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Time for  
Some Good News...



# Reflections 2007



**BEHOLDANCE**  
CELEBRATES A YEAR OF GROWTH,  
SUCCESS AND PASSIONATE OUTREACH.

December 31, 2007

## Beholdance Youth - Touching the Community

As we end another year and look toward the future one cannot help but reflect. In doing so, it is apparent at the growth, success and outreach the Beholdance youth have achieved. **Beholdance has contributed over 560 hours to the Beholdance Mission, supporting the community, other area organizations as well as for global outreach their first six months as a group.** Below, you will find highlights from 2007.



Beholdance learned through Hannah Love about a need in the community for pets living with seniors receiving meals on wheels. Many of the seniors receiving meals on wheels are home bound or need assistance with transportation which meant that their life long pets needed some assistance as well. Given transportation and mobility challenges for many, the youth didn't want to see seniors having to share their meals or see the pets go without so the group decided that they could help out. Beholdance has donated over 470 pounds of dog food and 427 pounds of cat food over the last six months to support this effort.

Beholdance has lovingly christened the effort, K-9 Krunchies and Feline Munchies. All the food is special bagged into one gallon freezer bags and hand labeled. The extra care in packaging is to assist with ease of handling for seniors so they can manage it better as well as to prevent waste. K-9 Krunchies and Feline Munchies will be an on going effort for Beholdance as long as the need exist in our community and Cabarrus Meals on Wheels needs the assistance.

Special thanks to Janice Nash, Celine Briggs, Stewart Hyde, Laura Braswell, Mike Hoyes,

Brenda Waldroup and Sandra Spry for their pet food donations and congratulations to the entire Beholdance group for packaging the pet meals and making this project such a great success.

This years CMOW Sunday Soup Sampling was a big success. Special thanks to Beholdance new members, Jacklyn Swartz, Zac Swartz, Tony Butcher, DeAnna Butcher and Dakota Palacio for helping to clear tables, fill drinks and for keeping trash cleared and supplies available for guest as needed.

Special thanks to Jacklyn and Zac Swartz, Katie Waldroup, Amanda Surles, Tori Cantales, Meridith Baker and Dakota Palacio for helping out at the Cabarrus Meals on Wheels Christmas Ornaments Booth.

Congrats to the entire Beholdance youth for three successful initiatives for Cabarrus Meals on Wheels.

**86.5 Total Beholdance Volunteer Hours (61 youth, 25.5 adult)** were given to support this community organization in 2007.

### Cabarrus Meals on Wheels

*"Young people today do not always receive the best accolades and this group of young adults is very mature, polite, and personable. I am honored and privileged to have them volunteer for Cabarrus Meals on Wheels. I am grateful to know that we have a group of caring young adults like this in our community that will become our future leaders. You should all be very proud of yourselves."*

**Kim Strong, Executive Director of CMOW**



## Recycling To Repair Smiles

Beholdance is currently working in the local and surrounding communities to gather aluminum cans and printer cartridges for recycling. These funds are being collected to benefit the Smile Train. Special Thanks to our community and surrounding Beholdance supporters for their contributions:

- American & Efird
- XPIENT Solutions
- Celine Briggs
- Dr. Betsie H. Poinsett
- Winona Whitener
- NCZoo Wildlife Rehab and Vet Centers
- Kiara Martin / Dr. Trish Vinocur

Recycling supports the Beholdance conservation mission as it takes over 1000 years for a printer cartridge to break down, aluminum never breaks down if put into a landfill so the group found an option to put them to good use. Beholdance can get funds for both items being recycled and they have selected the Smile Train as their charity to receive the benefit of this outreach. The Smile Train is the worlds leading cleft lip and palate surgery organization. The Beholdance group hopes not only to help locally but globally; therefore, we are currently working on projects that we hope will bring awareness as well as donations to this cause.

The Smile Train has a single focus and that is to resolve cleft lip and palate for children around the world. It is a major problem in developing countries where there are millions of children who are suffering with unrepaired clefts. Many cannot eat or speak properly and therefore they are not allowed to attend school or hold a job. All face lives of shame, isolation, pain and heartache without surgery. The good news is that every single child with a cleft can be helped with a surgery that cost as little as \$250 and it takes as little as 45 minutes to repair. The Smile Train not only performs these surgeries but they also teach medical professionals in the outreach areas.

