



# Notes from PECAN, Inc.



## PECAN, Inc. Promotes the Arts

Pecan is a non-profit organization that promotes the arts for youth. The mission of PECAN is to aid and support the development of children into confident human beings through participation in music and the arts.

Music and art for all youth are documented to be meaningful, purposeful and productive activities that can help change a child's life forever by developing rhythm and structure, therefore helping the child gain confidence and self-worth.

The participation of youth in the arts offsets the attraction that would otherwise be met by alcohol, tobacco and or drugs. Music and art therefore minimize or oblivate the desire to resort to these substances.

PECAN, Inc. has been accomplishing its goal of promoting the

arts in youth since 2001 through a variety of activities: Celebration of Children held at the Forum in Harrisburg in July, Art Day Camp held in Shellsville in June, Wheelchair Dance held in Hershey, starting in February, and Caitlin's Smiles which continues to spread the creative arts for children in hospitals. These activities will be highlighted with more information in this newsletter.



"I have long believed in the important role that music and the arts can play in helping students learn, achieve and succeed. Education in the theater, dance and the visual arts is one of the most creative ways we have to find the gold that is buried just beneath the surface. They "children" have enthusiasm for life, a spark of creativity and vivid imaginations that need training.... training that prepares them to become confident young men and women."

--US Secretary of Education  
Richard W. Riley

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## Cheryl Hornung of Caitlin's Smiles Meets President Bush



Cheryl Hornung was recognized by President George W. Bush on Friday, October 1, 2004 in Allentown, PA.

Cheryl was chosen because of her volunteer work with Caitlin's Smile, a non-profit organization that delivers arts and craft kits to children in hospitals. These packages help lift the spirits of children who are seriously ill. The bags contain creative arts activities that put a smile on the faces of the children who receive them. The program was inspired by Cheryl's daughter Caitlin, who lost her battle with brain cancer at the age of seven.

Since March of 2004, 545 bags of goodies have been delivered to area hospitals. In November of 2004, Caitlin's Smiles expanded to Ohio Hospitals. For the complete story, log on to [Caitlin'sSmiles@aol.com](mailto:Caitlin'sSmiles@aol.com)

The Smile that inspired it all!



Caitlin Hornung

December 19, 1992 to October 2, 2000

### Wheelchair Dancers... "prepare to spin their wheels"

Preparations are under way to begin a wheelchair dance class for children in conjunction with The One Broadway Dance Center in Hershey. Nancy Ehrlich, the Director of Celebration of Children began researching wheelchair dancing on the web after a serious accident that left her paralyzed. She and PECAN, Inc. producer, Shirley Nolt, decided that PECAN might be the perfect organization to umbrella such a program for children. Wheelchair dancing tones muscles, improves circulation, increases awareness of spatial relations, and increases socialization and self awareness while having fun! The goal is to make dance and the joy of movement accessible to everyone.



*"Studies have shown that the arts can raise long-term academic achievement, decrease dropout rates, and lay a foundation for future participation in the workforce."*

Soulla Antonio,  
President, VSA Art, Washington, D.C.

### Upcoming Events 2005

Auditions for Celebration of Children  
East Hanover Township Bldg.  
Grantville, PA time: 7PM to 9PM  
February 20 and 27  
March 6 and 13  
April 3 and 17  
May 1 and 22

Art Day Camp  
June 28, 29 30, 2005 - 1PM to 4PM  
East Hanover Township Building  
Grantville, PA

Celebration of Children Event  
July 10, 2005 at 3PM  
at the Forum in Harrisburg

For information call (717) - 469-7517

## Special Guest Star, Charles S. Dutton Receives Arpeggio Award

Emmy Award winning actor, Charles S. Dutton made a special guest appearance at the 2004 Celebration of Children. Mr. Dutton graciously signed autographs during intermission and met with children and parents at a reception after the performance. After receiving the arpeggio award, presented to him by young rap artist, Destiny Rios, Mr. Dutton spoke to the audience. *"I'm a testament to what the arts can do for a person. It can save lives. It can change lives. It makes people discover or rediscover their humanity."*

With a career spanning theater, television and film, Mr. Dutton is one of the few actors to earn Tony, Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for the same role. Mr. Dutton has participated in numerous community service activities and programs, especially in his native Baltimore. He has traveled extensively speaking at prisons, youth conferences, association meetings, schools, colleges and universities. For his accomplishments, Townsen State University awarded Mr. Dutton the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree.



Charles S. Dutton receiving the Arpeggio Award at the 2004 Celebration of Children performance at the forum in Harrisburg.

### What is the Celebration of Children?

*Celebration of children is presented by PECAN, Inc (Pennsylvania Education for Children in the arts network, Inc). Children up to 18 years of age are chosen from the area to perform their talent in dance, instrumental, gymnastics, voice, speaking and other specialities including creative arts. The purpose of the performance is to showcase talented young artists in the PA area and to bring awareness of the importance of art to youth. In addition to the performers, young artists also display their drawings, paintings, photography, sculpture and more at the art display in the lobby.*

The 2005 Celebration Of Children Event will be held at the Forum in Harrisburg, PA on Walnut st. ,on July 14 at 3pm. For ticket information, call 717-469-7517.



