



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ART EXPRESSION'S NIGHT OUT AT THE BALLPARK

Pirates donate 100 free tickets to local arts-education organization

Pittsburgh, PA (August 13, 2015)—Art Expression Inc. will be sending 100 students and family members to PNC Park at 7:05 PM on August 17 and 19 to cheer on the Pittsburgh Pirates when they play the Arizona Diamondbacks, thanks to the generosity of the Pirates and the Major League Baseball Players Association.

"This is a wonderful gift that the Pirates and the Players Association have given us," said Angela Lowden, founder and executive director of Art Expression Inc. "It's an honor to be selected from among all the worthy organizations in the area. Some of our program participants don't necessarily have the resources to purchase tickets to a ballgame, so this is a real treat for them and for us."

Through the **"Players Give Back" program**, Art Expression students and family members from Pittsburgh Public Schools, Wilkinsburg School District and area homeless shelters will enjoy a night out at the ballpark at no cost, Lowden said.

Art Expression Inc. is a non-profit foundation established in 2001 by James and Angela Lowden as an expression of their passion for **alleviating the social inequalities that exist among children of different abilities and backgrounds**. The organization's mission is to facilitate positive socialization through expressive art activities and provide academic enrichment in an inclusive educational environment, particularly for underserved youth. Art therapy is not performed during the sessions, but some of the components of art therapy are used to develop positive outcomes for students.

Art Expression Inc. has been designated as a "Model Art Therapy Program" by the American Association of School Administrators & American Art Therapy Association in 2011. Art Expression Inc. was also chosen as one of the 50 finalists distinguishing the program as one of the top arts and humanities based programs in the country, receiving a **2013 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program (NAHYP) Award Certificate of Excellence**. Art Expression conducts programming with masters-degreed arts therapists, faculty facilitators and staff members in schools, homeless shelters and community organizations throughout southwestern PA. Since its founding, Art Expression has served over 7,000 children in Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

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