-year membership to the Art Museum

I thought that was really cool because now I can go there when I want to relax - it's a safe place, and I can look at the artwork and be inspired and write poetry. Well, now it is time to tell you more about the teens who participated in this project - there were 16, and I was one of them. I loved this project. I like to write poetry, and it felt good to get up on stage and perform it (my favorite part). Fred and Ocean and Aurelia [Blake, guest artist] gave us writing

prompts in the galleries which we turned into poetry. We wrote a lot of poems during the project and picked two of them to practice performing. Fred gave us an activity to learn to be loud and we got to yell in the gallery! This project wouldn't have been so fun without all of the teens. I liked getting to know everyone because we could share ideas - everyone was really good and I enjoyed listening to everyone. Brittany Rothgeb, age 12, says that "it was really nice and interesting" and that it was fun to get on stage.

After three weeks and six sessions, we held our SLAM in the gallery on Monday, April 6, 2009. We invited everyone to come, and it was packed. Some people who couldn't find a seat wanted to see it so they stood - they could have left, but they didn't. The people were really happy to be there and listen to our poetry. It felt exciting - a lot of us had butterflies in our stomach, but it was great! Fred did an intro with a yo-yo to explain scoring and how a great poem works. We chose judges out of the audience and each teen read two poems. Odysse Davis, an audience member, says "It must be brave to get up on stage like that and read your poetry - it was great." We all cheered each other on. At the end, they named the top five poets who got to read at the Upper Valley Mall Saturday April 25, and this year's winner, Sean Shaw. We published our own chapbook of poetry and even recorded a CD of everyone reading. It was a great night! Remember - the points are not the point: the poetry is the point! As I sum up this project, I just want to say thank you to everyone who made this project possible!

Upcoming events

summer arts camp

Mark your calendars for this summer's best week! June 22-26th join PJ in learning how to make and star in your own music video! Applications will go out in May - check the website!

keifer art show

May 1st - 10th the artwork created by students in PJ Keifer will be on display at the Upper Valley Mall in the High School Art Show. Check it out!

jericho jazz

You can still sign up to be in the Saturday dance classes up until May 9th. Call 328-3869 if interested.

family mosaic picnic

Join us as we unveil the latest family connections project: mosaic picnic benches and a special space at the Springfield Museum of Art. It will be a fun family picnic on June 5th - invitations to come!

summer arts family night

Come enjoy the Flying Caramazo Brothers as they take the stage at the Summer Arts Festival for a bring-your-own-blanket night with Project Jericho families and staff! June 25th @ Cliff Park, time TBA.

bucket band performance and free concert

7:30 outside of the Kuss Auditorium the band will play right before the Barbara D. Kuss Memorial Concert featuring The Dragons army band. Tickets required but are of no charge: call the ticket office at 328-3874.

keep your eyes open...

For new PJ artwork soon to be seen on the side of Second Harvest Food Bank. The GIANT MURAL will be painted all through May and June.



BUCKET BAND UPDATE

The Bucket Band is going strong in 2009! They started off the year right by teaming up with the Springfield Youth Symphony during their Play-a-Thon and teaching 2 classes of musicians how to play the buckets. And the fun just kept coming: the Springfield Arts Council brought *Drumline* to the Performing Arts Center in March and the Bucket Band opened for the performance outside of the Auditorium as patrons arrived. The Band set the tone for the evening getting people energized and moving to their combined beats. Each PJ Bucket Band member was then able to attend the show and experience a professional band taking the drums to the next level. The show was filled with vibrant colors, rich with history and of course highlighted the excellent musicianship of all the performers.



The *Bucket Band* also wanted to send a big Thank You to all the parents and friends that come out to support them at their shows! Check the upcoming events for more to come!

EXODUS did a fantastic job at the Dance for 4 performance at the Kuss Auditorium. What an accomplishment! Congratulations to Tray Huntsman, all the dancers and Mark Cummings for choreographing the piece.



Silent
By Sean Shaw

I can't control
your silence but I
can control mine.
I know you're not
silent but why am I?
You're loud very loud
I can't hear the crowd
I see you but how
I'm talking now but
so are you, you're in
a talking mood you're talking
while I'm talking that's rude.
You're words are nothing but
talk

Only time you're silent is when
your family is dead
outlined with chalk.
Now you're silent
your time is now
you can be quiet
just figure out how.

Spinning
By Bryan Littler

Time falling away
All senses failing
World flowing by so fast
It's all going away
You can't see any more
I'm getting dizzy
I'm spinning

CORNER

Check www.project-jericho.com for more poetry, recordings, photos and information!

