

The Christian Association

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Peacemaking Through The Arts

Annual Report

2009-2010

The Year in Review



To connect PTA with another of the CA's initiatives, Open Mind for Africa, the first semester focused on the stories and songs of Africa. Working with so many African American children, helping children to make more informed opinions about what African culture is and what they choose to claim as their own culture is an aim of the program. By sharing information about African cultures, we work to create a frame of reference for children of all backgrounds in Philadelphia, a city with a rich multicultural history, and home to many immigrant communities.



History

The Arts After School (AAS) Program began in 2001 as a response to a decline in funding for arts activities in schools, as well as an increase in school violence. Nine years later, Peacemaking Through the Arts (PTA) continues this initiative with a combination of AAS and a stronger programmatic focus on cultural understanding as a foundation for peacemaking. We continue to work



Other stories used to promote both peacemaking and cultural understanding were the West African/Ghanaian folk tales about Anansi the Spider.

There were also several days on which our Visiting Artists and other guests led performance arts activities, including singing, dancing, and performing poetry.

Program Coordinator Fran de la Torre participated in the Equality Forum's children's program and worked with EducationWorks at one of their school sites as well as at their WorkReady YouthBuild program at South Philadelphia High School.

As the year progressed we focused more on the U. S. Dream Academy in South Philadelphia. Elementary school children there are at particular risk, with a parent or caregiving relative currently or recently in prison.



with children at schools in which there are few arts programs as school time is divided into academic periods that focus on humanities or math. Both undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Pennsylvania serve as models for behavior and also as activity leaders. This year we again used cultural education as the basis of the curriculum, but there was a specific focus on African cultures. Volunteers this

year worked on different leadership skills, including working with large and small groups, as well as one-on-one time. Our program tends to be very volunteer-driven, so our volunteers have the opportunity to learn through trial and error about the functions and dysfunctions of the School District of Philadelphia and "Out of School Time" programs.

Plans for 2010-2011



Peacemaking Through the Arts continues its work with the U. S. Dream Academy in South Philadelphia where our undergraduate volunteers mentor elementary school children.

Ms. Marcy Francis, Artist-in-Residence, will direct the program and train the undergraduate volunteers with the help of an undergraduate student intern.

We also hope to have a graduate student as driver and assistant so that we will more regularly use a 12 person van to go to and return from the site. This will allow the student volunteers and artistic director to plan the session on the way to the site and to debrief the session on the way back to the Christian Association.

As the year progresses we may add a second site at an after-school program in a West Philadelphia Church. The question here is do we do frequent mentorship of one group of children or do we reach out to more children but with less frequency?

We plan to continue using resources of our Open Mind for Africa Program so the children can learn more about the music, arts and peoples of Africa. As the new Dana How Mentors Program matures, we hope that its high school mentees will be interested in being mentors to the children in Peacemaking Through the Arts alongside the undergraduate volunteers.



Finances

Peacemaking Through the Arts

| Description of Expenses | Expense |
|--|---------------|
| Program Coordinator Salary and benefits at 40% | 16,323 |
| Artist in Residence | 1,850 |
| Visiting Artists | 350 |
| Supplies, Materials and Transportation | 904 |
| Direct Expenses Total | 19,427 |
| Indirect Expenses (5% of building, general ex- | 7,059 |
| Total Expenses for Peacemaking Through the Arts | 26,486 |

| Foundation and Corporation Support | Grant |
|--|---------------|
| Dana G. How Social Service Fund at the Philadelphia Foundation | 20,000 |
| Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial at the Philadelphia Foundation | 3,000 |
| Target Cooperation | 1,500 |
| Union Benevolent Association | 1,000 |
| Total Foundation and Corporation Support | 25,500 |



Where minds open and faith works.