



Artists for a Cause Inc. (A4AC) is a not-for-profit organization that helps visual and performing artists to use their talents for community improvement, stimulating culture, while addressing the critical needs of communities. Some programs help artists and charities to get the most out of their collaboration, while most produce results directly, by feeding the poor, healing the sick, or solving other problems through unique artistic solutions. A4AC never asks artist professionals to donate their livelihood. No program is merely about art for arts' sake – Artists for a Cause is about the arts as a solution to...

Creatively Build Better Communities.



Therapeutic Arts Program

Our Therapeutic Arts Program includes opportunities for all performing artists, and some visual arts educators interested in serving the elderly and at-risk youths.

With at-risk youth, art and music therapy are proven to be useful because of their inherent ability to surpass language barriers and achieve therapeutic gains in a safe environment.

Whether you'd like to volunteer to share your talents, you're a professional seeking to be paid to participate, or you're an educator seeking opportunity for your students, we'd like to hear from you.

Facilities that serve the elderly and at-risk youth are invited to contact us as well.

Measurable outcomes of the curriculum include work on cognitive and auditory processing and other sensory-motor, perceptual/motor, gross and fine motor skills, planning, sequencing, organization, attention span, problem solving, flexibility, socialization, impulse control, and more.





Jackie Robbins, Cellist (Certified Clinical Musician)

Jackie has played in the Atlantic Classical Orchestra and The Palm Beach Opera orchestra locally, as well as playing for Tony Bennett, Bonnie Raitt, Dave Matthews, and more. She has become a staple in our Therapeutic Arts Program. She recently went back to school and has received her Level 1, Clinical Musician certification. Through a restricted grant specifically to support her work, she has been able to use her talents as healing properties to improve the lives of others. As a result of this special A4AC restricted donation, Robbins will complete at least 40 Therapeutic Arts program services and plans to continue as long as donations that support the program are available.

She has completed countless therapeutic care services at Treasure Coast Hospice for people at the end of their lives, and in the Intensive Care Unit at Martin Health Systems. She additionally uses her talent in a therapeutic way at assisted living facilities both locally and nationally.

A testimonial from Liz Seiler, a MSW Hospice Social Worker upon hearing Jackie's session. We think it sums up what Jackie is doing beautifully.

Dear Jackie,

I was working at the Hospice House when I heard the angelic sounds of a cello playing from across the house. The patient's family commented on how peaceful they felt as result of the healing properties of the music.

Jackie, you are a phenomenal cellist and your music reflects the light of God. Your music instantly brings healing energy to all in your presence.

Music is a gift that should be shared to help others on their journey. It was such a blessing to have had the opportunity to hear you play today.

Thank you for sharing your gift! Peace.

Sydney Carbo, Soprano

Another young favorite of our organization, Sydney Carbo's singing has raised the bar at several charity events where she has performed as part of our "Support for Charities" program. Her soaring soprano voice entertains residents at assisted living facilities, as she is very capable of delivering a baroque aria, a popular song, or a show stopping musical theatre number!

After sharing her gift of song Sydney said, *"The performance was moving and especially meaningful to me because I could see and feel the joy that I was able to bring to residents."*

Sydney's actions are heroic: she shares her gift of music and brings it to people who may not have otherwise been able to hear it.



Intern Project with the Boys & Girls Club

We were lucky to have the help of a wonderful intern - Laura Kutey from Clark Advanced Learning Center. In addition to helping at our "Singing with the Stars" event and learning the in's and out's at our office, Laura was tasked with an assignment. Since she is involved in acting and hopes to one day specialize in drama therapy, we asked her to set up sessions at the Boys & Girls Club of Palm City. She has been going to the after-school program to teach the kids drama and improv. Last week, the kids had an idea for a bullying skit, so she guided them in performing a short play about bullying and friendship. Way to go Laura! Of course we are mindful of the therapeutic nature of self-expression.



