

Your News

Jensen Beach, Stuart, Palm City, Hobe Sound

GIVING BACK

StarStruck supports artists

BY MICHELLE RODANES
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STUART — Artists for a Cause is proud to announce that it has received a gift of \$775 courtesy of the popular chain of retail department stores Bloomingdale's.

The funds were collected through a fundraiser event held Dec. 15 at Bloomingdale's in Palm Beach Gardens. Performers from StarStruck Performing Arts Center including President Peter Jones, Artistic Director Jennifer Jones, staff performers and educators Matt McClure and Josh Rhett Noble and several students receiving training from Martin County's largest performing arts education institution participated.

Terry Barber, executive director of Artists for a Cause, expressed his gratitude towards students involved in the event: "Everyone deserves an arts education, and these kids are pitching in to make it possible, using their talents to make it happen

— and improving our community, which follows the A4AC mission. It is among our goals to see new faces in all of Martin County's private arts education institutions."

Participating student Talia Suskauer was delighted to be a part of the fundraiser.

"The best part of it all, for me, was being able to help raise money for an amazing cause," she said. "The program allows so many students to pursue their passion in a safe, constructive environment."

Ninety-five percent of all funds collected through the event will go to support scholarships for students through a need-based initiative. Artists for a Cause is committed to supporting arts education for the area's youth, a necessity which has been proven to affect both education and values of students, with even greater impact on at-risk youth.

A new program at Artists for a Cause, the "donated



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Staff and students from StarStruck Performing Arts Center.

instrument and dance shoe closet" encourages people to donate either of these items so that they may be redistributed to kids in need, help them to get one step closer

by providing them with the tools necessary for their education. In addition, the organization has applied for support from a foundation that would allow them to

provide musical instruments unavailable in their inventory to children that cannot afford them. To contribute money, instruments or dance shoes, contact Michelle4ac.org or call 772-419-8778.

Artists for a Cause improves communities through artistic endeavors. Some of the programs help artists and charities get the most out of their collaboration, while others produce results directly by feeding the poor, healing the sick or solving community problems through artistic expression. Current programs include Dance for Food, Therapeutic Arts, Donated Instrument Closet, Classical for Schools, A4AC Scholarships, A4AC High School Clubs, Artist Auction Packages and Benefit Concerts.

To learn more about A4AC, visit <http://www.a4ac.org>, call 772-419-8778, or email infoa4ac.org. Artists, charities and volunteers are encouraged to register via the official website.