

Healing arts group receives \$50,000 grant

Creative Heartwork chosen by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for President's Staff Award

A Morris Plains organization that uses everything from creative cooking to video production to aid the recovery of traumatized youth has received a major financial boost. Creative Heartwork, Inc. will receive \$50,000 from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to expand therapeutic arts programs for northern New Jersey youth touched by severe illness, loss or other traumas.

Creative Heartwork is known for its innovative use of the visual arts, music, dance, theatre, and culinary arts. Its healing programs help children and teens to channel their emotions, feel pride in their accomplishments, develop self-esteem, and adjust to circumstances beyond their control.

"These funds will enable us to address the most urgent needs of the children and families we serve," said Creative Heartwork president Karen Carbonello. "Specifically, it will allow us to pay special attention to those popula-

tions less likely to have access to programs that focus on healing through creativity and the arts."

The \$50,000 in grant funds will be applied toward the following programs:

- A therapeutic movie-making program for children recovering from pediatric cancer.

- A workshop series for teen residents at the Morris County Youth Shelter.

- A Healthy Living program for children with trauma-related eating disorders or obesity.

- Workshops in computer graphics and other creative arts for juvenile detainees at the Morris County Detention Center.

Funding was also provided for two new Mac computers, dance bars for movement therapy, framing for children's artwork, and increased marketing and public relations.

Appliances will also be added to "Stone Soup Kitchen," where culinary arts-based therapy programs are conducted for children

with eating disorders, trauma related obesity, and food restrictive illnesses such as juvenile diabetes. The kitchen is also used to teach the culinary arts to children with disabilities.

About The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For more than 35 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives

and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime.

About Creative Heartwork, Inc.

Creative Heartwork, Inc. was founded by Karen Carbonello, a Morris County mother of two who was studying the coping mechanisms of people facing traumatic events. She was struck by how often they turned to creative pursuits in an effort to heal.

Inspired, she founded Creative Heartworks in 2001. Its mission is to improve the lives of children experiencing the often painful challenges of serious illness, disability, separation, poverty, abuse, or neglect.

For information on Creative Heartwork, or to learn how you can get involved, visit the WEB site www.creativeheartwork.org or call (973) 889-0809.



A cooking program in progress at Creative Heartworks