



2011 ANNUAL REPORT



March 2012

Dear Friends:

It is with great pride that I look back at 2011 and see what Art Therapy Outreach Center has accomplished in its first full year of operations. It has been an exciting year with many highlights:

- The number of groups receiving our art therapy services has grown from four to seven
- New Program Partners include Children's Aid Society: East Harlem Center; The New York Foundling: Mott Haven; and Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley
- At Bellevue Hospital, a moving art exhibit was installed featuring client work from our 9-11 Survivor's Group in recognition of the 10th Anniversary of 9-11
- Through the generosity of the School of Visual Arts, we moved into our first permanent space with a sun-filled studio and offices
- Our first Executive Director was hired in September and has been creating development and marketing plans, applying for grants as well as initiating new programmatic opportunities

There continues to be a growing need for art therapy services among underserved and at-risk populations who have experienced severe trauma. Tens of thousands of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan are returning home faced with the challenges of transitioning back to civilian life while coping with the horrors of war. We have our work cut out for us.

The Board of Directors approved a three year Strategic Plan to provide an outline for the future growth of the organization. Establishing lofty goals for the coming year, the Board wants to double the number of groups and clients currently being served. The Board also elected two new members, Irene David Rosner, Ph.D., ATR-BC, LCAT, Director of Therapeutic Arts at Bellevue Hospital Center and Tom Rothman, Chairman and CEO of Fox Filmed Entertainment.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my fellow charter board members, David Rhodes, President of the School of Visual Arts and Deborah Farber, Chair of SVA's MPS Art Therapy program, for their support as we undertook this venture. Their assistance and dedication to help ATOC get underway has been invaluable.

I would also like to thank our 2011 inaugural donors whose generosity made it possible for ATOC to already launch two new client groups in early 2012.

It is with great optimism that I look toward 2012 and the time when Art Therapy Outreach Center will be the number one go-to organization for no cost art therapy services in New York.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Wasserman'.

David Wasserman
Chairman



Mission

The Art Therapy Outreach Center (ATOC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing free art therapy services to underserved populations in the New York City area who have experienced some form of trauma, including war veterans, at-risk youth, and victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse. Our mission is to utilize the visual arts to provide a therapeutic experience for participants that will enhance their physical, mental and emotional well-being.

Ultimately, ATOC's aim is to help our clients see themselves as survivors of trauma rather than victims, and build the confidence necessary to re-engage in their communities and move on with their lives.

What is Art Therapy?

Art therapy is a treatment method that uniquely combines art and psychology to explore the problems and potentials of individuals. It is a specialized way of using the power of the creative process as a vehicle for healing, communication, self-expression and personal development.

2011 Program Partners

Bellevue Hospital Center: World Trade Center Environmental Health Center
Children's Aid Society: East Harlem Center
City University of New York Veterans Affairs
Ronald McDonald House of Greater Hudson Valley
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Crime Victims Treatment Center
The New York Foundling: Mott Haven

In 2011 the Art Therapy Outreach Center provided art therapy services to clients that ranged from 8 to 60 years of age, all from low-income communities. Each client group, defined by shared experiences, worked together to develop safe relationships and engage in creative, healthy forms of expression, thereby processing traumatic experiences and developing more adaptive coping skills.

ATOC Client Vignette

At 27, CS was the youngest member of the women's veteran group, but easily connected with all the other members who ranged in age from 32 to 62 because of their common experience. Like many of the other women who went into the service to escape and hopefully have a better life, CS returned from Iraq disillusioned, re-traumatized and feeling that she was at a cross roads. CS actively participated in the group for well over two years, utilizing art to process the abuse she suffered previous to and in the military. She found comfort and support within the art therapy group. The veterans decided to have an exhibit of their art therapy work at a local Chelsea gallery on Veterans Day in order to have their voices heard, as they had been silenced for so long. CS gained confidence in showing and selling her art. Shortly after, she enrolled in college to pursue a career in fine art. She now considers herself an artist.

2011 DONORS

The Art Therapy Outreach Center is pleased to acknowledge and thank the many individuals, foundations and companies who generously contributed to our work:

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