



**vsa**  
ALABAMA

The State Organization  
on Arts and Disability

# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Community of Friends,

It is an honor to present VSA Alabama's 2010 Annual Report to the Community. In an incredibly challenging economic time, you have humbled us with your support and made us stronger and more impactful than ever before. Thanks to you, our community of friends, we are **improving people's lives**. Our mission of serving children and adults with disabilities and chronic illnesses through the arts is unwavering; our commitment to you, stronger than ever.

Thanks to you, we provide access to the arts for thousands of Alabamians and the opportunity to create alongside people with all abilities. Thanks to you, over 4,000 children and adults have been directly

impacted by one of VSA Alabama's 65 programs, exhibits or events. Over 500 people statewide participated in our signature ArtPartners program in 2010. This creative mentoring program has grown from 10 initial partnerships in Birmingham in 2002 to hundreds in three communities each year.

Whether in community agencies, hospitals/clinics, schools, museums or our own ArtPartners studio, with your support, everyone is given the opportunity to express themselves—through the arts. Every year, I am amazed, delighted and forever changed by the people we serve and the creativity they share.

This summary of our programs with pictures of some of the children and adults we serve is just a modest effort to share with you the real people and the real stories they represent. The facts and figures are strong, but the impact on the lives of those we serve is even stronger.

Thanks to all of you.

Patti Hendrix Lovoy  
*Executive Director*

VSA Alabama provided programming in **the visual arts, music therapy, art therapy, drumming and rhythm, drama, and creative movement** at 20 partnering community agencies, 6 schools, and 5 healthcare sites across the state! **Over 4,000 children and adults with disabilities and chronic illnesses** directly participated in our programming in 2010! **57 programs and 8 major events** were held this year.

## **ARTS IN COMMUNITY—865 served**

The goal of our Arts in Community program is to provide high quality arts programming for people with disabilities and chronic illnesses in community settings at every stage of life. We partnered with community agencies to provide teaching artists at each of the following sites:

AIDS Alabama • Arc of Fayette, Lamar, and Marengo Counties • Arc of Jefferson County • Arc of South Talladega Arc of Walker County • Clarke County ARC • Eastern Shore Art Center • Independent Living Center of Mobile Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority—Deaf Services • Kirkwood By The River • McCoy Adult Day Care Mobile ARC • Rittenhouse Senior Living of Hoover • South Highland Center • St. Martin's in the Pines • United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham (LincPoint Adult Center) United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville • Vent Kids Camp & Holiday Party • Workshops, Inc. • 1920 Club

## **ARTS IN EDUCATION—134 served**

The goal of our Arts in Education program is to provide inclusive arts programming for children in schools serving students with disabilities.

Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (Rhythmic Empowerment Drumming Program) at Helen Keller School and Alabama School for the Blind • The Bell Center for Early Intervention (visual arts for preK) • The Burkett Center (art therapy and music therapy for students with multiple disabilities) • Epic School (multi-disciplinary arts program for students in grades 1-11) • UCP of Greater Birmingham—Hand in Hand Early Learning Center (visual arts for preK)

## **ARTPARTNERS PROGRAM—410 Emerging Artists/130 Community Artists served statewide**

ArtPartners is our year-round signature creative mentoring program. The goal of the ArtPartners is to provide a socially inclusive environment where emerging artists of all ages and abilities can develop meaningful relationships with volunteer community artists through one-to-one engagement in the visual arts. Our largest flagship program serves the Greater Birmingham area, with smaller programs in the Mobile/Fairhope and Sylacauga communities. ArtPartners is open to people of all ages and diagnoses and is offered free of charge to the public.

## **EXHIBITS/CALLS FOR ART**

Our exhibits give children and adults with disabilities and chronic illnesses the opportunity to showcase their artistic talents in prominent public venues. Adult artists have the opportunity to market their artwork and gain professional skills.

