



PECAN, Inc.

✧ PECAN, Inc. Promotes the Arts ✧

PECAN, Inc. Progressive Education of Children in the Arts Network, Inc. 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 obviates 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, 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.

Progressive Education of Children in the Arts Network, Inc.

PO Box 99

Grantville, PA 17028

Phone: 717-469-7517

Fax: 717-469-0537

Web site: www.pecaninc.net

Non-Profit Organization



"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

"Studies have shown that the arts can raise long-term academic achievement, decrease drop-out rates, and lay a foundation for future participation in the work force."

Soulia Antonio, President

VSA Art, Washington, D. C.

PECAN, Inc. WEBSITE:

<http://www.pecaninc.net>





What is Celebration of Children?

Celebration of Children is presented by PECAN, Inc. (Progressive Education of 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 specialties including creative arts. The purpose of the performance is to showcase talented young artists in the community to bring awareness of the importance of art to youth in the community. In addition to the performers, young artists also display their drawings, paintings, photography, sculpture and more at the art display in the lobby. The Allegro Award, Crescendo Award, Arpeggio Award, and Media Award are given out at this performance.

Wheelchair Dancers Experience the Joy of Movement

Wheelchair Dance, founded by Nancy Ehrlich, Director of Celebration of Children and Board member of PECAN, Inc., began in June of 2005 with the help of her daughter Elizabeth. After years of dancing and then an accident that left her partially paralyzed and unable to dance, Nancy began researching wheelchair dancing on the web. 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.

TASK - Theatre Arts for Special Kids

TASK is an all inclusive non-profit organization under the umbrella of PECAN, Inc. The purpose of TASK is to give children of all types of ability a stage on which to express themselves. The goals of TASK are to give all children the opportunity through Theatre Arts to become more focused, be able to follow directions more accurately, cooperate with one another, communicate more clearly, display more awareness of their emotions, and the emotions of others, and to improve their self-esteem.

**PECAN
YEARLY
EVENTS**

*March,
April, May*
**Celebration of
Children
Auditions**

JULY
**Celebration of
Children &
PECAN, Inc.
Awards**

*FOR MORE
INFO*
call
(717)-469-7517
or (717)-469-7281

JUNE
**Art Lovers' &
Theatre Arts
Workshops**

PECAN, Inc. Awards

Crescendo Award Recipients

The Crescendo Award was created in 1998 by Cynthia Sudor, cofounder of Celebration of Children, to recognize an adult who has given of themselves using their artistic talent for youth in the Harrisburg area.

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

1999 - Linda Tedford - 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 - 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 Erice - created the school Danzante to teach Latino arts and history to inner city youth.

2002 - Ali and Rafiyqua Muhammad - founded and direct the school Gnus 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 his direction of musicals and plays at the Harrisburg Youth for Christ center on Eisenhower Blvd.

2004 - Cheryl Horning - created Caitlin's Smiles which delivers arts and crafts kits to children in hospitals.

2005 - Fred Miles - Cartoon Tycoon offers an animation camp for middle and high school students helping many children learn the animation production process within a working studio.

2006 - Roni Dietrich - Scrimshaw artist, organizer of PECAN, Inc. Art Day Camp and is instrumental in organizing the art displays for Celebration of Children for the past 5 years.

2007 - Anita Tyler-Goodrich - founder/ director of Prazon School of Dance in 2000 to increase awareness in the Arts.

2008 - Aileen Hower - Makeup artist for Celebration of Children for 4 years and TASK for 2 years as well as volunteering her services to many organizations in the Central PA area.

Allegro Award Recipients

The Allegro Award, created in 2002, recognizes a youth who have given of themselves in the arts to help others.

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

2003 - Randi Levundusky worked 4 years with Celebration of Children coaching 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.

2005 - Andrew kj Shiraki - president of the youth advisory counsel for the Lower Paxton Youth Center.

2006 - Elizabeth M. Ehrlich - worked for 6 years with Celebration of children as MC and teaching dance routines. She is instrumental in starting Children's Wheelchair Dance and teaching the class.

