



Donate

2011 has been a milestone year for Free Arts! We set the goal to reach 4,000 children. Through our Twice the Healing initiative, we began partnerships with 13 new agencies. We're especially grateful for your ongoing support that has brought us this far.

Setting the goal to double our reach was the right thing to do. In times of economic crisis, children are in a more precarious position. Child abuse is on the rise. And more and more children face the struggles of life at poverty levels. Thanks to our Twice the Healing initiative we now have over 250 volunteers active in 45 weekly mentor groups across the Twin Cities! These groups engage more than 500 young people each week in working side-by-side with mentors on creative projects that build self-esteem.

But in order to double our reach, we've needed additional funds. We set a goal to raise an additional \$100,000 in our Twice the Healing campaign. In order to meet that goal, we need to raise \$25,000 this December.

One of the young people we work with is a teen at a residential treatment center. She was placed there because she was cutting herself. A Free Arts mentor told us this story about her work with the girl:

We talked about how the dream catchers we made catch our dreams and filter them through the web so the healthy ones drip down the feathers. One girl said she tried all week to stay away from self-harmful behaviors just to be able to come to Free Arts. She said we gave her hope and something to look forward to in her dark moments.

This young person is not alone in her reaction to our programs. In our ongoing surveys, we've learned that 100% of partner facility staff agree that as a result of Free Arts, youth in their facility "have positive role models."

And 100% said the youth had a positive and impactful experience; 80% said the youth have increased self-esteem as a result of the Free Arts programs.

These children have greater skills for dealing with the trauma in their lives. Because mentored youth are able to develop healthy relationships with their mentors, they are also better able to build relationships with peers and others. As a 16 year-old in our program said:

One thing I want people to remember about Free Arts is that, no matter where you are or what you do, there will always be someone to support you. That's one of the most important things I've learned from being with Free Arts.

Your gift this December will help us pay for the \$10,000 of art supplies needed for the weekly mentor groups who meet at our 30 partner agencies. It will help pay for the new program coordinator who coordinates the services at these agencies. It will help pay for the volunteer coordinator who recruits, trains, places and supports 250 weekly volunteers. Please help us bring the healing powers of art and mentorship to 2,000 more children who need our help.

Thank you for your generous support,

Dan Thomas
Executive Director

Kim Witczak
Board President



"Free Arts represents resilience... and hope. It represents the opportunity to change and grow... the potential for a brighter future. Just because something happened in the past doesn't mean it must determine who you are or who you always will be."

- Kim Witczak
Free Arts Minnesota Board President



"The amount of attention that is given to each child is greatly increased when Free Arts volunteers are there. Free Arts is able to provide that greater ratio and therefore provide a meaningful mentorship for the kids."

- Quote from a facility partner

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