

Expressions

SPRING 2016

Promoting the creative power in people with disabilities.

Vsa

WISCONSIN

The State Organization
on Arts and Disability

Exciting new program...

Vets' Art Studio

VSA Wisconsin has been looking for opportunities to serve military veterans for a number of years. When the Madison Vet Center



moved next door to our facility last summer, we met with their staff and discovered that some of their clients had expressed an interest in exploring the creative arts.

Twelve veterans have been meeting weekly for 90 minutes at the VSA Wisconsin Art Center since the end of January. A professional teaching artist is providing instruction in selected visual art disciplines, processes and techniques and is encouraging hands-on exploration and experimentation. If enough financial support can be secured to keep the program going for the rest of the year, we hope to showcase the veterans' accomplishments in a public exhibition.

A satisfaction survey was distributed after week four and of the twelve participants, eight completed and returned the survey. Seven are interested in continuing with the class and there is a waiting list of 5 individuals who would like to join the class. When asked to rate their overall satisfaction with 1 being not impressed at all and 5 being fully satisfied, 5 responded that they were fully satisfied. Two circled the number 4 and one circled the number 3. Among the comments written on the survey: "This definitely needs to continue" and "This is awesome."



Bee Boxes

Changing Lives...

Your Gifts Fulfill Dreams!

Exciting things happen when people with disabilities explore the arts. Lives change and dreams are realized. On the following pages, we share some of the amazing accomplishments made possible by your generous gifts. Thank you for all you do on behalf of others.

Kathie Wagner



Kathie Wagner
President

& News Events

Art Exhibitions

Creative Power

A traveling exhibition featuring 30 award winning works from across the state

Millies at Murphy's Mill
Waunakee
through April 30

Alexander House
Port Edwards
May 27 - July 5

Visual Expressions

A Call for Art Exhibition
VSA Wisconsin Gallery
April 18 - May 7

Open Doors Studio

Spring Exhibition
Employment Resources
2701 International Lane
Madison
May 1 - June 30

Events

Visual Expressions Public Reception

VSA Wisconsin Gallery
Madison
May 7, 2-4 pm

VSA Wisconsin
1709 Aberg Ave. Suite 1
Madison, WI 53704
608-241-2131
www.vsawis.org

Successes and Smiles...

Early Childhood Residencies



"I'm excited about introducing model magic in the classroom. I also like the idea of the art chair and how we added to it each week. It will be neat to use it as an author/literacy share chair in our classroom." ~Educator, East Madison Plus 2 Head Start

"The teaching artist used a variety of materials that were new to the classroom (metal squares, colored masking tape, and bead work). We're going to incorporate many of the ideas in future lesson planning. Thank you for this program." ~ Cheri Wood, Penfield Children's Center



Choirs

"Scott started to copy the motions I was using to help members remember the order of the chorus/verse. He then encouraged others to join in and the motions then became part of the song. ~Alexis Graff, director, VSA Choir of Oshkosh



"The VSA Choir brings talent and musical gifts out into the community. Whether singing Christmas carols in the mall... or singing and signing the National Anthem in front of 80,000 fans at a UW Badgers' game, the choir brings the public face-to-face with the gifts and offerings of people with different abilities than the norm. For people with disabilities to be seen as contributing community members with something real to offer – rather than people in need of help from others – is a true gift to all members of our community."~Lynnea Nielson

Art Center



One participant showed great improvement in independence. The first several sessions, he seemed anxious -- needing reassurance that he was doing it the right way and needed help picking out materials. By the fifth class, however, he began to take the lead with his projects, picking things out on his own and showing pride in his finished pieces.

Don came to class as a quiet, shy man. After the first class, he began to smile and say his name. Then after the second



class, he began to play three instruments: the guitar, the bells and hand-held bells. He spoke to the teacher in one syllable words like "Don" "bells" "like" "fun" and "guitar." Also, his personality changed. He became happy and more confident.

...To Remember

School Residencies

“Shadow puppets are so versatile and developmentally appropriate for second graders. They can be incorporated into so many academic areas for students to showcase their learning and we’re really excited to use them throughout the year!” ~Christie Nystrom, Jefferson School for the Arts, Stevens Point



“Two students had rather weak hands. I noticed that the puppets motivated both of them to do more with their hand movements during the performing part of the program than in

the earlier, construction phase. I think they were so motivated to make their puppet sing, they put in extra effort to move the puppets’ mouths. One student was hearing impaired. Imagine lip synching when you cannot hear the music. During rehearsal I patted her arm with the rhythm of the words. After several repetitions of the song, she was able to get her cues from the puppeteers around her and her puppet sang, *She loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah*, with all the other puppets.” ~ Pam Corcoran, teaching artist

VSA Day

VSA Day is an annual performance opportunity for individuals with disabilities to showcase their musical accomplishments at a UW Badger football game.



