



[upstreamarts.org](http://upstreamarts.org)

Act. Write.  
Dance. Paint.  
Sing. Imagine.  
Experience. Create.  
Communicate.  
Socialize.  
Learn.



Annual Report,  
2010

## What Sets Us Apart August, 2010

In a city like Minneapolis, where art is embraced and encouraged, the small number of organizations that provide access to, or participation in the arts for youth and adults with disabilities is astounding. This past fall, our evaluation data showed that previous to participating in an Upstream Arts program, only 2% of the students we served had been exposed to theatre and 0% had been exposed to dance.

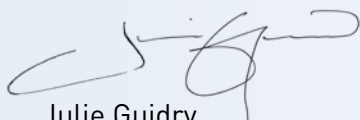
What sets Upstream Arts apart from other arts organizations is that we intentionally focus our work on the disability community. We do this because everyone deserves to have access to the joy and fulfillment of participating in the arts. And we do this because we believe that the arts are uniquely suited to teach the complicated nuances of social and communication skills; and that artistic experiences nurture growth, leading to individuals who are better able to live, work and make positive contributions to our society.

We focus on social and communication skills because these are the skills that allow you to make friends, keep friends, get a job and keep a job—skills that are crucial to being a successful person in our communities.

In our programs, Upstream Arts strives to create a positive, safe environment where risks can be taken within a rigorously structured curriculum delivered by a team of professional artists. This unique method allows learning to happen in a creative and collaborative setting.

Upstream Arts is bridging the gap between the arts and disability communities. We are bringing professional artists to people with disabilities, teaching them how to use the skills that artists use to express themselves in new ways. And we are bringing the disability community to our artists, who tell us that working with Upstream Arts has expanded their creativity, their vision and has made them better artists. As key members of the metropolitan arts community, our teaching artists are leaders that can make accessibility the norm, rather than the exception.

This is what sets us apart. And this is what allows us to successfully accomplish our mission of enhancing the lives of adults and youth with disabilities by fostering creative communication and social independence through the power of arts education.