2007 - Julia Olley - Celebration of Children backstage manager for 4 years. PECAN, Inc. art day camp assistant for 3 years.

2008 - Corina Aucker - worked for 7 years with Celebration of Children as a performer and 4 years as Jr. MC. Volunteers her time to sing the National Anthem at events as well as singing to support the Troops in Iraq.

Arpeggio Award Recipients

The Arpeggio Award was created in 2004 to recognize a celebrity who is giving of themselves to help youth create harmony in their lives through use of the arts.

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

2005 - Steven Courtney - performing songwriter of songs with themes that include love, friendship and family.

2006 - Michelle White - Special Ed teacher and author of books to help children understand being disabled.

2007 - Woody Wolfe - Singer, composer, guitar player who creates harmony in hospitals singing and playing songs for children in the pediatrics ward.

2008 - Mark W. Wesling - Classical Guitarist, composer of children's songs about life, susuki teacher of classical guitar, performer and visual artist.

Media Award

The Media Award was created in 2005 to recognize a program in any type of media that influences children in positive, productive ways by use of auditory and visual arts.

2005 - Mr. Roger's Neighborhood - an educational program for children using the arts accepted by David Newell - "Mr. McFeely".

2006 - WITF, Inc. - radio and TV station that promotes the arts for youth through educational programs accepted by Kathy Silks, Vice-president of Audience Relations.

2007 - Central Penn Parent Magazine - informs parents of upcoming events for children to become involved in especially art related events. Features articles of interest about the arts to encourage parents to involve their children.

2008 - VSA arts of Pennsylvania - website assists in supporting inclusive arts education through its well designed pages and easy to follow format.



Liz Ehrlich - Thanks for the Memories

18-year old Liz Ehrlich will retire from The Celebration of Children after 11 years of dancing, singing, speaking, choreographing and teaching. She has been the Master of Ceremonies for 4 years, and Jr. MC for 3 years prior.

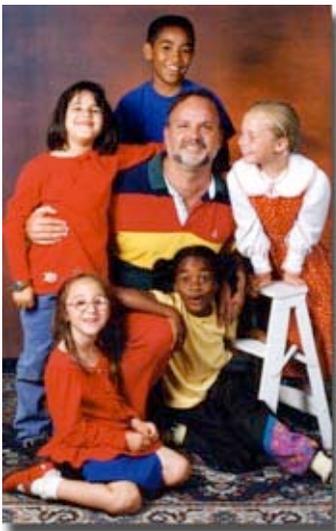
Liz has studied ballet, pointe, jazz, tap and Hip Hop for 14 years, at One Broadway in Hershey, and at Steps and Broadway Dance Studio in NY. She helped form the Children's Wheelchair Dance Workshop when she was 12, after her mother suffered a spinal cord injury. Liz used dance and other art forms to build social skills at Club Ophelia, a program that teaches girls about issues involving relational aggression. Liz learned that the arts played an important role in helping girls learn how to constructively communicate with their peers.

Liz has won the United Way of Central PA Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, the Allegro Award, The Optimist, Student of the Month Award, and The Optimist Club writing award. Liz is going to Penn State and would someday like to become a professor of History and Theology.

PECAN, Inc.'s Art Lovers' Workshop

Every year in June since 2005, PECAN, Inc. holds Art Lovers' Workshop 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. Five or more instructors teach a variety of art techniques including, balloon tying, wood painting, drawing, wire sculpture, scrimshaw, mobiles, murals, and cartooning, etc. The campers 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. For information please call 469-0587 or 469-7517.

Special Guest for Celebration of Children



Jim Rule is our special guest for our 11th annual Celebration of Children. Jim has invited our own COC Singers to premier a new song for him this year. He set the lyrics from a children's book of Nicki Weiss, "The World Turns Round and Round". to music. It involves places from all over the world which fit right into our theme of "places" this year.

Jim's songs have been heard on radio and television across the country. His work can be heard widely on The Learning Channel and, most notably, on "Barney & Friends®."

As a performer Jim plays several instruments, and presents a positive message that is both inspirational and fun. It is suitable for all audiences, especially children and their parents. Jim's shows are full of audience participation, and a good time is had by all.