



DAILY RECORD FILE PHOTO

Corey Heyer, executive chef at the Bernards Inn in Bernardsville, works with Ryan Ahlberg, 11, of Madison; Destini Figueroa, 9, of Wharton; and Scott Schlosser of Morris Township at Creative Heartwork.

Creative Heartwork grant will help youngsters heal

Arts program reaches kids who experienced loss, trauma or illness

MORRIS PLAINS — The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded a \$50,000 grant to Creative Heartwork Inc., a healing arts therapy organization based in Morris Plains.

These funds will enable Creative Heartwork to expand and enhance the services it provides to children and teens who have experienced trauma, loss or severe illness in North Jersey.

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

The grant funds will be applied toward the following programs:

- Scholarship slots for 20 low income/homeless child participants for several 10- to 12-week Mending Arts series.

- Two Healthy Living series enrolling 10 children each who have trauma-related eating disorders or obesity.

- Four 12-week Mending Arts workshop series for teen residents at the Morris County Youth Shelter. These are typically children of abuse, runaways awaiting placement, those who return home after family stabilization and status offenders.

- Two Mending Arts series for juvenile detainees at the Morris County Detention Center. Participants will learn computer graphics skills and participate in other creative arts projects.

- A 16-week movie-making art therapy series for eight to 10 children recovering from pediatric cancer

and their families in partnership with a New Jersey-based nonprofit serving children with cancer.

In addition, funding was provided for facilities upgrades, including two new Mac computers; the completion of Stone Soup Kitchen with small appliances, oven and utensils; dance bars for movement therapy; the framing of artwork created by program participants; and increasing marketing and public relations projects.

Creative Heartwork, a nonprofit organization, offers programs that provide the opportunity for children to reframe their experiences, channel their emotions, enhance resiliency, experience pride in their accomplishments and promote self-esteem, and it encourages positive, healthy adjustment to circumstances beyond their control.

Visit www.creativeheartwork.org or call (973) 889-0809.