

February 23, 2015

Dear [Sponsor]:

We hope you've had a great year! While 2014 presented challenges, VSA Michigan-Genesee County is proud to have been honored at Priority Children's 2015 Annual Children's Champion Awards breakfast. The twentieth anniversary event was held on February 6 at the Riverfront Banquet Center in downtown Flint with over a thousand community members attending. Nine awards and two scholarships were conferred; VSAMI-GC took home the "Outstanding Business, Organization, Government Agency, or Community Initiative Providing Special Opportunities for Children and Youth" Award. It's an acknowledgement of the vital role that the arts play in the lives and education of not only our children and youth with disabilities, but in everyone's lives. We would love to have your help so we can do more!



How appropriate that this year's theme is "Shine Brighter" - with 1500 participants engaged in visual and performing arts activities, this is their chance to light up Genesee County! A wonderful artist comes to mind; Eric is a recent Genesee Intermediate School District graduate with a part-time custodial job at one of GISD's center-based programs. He rides the Mass Transportation Authority's Your Ride to get to and from work. At age 26, he's been involved in VSA for over fifteen years. So when asked if he'd like to create artwork for the MTA's Flushing Service Center, he jumped at it...in his own understated way, "Yeah, I think that would work." He took a pad of drawing paper home and came back the next day with a half dozen beautifully colored illustrations of his experiences riding the MTA bus. One was chosen to be the centerpiece of the new tile mural in the building. "That makes me pretty proud," with a shy smile was his quiet reaction.

The building is dedicated to people with disabilities and over sixty MTA consumers, many from the Flushing area, helped to form a large piece to be cast in bronze and mounted outside in the spring. (Eric helped with that, too, putting the finishing touches on the sculpted wheelchair, along with one of his former classmates.) Community projects have become a hallmark of VSAMI-GC; local powerhouse Diplomat (Pharmacy) commissioned the latest tile mural for the American Red Cross building in Flint.



Equally important are the afterschool programs, art clubs for adults, exhibits, and arts festivals. Five festivals will take place this year around the county, impacting most VSA participants. Here are the dates and please let me know if you'd like to join us for any of them!

Clio Project CHOICE at Mott Community College Northern Tier – May
Early Childhood Programs and Services – May 7
Elmer Knopf Learning Center – May 12, 13, and 14
EKLC Project CHOICE at the Flint Cultural Center – May 21
Genesee Health System (formerly Genesee County Community Mental Health) – TBA

Eric's story is one example of the power of the arts to enliven and enrich the lives of people with disabilities.* The arts create powerful connections to shape learning in exciting and often unexpected ways. VSA Michigan-Genesee County hopes you will form a connection by sponsoring our unique programs which provide "special opportunities" for our children, youth, and adults right here in their community. Your gift will enable artists to engage participants in a variety of arts experiences and it will enable individuals, with and without disabilities, to interact and explore their creativity.

Various levels of sponsorship are available; please review them and examples of their benefits below. If you have any questions, you can reach me through email (vsa4all@aol.com) or by telephone or text message at 810-875-7381 any time. Thank you so much - we look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Randee Pieper
Special Events Chairperson
VSA Michigan-Genesee County

* You can view photos of Eric with the MTA artwork and much more, including our new "art gallery" with available artwork on our freshly-updated website at www.vsami-genesee.org!



VSA Michigan-Genesee County is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization with 501(c)(3) status; your contribution is deductible as allowable by law. All donations go directly to programs benefiting area children and adults through the arts.





Sponsor: _____

Contact Person, Title: _____

Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail (optional): _____ If you have a website, please check if you would be interested in linking with VSAMI-GC's website _____

SHINE BRIGHTLY Sponsorship Levels:

_____ \$5000 and up is a "Quasar Blast" Level; could underwrite an Artist-in-Residence for an entire special needs school/ program; benefits to you include invitations to all VSAMI-GC special events throughout the year with a special salute to you/your company by Pat Cronley and Friends at a mutually agreed-upon performance venue, acknowledgement in all press releases, printed materials, and signage, and an original "Shine Brightly" painting created by VSA artists.

_____ \$2500-\$4999 is a "Big Bang" Level; could back Artist Dwayne Szot and his art roller and other adaptive equipment visiting several schools while training the staff; benefits to you include invitations to all VSAMI-GC special events throughout the year, acknowledgement in all press releases, printed materials, and signage, and an original "Shine Brightly" painting created by VSA artists.

_____ \$1000-\$2499 is a "Cosmic Galaxy" Level; could subsidize several special needs groups attending weekly classes at the Flint Institute of Art with general education peers for a semester; benefits to you include invitations to all VSAMI-GC special events throughout the year, acknowledgement in all press releases, printed materials, and signage, and a large framed section of an art roller print created by VSA artists.

_____ \$500-\$999 is a "Celestial Sun" Level; could support the mounting of a VSAMI-GC exhibit at the Flint Public Library; benefits to you include invitations to all VSAMI-GC special events throughout the year, acknowledgement in all printed materials, and signage, and a framed section of an art roller print.

_____ \$250-\$499 is a "Full Moon" Level; could fund art supplies for an Early Childhood Program's Integrated Music Residency in which students make some of their instruments to take home at the end; benefits to you include invitations to all VSAMI-GC special events throughout the year, acknowledgement in all printed materials, and an 11" x 14" framed photo by a VSA Photography Club Member.

_____ \$100-\$249 is a Shining Star Level, could supply a VSA festival group performance by The Troubadors or a dance troupe; benefits to you include invitations to all VSAMI-GC special events throughout the year and an 11" x 14" framed photo by a VSA Photography Club Member.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

(Please make check out to: **VSA Michigan-Genesee County**) Thank you so much!!! You will hear from us shortly.

Mail to: Marion Crouse Instructional Center
Attn: VSAMI-GC Mailbox
3330 Luce Road
Flushing, Michigan 48433