## **CREATIVITY: ART IN THE MAGIC CITY—125 artists with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses served**

Creativity: Art in the Magic City is an annual statewide call for art and exhibit. This juried exhibit was held for the 18th year in the Spring of 2010 at the AT&T Alabama Operations Center in Birmingham. Adult artists age 18 and older living with disabilities or chronic illnesses were invited to showcase their artwork in a public venue. A special dinner and awards ceremony for the artists and their families was hosted by AT&T Alabama followed by a closing reception attended by the public. 221 works were on display from March 9-April 27, 2010. Over 80 works of art sold with a majority of the proceeds going directly to the artists and a portion going to support our programming.

## **CREATIVEFEST**

### **111 students, 10 teachers/schools served**

CreativeFest is a statewide annual call for art and exhibit for children in grades 1-11 with and without disabilities. The exhibit was shown in the mezzanine of the Children's Hospital of Alabama for six months (March-September). A celebratory reception and awards ceremony was held in the lobby of Children's Hospital for the participating students and teachers, patients, families, and hospital staff. The reception included collaborative art stations and a drumming circle. Ten of the 119 works were selected to be included in the VSA Alabama Traveling Exhibit.

## **SHARE MY WORLD**

### **64 students, 10 teachers/schools served**

Share My World is an inclusive call for art for children in grades preK-12 from Birmingham City Schools. This exhibit was shown at Children's Hospital from December through March. A celebratory reception and awards ceremony was held in the lobby of Children's Hospital at the close of the exhibit, including art stations and a drumming circle.

## **VSA ALABAMA TRAVELING EXHIBIT**

50 works of art selected from the Creativity and CreativeFest exhibits traveled to prominent venues over a 6-month period and ended at the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery with a special closing reception.





### VSA CALL FOR WRITING

VSA Alabama participates in the VSA National Call for Writing by distributing applications to K-12 teachers across the state. Students with and without disabilities are encouraged to submit their creative writing to the national competition.

### VSA AND CVS CAREMARK PRESENT ALL KIDS CAN CREATE CALL FOR ART—Over 100 submissions

VSA Alabama participates in the *All Kids Can Create* national call for children's art by distributing applications to K-12 teachers across Alabama. Students submit their work online. In 2010, Margaret Chester from Crestline Elementary School in Mountain Brook was selected for inclusion in the national exhibit and attended the VSA International Festival and Congressional Reception celebrating ADA in Washington, D.C.

### 2010 TRAVELING EXHIBIT VENUES

50 direct participants served

- Mary G. Hardin Cultural Center (Gadsden)
- Walker Baptist Medical Center (in partnership with the Walker County Arts Alliance) (Jasper)
- Fayette Art Museum (Fayette)
- Striplin Performing Arts Center (Selma)
- Alabama State Capitol (Montgomery)

### VSA NATIONAL PROGRAMS

#### VSA INTERNATIONAL YOUNG SOLOISTS PROGRAM

11 direct participants served

VSA held its annual live competition for musically talented young people (ages 25 and under) with disabilities at the Bradley Lecture Center at Children's Hospital. Participants performed in front of a live audience and panel of judges. State winners were selected and submitted to the VSA national office in Washington, D.C. for entry in the international competition.



#### ARTS IN HEALTHCARE—952 served

The goal of our Arts in Healthcare programs is to bring the healing power of the arts to patients, families, and medical staff at Birmingham's world-class healthcare centers. We provided art therapy, drumming and rhythm, and visual arts activities at 5 healthcare sites in the Greater Birmingham area.

