

## The Arts Empowerment Project's December 2022 Newsletter



It's been a busy year, but we wouldn't have it any other way.

At TAEP, we couldn't be more proud or thankful this year for all we've accomplished.

We started off the year with our Encounters program, Free Arts with Niner University Elementary, and spring HeART Packs. We followed up in the summer and fall with programming which included more visual and performing art lessons, ending with

our ever popular Culinary Camp, creating some beautiful Gingerbread Houses.

We certainly couldn't forget our October Fundraiser "Shine", which was a resounding success thanks to all of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, artists, and our board and team members, who helped make this event the highlight of our year.

We are humbled and thankful to all of you for your generosity and continued support, and are happy to have this opportunity to share Season's Greetings and to wish you all Happy Holidays!

#### FREE ARTS







Our Free Arts program which started at Niner University in January continued in the spring semester, summer and fall. We held camps for the YWCA this summer, and just finished up final holiday sessions with both of these wonderful organizations.

Over 156 students in grades K-5 participated in our classes in December with lessons including Social and Emotional learning components. These lessons provide hope and opportunity for the community's most vulnerable children.

### **CULINARY CAMP**







Our Culinary Holiday Camp was popular and fun for all.
Over 19 teens learned how to make healthy holiday snacks and appetizers. They also made icing from scratch and created some beautiful gingerbread house masterpieces!

## HOLIDAY HEART PACKS















Our Holiday HeART Packs were a big success!

PNC Bank, TD Bank, many individual donors, volunteers, board members, friends and staff all pitched in to pack up art activities and supplies, messages of hope, toys, books, and games to include in our packs.

High school students from CMSArtsEd and CMS packed up supplies and solicited donations. Thank you to our partnering schools William A. Hough High School, Mallard Creek High School, Myers Park High School, and Middle School Arts at Country Day. A special thanks also goes out to longtime supporter and author, Kimber Morgan, who generously donated her celebrated children's books to our Holiday HeART Packs!

These packs were delivered to youth in grades K-5 at several YWCAs of Central Carolinas locations and Niner University Elementary School. We also delivered packs to one of our partners, Safe Alliance, an organization serving domestic violence survivors and their children.

### CELEBRATING OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY AT THE VAPA CENTER

We're celebrating our One-Year Anniversary at our new space at the Visual and Performing Arts ("VAPA") Center! This space has allowed us to run our programs in a designated classroom, enabling us to do in-person lessons for the first time since 2020. A special shout-out to our board member and VAPA Executive Director, Arthur Rogers, whose vision and leadership helped make VAPA a reality for TAEP and so many artists and creatives in the Charlotte arts community.







Join our cause and make your donation by 12/31/22 to support our year-end goals and ongoing effort to bring art and hope into the lives of the youth we serve!



DONATE TODAY

# THANKS TO OUR 2022 SPONSORS





Wishing You Safe and Happy Holidays!







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