

# Free Arts of Arizona™

Art Heals! Every Child Matters Mentoring Works

## AGENCY FACT SHEET

**Community Award**  
Governor's Arts Awards  
2011

**Outstanding Arts  
Organization**  
Phoenix Arts and  
Business Council  
2011

**Governor's Volunteer Service  
Award Winner**  
Linda Pullinsi  
For Outstanding Mentor  
2011

**Volunteers of the Year**  
Karen Grande, Cheryl Kerivan,  
Melinda Tinney and Kim Appis  
2011

**Primary Partner Agency  
Valley of the Sun United Way**  
Partners since 1994

### Key Staff

Barbara DuVal Fenster, APR,  
Executive Director  
Teniqua Broughton, M.Ed.  
Dir. of Programs  
Candace Langhoff  
Dir. of Finance and Operations

### Board of Directors

Mark Feldman, President  
Mike Cohn, VP Development  
Linda French, VP Board Governance  
Dianne M. Cripe, VP Programs  
Stephen E. Koons, Treasurer  
Pat Temple, Secretary  
Richard A. Bowers  
Brooke Christofferson  
David Eichler  
Sean Fanning  
Dottie Goodman  
Barbara Gould  
Kristine Kollasch  
Norman McLash  
Melody Niese  
Rob Zack

103 W. Highland Avenue, Suite 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85013  
P: 602-258-8100  
F: 602-258-1881  
www.freeartsaz.org

### Mission

Free Arts of Arizona heals abused and homeless children through artistic expression.

### Core Values

**Art Heals**—The creative arts transform and inspire lives.

**Every Child Matters**—Children have the right to be cared for and respected

**Mentoring Works**—Mentoring builds self-esteem, social skills, trust and the ability to express emotions in a positive way

### Vision

To be the premier resource for the healing effects of the arts in children through programming, advocacy, resource development and education.

### Founded

October, 1993 by Margaret A. Beresford, ATR, CPC, MC

### Children Served

Since 1993, 70,000 abused, neglected and homeless children, ages infant to 18, have been served. First year of operation, 60 children served — most recent year 5,700 children served.

Most of the children we serve have been removed from their families because of abuse or neglect and live in a crisis shelter or group home. Some children are facing their own challenges with substance abuse, gang involvement or violence and/or live in a residential treatment center/school. Still other children live with their mothers or families in domestic violence or homeless shelters.

Free Arts of Arizona has developed partnerships with over 30 partner facilities with over 100 residential treatment centers, group homes and shelters throughout Maricopa County and provides services to the children in these partner facilities free of charge.

### Programs

Weekly Mentor Program  
Professional Artist Series  
Free Arts Days  
Multicultural Arts Camp Series

### Volunteers

550 volunteers  
All volunteers complete a minimum of six hours of screening and training before working with children

### 2011 Financial Support

31% Individual  
16% Corporate  
12% Foundation  
12% In-Kind  
11% Valley of the Sun United Way  
11% Ticket Sales/Special Events  
7% Government

### Operating Budget

First year of operation \$30,000  
Most recent year \$1,003,000

# Free Arts of Arizona™

Art Heals! Every Child Matters Mentoring Works

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

### Weekly Mentor Program

The Weekly Mentor Program connects groups of youth living in Free Arts Partner Facilities with consistent caring adult mentors. Each week, these mentors lead youth through therapeutic arts curriculum, helping them learn to express their emotions, find their gifts and talents, and develop positive coping skills. Weekly Mentor curriculum and training combines elements of art therapy and youth development along with the latest brain development research to bring youth optimum healing experiences. *In 2010, 2,345 youth were served with 114 programs by 143 volunteers donating 6122 hours, valued at \$117,849. (IRS per hour valuation)*

### Free Arts Days

Free Arts Days are one day intensive explorations of the arts that provide children with an array of experiences, letting them explore their creative talents while forming a bond with a caring adult. Free Arts Days are held in collaboration with many arts and cultural organization like the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts and Tempe Center for the Arts, Children's Museum of Phoenix, Desert Botanical Garden, Sea Life Aquarium, Phoenix Zoo, Arizona Ballet, Arizona Museum for Youth, and the State Library. *In 2010, 1309 youth were served at 16 events by 229 volunteers donating 1079 hours, valued at \$20,771.*

### Multicultural Arts Camp

Multicultural Arts Camp series brings together youth from a variety of Free Arts' Partner Facilities to participate in a week-long, therapeutically intense, art day camp. Camps are hosted throughout the year and include summer camps, school vacation camps and Theatre Camp in conjunction with the Herberger Theater Center. Many youth who attend week-long sessions show remarkable breakthroughs emotionally and behaviorally. *In 2010, 211 youth attended MAC Camp and Theater Camp series with 81 volunteers donating 1905 hours, valued at \$36,671.*

### Professional Artist Series

Professional Artist Series are in-depth art classes for older youth that are led by professional artists. Focusing on photography, visual, performing, culinary, and musical arts, youth have the opportunity to work intimately with an artist, while still experiencing the therapeutic benefits of art. The programs usually culminate in a performance or exhibit where youth showcase their work. Specially screened and trained volunteers learn along side youth in these weekly therapeutic arts programs for youth that take place on-site at their group home facilities and shelters. *In 2010, 972 youth were served in 59 programs with 83 volunteers donating 678 hours, valued at \$13,052.*

## PARTNER FACILITIES

The number of children removed from their families, due to abuse or neglect and placed into a group home, is increasing. Many of these children will grow up within the child welfare system, and as young adults, be sent out on their own without a family to call their own. Free Arts of Arizona has a unique ability to reach the children within this often chaotic and confusing system. We collaborate with 30 Partner Facilities (group homes, residential treatment centers and shelters) to provide on site therapeutic art programs to children of all ages.

*"It was wonderful! It made my heart stretch."*

*age 16*

*"Thanks for being with us—because I really feel important. So thanks for coming."*

*age 13*

*"Painting your own thing can turn your sadness into happiness."*

*age 14*