



Kevin Paul, a junior at The Pine School and president of the school's Artists for a Cause club, huddles with Kerry Fudge (from left), Al'Tavion Hodge, Deonte Wright (not seen), Keyshawn Spence and Jaydon Linton, while planning a short performance Thursday afternoon at the Costella Williams Learning Center in Port Salerno, during the Residents Empowering All Children's Hope (R.E.A.C.H) after-school program. Artists for a Cause's Share Arts program teams artists, such as Paul, who is an actor and musician, with students in an interactive setting allowing them to learn and participate in the creative process.

Artists for a Cause, a lesson in stewardship

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PORT SALERNO— The Pine School's Artists for a Cause club president junior Kevin Paul, sophomore Katie Rodgers, sophomore Mike Hadhazy and English teacher Adison Lax visited students at the Costella Williams Learning Center in Port Salerno on Thursday as part of a Share Arts program that teams older students with younger ones to encourage them to express themselves in a safe, creative way.

It was The Pine School students fifth or sixth visit, and they were greeted with a loud, enthusiastic cheer when they entered the center. They wasted no time engaging the students in a sing-along, followed by a performance on conflict resolution.

There are benefits for both the young students and the group leaders, according to Artists for a Cause founder Terry Barber. "The younger kids get access to arts education and the older kids are actually learning some great leadership skills, too, maybe without even realizing it at first," Barber said.

The Pine School students also were joined by Patricia Reagan and



Paul encourages students attending the after-school program to participate in singing a song Thursday afternoon.

her daughter, Christina Reagan, a dancer who is working to begin a Share Arts group as well.

Like other Artists for a Cause programs, the Share Arts program is designed to be replicated.

Christina Reagan is the co-president of the South Fork High School's

Artists for a Cause club. The group is having a Hope for Freedom benefit concert 7 p.m. April 13 at the school to raise awareness about human trafficking.

For more information on Artists for a Cause, visit their website at www.a4ac.org.