

## Why Sponsor a Child for Art Camp?

It is no secret that our schools are changing. The arts in our public schools have been rapidly dwindling and there is not much reason to believe that things will turn around soon. We can no longer expect our children to receive the benefits of arts education consistently from our public schools. It is also no secret that exposure to the arts benefits children tremendously in their development and increases the probability of their overall success in education. There have been many studies that demonstrate that children who have had regular access to arts enrichment develop better critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, develop more extensive vocabularies, and have a higher probability of furthering their education after high school. We at the Dairy Barn Arts Center are very proud of our camp programs and believe them to be a high caliber arts learning and immersion experience. In addition to the benefits campers receive from participation in activities that promote problem-based learning and stretch creativity, our camp programs also foster many social skills for children including leadership, community involvement and tolerance for diversity and difference of ability in other people. Our campers become a part of a special Dairy Barn community and forge life-long memories and friendships at our camps.

Each year, the Dairy Barn provides extensive outreach to our local schools. In the 2014-2015 school year, we were able to serve 13 schools each week with afterschool arts enrichment programs. This amounted to over 3000 children receiving a wide range of arts enrichment in a five county area. These projects were possible through partnerships and grants and did not require any tuition from participating students' families. Our onsite camp programs, however, are indeed tuition based. This means that without assistance from generous members of our community, there are many eager and deserving children who are unable to participate in our camp programs. We have worked hard to create high quality arts programs and we sincerely hope you will consider sponsoring a child to reap the benefits of those programs.

In 2014 we introduced camp sponsorships and had an absolutely tremendous response from our donors. We hope to go beyond that amount this year so we can bring even more children to Art Camp. For each generous sponsorship pledge of \$75.00, one child can attend a full week of camp either in a morning or afternoon session. Donors can make as many pledges as they wish and every penny will go to pay for a child to attend camp. Sponsoring a child for camp is a wonderful way to support your local arts center and the children of your community. Sponsorships are awarded on a first come, first serve and often come through a recommendation from a teacher at the child's school. Campers who receive sponsorships are kept anonymous to protect the privacy of the families. However, donors can sign up to receive updates on what we are doing each week at camp and see firsthand the wonderful gift they have given a child.

It is our mission to bring the arts to children and we hope sincerely that this summer our generous community members will help us bring more children to the arts. Donors can pledge on our website or fill out a sponsorship form and mail it with payment. All questions regarding our camp programs and sponsorship program may be directed to Lyn Stanton via phone at 740-592-4981 or email [lyn@dairybarn.org](mailto:lyn@dairybarn.org).