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Time for
Some Good News...



Reflections 2009



Oct 15, 2009

Letter From The White House

Dear Beholdance Junior Board:

Thank you so much for sharing the information about your organization.

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. Our strength as a country and our ability to responsibly shape our future depends on informed and impassioned Americans.

We are at a critical moment in our Nation's history, and we need an all-hands-on-deck approach to solve the problems that we face. America needs your hands, your hearts and your hard work now more than ever. History tells us that when we come together as a Nation with a sense of purpose and a spirit of service, no challenge is too great.

I appreciate that you took the time to write, and I want to thank you for all that you do in your community, for daring to innovate, for dreaming big, and for finding ways to create a better tomorrow. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,
Michelle Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20502



Making the World a Better Place

~ One Step at a Time ~

Dance

Asheboro Chapter



Back to School Dance...

The Asheboro Chapter hosted a back to school dance, Friday, August 21, 2009. Friends got together to catch up with each other after a long summer. The group decided to make it a charity event to help out the community.

The event took place at the Concerned Bikers Association and the money raised went to benefit Habitat for Humanity. The group had a great time and raised \$110.



"Dance as if no one were watching,
Sing as if no one were listening,
And live every day as if it were your last."

Irish Proverb

Walk

Kannapolis Chapter



Sunday, October 4, 2009 members of the Kannapolis Chapter and a few K9 friends joined together at Forest Hill Methodist Church in Concord, NC. The group signed in and registered to walk to help fight hunger.

Jaclyn and Zac Swartz lead another successful Crop Walk for our Beholdance Team. They were joined by Amanda Surlles, Hannah Love, Dakota Palacio and Mary Swartz, who walked for the event. Six year old, Olivia Reilly Spirit Walked and helped raise money for Beholdance. K9 Ebbie walked with the group and Bam Bam greeted everyone with a happy paw shake.

Our Beholdance team raised \$310 to help fight hunger locally and globally.



2nd Annual Awards Luncheon

October 11th turned out to be a beautiful day for the Beholdance Awards Luncheon at Dan Nicholas Park in Salisbury, NC. Everyone gathered at Shelter 11 at 2:30 to hear a recap of the Beholdance accomplishments since its launch in July 2007. Presentations were made to this year's Presidential Volunteer Service Award Winners, the Beholdance Horizon Award Winner as well as Beholdance Participation Awards. The Senior Board also gathered to present the new Beholdance Outreach Service Awards. *[This newsletter includes details about each award.]*

The group had a great time visiting the parks attractions, including a wildlife park which is home to several Red Wolves, Black Bears, Bobcats and more.



Special Thanks to everyone who worked to make this event enjoyable and successful.

Beholdance Horizon Award

Goes To Olivia Reilly

With great pleasure Dakota Palacio, the founder of Beholdance, presented the Beholdance Horizon Award to six-year-old Olivia Reilly on October 11, 2009 at the Beholdance Awards Luncheon at Dan Nicholas Park, Salisbury, NC. The Horizon Award was created to acknowledge an individual or group that has shown compassion and has had the vision to step forward and make a difference in the lives of others and/or for the planet. To receive this award you must be nominated and Donna Weaver of Catering to Cats and Dogs brought Olivia's volunteer service to our attention and this qualified her for this award.



Olivia's volunteer service has included helping at their local Soup Kitchen as well as helping deliver Friendship Trays to the homebound. She also gave up her traditional birthday party and decided to ask friends to help out with something close to her heart by donating to Catering to Cats and Dogs Animal Rescue instead of bringing gifts. They had a fairy themed party and got to meet some of the kittens that would benefit from their efforts. Together they raised \$185.



Currently, Olivia is collecting gently used books and is asking for donations in exchange for a book to support animal rescue. She also Spirit Walked for Beholdance October 4, 2009 and raised \$35 dollars for the Beholdance Crop Walk Team. We're really proud of Olivia's achievements at such a young age and we're excited about the steps she is taking to make things better in the lives of others and we're excited to have her as a new Beholdance Member.

Congrats Olivia!!!

BEHOLDANCE OUTREACH SERVICE AWARD

Challenge Coins



Beholdance Outreach Service Awards were proposed to the Beholdance Senior Advisory Board by the current Junior Advisory Board. The Senior Board felt it was such a wonderful idea and would encourage youth everywhere to get involved. The award was created to honor youth from all areas of the globe that participate in Beholdance Volunteer Service Projects. It rewards youth that help their neighbors and community and wish to help create a better world for all. This award is to encourage this strength in character for those that have the compassion and empathy to reach out and make a difference in the lives of others and for the planet.

The Outreach Awards are accumulative in nature to promote Beholdance Members to continue their outreach over extended periods of time. They have three levels: Gold (400 Volunteer Hours), Silver (225 Volunteer Hours) and Bronze (100 Volunteer Hours).

The Senior Advisory Board has chosen to Grandfather this award to all members in all chapters. This means all hours in service to Beholdance from its creation, July 2007, will count toward this award.

