



Jamie A. Hulley Fund for the Arts

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Winter 2005 Newsletter

A letter from Jamie's family ...

The outpouring of support for Jamie's Art Fund and the success of its many scholarships, awards, and educational programs is a source of great comfort to those of us who knew and loved Jamie. So many wonderful, kind and generous people have come into our lives through our work with Jamie's Art Fund that we feel truly blessed. It is as if, in her characteristic style, Jamie is gathering together an ensemble of good people to get the Fund's mission accomplished – to provide opportunities for young artists to expand their artistic talent and to pursue their dreams. What is so rewarding at this time is the synergetic energy and the spirit of “connectedness” that the Fund seems to generate. For example, Jamie's Fund enhances Amity High School's art education program and, in turn, Amity students and the children at Jamie A. Hulley Childcare Center in Bridgeport CT are forever connected through Lou Jefferson's multicultural mural. Amity students also provide invaluable volunteer assistance at our annual Evening for the Arts Benefit. Students at RaceBrook School in Orange CT and at the Lee Lund Studio of Dance in Milford CT are touched by Jamie's Fund and, in return, they “pay it forward” by donating hundreds of books for the children at Jamie's Childcare Center. Jamie's Fund helps the members of Fairfield University's Theatre Fairfield produce their independent senior production project and Theatre Fairfield passes on the opportunity by donating back the proceeds of their performances to Jamie's Fund's summer theater scholarship programs for young children. Jamie had the knack of seeing the good in people and networking those people together. That is just what we are experiencing in our work with Jamie's Art Fund.

– Judy Primavera, Fred Hulley, Kari Hulley



SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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“The first time her laughter unfurled its wings in the wind, we knew that the world would never be the same.”

Successful 2004 Benefit Supports More Arts Programs

September 18, 2004 marked the Second Annual Jamie A. Hulley Benefit, “An Evening for the Arts.” A crowd of nearly 300 people gathered at Fairfield University's Quick Center to enjoy an evening of dance, comedy and music. The festivities began with a silent auction featuring over 150 bidding treasures. Prints of Jamie's artwork and Jamie's Fund “Got Art” tee shirts were on sale. Wine flowed; yummy treats nibbled. In an encore performance as Master of Ceremony, Dave Raffauf touched the hearts, the funny bones, and the pocketbooks of the audience. Milford's Lee Lund Dance Studio's Teen Company opened the show with their signature piece *Flashdance* followed by a new number *Juxtaposition*. Back by popular demand was comedian Mike Morris who proved once again that psychology professors do, indeed, have a very unique and zany view of life's idiosyncrasies. The Stratford-based Melissa Mulligan Band wowed the crowd with a combination of popular tunes and original songs from Mulligan's newly released CD *Love This Life*. A very special moment of the evening was when the band performed *To Bologna* a song written by Jamie and friend Lisa Savin to commemorate their time in Italy. Because of the Benefit's terrific success, the number of awards have been increased in three existing programs (the Missoula Children's and the Shakespeare Ventures Theater Camp Scholarships and the Wesleyan Studio Art Thesis Stipend) and four new initiatives were begun in 2005 including: a Visiting Artists series at Amity High School (see story this issue); a Drama Club Production Gift at Amity High School to offset production costs; a Summer Arts Internship Stipend to make it possible for college students to participate in an unpaid arts-related internship experience; and a “Musicians

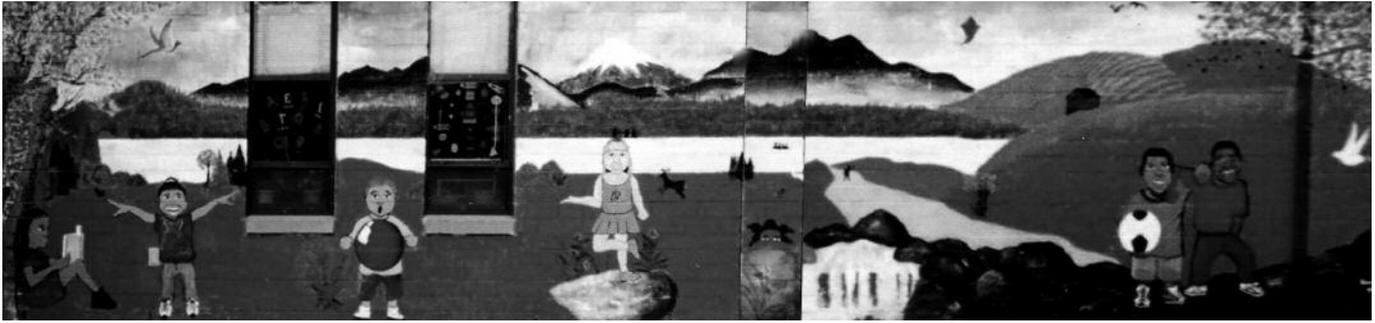


Comedian Mike Morris

Unplugged” series at Fairfield University where young musicians can learn from the experts about the music industry. Many thanks to the 2004 Benefit committee: Dave & Pat Raffauf, Alida & Lauren Begina, Tom & Sue Hulley, Debbie & Ariel Smith, Mari Sherman, Joann Scinto, Vicki Vinnitsky, and Anthony Savignano. A special thank you to Tom Zingarelli and the Quick Center staff.



