



Providing the Palette to Paint a Child's Dream

ICRE-R Sessions: Back and Better than Ever

The latest installment of Artists for Harmony's art and recreation program at the Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education-Roosevelt (ICRE-R) is back in full swing! Since 2009, AFH has been extremely honored to run these sessions at the ICRE-R facility. Thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers and extremely generous supporters, new levels of excellence are reached with each passing day. The sessions, which historically have been held exclusively in the facility's gymnasium, have recently expanded within the ICRE-R walls. AFH was given the opportunity to renovate a virtually unused room at the school and turn it into a visually stunning and functional art and recreation space. This renovation was made possible from the proceeds collected at Suite Lounge's "A Cause for Sound" event (more on page 3).



ICRE-R is a state-run residential facility for children and young adults up to age 21 with severe physical disabilities and other health impairments. The mission of ICRE-R is to prepare young people with severe physical disabilities for a successful adult life through a comprehensive program of education and training. A residential education program, ICRE-R provides a continuum of educational and related services to students with physical disabilities at no cost to the students' families. The program is designed to give students the ability to learn and experience life-long skills, to create a vision of a desirable future, and to be actively involved in planning and experiencing action steps required for attainment of their transition goals and objectives. Please contact us if you are interested in donating or volunteering at ICRE-R! 🐦

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Young Leaders Fund Grants Artists for Harmony's Mural Wish



Artists for Harmony recently applied for and received a generous grant from the Young Leaders Fund. Supported by the Chicago Community Trust, The YLF is an organization made up of individuals between 25 and 45 years old that provides members with opportunities to become volunteers and philanthropists. They accept grant requests from "innovative grassroots organizations" and evaluate the requests with hands-on visits, interviews, and budget proposal reviews.

AFH applied for and received assistance for its planned "Five Senses" mural project. The mural is to be produced with the help of the students of ICRE-R and will serve the dual purpose of beautifying Chicago while also promoting AFH. For a sneak peak at the planned mural, see the back cover of this issue. 🐦





ABOUT ARTISTS FOR HARMONY



MISSION

Created in 2003 by President Michael Trulis, Artists for Harmony is a 501(c)3 not for profit charitable organization dedicated to the realization of the academic and social potential of the youth in our schools. Through community events, after school workshops, and educational initiatives, AFH provides children the imperative skills needed to approach academics with a creative perspective.

For more info on donating see the membership form in this newsletter, and for info on volunteering, donations in kind, or anything else, email info@artistsforharmony.org. 🐦



THE ARTISTIC APPROACH TO LEARNING

Artists For Harmony is a grassroots, non-profit organization that focuses on the arts to help students proclaim their creative voice. We believe a confident child starts with an inventive mind. Art can be created by all, yet individualized for one. Every child is unique, and our program strives to reach each student on an independent level. Regardless of what challenges stand in their way, Artists For Harmony welcomes all students to work together creatively, yet focus on their individual needs. 🐦



CONNECT



artistsforharmony.org

Event tickets, up to date news and all things AFH.



facebook.com/artistsforharmony

Exclusive contests, extensive photo gallery, event RSVP.



[@afhinc on twitter](https://twitter.com/afhinc)

Spin the black circle! Vinyl pick of the day and other inspirational musings.

DIRECTORS

Michael Trulis, President
Aristidis Halikias, Vice President
Thomas Trulis, Treasurer
Jason Thorn, Secretary
Sean O'looney, Director
Ryan Stoneberg, Director
Evan Meyer, Director



CONTACT

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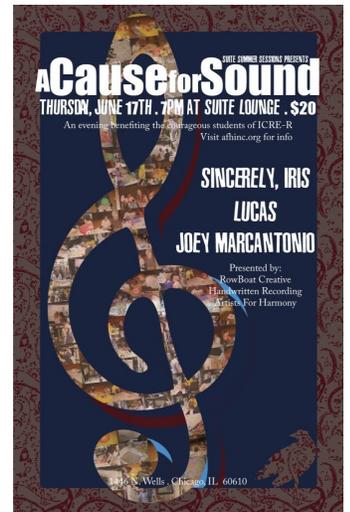
AFH HAPPENINGS



A Cause for Sound

On a beautiful June evening, Suite Lounge played host for "A Cause for Sound," an all acoustic performance concert benefitting the ICRE-R facility (see "The Effect of Sound" below). Upon arrival, guests were escorted down a candlelit red carpet, complete with a photography area where they posed for pictures before entering the show. Suite Lounge was the perfect setting for the intimate and heartfelt performances by Lucas, Joey Marcantonio and Sincerely, Iris. Veev and Leblon were gracious liquor sponsors of the event, while Rowboat Creative design and screen printing and Handwritten Recording studio also greatly aided in presenting the festivities.

Guests were also treated to a short film about the amazing ICRE-R students (viewable at www.artistsforharmony.org). In addition to the proceeds from the event ticket sales, an impromptu live auction took place with items that were donated on the spot. Several other generous donations were made by attendees. When all was said and done, guests were treated to an unforgettable and touching evening, and over \$5000 was raised for a great cause.



