



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

October 2, 2010

CONTACTS:

Pat Drewry-Sanger, Executive Director, 435.615.7878 or 435.645.0926, pat@arts-kids.org
Corinne Humphrey, Board Co-Chair, 435.659.8954

Role Models at Arts-Kids

Professional Adults & Healthy Kids Make a Difference

PARK CITY, UTAH — Over the next eight weeks more than xx Summit County students will have the opportunity to work creatively with professional artists at a unique after-school program that combines the expressive arts with community building.

Invitations to join the program have gone out to students at Jeremy Ranch, Park City High School, Treasure Mountain Middle School and

Guidance counselors have sent out invitations to students at

Arts-Kids can help bridge the budget cut gap. Arts-Kids is an after-school program using the expressive arts and group techniques to help students between the ages of 8 and 17 years old learn about art, while at the same time, meet the challenges of growing up. Programs are free to all participants regardless of a family's ability to pay and are made possible by grants and donations.

The Arts-Kids program has been developed over the past decade to address challenges facing today's youth. The program is often called a "primary prevention program" because the sense of belonging and "connectedness" developed in an Arts-Kids group helps kids avoid problems associated with:

- Alcohol abuse
- Drug use
- Teen suicide
- Gangs
- Bullying and teasing

- Social network problems like sexting and cyber-bullying
- Lying, stealing, vandalism

About Arts-Kids

Arts-Kids, Inc. was founded in 1999 by Pat Drewry Sanger, an Advanced Practice Psychiatric-Mental Health Registered Nurse and Child/Adolescent Specialist. The inspiration for the program came from her early work in Norfolk, Virginia, where she noticed that children growing up in tough inner city environments began to become hardened and emotionally shut down by age nine or ten. Parents were often so exhausted from their efforts to survive they had no energy to support their children on an emotional level.

Ms. Sanger transferred that learning to establish Arts-Kids, an after school program which combined the expressive arts and group techniques to teach life skills to youth. By 2003, Arts-Kids and Arts-Teens groups had expanded to all ten Summit County elementary and middle schools.

In 2008, Arts-Kids expanded its model to the Uintah and Ouray Northern Ute Reservations in eastern Utah, and Arts-Kids plans to expand their reach to the Navajo Tribe in southern Utah and to provide programs to teen detention centers in Utah and nationwide.

In 2010, Arts-Kids developed a formal training program to teach civic organizations, school districts, additional Native tribes and other audiences how to implement the program for youth in their own communities.

Attention Media: Interviews and images available upon request. For more information contact Arts-Kids at 435.615.7878 or go to www.arts-kids.org.

###