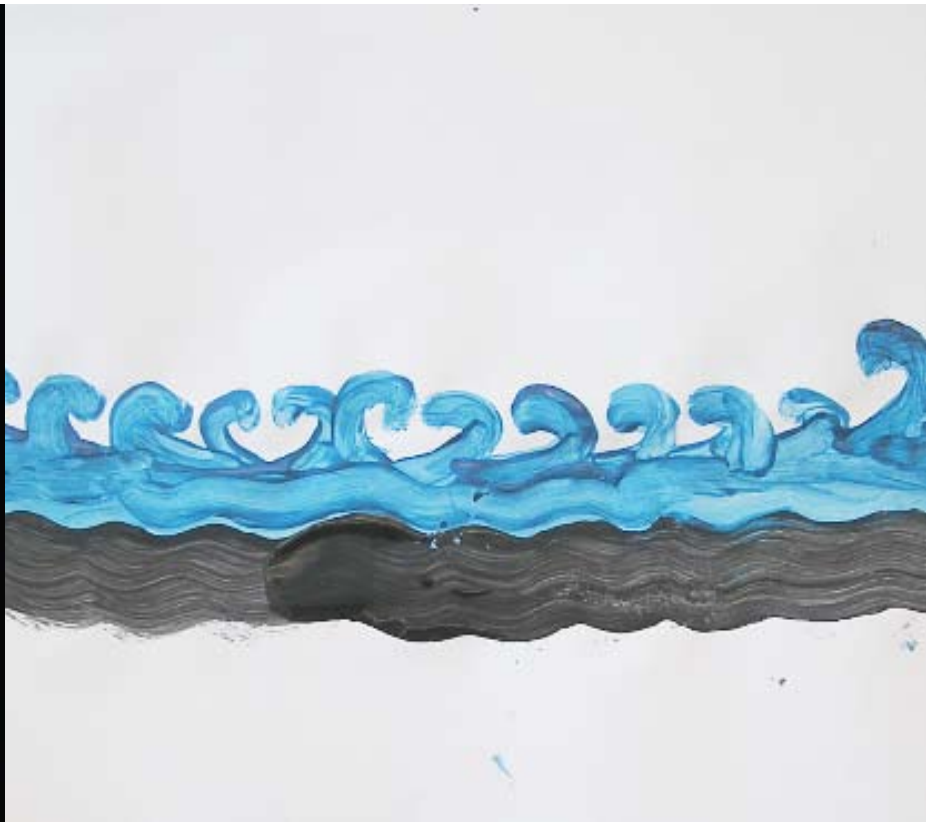
Julie Guidry  
Executive Director



Bree Sieplinga  
Associate Director



Matt Guidry  
Program Director



Caleb George-Guidry,  
2010

**"Peaceful."** An emotion painting by  
an Upstream Arts participant

## **our** MOTIVATION

Upstream Arts was founded in 2006 by Julie and Matt Guidry who witnessed first hand the positive impact of the arts on their son. Caleb George-Guidry, Matt's son and Julie's step son, was born with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS), which affects his physical and cognitive development. As a professional theatre artist and educator in the Twin Cities, Matt exposed Caleb to the theatre world at a young age. Caleb, who is non verbal, began to use the physical movements, body language and facial expressions he learned through theatre and dance to communicate and engage with those around him. As Matt and Julie watched Caleb find alternative forms of expression, they realized that all people with disabilities should have the same opportunity to nurture their social and communication skills using the arts. Out of this spirit and determination, Upstream Arts

was born. Since then, Upstream Arts has grown exponentially, drawing on research and best practices to provide an arts-based approach to addressing social skill deficits common to a variety of disabilities. We integrate individuals with cognitive, developmental, emotional, behavioral and physical disabilities—as well as those without disabilities—in multidisciplinary arts activities. Our programs are taught by teams of local professional artists—including actors, dancers, musicians, visual artists, writers and directors—trained to teach individuals of all abilities. We facilitate art programs in K-12 schools, with Transition programs, Adult Day programs and with community organizations around the metro area. We also present at conferences and conduct trainings for school staff and local professionals on arts based programming and teaching methods that address individuals with disabilities.

# a Very Sad and Bad Day Poem.

Work, homework, water  
That tastes like fish. Rain.  
Teachers yell for no reason.  
No one's happy. My bad day is  
A dark cloud over my head.  
A herd of elephants, grey black  
My bad day - it's too noisy.  
Did I mention rain?  
Mmmmmaah! Aaaah. Plain pain.  
Ran outside. Vampires.  
I read a book - it feels like  
I'm not where I am.  
Wait for the sun.



Created by Upstream Arts participants at  
Anthony Middle School, Spring 2010

"Untitled." Created by an Upstream Arts  
participant in a "paint the music" activity

"We serve a diverse group of students, and often traditional curriculum and methods don't work. Upstream Arts' use of different art forms, including music and role playing, meaningfully supplements our curriculum and improves student progress in social interaction skills." —Minneapolis Public Schools Special Education Director

## the NEED

Nationally, only 36.9% of individuals with disabilities of working age are employed, compared to 79.7% of those without disabilities. This represents a 42.8% gap between individuals with disabilities and their peers.<sup>1</sup>

18.8% of Minneapolis Public School students and 17% of St. Paul Public School students receive Special Education services.

Special Education students have significantly less access to the rapidly declining school based arts classes than their peers without disabilities.

Deficits in social and communication skills have been deemed primary obstacles to adults with disabilities obtaining and maintaining employment.

Research shows that arts engagement promotes growth in positive communication and social skills needed to succeed in school, in the workplace and in the larger community.<sup>2</sup>



## the IMPACT

Our 2009 evaluation data from our school residencies showed that:

- According to teachers, Upstream Arts' program meaningfully addressed the IEP goals of 100% of the students with disabilities we served
- 100% of teachers said Upstream Arts' program was inclusive of all of their students, regardless of their disability
- 85% of students with disabilities showed improvement in self expression and conversation skills and 75% showed improvement in group participation skills.
- 58% of students exhibited changed behaviors outside of the program
- Previous to our program, only 54% of the students we served had been exposed to music in the school setting, 27% to visual arts, only 2% to theatre, and 0% to dance

<sup>1</sup> Erickson, W., & Lee, C. (2008). 2007 Disability Status Report: Minnesota. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Demographics and Statistics. <sup>2</sup> Critical Evidence: How the Arts Benefit Student Achievement. Ruppert 2006 Commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Arts Education Partnership

In our first year of operations,  
Upstream Arts ran 7 programs and  
served 90 individuals.

