

Winston-Salem Symphony

This year will mark the 50th anniversary of the *Mary Starling Program*, the largest musical educational program in Forsyth County for students 9-12 years of age. Named in honor of a former Symphony Guild member with a passion for music education, this free program introduces students to orchestral music through a combination of ensemble and orchestra performances. This year, WSS will celebrate through several unique partnerships and programs, including a book drive at local schools for the African Library Project, a short story competition with winners being awarded new violins and lessons for an entire school year with WSS musicians, small ensemble performances, a full orchestra concert, a local school book drive involving area bookstores and publishing companies, and the performance of a piece written by a UNCSA student for the Mary Starling Full Orchestra. These diverse partnerships not only expose students to the world of classical music, but increase awareness of local school music programs, stimulate musical interest, educate students about the widespread problem of illiteracy, and develop an awareness of the needs of others through volunteering.

Winston-Salem Street School

Based on a nationally recognized model, the Winston-Salem Street School is helping reduce the drop out rate among high school at-risk youth through an innovative, holistic approach to education that involves small classroom sizes, advocacy, remediation through credit recovery and individual tutoring, service learning, and the provision of ancillary services that are often critical to the success of at-risk youth. Typical students are from neighborhoods with high crime and drug use rates. Due to their difficult backgrounds, traditional schools cannot offer the range of services and individual attention these students need to be successful. To date 176 students have been served and 27 have graduated. Of these, 67% are either working, in college/technical school, in job core, or serving in the military.

High Five Award

Presented by



Hands On

NORTHWEST NORTH CAROLINA

*Celebrating innovation in the nonprofit
community*

November, 16, 2009

2009 High Five Award

HandsOn Northwest North Carolina

is pleased to announce its first High Five Award. The High Five Award is designed to recognize and honor a nonprofit within Forsyth, Davidson, Davie, Yadkin or Surry County that has demonstrated an imaginative or creative way to improve program/service delivery, create a new program, or develop a unique or inventive method to address a particular problem or initiative. By celebrating examples of innovation and creativity within our sector, HandsOn Northwest North Carolina can highlight ideas that will inspire other organizations to look at problems in new ways.

This year, twelve nonprofits applied for the High Five Award. HandsOn Northwest North Carolina is pleased to present these organizations, along with a brief description of their submissions, in this booklet. We applaud their commitment to enriching our community by daily pursuing their missions, while creatively achieving their organizational goals. Congratulations!

We invite you to learn more about the winning organization by visiting our website at **www.HandsOnNWNC.org**. The site will also provide you with information about our organization and the programs we offer. Additionally, please feel free to call us at 336.724.2866.

HandsOn North Carolina would like to thank the **Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust** for sponsoring this award.

Samaritan Ministries

Since 2008, hunger has reached epidemic levels and Samaritan Ministries has felt the impact. As the area's only soup kitchen, the ministry needed to address the escalating number of people requesting food. Initially, the ministry began by extending their lunch serving time by thirty minutes daily. Although helpful, the agency could still not keep up with the demand for food. By collaborating with another nonprofit that addresses hunger issues, Second Harvest Food Bank, the ministry realized it could buy entrees from the Food Bank's culinary job training program, Triad Community Kitchen. This was not only a cost effective way of providing additional food, but greatly reduced the time needed for meal preparation, allowing more people to be fed. Because close to one-third of each class enrolled in Triad Community Kitchen are homeless men and women, Samaritan Ministries could easily refer their shelter residents to the program as a way to gain skills for employment.

Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem

With an increasing aging population and a growing number of retired nurses and health care providers in the community, *The Congregational Nurse and Health Ministry* was implemented as a way of providing more people with access to health care and preventive health care. Under this innovative program, volunteer nurses and health educators are enlisted by congregations to provide services which will reduce emergency room visits and admissions, as well as detect potentially serious conditions earlier. They are overseen by a program director who manages and coordinates the initiative. The program currently has 16 congregations, 33 nurses, and has impacted the lives of 1,915 people. In addition to churches, the Center has established widespread partnerships with medical centers, universities, colleges, and social service agencies. These agencies contribute to the program in many ways, such as providing continuing education credits to nurses who participate in the program. The benefits of the program are many and have resulted in increased community interest in the concept of congregational nursing.

Group Homes of Forsyth County

To comply with an accreditation requirement, Group Homes of Forsyth County turned an arduous task into an opportunity to review all of its programs, internally and externally. From enhancing service delivery to increasing the effectiveness of its governance and leadership, the agency reviewed programs and partnerships in an extensive effort to improve standards, build moral, and identify practices potentially keeping them from being the premier regional agency for providing quality residential care and training for adults with mental retardation or developmental disabilities. With limited funding, Group Homes aggressively surveyed stakeholders, created inner agency teams to help redraft the agency's strategic plan, offered lunch and learn events to build collaborations, and sponsored small fundraisers to meet new stakeholders and build community relationships. As a result, the agency not only obtained accreditation, but revised their strategic plan, strengthened board recruitment, evaluated the agency's Board of Directors, and developed a comprehensive marketing plan.

