

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 18, 2008

Contact: Melanie Messer
Office: (904) 281-5599, ext. 18
E-mail: Melanie@capkids.org

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM BOASTS IMPRESSIVE RESULTS

Jacksonville, FL –

Cathedral Arts, an after-school provider in high-need neighborhoods throughout Duval County, has released its outcome measures for the 2007-2008 school year.

For the third year in a row, 8 out of every 10 students showed marked improvement in all the metrics measured. Of the 1,258 youth served during this past school year: 79 percent improved their school grades; 79 percent improved in their ability to express anger and conflict appropriately; 86 percent improved their behavior and teamwork; 85 percent improved task completion skills; 86 percent improved their communication skills.

Cathedral Arts provided 66 afterschool programs at public schools and community centers. Of the 1,258 youth served, 63 percent were African American, 22 percent were Caucasian, 6 percent were Hispanic, 6 percent were Multiracial, 1 percent were Asian and 2 percent were classified as Other.

“For the third year in a row, our results have convinced us that participation in the arts is a catalyst for extraordinary change in our city’s youth – change that sets them up to succeed in school and in life,” remarked Kimberly Hyatt, Executive Director of Cathedral Arts. “As one of our parents put it, ‘This is what every child needs.’”

At Cathedral Arts, our vision is for every child to have access to a well-rounded, arts-rich education that endows his or her spirit with the imagination, self-confidence and strength of character that inspires great leadership and a will to succeed.

“For many of our students, when they create a work of art, or complete a musical or dance performance, it is the first time in their lives that they have accomplished something positive and beautiful,” explained Hyatt. “Seeing their work on exhibit, or hearing applause while on stage, they realize that they can be successful, and as such have a future beyond their current social and economic situations. They become motivated to set goals, finish school and become productive members of our community.”

Cathedral Arts was established in 1993 to serve disadvantaged children in Duval County through arts-based, after-school programming. Today, we have grown to become the largest provider of FREE, ongoing and standards-based instruction in the visual and performing arts for public school students in Duval County.

Cathedral Arts is funded in part by the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, The City of Jacksonville, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further information, contact Melanie Messer, at (904) 281-5599, ext.18.

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