In 2009-2010 we:  
carried out 65 programs  
provided 6592 contact hours  
served 1400 individuals.

# The Weird, Excited Circus

Excited yellow hospitals  
BOM BOM BOM  
Dance in my dim  
living room cathedral  
Sharp pain of New York City.  
Marvelous you.  
Clap clap, my proud hands of gold.  
Chicka chicka chicka chicka  
A very weak sick.

Created by Upstream Arts participants at  
Anthony Middle School, Spring 2010



Upstream Arts participant  
with Teaching Artist Dylan Fresco

“Upstream Arts changed the way I think of my classmates and other people in my school. It showed me all the things we have in common with each other.” —Upstream Arts participant



Maria, Upstream Arts Participant, Spring 2010

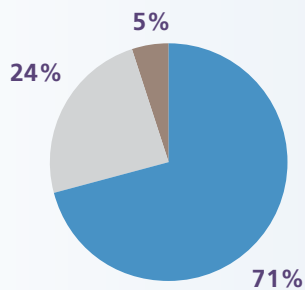


Andrew, Upstream Arts Participant, Spring 2010



Gus, Upstream Arts Participant, Spring 2010

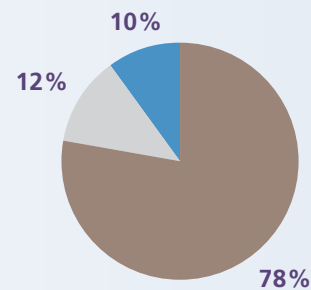
## 2009–2010 FINANCIALS



### Income

5% Individual Donations  
24% Program Revenue  
71% Foundations & Corporations

**TOTAL INCOME \$236,657**



### Expenses

78% Program  
12% Management & General  
10% Fundraising

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$245,180**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ended June 30, 2010

### Assets

Cash	\$115,954
Accounts Receivable	\$23,681
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$139,635</b>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$1,927
Net Assets	\$137,708
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$139,635</b>

We are humbled by the generosity of our community of individuals, corporations, and foundations that support Upstream Arts. Your investment in our organization allows Upstream Arts to provide innovative arts programming to youth and adults of all abilities. *Thank you.*

#### **\$10,000 and above**

The Bud Olson Foundation  
General Mills Foundation  
MetLife Foundation  
VSA

#### **\$5000 to \$9999**

Target  
United Arts Fund,  
a program of COMPAS  
Minnesota State Arts Board

#### **\$1,000 to \$4999**

Autism Society of Minnesota  
Delphine and Michael  
Barringer-Mills  
CVS Caremark  
Joe and Janet Green  
Marcie Guidry  
The Metropolitan Regional  
Arts Council  
The Nash Foundation

#### **\$500 to \$999**

A Very Small Arts Fund  
Karl and Lisa Simer  
Michael Witzany

#### **\$100 to \$499**

Anonymous (2)  
Dan and Martha Aronson  
David and Joy Baker  
Chris Borek  
Andrew Boyer  
Doris and Gary Braley  
Susie and Bill Brayshaw  
Frances and Paul Brayshaw  
Mary Carlson and Peter Dahlen  
Kim Carroll  
Bob Goodfellow  
Sara and Matt Grow  
Dorothy Guidry  
David and Jackie Guidry  
Dale and Rose Haning

Tim Harincar and Elisabeth  
Pletcher–Harincar  
Pam and Bob Herrick  
Peter and Stella Hofrenning  
Stephen and Mary Ann Kanee  
Steven Kiwus and Liza Leigh Kiwus  
Mary Gerry and Tom Lee  
Jack and Laura Lee  
Norah Long  
Shawn Harpley and Marilyn  
Murphey  
Jeff and Sarah Milligan Toffler  
Marilyn Mounger  
Katie Piehl and Richard Knowlton  
Bob and Lane Powell  
Betty Sue Scheller  
Norah Shapiro and Andrew Harrison  
David Sieplinga  
Bobbie and Smitty Smith  
Peter Vitale  
Kit Wilson and Luca Gunther  
Chris and Melody Witzany