“Students learned responsibility and patience as a result of participating in VSA Day. Rhythmic skills with regard to tempo especially have improved greatly. I had a wonderful time and it was an honor to work with these students.” ~Catherine Wernberg, Medford High School

“Ashlee is very excited about using sign language and is eager to use it during choir practices now. She even wants to stand up in front of everyone and do a solo while signing.”

~Laurie Mecum, Stoughton Choir Director



Community Artist Residencies

“This program gave staff a lot of ideas to better our music program. It was interesting to see our clients respond to Sheila playing guitar and singing to them. I believe the program enhanced the clients’ quality of life by giving them a new experience and social opportunity. Our site and staff was given many new ideas of how to run a music program. I believe the circle style and one to one at the beginning and end of the program was very beneficial to our clients. Having Sheila go to each person and sing the hello song and goodbye song and giving them an opportunity to strum the guitar was so great! Utilizing instruments from VSA that MTILP did not have was awesome because our clients were able to experience things we don’t have. The day that we used rain sticks and the thunder tube and played music like a storm was very neat. I saw a lot of clients really listening to the sounds, smiling and enjoying the difference between loud and soft instrument noises.” ~Taneil Boerner, MTILP, Inc. Madison



REPORT ON GIVING - JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

Thank you to the following individuals, businesses, foundations, and partners who responded to grant requests, direct mail, newsletter and email solicitations, and workplace giving campaigns to provide generous financial and inkind support. Due to printing deadlines, this report reflects cash and documented inkind gifts received from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Pledges made, but not received during this period will be included in the next fiscal year report.

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Ring, Gerald
Roach, Diane
Ross, Robert
Sanders, Linda and Matt
Shannon, Susan and Thomas
Shomos Family Foundation
Smartie Pants Early Learning
Center
Spencer, Chris and Elizabeth
Stoughton Opera House
Top Promotions
Toth, James
Varsos, Phyllis (Flip)
Wahlers, Robert



The performance at Opportunity Development Center in Wisconsin Rapids featured puppets lip syncing to lots of fun tunes. Each performance had four parts with each group doing 'Ring of Fire' and 'She Loves You'. I think this project has really encouraged participation. I also like how the mouth puppets are inspiring participants to move their hands a lot more, because they want to see their puppet talk! ~ Pam Corcoran, teaching artist

Mentor (\$100-\$249)

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Johnson, Austin
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 Kiekhafer, Valerie
 Kirch, Susan
 Knapstein, Annette
 Kornetsky, Lisa
 Krainz, Duane
 Kuhn, Cheryl
 Linenfeller, William
 Lundahl, David
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 Manthe, Sue and Randy
 Marik, Wayne and Judith
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 Metcalfe's
 Middleton Community Bank
 Minkus, Dan
 Monson, Heather
 Moore, Jane
 Myers, Bronwen
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 Olson-Sutton, Judith
 Ornstein, Marjon
 O'Rourke, Shaun
 Paul, Kathy A
 Pearce, Robert
 Powless Tennis Center
 RHD Plumbing
 Richter, Bob, Joan & Lindsay
 Rosenberg, Jake
 Schaller, Heather
 Schloer, William and Jane Ellen
 Skarphol, Mary Jean
 Spencer, June
 Stephan, Mary
 Sundquist, Shirley
 Tande, Dennis
 Tatar, Julie
 Uniek
 Van Vleck, Janet and Michael
 Vavra, Georgiana
 Waner Enterprises
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 Wendt, Ron
 Willy Street Co-op
 Winter, Mark

Wolff, David and Sally
 Woodman's
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 •Executive Residence

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In honor of Dylan Abraham
 Nancy Abraham
 In honor of our children and grandchildren
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 In honor of Lydia Cooley
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 Gamzu, Elkan and S. Zelda
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 In honor of Odie
 Hofeldt, Bill
 In memory of Thomas Osterberg
 Osterberg, Marian
 In memory of Robert Quam
 Larsen, Olivia
 In honor of Jim Riordan
 Goke, Kim and Rodger
 In memory of Carrie Samuels
 Padgett, John and Mary
 In honor of Msgr Charles Schluter
 Ableidinger, Kathleen and Jim
 In memory of Tyyne Slick
 Slick, Dan and Katie Kazan

"I enjoy this programming soooooo very much! Whenever we are discussing the day's events, I find myself getting emotional about the connections and positive moments we see during groups. This is really something special. I think you do a wonderful job of bringing in your expertise while balancing our need for safety and security – all the while teaching these boys valuable skills about communication, self-expression, vulnerability and connecting with others. Thank you! I don't want it to end!"
 ~Rachel J. Fregien M.S. CCC-SLP



In honor of Dan Stace
 Smith Jennifer
 Stace, Nellie
 In memory of Ralph Stace
 Smith, Jennifer
 In honor of Steve Stricker
 Olson, Betty
 In honor of Anne Summers
 Pautz, John and Penni
 In memory of Tom Summers
 Pautz, John and Penni
 In memory of Jennifer Trimborn
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 Velliquette and Tehshik Yoon
 Batesky, Sara
 Brown, Dustin
 In honor of VSA Choir of Madison
 Singel, Elaine and Steve
 In honor of Kathie Wagner
 Meyer, Jim and Margaret

