

CULTURE FOR ONE

ACCESS TO THE ARTS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Fall 2016 Update

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect – and at Culture For One, we are extremely grateful for our supporters like you. We have accomplished more than we hoped for, thanks to you and your generous participation over the past six years. **You have made it possible for over 3,400 New York City children and teens struggling in foster care to experience and be inspired by the arts.** In the process, they have been exposed to new ideas that help nurture aspirations and motivation. Interest in Culture For One is growing, *now the need is greater than ever!*

We are happy to share some of our recent progress and upcoming plans with you.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones, from the Culture For One Team.



CULTURAL EXCURSIONS - Planting the seeds to inspire young spirits

To date, Culture For One has conducted over **178** exciting Cultural Excursions, carefully chosen to broaden the thinking of young people who have never, or rarely, have opportunities to experience all that the arts have to offer.

RECENT

National Dance Institute
Fashion Institute of Technology
Mama Foundation Teen Gospel Show
Met Costume Institute
Blue Man Group
"Natasha, Pierre, & The Great Comet of 1812"

UPCOMING

Apollo Theater "The First Noel" Musical
Mother Africa: My Home
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
New York International Children's Film Festival
New York City Ballet

"Culture For One organized a special **excursion** for art students from the

JCCA campus school; they arranged a wonderful afternoon visit to the **Whitney Museum of American Art** (photo above). Our eight youth were welcomed by CFO volunteers, and were treated to a private museum tour and art workshop designed for the group, as well as lunch. **For these young people for whom art means so much, this was their first time in a museum.** Their teacher said it was the first field trip he had with the kids in his 12 years there."

-Deidre Hanbury, LMSW, Therapeutic Arts Specialist

NEW & NEXT FOR CULTURE FOR ONE

- CFO received notes of support from **President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama**
- We welcomed new CFO Board Member, Eileen Schein
- Ilana Solomon joined CFO as Development & Administrative Associate
- CFO was awarded a 2017 grant from the Agnes Varis Trust
- A new friend of Culture For One will celebrate her **50th birthday with 50 children** in foster care at a performance by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater this December. Through CFO, Elizabeth Schroeder and her friends will host our **largest group excursion this year**
- The Apollo Theater Foundation joined our prestigious list of Cultural Partners
- The Culture For One Annual Benefit will be **Monday, April 3, 2017**

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please mark your calendars

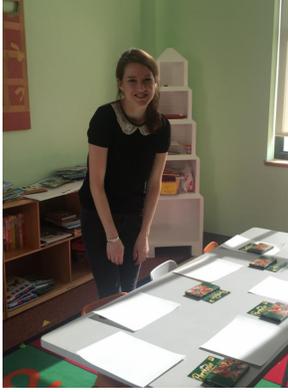
ART SCHOLARSHIPS - Filling the need to build confidence and move forward

To date, Culture For One has supported **77** Art Scholarships. Through this program, your generosity has recently allowed youth the opportunity to enroll in:

- Dance classes at the Harlem School of the Arts
- Cartooning for Teens at the Abrons Arts Center
- Drumming instruction at the Mike Risko School of Music
- Singing lessons at the Mike Risko School of Music

"My 5-year old foster daughter's days are filled with doctor visits and therapy sessions. That leaves sparse time for extracurricular activities. Thanks to Culture For One, she had the unique opportunity to attend an arts education summer camp, which meant the world to her. **The arts program gave her new friends, exciting creative projects, caring teachers, much needed structure, and allowed her to gain new skills and explore her talents.** I love seeing that spark in her eyes when she shares her Painted Cloud experiences with me."

-Candice D. Burton, Foster Parent of Lisa. CFO Arts Scholarship recipient



WORKSHOPS - Creative activities engage even the youngest

To date, we have produced **325** CFO creative workshops at our four partner foster agency facilities.

- **New Creative Storytelling Workshops** take place twice a week at the Administration for Children's Services' Children's Center in Manhattan, a temporary residential facility. Developed by CFO instructor, Robin Abbott, for 6-month to 5 year-olds, the sessions include storytelling, reading, movement, and musical activities.
- Through your generosity, we have funded much-needed creative playthings for the nursery at Children's Center including a range of musical instruments for toddlers.
- Jack Lazarus, our extraordinary Hip Hop Dance Instructor returned for his second summer of on-site workshops and has continued his weekend classes for teens this fall.

"Working with CFO has been a life-changing experience. I feel like I have a greater purpose, I love to teach and this has been the greatest platform to bring joy to these children's day."

-Jack Lazarus, Culture For One Hip Hop Dance Instructor



VOLUNTEERS - We couldn't do it without YOU!

- The Fashion Institute of Technology's Baker Scholar Intern Partnership with CFO has moved forward. Our current intern and volunteer, Ashley Rogers (photo above), planned and executed her first excursion for eight teens to visit FIT's Media Studio and Cosmetics and Fragrances Lab
 - Janet Kagan, Joan Hornig, and Susan Kasarsky volunteered, spending time with teens on our the Met Costume Institute Excursion (photo above)
 - We welcomed Ebony Davis and Travis Schwerin to our team of volunteers
 - Former CFO program participant Ramone Boland helped at the CFO Back to School booth (photo above)
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"The work of Culture For One with young children as well as with teens is enormously valuable; the art education and cultural experiences provide children a beautiful respite from the painful experiences associated with this particularly traumatic moment in their lives, while offering an outlet to the arts in all forms that can prove life-changing."

-Tim Roche, Associate Commissioner, ACS Children's Center

SPECIAL THANKS

Our deep appreciation goes to Patrice and Bill Brandt, and Developments Specialists Inc., who are generously providing our wonderful new office space.

We are grateful to Janet and Howard Kagan for opening their beautiful home, hosting a gathering to spread awareness of Culture For One.

And our thanks to our Culture For One Giving Program Members:

Leadership Circle

The Agnes Varis Trust
Janet and Howard Kagan

Patrons

Michael Field
The Redlich Horwitz Foundation
Victoria Furman
Toni Haber and Carol Burns

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Kathleen Histon Ross and Harvey Ross
Randi Rossignol
Linn Tanzman and Sanford Rosen
Nancy and Michael Weber

"Active citizens and strong organizations are the cornerstone of our democracy, and so I thank you and all those you work with for engaging in the important work of true citizenship."

-First Lady, Michelle Obama

We hope you will join us: We invite you to attend a Culture For One Excursion or Workshop to experience some of what we do. To attend, please email ilanaS@CultureForOne.org

For more information about Culture For One or to donate, please visit us at www.CultureForOne.org

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