2008 – 2009 Outreach Service Award Winners

- Hannah Love – [118.5 Hours], Bronze
- Tori Cantales – [123.3 Hours], Bronze
- Megan Hoyes – [131.8 Hours], Bronze
- Amanda Surles – [133.5 Hours], Bronze
- Dakota Palacio – [234.8 Hours], Bronze / Silver

President's Volunteer Service Award



The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation on behalf of the President of the United States to recognize the best in the American spirit, and to encourage all Americans to improve their communities through volunteer service, and civic participation.

Beholdance is pleased to be a Certifying Organization for the PVSA and proud to announce the following Beholdance Members as recipients for the 2008-2009 Beholdance, Second Year, service awards.

The **Presidential Bronze** Award is given to youth under 14 years of age that contribute 50 to 74 hours or youth ages 15 to 25 that contribute over 100 hours of community service within 12 months. This year's winners of the Bronze PVSA go to:

Under 14:

- **Ms. Jaclyn Swartz (50.5 Hours)**
- **Mr. Zac Swartz (56 Hours)**

The **Presidential Silver** Award is given to youth under 14 years of age that contribute 75 to 99 hours or youth ages 15 to 25 that contribute over 175 hours of community service within 12 months. This year's winners of the Silver PVSA go to:

Under 14:

- **Ms. DeAnna Butcher (77 Hours)**

Chapter Group Awards

GOLD
KANNAPOLIS
1249.50 HOURS

BRONZE
ASHEBORO
424.50 HOURS

BRONZE
WINSTON
343.80 HOURS

NC Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service



Kiara Martin has been selected as a Randolph County recipient of the 2009 North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. The award is an important part of history and tradition of volunteerism and community service in the county.

Barb Dunn Swanson, the Advisory Board Chair for the Volunteer Center of Randolph County stated, "Thank you for the example you set as a youth volunteer for Beholdance! Your ability to bring other teen volunteers together is remarkable."

Kiara will receive a letter and certificate of recognition and be honored at a luncheon on Tuesday, November 17 at the Asheboro Country Club.

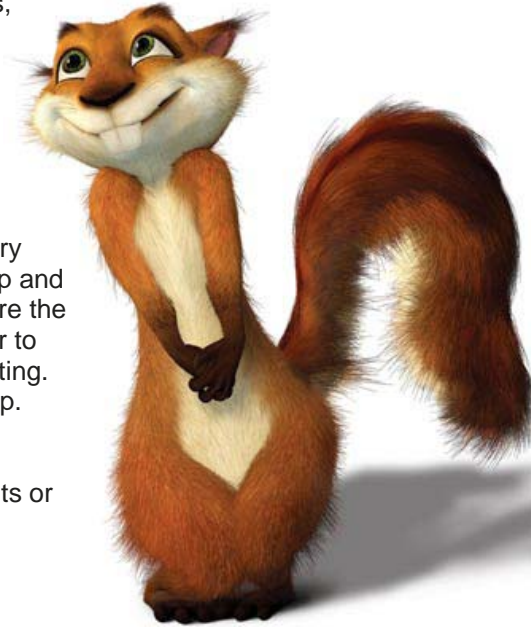
She is currently the Chair for the Asheboro Chapter of Beholdance and has led her chapter to a Presidential Volunteer Bronze Service Award. The Asheboro Chapter has focused on Habitat for Humanity, Litter Sweep and participated at Boo at the Zoo. Kiara also volunteers at the Valerie Schindler Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Asheboro, NC.

It's Harvest Time

It's that time of year again! Beholdance 'Gone Nuts' is ready to begin. The acorns are falling and ready to be gathered so collect your friends and help out the babies and injured wildlife that are staying over the winter at wildlife rehab by collecting acorns, pecans, walnuts, dog wood berries and more.

It's easy to help. Set a date for your Harvest Time and then turn in your Stash of Nuts and Seeds. Remember to dry the nuts if they are damp and bag them in Ziploc. Store the collection in your freezer to prevent mold and sprouting. Then, schedule a pick up.

If you would like more information on Gone Nuts or need a pick up, contact info@beholdance.org



SAVE THE DATE

- October 18 – Gone Nuts Harvest Begins
- October 24 & 25 – Boo at the Zoo
- October 30 – Litter Sweep
- November 8 – CMOW Soup Sampling
- November 15 – Storm Drain Marking



To join the Eastern Box Turtle Education Project, contact us at info@beholdance.org

Help Eastern Box Turtles

Eastern Box Turtles are in need of assistance with human encroachment. Education and awareness is needed so they can survive. Their numbers have been declining and several local organizations have started programs to assist. The NC Zoo and Schindler Rehab Center as well as Davidson College and NC State University are currently hosting programs including tracking, rehabilitation and other research. Beholdance would like to join the efforts by doing what we can through educating others in our area. Beholdance youth will be taking on an awareness and education initiative as many do not realize the challenges faced by this local species. Beholdance youth will be discussing how they can assist in the upcoming months.

Turtle Tip: If you see a box turtle in the road, use caution and move them off the road to the side of the road in the direction they were headed; otherwise, they will try to cross again. Remember to watch traffic as the roadside is not safe for man or beast. They are territorial so don't move them from the area where you found them.

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.

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 its 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**'."

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.

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**'."