In memory of Gavin G. Weis
 Weis, Mary
 In honor of Mary Zins
 Martyniak, Salli
 Norris, Arlene
 Torkelson, Gwen
 Wenzel, Ann
 Wolfe, Ann

Matching Gifts

Lands' End
 Larson, Kathy
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Special Events

Many thanks to The UW-Madison Athletic Department and School of Music



students now consider art as a viable career opportunity. Many continue as artists with art as a focal point in their lives. Regardless of the countless outcomes, the experience itself is priceless!" ~Barb Drews, West High School, Madison

"I loved all the paintings and sculptures. The colors made everything pop! I love what VSA is doing, it made my sister smile every day when she heard she was an award winner! Thank you, you've made her believe she was amazing." ~Anonymous

Call for Art

"This opportunity has been a wonderful experience for my students. The fact that recognition is given with so many awards makes it an authentic and valuable experience. Over the years, many of my students have received purchase awards or recognition awards. This has given them such validation as artists and as productive members of the art world. The sense of self that students feel is just one of the bonuses that they receive from the experience. Some of my



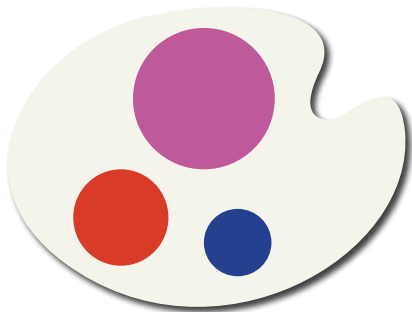
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Revenues

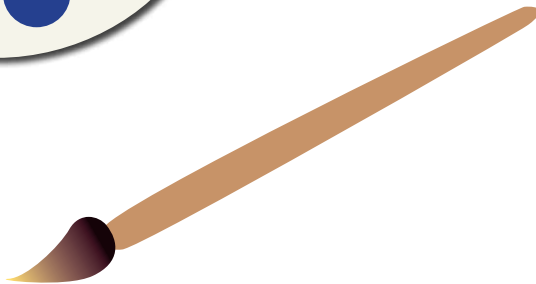


- Government Support - 26%
- Individuals and service organizations - 19%
- Foundations - 18%
- Corporations - 15%
- Fees, events, sales, investment & miscellaneous income - 12%
- Inkind - 8%
- Workplace giving - 2%

Expenses



- Programming - 80%
- Management & General - 11%
- Fundraising - 9%



FY15 by the numbers

Educational art programs directly served **1,784** individuals, most with disabilities

80% of annual expenses were devoted to programming

More than **275,000** people were impacted by exhibitions, concerts, and special performances by individual with disabilities

90 volunteers provided **560** hours of support for administration, programs and events



"VSA is the best! So much fun. Singing, dancing, laughing and friends. It is the most favorite thing I do." ~John K.



"My Zen Glass artwork has become a personal philosophy and reason for living. And to have it recognized as interesting and/or meaningful by so many people (at VSA Wisconsin art exhibitions) is immensely gratifying." ~Ron Wendt

**Come Support
VSA Wisconsin!**



The VSA Choir of Madison will sign (in American Sign Language) and sing the National Anthem
Friday June 17, 7:05pm
Warner Park, Madison

Two ticket options

- \$25 Reserved Seat + Pepsi Tailgate
- \$15 Reserved Seat + Mallards hat

To purchase tickets, go to www.MallardsBaseball.com
 Click **Buy Tickets** in upper right corner
 In Promotions Box, enter Promo Code:
vsa tailgate or **vsa hat**
 Follow the steps to purchase tickets

\$5 of every ticket sold will directly benefit VSA Wisconsin



Curing Cabin Fever...
Beat the Winter Blues Party



Nearly 200 people attended the annual Beat Winter Blues party on Friday, February 26. Music for dancing and celebrating was provided by the Yid Vicious Klezmer Band.



Guests strolled through the art gallery to view the exhibition "Transcending Limitations: Art from the Heart" and had a chance to meet the artists, Jon Wos, Ron Wendt, Joyce Gust and Faye Willems.

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The mission of VSA Wisconsin is to expand the capabilities, confidence and quality of life for children and adults with disabilities by providing programs in dance, drama, creative writing, music and visual art.

VSA Wisconsin is a member of the VSA affiliate network, a program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. This newsletter is made possible in part by: Advertisers Press and xpedx.

Transportation for VSA Wisconsin is provided with support from the Kayser Automotive Group.

To receive this newsletter in an alternative format, contact VSA Wisconsin.

You are invited! Visual Expressions

A Call for Art exhibition celebrating the creative power of people with disabilities.

VSA Wisconsin Gallery
1709 Aberg Ave, Madison

Public Reception
Saturday May 7, 2-4 pm

GALLERY HOURS

Apr 18 - May 5

Mon - Thur
9am - 4 pm