#### **Up to \$100**

Anonymous (5)  
Gary and Karilyn Alexander  
Todd and Tami Anderson  
Patti and Terry Beaty  
John Belew  
Hubert and Shirley Brasseaux  
Christine Brown  
John and Peggy Burns  
Kathy Colaizy  
Kayla Collins  
Mehri Davis  
Laressa Dickey  
Craig Dunn  
Charles and Carrie Fraser  
Lee and Serge Garces  
Ron Goldstein and Susan Freeberg  
Mary and Dominick Green  
Bridget Harrington and Graham  
Smith  
Julie and Matt Guidry  
Tom and Jenny Hedberg

Michelle Hensley  
Ann Hoffer  
Bill Mask and Anne Howden  
Karma and Brian Hughes  
Kelly and Scott Johns  
Karen Johnson  
Mary Lenertz  
Francis and Carol Malpede  
Lauren Milne  
Eric Mueller  
Jessica Murray  
Heidi Nelson  
Jackie Punch  
JoAnne Rau  
Noel Raymond and Amy Finch  
Chris Reano  
Marcia and Jerry Sansby  
Jeff Cords and Amy Scheller  
Steve Scheller  
Amy Sciple  
Sue Scott and Ron Peluso  
Cherie Shoquist  
Douglas and Donna Sieplinga  
Don and Dawn Sieplinga–Penniman  
Alison Sipkins  
Lisa Taylor  
Martin and Kate Thomas  
Juliana Tillema and Chad Lauber  
Toner for Autism  
Paul and Caren Umbarger  
John and Jeri Witzany  
Sally and Andy Zimney

#### **Memorial and Tribute Gifts**

In honor of Caleb George-Guidry  
In honor of Dob  
In honor of Patrick Burns

#### **In-kind Donations**

Dirk Anschütz  
Babble-On Recording Studios  
Cork Dork Co.  
Sovereign Grounds  
The Wine Thief

This list reflects gifts made to Upstream Arts between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. We make every effort to ensure that this information is presented accurately. If you notice errors or omissions please contact Bree Sieplinga at 612.331.4584 or bree@upstreamarts.org.



Victor, Upstream Arts Participant,  
Spring 2010

Mike, Upstream Arts Participant,  
Spring 2010

## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

### Donate Online

Make an online credit card donation to Upstream Arts via [giveMN.org](http://giveMN.org). Thanks to [giveMN.org](http://giveMN.org) there are no transaction fees and 100% of your donation goes to Upstream Arts.

### Donate by Mail

Mail a check made payable to Upstream Arts to:  
Upstream Arts  
3501 Chicago Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

### Buy Toner or Ink for Your Printer

Visit [TonerForAutism.com](http://TonerForAutism.com) and purchase toner or ink for your printer. Select Upstream Arts at check out and 5% of your purchase will go to Upstream Arts.

### Donate your Vehicle

Donate your car to Upstream Arts through [CarsWithHeart.com](http://CarsWithHeart.com). Your vehicle donation will allow you to receive a tax deduction, eliminate the hassle of selling your vehicle and support Upstream Arts.

### Matching Gifts Program

If you work for an organization that has a matching gift program, you can double the size of your donation to Upstream Arts. Check with your employer's Human Resources Department for its matching gift policies and to get the necessary donation forms.

### Memorial & Tribute Donations

If you would like to learn more about how your donation to Upstream Arts can honor a family member, friend or other special relationship, call Upstream Arts at 612-331-4584 for assistance with your memorial or tribute donation.