**Beholdance Goal:  
To Sponsor the First Surgery by Valentines**

**As of 11/30/2007 we are at**

**\$117.50**

# BOO AT THE ZOO

Beholdance contributed over 285 combined volunteer hours (201 youth / 84 adult) to support the NCZoo for their October 'Boo at the Zoo' weekend event. Hosting activities at Kid's Zone were geared to promote conservation and earth enrichment.

Not only was Boo a fun event it also assists in supporting the Beholdance conservation and education mission. As per our understanding, volunteer hours contributed at the Zoo assist them with grant opportunities for the coming year.



### North Carolina Zoo

*"Just want to thank you again for working with us at Boo at the Zoo. I hope we will have more opportunities to work together next season. There are so many special events where it would be wonderful to have young people leading activities for the kids as well as sharing our conservation messages to all of our visitors. Please thank all of the Beholdance members for a job well done."*

**Linda Kinney, NCZoo Education Program Coordinator**





## ***Community & Conservation***

Beholdance adopted the new Kannapolis Parkway this year in late July and participated in Gov. Mike Easley's Litter Sweep Weekend Saturday, September 15, 2007. **A total of 106 Beholdance Volunteer Hours (61 youth / 45 adult) were contributed for the initial clean up.**

The parkway was selected for several reasons, one being to support a clean entrance way for Hospice as well as Caremoor Retirement and La Moore Commons Assisted Living. They also want to help out several other long term residents of the area – a group of Turkey Vultures that roost on the towers near the parkway's roadside as well as a few Barred Owls and Hawks that call the surrounding woods home. With the new development in the area they have become a bit challenged and the group felt that awareness as well as less debris on the roadside could help their survival. With the vultures being scavengers and the raptors looking for dead or small animals, any litter can be very harmful. Cigarette butts, paper and other litter is used by field mice and other small mammals for nesting which draws the raptors to the roadside. Raptors are very focused when hunting and research has proven they do not see the moving vehicle when hunting. They are so 'zeroed in' on the prey that they end up getting hit or wounded. Also given their size, often they cannot lift off with the speed of smaller birds so attention to native wildlife is important for safety as well as for their survival.

Beholdance has committed to four years with the NCDOT Adopt-a-Highway program in support of some of our very own native wildlife as well as to several wonderful community outreach facilities in the Parkway area. If you're interested in helping the community we're looking for dedicated individuals to assist with future clean ups in the area.

The next Kannapolis Parkway Clean Up is scheduled for January 19, 2008.



**NEXT PARKWAY CLEAN UP  
January 19, 2008**



## ***Going Global – Becoming A Voice For Our Future***

The youth are actively working on several animal conservation and protection issues through a letter writing campaign. They are working to make a difference for the following species: Bengal Tigers, the Last 300 Beluga Whales in Cook Inlet, Alaska, the Polar Bears, Tropical Frogs as well as the Gray Wolves in the Yellowstone area that are all in desperate need of assistance for their survival. More events and issues arise daily and the group is working to create an educational website that can assist with conservation and protection. You can find out more on the Beholdance website at [www.beholdance.org](http://www.beholdance.org). The site isn't just for kids so check it out if you love animals and want to ensure many do not end up extinct. The ones on the site are currently listed as endangered or threatened and are on the verge of extinction in the wild if not totally gone from our planet.

Youth reporters and researchers to assist with this online initiative are needed and we'd love to have you join us if you are interested in conservation, animal protection, the environment as well as other humanitarian efforts. The website was donated by Creative SplashWorks and created with simple editors to allow youth to manage and maintain the Beholdance website.

# JOINING HANDS



Beholdance encourages the KMS PTSO Students to start a petition to help save the Polar Bear. A large wood cut out of a Polar Bear was created and placed in the main hallway at Kannapolis Middle School along with a petition to help save the Polar Bear. Students, Teachers and Staff signed the petition as well as the bear.

The petition encouraged US Fish and Wildlife to place the bear on the Threatened and Endangered Species List as well as pleaded with Congress to pass the Udall-Eisenhower Wilderness Act (H.R. 39) to permanently protect the Arctic National Refuge.



Several days after sending the petition, Dakota received a phone call from US Fish and Wildlife. Unfortunately, it was during school hours and her grandmother had to take the call. They expressed their excitement in having a group of young people expressing so much interest in the plight of the bears and they wanted to let everyone know the petition was received and put into the federal records for consideration with US Fish and Wildlife.

# GONE NUTS

Many of our wildlife rehabilitation centers were overloaded with baby squirrels this year. So Beholdance joined hands with KMS PTSO Students to collect much needed nuts for wildlife. They collected acorns, walnuts, pecans as well as pumpkin seeds. Many of the students put their Jack-o-lanterns to good use by following the instructions and drying out their pumpkin seeds.

