

The A.R.T.S. Place

Adaptive art. Respite. & Therapeutic play. Services.

Summer
2009

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the newsletter for A.R.T.S., a new nonprofit serving children with special needs and their families in the most creative way! We are proud to report that A.R.T.S. is now an officially recognized nonprofit by the State of New Hampshire.



Summer Camp

This summer marked our second year of offering Adaptive Art Camp to children ages 4 to 10, with special needs. Last summer everyone's favorite theme day was *Pirate Day*. We all dressed up, sang pirate songs, made treasure chests and clay pirate ships. Our outdoor activities included a treasure

hunt throughout the garden and a "silly string" cannon fight. This summer's "themes for the day" included *Birds, Nature, Silly Science, Robots, Detective* and *Medieval Day*. We had three amazing, imaginative and enthusiastic boys return for a second summer of learning, creating and exploring.

Plans for the Future

As we grow, it is our goal to benefit more children with special needs and their families in a variety of ways. We plan to offer more summer art camp sessions to complement school district offerings. In addition to year-round adaptive clay classes, we will expand to include painting, fabric art and basic musical instrument instruction. Parents and siblings will have the opportunity to meet, support one another, share strategies and resources and connect with other families using our indoor and outdoor space. Eventually, we hope to offer various art classes and workshops for parents and family members.

Check out Parker's Play Place

In the meantime, check out our great indoor space, *Parker's Play Place*. Parents use this space, above the clay studio, to quietly get some work done, talk with other parents over coffee or hold an informal play group with younger siblings. A "resource corner" provides a spot to share helpful books, articles and other resources. Parker's Play Place is possible due to the generosity of many people.

Thank you for your interest in A.R.T.S.!

Cindy Best, Director



"I like Silly Science Day!"

—Henry

A.R.T.S. Offerings

- Adaptive classes for children with special needs
- Respite opportunities for parents to get a break, meet for support, share strategies and resources, have time with a sibling or run errands
- Therapeutic play at summer Adaptive Art Camp

Donor Profile: Colby Wilcox, Wilmot, NH



A 7th grader at Kearsarge Regional Middle School, Colby has known Cindy Best for many years. While taking clay classes at Cindy's pottery studio, Little Bear Pottery, Cindy noticed Colby's gift for helping other students learn. "Colby is truly a creative, kind, generous and responsible person. He is so engaging with the kids at camp. The campers all adore him and the parents of our campers always comment on what a wonderful role model Colby is," exclaims Cindy. She saw in Colby an excellent choice for an apprentice to work with her in the first Adaptive Art Camp last summer. Colby accepted the offer of "Junior Apprentice" and enjoyed the work. "I enjoy that they get so much out of having

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Thank You!

A.R.T.S. owes a BIG thank you to many who have helped me achieve this dream.

- Priscilla Kimball of Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green, P.A. in Manchester, NH for pro bono services in setting up A.R.T.S. as a 501c3
- Carol MacDonald for volunteering as Snack and Story Lady Extraordinaire.
- Doug MacDonald for hand making and donating wooden bird houses to this summer's camp.
- Colby Wilcox for apprenticing at Adaptive Art Camp.
- Local artist and teacher, Michelle Lutz, who helped to create and run last year's first Adaptive Art Camp.
- Beth Gardner and Dinah O'Neil, RN for helping with this summer's camp.
- Marie Rossachaj for covering as Snack and Story Lady while Carol MacDonald is away this summer.
- Laura Jean Whitcomb for believing in me and entrusting her amazing son to me as my first ever adaptive clay student.
- Our Board of Directors, each of whom bring to A.R.T.S. their many special gifts: Fred Best, Sarah Lewis, Carol MacDonald, Susan Cowan Morse and Laura Jean Whitcomb.
- My sister, Beverly and her husband Greg who so generously donated money to help expand A.R.T.S. into a two story building with lots of classroom space and an indoor sensory motor play area!
- My parents, Sunny and Fred Best for always believing in me and my dreams for A.R.T.S. and their endless encouragement and support of me and my two boys.
- Ryan and Drew, my two incredibly patient and loving sons, who have endured mom's long hours and kindly welcome all of these children with special needs and their families into our home.
- My boyfriend, Andy, who appreciates me for who I am just the way I am, and never doubts what I am made of.
- All of the inspiring children and their dedicated families who come to A.R.T.S. every week for lessons and every summer for camp!

About Cindy

Since childhood, Cindy Best has loved to play with clay. She holds a master's degree in pediatric physical therapy and always found time to take pottery classes while living and working in both CT and MA. After working as a physical therapist for 15 years, Cindy moved to NH in 2001 and started Little Bear Pottery, selling her wares and teaching classes for preschoolers, home schoolers and children with special needs. In 2006 she started summer clay camps for children. Cindy uses her physical therapy background to adapt clay projects to each child's abilities, taking individual challenges into consideration. "Creating with clay can be a sensory experience, build upper body strength and coordination, challenges the imagination, teaches emotional flexibility and promotes multitasking," she explains. "The goal is for children with special needs to experience these benefits while having fun with clay while also learning to interact with peers and play cooperatively." In 2008, Cindy started the two week Adaptive Art Camp for children with special needs. From there, A.R.T.S.: Adaptive art. Respite. & Therapeutic play. Services. was born. A.R.T.S. is now an official nonprofit and offers one-on-one clay classes, small group classes and summer art camps for children with special needs in addition to enrichment programs, resources and respite for their caregivers.



To register for classes, camps, or for further info., please contact us:

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this program. I love to watch them learn," exclaims Colby. This summer he was promoted to "Senior Apprentice." It should also be mentioned that Colby is an amazing photographer and is the "eye" behind the camera for the children's hand-over-hand picture on our A.R.T.S. brochure.

In addition to ski racing, baseball and running cross-country, Colby does small, odd jobs to earn money. This spring he made a generous donation to A.R.T.S. from his savings. "I don't have much to spend it on so I decided to save it and donate it. I picked A.R.T.S. because I know Cindy and the kids. I thought it would be better than donating it to someone I don't know," explained Colby of his reason for donating to A.R.T.S.

As a result of Colby's generosity, the campers enjoyed Medieval Day this year which Colby planned. A HUGE Thank You to Colby for sponsoring this summer's Adaptive Art Camp Medieval Day! We so appreciate you Colby...YOU ROCK!!!!

Find us on the web at: www.littlebearpottery.com