### Master of Ceremonies Randi Levendusky To Study Opera



Randi Levendusky of Wellsville, PA was the Master of Ceremonies for the Celebration of Children from 2001 to 2004. During her time as MC she was a genuine role model for the children, giving encouragement and praise to the performers and helping them overcome nervousness and gain confidence. In 2004 she won the Miss York County Competition. She also won the preliminary talent and non-finalist talent awards in the Miss Pennsylvania Scholarship Program. Randi was the 2003 Allegro Award winner for PECAN, Inc. She is now attending Susquehanna University, majoring in vocal performance and communications. We wish her much good fortune in her endeavors.

### Demonstrations by Cartoonist, Fred Miles

Fred Miles was present at the 2004 Celebration of Children Art Display, demonstrating cartooning. He founded the Cartoon Tycoon, an independent animation and graphics studio that produces character animation for television, films and multi media. Mr. Miles has won recognition for his work with NBC Sports, ESPN, Abc Sports, MTV, The Discovery Channel and NBA Entertainment.

Fred Miles organized the Cartoon Academy which offered an animation camp for middle and high school students and faculty at Susquehanna Art Museum in Harrisburg, PA. Students worked alongside professional animators to learn the animation production process within a working studio.



## PECAN,Inc. Awards Crescendo, Allegro and Arpeggio Awards



2004 award recipients Liz Park, Cheryl Hornung and Charles Dutton



### Crescendo Award Recipients

The Crescendo Award was created in 1998 by Cynthia Sudor, co-founder of the Celebration of Children, to recognize an adult who has given of themselves through their artistic talent to children projects in the Harrisburg area.

1998 - Edward C. Truax who was very active with *Girls Incorporated* of Greater Harrisburg, contributing his time and artistic talent to children and projects in the Harrisburg area.

1999 - Linda Tokoni is the creator and director of *Susquehanna Youth Chorale* whose efforts have helped many children learn the value of harmony and team effort with the beauty of songs and performances in the Central PA area.

2000 - Ruth Ann Jeremiah whose efforts with the group, *ENERGY*, since 1990 have helped children of all abilities and disabilities learn the value of song and dance as a group performing all across Pennsylvania.

2001 - Camille Eric created the school *Danzante* to teach Latino arts and history to inner city youth.

2002 - Ali and Safwana Muhammad Founded and direct the school *Ngosi* which teaches African Dance. Ali Muhammad is also the founder and instructor with the *Universal African Fighting Arts System*.

2003 - George Kell has made a difference in the lives of young people through musicals and plays at the *Harrisburg Youth for Christ* center on Eisenhower Blvd.

2004 - Cheryl Hornung creator of *Caitlin Suites* which delivers arts and crafts kits to children in hospitals.

### Allegro Award Recipients

The Allegro Award was created by PECAN, Inc. in 2002 to recognize youth who have given of themselves in the arts to help others.

2002 - Lauren Elizabeth Featman, of Carlisle provided children with summer dance lessons for a small fee and donated the proceeds to the American Lung Association.

2003 - Randi Levandusky worked with the Celebration of Children coaching and encouraging youth in the arts.

2004 - Elizabeth Park contributed to non-profit organizations by face painting and working at summer day camps with visual arts for people with disabilities.

### Arpeggio Award Recipient

The Arpeggio Award was created in 2004 to recognize a celebrity who is giving of themselves in the arts to help better the lives of youth.

2004 - Charles S. Dutton actor, director, and movie producer for his work with underprivileged youth through theater arts which has helped youth gain confidence and self worth.

## PECAN,Inc.'s Art Day Camp A Success

In July of 2004, PECAN, Inc. held an Art Day Camp for children ages 18 and under. Art Day Camp gives children of all abilities the opportunity to experience working with many different types of art. Six instructors taught a variety of art techniques including, balloon tying by Stan Baldwin, Wood painting by Anna Goss, drawing and painting by Liz Parks, animalitos and bottle bugs by Diane Garrett, Mobiles and metal stamping by Laura Chuba and wire sculpture and cartooning by Roni Deitrich. The artists were invited to display their work at the Celebration of Children Event at the Forum. All campers who attended received a medal for their efforts.

Art day Camp will be held at the East Hanover Township Building on Old Jonestown Rd. in Shellsville, from Tuesday, June 28th through Thursday June 30th. The hours are 1 to 4 pm. There will be a variety of activities and techniques offered to children 18 years of age and younger. The cost of tuition is \$90.00 for all 3 days. For 2 days the cost is \$60.00.

For more information please call 717-469-0587. Please use the application that is enclosed in this newsletter to sign up as soon as possible.