The nuts collected, once dried out, were frozen for storage. They were all then separated and delivered to wildlife rehabilitation centers in our area. All centers were glad to get the extra nuts which will help all the baby squirrels that are staying at rehab centers over the winter months.





# BEHOLDANCE JUNIOR ADVISORY BOARD...

## Katie Waldroup



**Special clubs or activities at school:** PTSO (Parent-Teacher-Student-Organization) – Student Representative, Band, Tennis, CYC (Committed Young Christians), ModelUN  
**Other Activities:** West A. Church of God Youth (W.A.Y.), Beholdance.

**About:** Katie is a junior board member for Beholdance. She has served on the PTSO (Parent-Teacher-Student-Organization) since 2006. She plays flute in the band and is on the tennis team. She is active at West A. Church of God in their youth group W.A.Y as well as in CYC (Committed Young Christians)

**What do you hope Beholdance can do for the community/world?**

I hope Beholdance can help educate the world and make us more aware of our surroundings. If we can start teaching people in our community the various ways they, as individuals, can contribute to the effort, it will spread and gain influential power. I hope we can change lives through helping organizations such as the Smile Train. We can also show people ways to conserve energy and how to protect endangered plants and animals. I hope Beholdance can show our world that these things impact everyone's lives everyday and they should care enough to help.

## Amanda Surles



**Special clubs or activities at school:** Cadet Girl Scout, YMCA Swim Club, Tennis, Band, Beholdance

**About:** Amanda is a junior board member for Beholdance as well as a Cadet Girl Scout, now in her 6th year of scouting. She has been involved with the YMCA swim club and is currently on the 8th grade girls' tennis team. This year, she has attended the youth group of a local church and attended their summer youth camp at the beach. During this past year, she has completed 40 hours of community service with Habitat for Humanity, local churches and assisted living facilities and with other charity organizations.

**What do you hope Beholdance can do for the community/world?**

Amanda's hope for Beholdance is to help the world become healthier as we clean it up, and to protect animals and to show that they are to be treated with love and respect.

## Hannah Love



**School Activities-** Model UN, Game of 24, Band

**Other Activities-** Girl Scouts, Beholdance

**About:** Hannah is a junior board member for Beholdance and is active in Girl Scouts. She is active at school in Model UN and the 'Game of 24'. Hannah plays mallets in the band.

**What do you hope Beholdance can do for the community/world?**

I simply hope that we can make a change for the better.

## Tori Cantales



**School Activities:** WKMS School News, Track and Field, Tennis, Band, School Musical

**Other Activities:** Shady Brook Baptist Youth, Beholdance

**About:** Tori is a junior board member for Beholdance and is active in a variety of school activities such as Tennis and plays in the Band. She is planning on going out for Track and Field. She is also a member of the WKMS News Crew at KMS. Tori was the winner of the Directors Award for the school play.

**What do you hope Beholdance can do for the community/world?**

I hope beholdance can help clean up the world and show people how much a small group can do for the community and maybe even the world. Also that we need to keep our world clean and to show people how much we need it!

## Megan Hoyes



**School Activities:** Volley Ball, Chorus

**Other Activities:** Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute, Beholdance

**About:** Megan is a junior board member for Beholdance. She is an active volunteer and has worked at the Avery Humane Society as well as the Mitchell Humane Society over the past several years. She is currently volunteering with the Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute at Lees McRae College. Megan participates in the school chorus as well as plays volley ball.

**What do you hope Beholdance can do for the community/world?**

I hope it will teach people about the planet and what we're doing to our environment.

## Dakota Palacio, Beholdance Founder



**Special clubs or activities at school:** PTSO (Parent-Teacher-Student-Organization) – Student Representative/Treasurer, Band, Jazz Band, Tennis, Model UN and Beholdance.

**Other Activities:** NCZoo Volunteer, Valerie H. Schindler Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Volunteer

**About:** Dakota has been interested in the care of domestic and wild animals, the environment as well as the people around her from a very early age. Dakota believes in working hard and supporting others in their goals and dreams. She's been involved in National League Junior Cotillion, has been a youth representative for PTSO as a student representative and is taking the role of co-president this year. She was also a member of TRAIL (Taking Responsible Action In Life) and participates in the school band, is a member of the jazz band as well as Model UN. As an Educational Member for the Spirit Bear Youth Coalition, she has been actively working to help the plight of the Spirit Bear as well as others on the endangered or threatened species lists. Dakota is also the proud owner of a Shetland Sheepdog (Sheltie) and they are working toward his certification as a K9 Good Citizen / Therapy Dog and she is also working to promote the care and well being of blind horses as she has adopted a blind, English Pleasure Morgan Horse, named Fire Storm.