- UAB Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Children's Hospital (art therapy for children undergoing cancer treatment)
- Psychiatric Unit at Children's Hospital (drumming for adolescents)
- Children's Rehabilitation Services (CRS) Clinics at Children's Hospital and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (visual arts activities in the waiting room)
- UAB Palliative and Comfort Care Unit (art therapy for patients and families dealing with end-of-life issues)





## GALLERY SPACES

VSA Alabama displays artwork created by children and adults with disabilities and chronic illnesses in our own Hamby Gallery\* and at various locations throughout Greater Birmingham. In 2010, our artists were featured at:

- Birmingham City Hall
- KPS (Kidd Plosser Sprague) Architects
- Ronald McDonald House (Birmingham/Children's Hospital)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Department of Psychiatry
- UAB Medical Scientist Training Program offices
- UAB Palliative and Comfort Care Unit
- UAB Spain Rehabilitation Center

\*In 2010, VSA Alabama proudly named its gallery space the **Wyona and Tom Hamby Gallery** in honor of these longtime friends and supporters for their "Creativity, Generosity, Advocacy and Love" on behalf of our organization.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### KIDS ON THE BLOCK—1,145 served

VSA Alabama participated in Kids on the Block inclusive puppet shows for children in K-5th grades. Shows covered various topics dealing with disabilities and social issues. One of our staff members served as a puppeteer for six Kids on the Block shows throughout the school year.

### ASL SERVICES

VSA Alabama provides ASL Interpretation at all special events. We also serve as a resource for organizations and individuals in need of a certified ASL interpreter.

### CHILDREN'S DANCE FOUNDATION

VSA Alabama partnered with Children's Dance Foundation to provide tuition assistance for dance instruction for children with disabilities.

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Our goal is to create opportunities for everyone to learn from, participate in, and enjoy the arts! Participants of all ages and diagnoses received the following benefits as a result of participation in our programming:

- Increased access to the arts and opportunities for creative self-expression
- Improved social skills, communication, and team-building skills
- Reduced stress and anxiety and improved coping skills
- Increased self-confidence and self-esteem and the opportunity to be recognized for their accomplishments
- Improved fine motor skills for those with limited physical mobility
- Increased reminiscence and memory recall for senior adults with Alzheimer's and dementia



If you would like VSA Alabama to make a brief presentation at your school, company, or civic group, please contact **Meagan Vucovich at 205-307-6300 ext. 12**. We are always looking for opportunities to partner with schools, colleges, corporations, healthcare centers, and community organizations to further our mission.

## THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS!



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 Alabama State Council on the Arts (and the National Endowment for the Arts)  
 Alabama "Support the Arts" License Tag Grant  
 Birmingham Kiwanis Foundation  
 The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham  
 CVS Caremark (through VSA)  
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 Sunbelt Golf Corporation  
 Studio Fitness  
 Tamara's  
 Teresa Thorne  
 Melinda Thompson  
 Turquoise  
 VSA Alabama Junior Patrons  
 D. Vucovich Fine Art & Portraits  
 Mark & Vicki Winstead  
 Stevie Wyatt  
 Wynfrey Hotel  
 Young Professionals of Birmingham

### Special Thanks to All of Our Community Artists Who Volunteer Through Our ArtPartners Birmingham Program

Katie Berry  
 Amy Brown  
 Beverly Carroway  
 Michelle Chang  
 Mary Jane Coker  
 Joe DeCamillis  
 Nancy DeCamillis  
 Jennifer Dodd  
 Michael Dudley  
 Ellen Durham  
 Shane Enoch  
 Jennifer Forrester  
 Anne Frost  
 Anna Genin  
 Caryn Gleason  
 Kim Graham Smith  
 Angela Grove  
 Wyona Hamby  
 Joanna Hamilton  
 Erin Hardin  
 Julian Hazlett  
 Alyce Head  
 Casey Hitt  
 Charlotte Holder

Janet Holloway  
 Katie Icimsoy  
 Staci Jacks  
 Brittnay Kelly  
 Ray Kersh  
 Megan Kimber  
 Laurie Kramer  
 Hallie Le  
 Robert Levy  
 Karen Lesser  
 Mary Susan Lewis  
 Daniel Long  
 Megan McFarling  
 Mallory McLendon  
 Chris Meredith  
 Hunter Nichols  
 Komeh Ottison  
 Renee Prasil  
 Ralph Rawlings  
 Shannon Reese  
 Mero'e Rei  
 Annette Reynolds  
 Willow Scott  
 Connie Sellers  
 Ali Simpson  
 Sally Smith  
 Lane Turbeville  
 Vero Vanblaere  
 Connie Vickers  
 Ross Wade  
 Wendy Walters  
 Emily Wertheim  
 Jillian Woodruff