Program Director &  
Artist Matt Guidry with  
students

## CLIENT LIST

ACT – Advocating Change Together  
Anthony Middle School  
ARC Greater Twin Cities  
Autism Society of Minnesota  
Burnsville Eagan Savage Transition  
Program (BEST)  
Cityview Performing Arts Magnet  
Courage Center  
Dakota Counties  
District 287 STIP Transition Program  
Eden Prairie Parks & Recreation  
Edina Parks & Recreation  
Edison High School  
Forest Lake STEP Transition Program  
Friendship Ventures  
Hammer Residencies, Inc  
Harrison Education Center  
Highland Friendship Club  
Highland Park Library  
Irondale High School  
ISD 622 Community Education  
Jefferson Community School  
Lake Harriet Community School  
Lifeworks – Bloomington  
Lifeworks – Brooklyn Park  
Lifeworks – Burnsville  
Lifeworks – Eagan  
Lifeworks – Hastings  
Lifeworks – Mankato  
Lifeworks – Minneapolis  
Metro ECSU Conference  
Minneapolis Jewish Community Inclusion  
Program for People with Disabilities  
Minneapolis Public Schools  
Minnesota Children’s Museum  
Oak Grove Elementary  
Partners in Excellence – North St Paul  
Partners in Excellence – Burnsville  
Patrick Henry High School  
Phase North Transition Program  
Phoenix Alternatives, Inc  
Pillsbury United Communities  
Ramsey International Fine Arts  
Roosevelt High School  
St Paul JCC Inclusion Program  
St Stephen’s Special Needs Program  
Special Olympics Minnesota  
St Paul Parks & Recreation

**“John lights up when he is around you & your amazing Upstream Arts staff. It warms my heart when I see all those smiling faces and the happiness bursting from within... pure joy!” —Parent of Upstream Arts participant**

## ARTISTS

Randy Berger  
Sarah Brown  
Keri Bunkers  
Lindsey Cacich  
Laessa Dickey  
Jessica Finney  
Charles Fraser  
Dylan Fresco  
Ryan Hoag  
Anton Jones  
Julie Kurtz  
Justin Lansing  
Norah Long  
Kym Longhi  
Don Mabley-Allen  
Joe Mailander  
Sugey McCormack  
Susan Messerole  
Seth Patterson  
Jabre Peoples\*  
Sara Richardson  
Matt Sciple  
Jeff Milligan-Toffler  
Harry Waters Jr

*\*Artist Apprentice*

## STAFF

**Julie Guidry**  
Executive Director

**Matt Guidry**  
Program Director

**Bree Sieplinga**  
Associate Director

**Gillian Spence**  
Administrative Associate

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mike Witzany** Board Chair  
CPA, JD, Consultant

**Amy Scheller**, Treasurer  
Assistant Education Specialist, University of Minnesota, School of Public Health

**Peter Vitale**, Secretary  
Actor & Musician

**Patrick Burns**, Director  
Special Education Teacher, Washburn High School, Minneapolis Public Schools

**Adrian Freeman**, Interactive Marketing and Communications Specialist, Lifeworks

**Julie Guidry**, Ex Officio Member  
Executive Director, Upstream Arts, Inc.

## BOARD OF ADVISORS

**Don Allen**  
Executive Director of Special Education, Minneapolis Public Schools

**Marsha Baer**  
Autism Resource Specialist, Autism Society of Minnesota

**Joe Cavanaugh**  
Founder and CEO, Youth Frontiers

**Susan Doherty**  
Consultant

**Craig Dunn**  
Executive Director, VSA Minnesota

**Sarah Milligan-Toffler**  
Associate Director, Wilderness Inquiry

**Chris Reano**  
Autism Specialist, Oak Grove Elementary School, Bloomington Public Schools

**Norah Shapiro**  
Flying Pieces Productions

**Joanne Toft**  
Program Manager, Arts for Academic Achievement, Minneapolis Public Schools

**Katie Taylor**  
Speech Language Pathologist, Minneapolis Public Schools





Annual Report,  
2010

**"Annoyed."** An emotion painting by  
an Upstream Arts participant

"Often times, when people come into our classroom, they are uncomfortable. Most of the time these kids are ignored, or not looked at. What I appreciate about Upstream Arts' teaching artists is how comfortable they are. They always greet and make eye contact with each student. They treat everyone the same, regardless of their disability. You can't underestimate the value that this has for these kids." —Minneapolis Public Schools Special Education Teacher

Image on page 11 used with permission from  
Lifeworks Services Inc., Photographer Scott Streble

All portraits of Upstream Arts participants  
by Dirk Anschutz, [www.knipser.com](http://www.knipser.com)



Upstream Arts, Inc.  
3501 Chicago Ave South  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
Phone 612.331.4584  
[info@upstreamarts.org](mailto:info@upstreamarts.org)