**What do you hope Beholdance can do for the community/world?**

By founding Beholdance, I hope that it will give youth the opportunity to speak out about conservation and the protection of our planet and all its inhabitants on a variety of levels.

# Reasons For Hope

Beholdance members that worked tirelessly in our September Litter Sweep as well as at other Beholdance events this year were treated to a lecture at Duke University where Dr. Goodall spoke about her years in conservation and her experience with chimpanzees in the wild as well as shared her four reasons for hope for our future.

### **About Dr. Jane Goodall:**

Jane is recognized worldwide for her outstanding contributions. She has been made a United Nations "Messenger of Peace", as well as a Dame of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. Since beginning her work in 1960, Dr. Goodall has molded the world of primatology, collecting countless awards and honors along the way. She was the first to witness chimpanzees' use of tools, a discovery that re-defined what it means to be human. Since then she has changed the way people see animals, proving that individual animals, like people have distinct personalities. Her publications and discoveries are vast, but her message remains ever simple: 'we can make the world a better place.'



"My hope lies in the tremendous energy, enthusiasm and commitment of a growing number of young people around the world. As they find out about the environmental and social problems that are now part of their heritage, they want to fight to right the wrongs. Of course they do - they have a vested interest in this, for it will be their world tomorrow. They will be moving into leadership positions, into the work force, becoming parents themselves. Young people, when informed and empowered, when they realize that what they do truly makes a difference, can indeed change the world." Jane Goodall

# ABOUT BEHOLDANCE - WHO WE ARE

## ***Beholdance Mission:***

To come together and take a look at issues effecting the health and well being of our planet and to stand up and give our youth a voice to our future, while instilling values, character and education regarding conservation and community service to better the world in which we live. To bring focus to our future because we are the generation that will inherit the earth and it is our voice and actions that will ensure it will be loved, protected and healthy for the coming generations.

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## ***Meaning of Beholdance:***

The meaning of Beholdance has been defined by our founder, Dakota Palacio.

"Beholdance is an energy-heart word. It is kinda like a placeholder in your heart where the love and compassion exist. To be in beholdance of something means to hold a place in your heart and to give it love, joy and compassion and to know it will manifest from that love and support. For example, I might be in beholdance of my grandfather's full health because he just had major back surgery or I might be in beholdance of a person, event, relationship, etc. I picked it from a combination of words:

- **Behold**, which means to have in sight; to see clearly, to hold focus, to support.
- **Beholden**, which means to have or hold gratitude, to be indebted with respect.
- **Dance**, which is a symbol of love, joy and happiness in motion

These words I felt help best describe our mission and this is why I chose the name Beholdance. Personally, Beholdance is about holding a space in my heart for the planet and all who call it home so that we may all come together in peace, health and love. I hope it will help teach the new youth how to love, honor and protect our Mother Earth and her plants, animals and it's people. It's about taking responsibility for our home, our planet Earth. We were born on this planet with all that we need and we have developed in our intelligence yet we get so involved in upgrading society that we too often forget about basic care. Therefore we've endangered our planet as well as ourselves. It is now time to give back what we can and to look at how our actions both good and bad effect how we live.

To pledge Beholdance, means to take responsibility; to claim the vision and outcome of the health and well being of our future and to remind all who call Earth home that each and every one of us is indebted to its continued health and protection.

This is what it means to be '**In Beholdance**'."

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## ***Goals and Objectives:***

Beholdance hopes to engender love and protection for our animals, people and planet in the minds and hearts of our youth and to grow that voice and vision globally. To take responsibility for our actions and choices that effect our environment and the inhabitants of our shared home and to set the vision and voice for our future by upholding the full health and well being of all concerned. We'd like to become the leading youth conservation and community service organization on the planet because ultimately the planet belongs to those who are coming and we are simply responsible for its care on their behalf.

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## ***Beholdance Pledge:***

"I promise to love, honor and protect our home, Earth.

I want a world where poverty is history compassion comes first and where all life is equal.

I will watch out for all living things and work to make it a better place.

I promise to take care of our animals, plants and environment as well as all who cross my path.

I am '**In Beholdance**'."