The Melissa Mulligan Band



Lou Jefferson's mural at the Jamie A. Hulley Childcare Center in Bridgeport, CT brightens up the children's playground.

Scholarship recipient shares his talent with children at JAH Childcare Center



Louis Jefferson III was the 2004 recipient of Jamie's Art Fund scholarship at Amity High School. Currently he is busy studying art at Southern Connecticut State University but he spent his summer months transforming a plain, dull brick wall at the Jamie A. Hulley Childcare Center at 460 Lafayette St in Bridgeport, CT into a vibrant 40 foot mural. The mural features children from diverse cultural backgrounds including a likeness of Jamie when she was a preschooler (wearing her sparkling gold shoes!).

The project was the source of much excitement and artistic inspiration to the 170 three- and four-year olds enrolled at the Center. Lou used the children as models for the mural. Day by day the children were able to watch "Mr. Lou" paint their life-size portraits on the nature-themed background. According to one of the teachers, "The children are so lucky to be able to see a real artist create something so beautiful from start to finish – it is a chance of a lifetime!" According to another teacher, "It is especially good for the little boys to see that art is something that a man can do. Several children have told me that they want to be an artist - just like Mr. Lou." Many thanks to our friends at Action for Bridgeport Community Development for naming the center in Jamie's memory and for sharing our artistic vision. Many thanks to Lou for all of those hours in the sweltering hot summer sun. The mural will brighten the lives of countless children for many years to come.

Summer Fun in Theater Arts

Thanks to the generous support of the students of Fairfield Prep High School and the members of Fairfield University's Theatre Fairfield, Jamie's Fund was able to expand its children's theater scholarship program to include nine children in 2004. 13 year old Lenny Mainiero learned about the art of theater and the many elements of acting via a month-long exploration of *Romeo & Juliet* at the Shakespeare Ventures acting workshop. According to Lenny, "I learned so much and I had fun doing it!" Eight children attended the one-week Missoula Children's Theater camp at Fairfield University performing in *The Jungle Book*. "I liked that I got a chance to meet new people and have fun. I am very shy and theater camp is helping me get over it," said one camper. Another summed it up, "I LOVE THEATER CAMP! Can I do it again next year?" The seed has definitely been sown.

The Arts Abound at Amity High School

One of Jamie's most cherished accomplishments was being elected as President of the National Arts Honor Society as a student at Amity High School. Today Jamie's love of exploring new and different artistic media is being brought to life through an exciting Visiting Artists series. The goal is to expose Amity students to the myriad of possibilities available in the field of art presented through the eyes of professional artists. The program is supported entirely by Jamie's Art Fund and is hosted by Amity's National Art Honor Society. NAHS advisor, Brian Flinn, arranged an exciting line-up for the program's first year. The first artist to visit was Jeff Gordon, a professional landscape architect, whose talk focused on how to combine an artist's desire to express his/her creativity with the practical demands of the job market. Next to visit was painter-illustrator Rob Greenberg who presented an artistic timeline overview of a 30+ year career filled with crocodile drawings.



Rob Greenberg & Amity art students

Greenberg shared thousands of croc sketches captured on bar napkins and stories of how he used his alligator art as the springboard to a very successful career. According to one student, "He made me feel like all of my random things could amount to something significant someday." Greenberg's message was loud and clear - you can find a way to do what you love doing and make a living doing it. In March 2005, a metal sculptor and furniture designer, Val Kropiwnicki, will share his unique talent. The series ends in April with a four-week acrylic painting workshop by Ron Sloan. Sloan has an impressive exhibition record of juried shows, awards, and grants from both the CT and the National Endowment for the Arts dating back to the 1970's. According to Brian Flinn, the Visiting Artists series is "an incredible asset to Amity's students because it gives them the opportunity to speak directly with the people who are making the art which is a very different and a much richer experience than working in the classroom or looking at slides or prints. It really inspires them to do more with their own art."



Visit the Jamie's Art Fund Website

www.jamiehulleyartsfund.org