Newborns In Need

After pursuing a myriad of fundraising ideas with little success, Newborns In Need decided to employ a technique called "multiplying our assets" by focusing on three agency features: a caring group of national volunteers, a large quantity of fabric donated by a textile company, and a sewing ministry recently created to train ladies in a nearby women's prison. These resources were creatively turned into *Nickels for Newborns In Need*. Under the program, coin bags made were made by the ladies in the prison ministry using the fabric donated. Board members then hand stamped the agency's logo on the bags, and volunteers gave the bags to friends to collect loose change. The bags are returned to the volunteers at the end of each month and the money is used by the chapter to purchase supplies and baby items. The bags are reused the following month. By taking stock of their assets, the agency produced a large supply of coin collection bags that only cost \$45 to produce-providing each chapter with their own steady income stream.

Bethesda Center for the Homeless

Homeless women face unique issues that make housing placement for them more difficult and cause them to lose housing more frequently than men. In addition to mental illness, addictions, lack of income, and criminal convictions, women also face barriers such as male predators, gang rape, lost child custody, and diminished self esteem. To address the problem of recidivism among homeless women, Bethesda Center for the Homeless implemented a holistic program that provides safe shelter while addressing the root causes of homelessness, including ways to become self-sufficient and housing guidance. Development of a personal improvement plan for females was also introduced. By teaming with various community partners, The Center now offers women budgeting, literacy, life skills, self esteem and self-worth classes. Further, the Center has become a GED assessment and preparation satellite site.

Caroline's Promise

Comprised mostly of volunteers, Caroline's Promise needed a way to advertise their mission of "Reclaiming Hope for Orphans." Realizing that the Christian community was a likely partner, they contacted Winston-Salem Christian radio station WBFJ and Rob Mitchell, a local author who was orphaned as a child. Together, they developed the "*Survivor Guatemala Mission Trip Giveaway*," a contest in which the winner received a free mission trip to Guatemala with one of WBFJ's radio hosts. WBFJ provided the on-air advertising, contest entry format/method via their website, and promotion for an entire month. Mr. Mitchell, author of [Castaway Kid](#), provided the financial sponsorship for the contest. Caroline's Promise assisted with promotion, on-air interviews, and all mission trip arrangements. This innovative partnership helped expand the number of listeners for WBFJ and increase the number of speaking engagements for Mr. Mitchell, while significantly enlarging the exposure of Caroline's Promise to potential new donors in the community.

Children's Museum of Winston-Salem

To reduce declining new visitor admissions while increasing outreach to underserved populations, the Children's Museum of Winston-Salem offered several nonprofits that work with underserved populations free access to the museum. Through these partnerships, the museum was able to achieve their outreach targets and goals, increase awareness of their offerings, and provide a "sampling" of museum activities and programs, resulting in more visitations to the museum. Examples of collaborations include: a free night to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank with a donation of a canned food item, Head Start "preview" nights, and ABC Center of NC night. Similar events are planned for the future. The uniqueness of this effort is found in coupling free night or free admission events with organizations that already work with underserved persons.

Crisis Control Ministries

For years, Crisis Control Ministries has assisted people in meeting essential life needs while helping them become self-sufficient. To identify barriers prohibiting self-sufficiency, Crisis Control Ministries created a new program, *Breaking the Cycle*, which examines external factors that contribute to a crisis. By addressing these underlying causes, the agency can help clients obtain self-sufficiency by avoiding recurring situations. Under *Breaking the Cycle*, a case manager works individually with families providing budget counseling, money management, education/job training and resource assessment for services such as affordable housing, childcare, etc. An extensive database that monitors assistance from other agencies, is also used to identify individuals who may need further case management. Clients further receive follow-up visits six months after the completion of the program to ensure that they have been independent of emergency assistance. Since its inception, 32 individuals have successfully graduated from the program and another 20 are currently enrolled.

Faith Seeds Community

Faith Seeds Community helps persons who have been incarcerated assimilate back into the community through their re-entry program. Recognizing that no one agency can provide every single service needed, Faith Seeds Community partners with numerous organizations to help make re-entry as holistic and successful as possible by providing employment training, GED and computer classes, supportive listening circles for males and females, and through formal hiring agreements with over ten different employers. One of their most successful initiatives matches persons who have been through their program with a high school student who must complete community service. Most of these students have a family member who is incarcerated and view jail as a rite of passage. Coupling these youth with re-entry associates (who volunteer their time) provides the youth with a realistic view of prison life and the impacts that imprisonment can have on their future.

Farmington Community Center

To raise funds to purchase new windows for their community center (which also serves as the location of the Davie Senior Services Program,) center staff came up with a "pane free" idea. Since the community center is housed in the historic old Farmington School, the cost of new windows was going to total more than \$17,000—an amount far outside the community center's budget. In response to this challenge, they decided to "sell" windows in memory of someone special who had been a part of the school's history. For each window "purchased," a plaque was installed that contained an inscription of the donor's choosing. Due to this creative idea, both old and new could be honored, and the Center not only raised all of the funds needed to replace the windows, but inspired community volunteers to help continue the task of renovating the old schoolhouse.