Questions? Call Project Jericho at 328-3869

On Friday, February 6, 2009, PJ "inside the Walls, Outside the Box" unveiled **The Davidson Reading Room** - a project three months in the making. Working with PJ artist Fred Kirchner, detained youth helped convert a once-used storage space into a Reading Room by constructing bookshelves and painting a wall mural, as well as organizing and cataloging an array of new and donated books acquired - all in an effort to encourage literacy at the detention facility.

The idea for building the library was the brainchild of Assistant Director of Detention, Mr. Bob Davidson, and his commitment to the hope for change and growth in young people. Mr. Davidson has worked with youth in corrections for thirty-seven years, and retired from the CCDC in March.

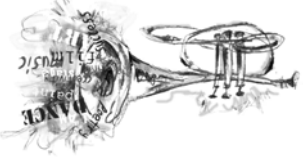
The goal of the project was to offer youth an opportunity for reflection and inspiration by reading books chosen specifically for the detention center. Books with relevant themes like loss, anger, delinquency and change were collected through the generous guidance of Kirchner who is a Teen Librarian for the Dayton Public Library, with additional input and giving by Juvenile Court Staff.

"I put myself into the book I'm reading," observed one young man who has already found refuge in the reading room.

The room was built with the hopes that it would create a desire to read and grow that extends beyond a youth's time in detention. This was reflected in the intentions of seventeen year old Nick, who wrote, "There are so many other good books in the new library that I would like to read, but I'll just have to go to my local library and check them out when I'm released."



Reading Ahead to Get Ahead



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DANCING WITH CLARK COUNTY CELEBRITIES, organized by Think Tank Inc., on Friday April 24th was a tremendous success! Margaret McGregor Mattox (pictured here with her partner Joe Vito) took the stage gracefully with a well-practiced waltz that won the hearts of the judges quickly. Then in the second round the two came out for their fast number, the Charleston, decked out in fringe and feathers. Margaret's talent did Project Jericho proud and also helped us to raise funds for the continuation of our programs. The event would not have been possible without the generous donations from our loyal supporters. With all of our pre-show contributions as well as the charity votes at the performance we were able to raise funds in excess of \$5,000! The Project Jericho staff, participants and artists would like to thank all of our donors who gave so willingly to the arts to help us in our time of need.



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MEDAL AWARD DONORS...

PLATINUM: Harry and Linda Egger, **GOLD:** Clark State Performing Arts Center Circle of Friends, **SILVER:** Nancy and Jim McGregor, Julie B. McGregor, Kapp Construction, **BRONZE:** Chuck and Sally Ingle, Charlotte B. Patterson, John and Jill Landess, Jerry and Dianne Simonton, Della Selsor Trust, Larry and Cindy Landess, Geoff and Kay Steele, Chet and Judy Walthall, David and Susan Weaver, KiwaniAnns, Pentaflex Inc., Martin Browne Hull & Harper, P.L.L. For a listing of our individual donors please see the project-jericho website at www.project-jericho.com.

youth from the Project Jericho After School Arts Program. The PJ Youth Focus Group, PJ at Keifer, BOVA, and Mental Health Court. That is not all! There will also be a Project Jericho Summer Arts Camp where you can be the STAR of a music video, a large public sculpture commemorating PJ's tenth anniversary and recent national Coming Up Taller Award, a family mosaic project, a collaboration with Eyes Wide Open Worldwide at the detention center, and much, much more!

This is turning out to be a spectacular 10th Anniversary Year for Project Jericho! A poor economy cannot keep the arts from changing lives!

Scott Davison
Community Outreach and Education Dir.

part of this HUGE undertaking including Contemporary Dance Company. Many PJ youth that we work with will be a and Dayton Wright State University Dance Ensemble, including Gary Geis Dance Company, and will be led by PJ artist, Sherry Ringler. project is being organized by Beth Dixon at the Second Harvest Food Bank. This Jericho will be doing its biggest mural ever community collaborators grow, Project The future looks even brighter! As the happened this year. just a small sample of what has already service organizations. Of course, this is victims' rights and featuring local social Prevention Agency Fair supporting performed at the Pinwheels for On Saturday, April 25, the Bucket Band and select poets from the PJ Poetry Slam Program. The PJ Youth Focus Group, PJ at

CLARK STATE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
ATTN: PROJECT JERICO
300 S. FOUNTAIN AVE.
SPRINGFIELD, OH 45506

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO PROJECT JERICO, PLEASE CALL 937-328-3841 OR, MAIL DONATION TO:

A note from Scott...