The Effect of Sound

The proceeds from the "A Cause for Sound" event were used to completely renovate and rehabilitate the previously unused art room at ICRE-R. Over the years as budget restrictions hindered the continued maintenance of the art program there, the room became a virtually nonfunctional space used primarily for storage. Artists for Harmony gave the room a complete overhaul. To start the makeover, the outdated material and worn out storage cabinets were removed from the room. A fresh coat of paint with an updated color was applied, complete with an accent wall featuring a mural designed by AFH president Michael Trulis. At the center of the accent wall is a framed out magnetic surface that has a variety of uses, including display of artwork. Two brand new computers with flat screen monitors were brought in, complete with bamboo pens for graphic design purposes. An awkward pillar in the center of the room was also turned into a mural at its crest, while the remaining area of the four sided pillar were covered with dry erase panels to allow another impromptu artistic outlet. New bookcases were assembled and put in place, and a brand new flat screen television, complimented by a Nintendo Wii, were set on a brand new television stand. Fresh art supplies were stocked in the cabinets. After receiving correspondence about this project, Pearl Jam poster artist Brad Klausen was kind enough to donate an extremely limited edition concert poster (pictured to the right). The subject of the print is the power of the mind and soul over the physical body, a very inspirational message, and one that was very appropriate for this room and ICRE-R in general. The rehab of the room was an extremely rewarding experience, and AFH is currently exploring the rehabilitation of other areas within the facility. Stay tuned! 



Letters to Santa

Every year, the United States Postal Service receives millions of letters addressed to Santa. Artists for Harmony collected several of these letters this past holiday season and played "Secret Santa" for a few of these individuals who asked for basic necessities, such as coats, socks and books for Christmas. "Operation Santa" has been run by its "elves" since 1912. 



ICRE-R Student & AFH President Combine Forces to Produce Poetry Journal

Jerwayne Edward Balentine III is one of the many extraordinary residents at the Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education-Roosevelt (ICRE-R). At the age of eight, he was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. What truly defines Jerwayne, however, is his passion for writing poetry and song lyrics.

Beginning in the fall of 2006, Jerwayne began writing what has turned into dozens of poems, songs and general musings on his life experiences, the results of the affliction he deals with on a day-to-day basis, and his overall societal commentary. In the spring of 2009, several of these poems were compiled and illustrated by Artists for Harmony president Michael Trulis, and the book *Words of Knowledge* was born. AFH hosted a book signing/release party at ICRE-R where many of Jerwayne's friends, family and fellow students were in attendance. Dylan Lloyed and Dani Wilkin each performed solo musical sets, and Jerwayne signed copies for everyone that purchased a book. It was a truly touching experience to witness Jerwayne's relatives, young and old, in house and able to celebrate what this young man had accomplished. The following is an excerpt from "More than Words," one of the selections from *Words of Knowledge*:



***When I write it's as if I let my soul bleed
When I write I let my heart speak
Whatever my heart says, that's what the pen leaks***

"Enjoy this book as well as its message, and I hope you learn from it," writes Jerwayne in the book's foreword. "We refuse to let our disabilities overshadow the strength of our minds," he pens in "My Minority Report." To purchase a copy of *Words of Knowledge*, see membership info in this newsletter or visit www.artistsformarmony.org. All copies are handmade from recycled paper and all proceeds benefit the Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education -Roosevelt. 

Meals from the Heart

Artists For Harmony recently had the opportunity to take part in the Ronald McDonald House "Meals from the Heart" program which provides warm, home cooked meals for families who have been at the hospital all day. The goal of the Ronald McDonald house is to provide a "home away from home" for families of patients at Children's Memorial Hospital. Volunteers design the menu, provide and prepare the meal in the house's kitchen, and clean up afterwards. It was an amazing experience for all our volunteers, and we were extremely excited to spend the evening with so many great people. 





BECOME AN ARTIST FOR HARMONY



Volunteer

Artists for Harmony is operated on a completely volunteer basis. All administrative and promotional work (web and art-work design, accounting, newsletter production, event planning, etc.) is completed solely by individuals who donate their time. This ensures that the highest possible percentage of funding generated by AFH goes directly into its programs and supplies. You don't have to be an "artist" in the traditional sense of the word to volunteer your time: everyone is an artist in some form or another. If interested in volunteering time, please contact info@artistsforharmony.org.

Perform/Present

If you consider yourself an "artist" in the traditional sense and would be interested in displaying or selling artwork, performing live music or poetry, or instructing children on any of these crafts or anything else not mentioned at an AFH event, please contact info@artistsforharmony.org.

Membership (circle bird)

\$25

Associate for Harmony:

- ~Alternative Apparel T Shirt
- ~Recognition in Newsletter
- ~20 % Discount to AFH events



\$50

Aristocrat for Harmony:

- ~Alternative Apparel T Shirt
- ~Recognition in Newsletter
- ~20 % Discount to AFH events
- ~Jerwayne Balentine's book *Words of Knowledge*



\$100

Angel for Harmony:

- ~Alternative Apparel T Shirt
- ~Recognition in Newsletter
- ~50 % Discount to AFH events
- ~Jerwayne Balentine's book *Words of Knowledge*



Check this box if you do not wish to receive any gifts for your donation and wish to have all of the proceeds to go directly to charity.

Check this box to donate another amount and enter amount here: \$ _____

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Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Circle T-Shirt Size (if applicable) S M L XL

Send to:

Artists for Harmony
1918 S. Michigan Ave.
#408

Chicago, IL 60616

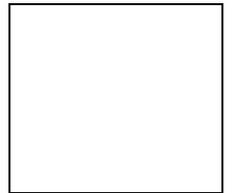
Artists for Harmony is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer..."



...it sings because it has a song" - Maya Angelou

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TO: