



SPRING
2016



NORTH CAROLINA ARTS IN ACTION

Helping children reach their full potential
one dance step at a time

END OF SCHOOL YEAR APPEAL HELP US MEET OUR GOAL

As our program winds down for the year, we ask for your assistance in helping us meet our operational budget for the year. We seek to raise an additional \$25,000 before our fiscal year ends on June 30 and ask for your continued support in the next six weeks. Your contribution helps us sustain five underserved schools in Wake County and three in Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties as well. On behalf of the children we serve, we extend our deepest appreciation. If you've already contributed, thank you so much. **If you haven't given yet this year, won't you please help by making a gift now online, or via a check in the mail?** Thank you for giving our 800 children in four counties a great experience this year.



“Judging by the proud faces, excited words, and smiles I saw on every parent and child performer leaving the building last night, I’d say that a very convincing argument was made that we undoubtedly NEED arts education in every public school.”
– J.W. York Elementary School Parent

On behalf of the Board, Staff and children we serve, thank you for your continued support. NC Arts in Action believes that participation in the arts promotes self-confidence, builds self-esteem, self-discipline, tenacity and a commitment to excellence. Please donate today by check or online.

WWW.NCARTSINACTION.ORG
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Photo Credits: MaryBeth Carpenter

NC Arts in Action (NC AIA) is an internationally acclaimed in-school, curriculum-based, performing arts program for elementary students. The program is directed at developing life skills such as self-esteem, teamwork, and focus among underserved students in Title 1 schools. We provide dance teaching from certified instructors, live music, and allow students rigorous exercise. NC AIA benefits numerous schools in Durham, Orange, Wake and Chatham counties.



RECAPPING A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

OUR PROGRAM CONCLUDES FOR THE YEAR IN EIGHT SCHOOLS AND FOUR COUNTIES

Last month we held our final performance for Rashkis Elementary School, capping a year in which 800 fourth grade students were directly served in eight underserved schools in Wake, Durham, Orange and Chatham Counties.

A successful launch was held this year at Millbrook, J.W. York and Lake Myra Elementary Schools in Wake County. Pittsboro Elementary School in Chatham County also offered our innovative performing arts program in a nine-day residency. Arts in Action is an internationally acclaimed in-school, curriculum-based, performing arts program. It is directed at developing life skills such as self-esteem, teamwork and focus among underserved students in Title 1 schools. We have directly served 4,300 children since our program began 11 years ago.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

Thanks to the many generous individuals who gave to NC Arts in Action, and allowed us to receive matching funds during our \$35,000 end-of-year challenge from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust. With over \$41,200 raised between November 1 and December 31, NC Arts in Action met its 1:1 challenge from the Kenan Trust.

We are grateful for the individuals who gave through the Indy Give!Guide also, and for our business partners during our challenge time in November and December. NC Arts in Action was one of 42 non-profits selected to participate in this innovative giving program.

We also appreciate the grants from our foundation funders who made gifts this Winter and Spring:

- PNC
- F.M. Kirby Foundation
- The Grable Foundation
- John & Barbara McLendon Family Foundation
- Howard Perry and Walston Foundation
- Sun Trust
- Kenan Foundation

**“I’m a firm believer that every child can benefit from the arts. There is unquestionable scientific research that correlates arts integration and high academic performance.”
– Fourth grade teacher**



LEAP Team Performs in the Triangle

Our LEAP dancers (Learning Excellence and Perseverance) recently showcased their skills at the NC School of Sciences and Mathematics. They also performed for Family Day at the Nasher Museum of Arts at Duke University. Come see their final showcase performance for the year on June 12 at the Arts Center of Carrboro at 300 East Main Street at 7 PM. Our LEAP Team are NC Arts in Action’s program “alumni” from all our schools who deepen their experience by practicing throughout the school year on Saturdays. Come show your support for our program’s Ambassadors by attending their wonderful season-capping performance!

WHY I SUPPORT ARTS IN ACTION

- By Susan Garrity



As I watched the 4th graders that first day, I was struck by so many things: the chance each child was given to be front and center; the support and respect the children were giving their peers carefully orchestrated by the NC AIA Teaching Artists; the clearly communicated expectation of excellence of always trying their best; and only moving on when everyone got it. Perhaps what affected me the most that day was the joy I saw on the children’s faces throughout the class and their total engagement regardless of skill, gender, or ability.

I often find myself using the word “transformative” to describe the effect that Arts in Action’s unique pedagogy has on children. I have observed its transformative effect in single moments in class, such as when an obviously shy child, uncomfortable with his body image, gave up his jacket armor, accented by a proud smile, when he was singled out for having mastered a particular move. I am confident that each AIA dancer has the opportunity to experience such a moment, and that such moments can end up being life-informing and transforming.

I have heard how the teaching techniques are often integrated into the classroom by their 4th grade teachers, and how children on the bus and at recess transfer what they have learned in the AIA class into their play. I have observed how the AIA program positively infuses the school community with NC AIA graduates (5th graders) cheering the 4th graders during their performance, and the engaged 3rd graders eagerly looking forward to their turn to participate next year. I have seen how parents are affected when many see their children excelling in a performance for the first time. I see the potential for NC AIA to affect not only a child, class of children, school, or family, but the community as a whole through the ripple effect of its mission.

It is on my personal Bucket List to make the program accessible to even more children, in more schools in North Carolina, and helping other children build focus, discipline, self-esteem, teamwork and leadership, thereby paving the way for their success in life. As a member of the Board of Directors for NC AIA, I am grateful for the opportunity and privilege to do so.

Susan Garrity is a board member, donor and frequent attendee of NC AIA performances.

