



November 15, 2007

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Lauren Wolk, 508-394-7100 [lwolkculturalccc@verizon.net](mailto:lwolkculturalccc@verizon.net)

## **pARTnerships Program to Serve the Homeless and Individuals with Disabilities**

South Yarmouth: The Cultural Center of Cape Cod, Duffy Health Center, and Cape Abilities are pleased to announce pARTnerships, a 16-week arts education program for the homeless and people with disabilities. The program is designed to provide these participants, who have special needs and challenges, regular opportunities to express themselves creatively, to learn from and teach one another, to produce results of which they can be proud, to have a wonderful and therapeutic experience in the process and, for some, to gain the skills with which to help support themselves financially.

“Too often, many individuals with disabilities and homeless citizens of Cape Cod have limited access to arts and cultural programs from which they might greatly benefit,” says the Cultural Center’s Executive Director Robert Nash. “We have therefore partnered with Duffy and Cape Abilities to provide their clients with meaningful and potentially life-changing experiences that they might not otherwise have.”

The pARTnerships program will commence in January, 2008, and culminate, in April, in receptions, presentations, exhibits, and sales of the works produced. The curriculum will include a range of projects from written and performance art (both verbal and non-verbal, including drama, dance, and music) to photography and photo journalism, mosaic (found art), and collage. A different art form will be introduced each month, led by a different local artist who will be selected based on both artistic and teaching skills and on experience serving those with special needs. Stipends for faculty members will be funded, in part, by a grant from the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod. The weekly, three-hour workshops will take place at the Cultural Center, as will the presentations of the completed work. A minimum of sixty-four clients will be provided with all necessary materials and transportation to and from the classes. Cultural Center staff will administer the program, but staff from the Duffy Health Center and Cape Abilities will manage all other client services.

“We are very excited to be partnering with two important organizations of Cape Cod in order to offer new opportunities for those we support,” says Larry R. Thayer, Cape Abilities’ President and Executive Director.

The Cultural Center’s motto—*All the Arts for All of Us*—suits this project perfectly. It is, in fact, this project’s mission to reach every corner of the community and to support artists who are, in the truest and broadest sense, emerging. Likewise, Cape Abilities, whose mission is “to create opportunities for individuals with disabilities on Cape Cod,” and Duffy Health Center, “a partner on the road to health, hope, and home,” are in a unique position to enrich the lives of those involved—through the arts.

In addition to the receptions, exhibits, and performances held in April to celebrate the artists and their work, the Cultural Center will mount a special exhibit and sale of work donated by area artists, the proceeds from which will benefit the Duffy Health Center and Cape Abilities. A special reception on April 28<sup>th</sup> will give arts patrons a chance to support both the arts and the underserved by buying great art at great prices. The Cultural Center’s goal is to sell every piece of artwork in the exhibit.

“We cannot thank the Cultural Center enough for providing our clients with this unique opportunity to learn a new way to express themselves,” says Elyse DeGroot, Director of Community Relations and Marketing at the Duffy Center. “We hope that the entire Cape Cod community will attend the opening on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April to help celebrate the hard work of the students and to purchase some one-of-a-kind pieces of art.”

The far-reaching implications of the p**ART**nerships project cannot be overstated. Not only will each of its participants benefit, but so too will their families and the communities, Cape-wide, in which they live. It is true that a rising tide lifts all boats. The p**ART**nerships project is very much like a rising tide in its capacity to positively affect every one of its participants—clients, teachers, and audience—not only during the course of the project but well beyond its completion.

If you are interested in donating artwork for the Duffy Health Center and Cape Abilities benefit or money to help fund the p**ART**nerships program or if you would like to volunteer, please speak with the staff at the Cultural Center (508-394-7100), the Duffy Health Center (771-7517), or capeAbilities (508-778-5040).