### Special Thanks to All of Our Restaurants, Chefs, Caterers, and In-Kind Donors Who Participated in Acoustic Soup 2010

Alabama Crown Distributors  
 Alabama Symphony Orchestra  
 Ashley Mac's  
 Avo  
 B&A Warehouse  
 Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings, LLP  
 Brannon's: A Public House  
 Broadway Across America  
 Sue Ellen Brown  
 Café de Paris  
 Century Restaurant & Bar  
 Chef U  
 City Hall Diner  
 Coca-Cola Bottling Co. United

Crestwood Coffee  
 Daniel George  
 Dextateens  
 Cathy Dew  
 Dram Whiskey Bar  
 Dyron's Lowcountry  
 Gail Pittman Pottery  
 Gold's Gym  
 Icing on the Cookie  
 Idie and Chris Hastings/Hot & Hot  
 Fish Club  
 Indy Grand Prix of Alabama  
 Kevin Irwin  
 Jackson's Bar and Bistro  
 Jeff Jeffcoat & T.J. Segrest  
 John's City Diner  
 Johnson Brothers Wine  
 Little Savannah Restaurant and Bar  
 Lucy's Coffee & Tea  
 Daniel Moore  
 Morgan Murphy  
 Olexa's Café, Cakes, and Catering  
 Piggly Wiggly  
 Jim & Pam Prestwood  
 Leland Ray  
 The Rhythm Kings  
 Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail  
 Sanctuary  
 Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival  
 Sirote & Permutt, P.C.  
 Sol Garden & Home  
 Gulnaz "GiGi" Soomro  
 Southern Progress Corporation  
 Spa Moksha  
 Studio Fitness  
 Tena Payne Pottery  
 Jessica Terry  
 Tonya Jones Salon & Spa  
 Melinda Rainey Thompson  
 Teresa K. Thorne  
 Trattoria Centrale  
 The Tutwiler Hotel  
 Wine'd Down  
 WorkPlay  
 Xcell Academy  
 Yogurt Mountain  
 YP Birmingham

### Special Thanks to Sirote & Permutt, P.C. and IKON for Donating Printing Services for this Annual Report.

## 2010 FISCAL YEAR (AUDITED)

### Revenue \$437,877

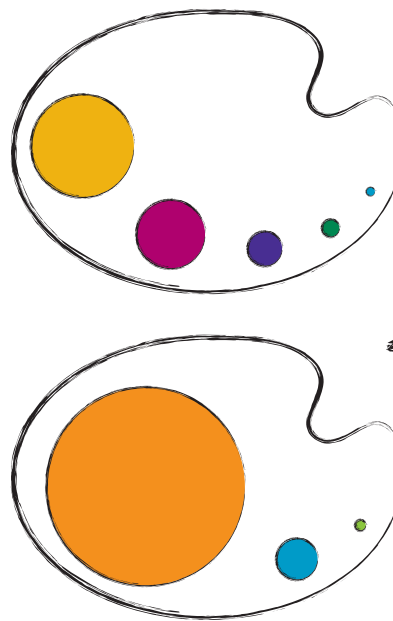
#### By Source

- Grants \$203,556
- Contributions \$132,017
- Program Fees \$67,137
- United Way (Special Project Partner) \$35,000
- Other Income \$167

### Expenses \$426,815

#### By Purpose

- Programming \$384,559
- Mgmt. & General \$37,098
- Fundraising \$5,158



To view our IRS Form 990, please go to our website at [vsaalabama.org](http://vsaalabama.org).