"I really enjoy working with the children at the Boys & Girls Club because I can teach them acting skills I've learned in fun and creative ways. It was amazing to see some of the children really embrace their inner performer as they mastered each character they were portraying!"

- Laura Kutey

A student said, "I love it when Miss Laura comes in to teach us drama! It's really fun to be an actress and perform with all my friends!"



Terry Barber

A4AC Founder and Executive Director

Terry has been using his talents as a countertenor to help soothe the sick and elderly at Assisted Living Facilities throughout the United States and Canada.

"In addition to the student and professional artists in our network who participate in Therapeutic Arts services, I enjoy participating in this program and try to add them in around my existing tour dates when and wherever possible. It's moving to see the impact on those served. In connecting with art and music, they are engaged and activated in a palpable way."

- Terry Barber, Executive Director



"Thank you for what you do! We don't have classical artists doing this kind of work often and it's the right repertoire to move our patients" - Activities Director, Virden; Canada

"I don't have the vocabulary to explain but your music went right into my soul. I'm over 70 and your presentation was an experience of a lifetime." - Resident, care facility, Portage la Prairie Canada



Art with Danuta Rothschild

Danuta works to teach the children of the Boys & Girls Clubs the styles of the masters, and they continue to grow and excel. The picture below was created by a 12 year old girl! Channeling energy into art education can focus the mind and soothe the soul.





Jackie Robbins, Cellist and CCM doing beautiful things.

Jackie's services were requested as this patient was admitted to Treasure Coast Hospice Care. It was Rosh Hashana and the family asked her to play High Holy Day prayers and melodies for him. He is pictured here with his wife. They are both eternally grateful for the gift of music that Jackie gave them.

Jackie recounts a memorable experience she had through the Therapeutic Arts Program, *"One day I was playing for an elderly woman. The patient closed her eyes within 30 seconds of my playing and didn't open them again for six minutes. Her breathing got slower, her twitching leg movement almost stopped, and a smile was on her face while she nodded her head to the music. The nurses had told me she was very agitated and perhaps she could use the company and some music to calm her down before they tried giving her some medication to reduce her anxiety. For the entire time I was there she became increasingly relaxed. She only opened her eyes once at the end to tell me how kind it was for me to do this for her and how my presence and music made her feel a sense of serenity that she doesn't get to experience too often."*



According to research by the American Music Therapy Association:

- “Musical elements and structures provide a sense of security and familiarity in the music therapy setting, encouraging individuals with Autism Spectrum disorder to attempt new tasks in a predictable but malleable framework.”
- “The rhythmic component of music is very organizing for the sensory systems of individuals diagnosed with autism. As a result, auditory processing and other sensory-motor, perceptual/motor, gross and fine motor skills can be enhanced through music therapy.”
- “Music therapy interventions can address development in cognitive, behavioral, physical, emotional, and social skills. Music therapy can also facilitate development in communication and sensorimotor skills.”



According to research by the American Art Therapy Association:

- “Art therapy provides real relief; a visual tool for communication, a window to the imagination, and a motivation to make connections. Art therapists are fluent in providing high-quality, visual, sensory-rich opportunities for learning for individuals with Autism Spectrum disorders.” – Nicole Martin, ATR
- “The creative process of art making allows for a child to move into the psychosocial stage of industry vs. inferiority. During this period, a child with ASD can use the creative process to enhance competency and mastery, allowing for positive development of their self-esteem and relationship skills.” – Dr. Laura JJ Dessauer, ATR-BC
- “Art therapy is beneficial and enjoyable treatment because of its inherent ability to surpass language barriers and achieve therapeutic gains in a safe zone. Art therapy helps participants gain self-esteem, learn social cues and norms, identify nonliteral and non-verbal language, and advance comfortable interpersonal relationships.”





YOU CAN GET INVOLVED NOW!

Complete a free registration to join our national artist network, or sign up as a volunteer, donor, or sponsor.

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