



Promoting self-growth and effective life skills through art-making

In Review

Spring 2006

Dear ArtSpring Supporters:

February marked the one-year anniversary of my fulltime employment with ArtSpring. What an exciting and inspiring year it has been! Having been an active part of this organization since it's inception in 1992, I am constantly amazed at how ArtSpring continues to grow and strengthen. The first three months of 2006 have been no exception!

In January, we launched our newly redesigned website [if you haven't already, check it out! www.artspring.org]. On January 25, we were honored to be included in three separate grant awards given by the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County, a true advocate for ArtSpring and one of our first committed funders. In February, we began an exciting new writing workshop, *Bridging the Gap*, at Broward Correctional Institution in partnership with the Florida Department of Corrections, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the Girls Advocacy Project and Vicki Lukis, co-chair of the Governor's Ex-Offenders Task Force. (If you missed the recent press release, you can view it on our website in the News section). We began two new community programs in partnership with Carrfour Supportive Housing (in late February) and Hands2Help (in mid March). On March 19, *Rites and Passages – Theatre and Drumming Workshops for Male Inmates* had its first presentation at Dade Correctional Institution; the Assistant Warden, members of ArtSpring's Staff and Board, and approximately 80 male inmates were in attendance, the program was extremely well received. On March 24, ArtSpring was honored as one of five presenting grantee organizations at the 10th Annual Women's Fund Luncheon, with ArtSpring Artist Facilitator and *Inside Out* Alumna, Deborah McEnteggart, delivering an inspiring and heartwarming speech. Toward the end of March, ArtSpring executed a two-year contract with the Florida Department of Corrections to continue offering programs within Florida prison facilities. Finally, on April Fools' Day, though it was not a practical joke but a wonderful opportunity, I had the distinct honor of bringing an *Inside Out* alumna with me to the WVCG 1080AM studios to be guests on Lorna Owen's "And the Women Gather Radio."

All this on top of continuing our ongoing programming, and dare I say: we've only just begun! Please, read on ...

Warm regards,
Nicole K. Bible, Executive Director

In this issue:

- Spotlight on: Leslie Neal
- Current Events: Women's Fund Luncheon
- Programming Initiative: Community Partnerships
- Featured Artwork: ArtSpring logo
- Sponsor an ArtSpring Program

ArtSpring Board of Directors

- President:*
Gloria Romero Roses
- Treasurer:*
Dipak Parekh
- Secretary:*
Arthur Christian Hilmer, III
- Board Members:*
Sophie Michael
Natasha K. Talib, Esq.

Spotlight: Leslie Neal, ArtSpring Founder & Artistic Director

Approximately 2 out of every 3 people released from prison in the US are re-arrested within 3 years of their release.

Leslie Neal will be concentrating her efforts fulltime on ArtSpring beginning this summer. As an Associate Professor at Florida International University, Leslie dedicated her efforts to ArtSpring solely on a volunteer basis for over a decade. She is now thrilled and anxious to take on a fulltime commitment as Artistic Director of the organization she created 14 years ago.

Leslie will focus largely on seeking funding to sustain ArtSpring and attracting more visibility for the organization. She plans on further involving herself in the community to spread the word about ArtSpring and its programs. She states, "As the founder of ArtSpring, with a long term vision of the organization, my role will be to develop sustainable programming to meet our goals."

For over twelve years she has followed the changes in grant trends, "A non-profit organization needs to know how to adapt and be flexible to evolving funding trends."

Today, she is working on a statewide basis toward a higher level of advocacy. Because of Leslie's work and ArtSpring's longstanding partnership with the Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC), Assistant Deputy Secretary Dr. Laura E. Bedard invited Leslie to participate in the Women's Issues Work Group, a new initiative of the FDOC. In total, roughly twenty invited women from around the state of Florida are participating in this newly formed Work Group, the first of its kind created to study gender-based issues of the female offender, and how the FDOC will address those issues.

Cont. Page 2

Spotlight: Leslie Neal, ArtSpring Founder & Artistic Director , Cont.

Studying the effects of incarceration on women continues reaching higher statewide advocacy levels. In addition to the Women's Issues Work Group, Leslie was asked to speak to the Governor's Ex-Offender Task Force when they met in Miami last Fall. The Task Force is charged with the responsibility of studying the issues that arise when inmates are released from prison and what causes the recidivism that keeps them returning.

As of today, the FDOC does not have pre-release* or re-entry* programs for men or women due to budget cuts.

ArtSpring's programs provide incarcerated individuals an opportunity for utilizing the arts to learn behavioral and social skills that will ultimately aid them upon release. For some, the program is the only positive reinforcement they have ever received. Leslie designed the *Inside Out* curriculum as a 'best practice' model for gender-based program delivery for female offenders. The curriculum focus is on an individual taking responsibility for her behavior and the programs serve as early intervention for a female inmate's re-entry into our communities.

ArtSpring's Board and Staff are delighted to see Leslie's fulltime involvement with ArtSpring become a reality. As the organization's founder, Leslie's vision has guided ArtSpring in many past achievements. Her fulltime commitment and continued vision will promote the organization to even greater successes.

* Pre-release programming takes place in prison prior to release

* Re-entry programming is a transitional program for offenders after their release from prison

Current Event: "Connecting Women, Creating Change"

On March 24, 2006 at the Radisson-Miami Hotel, the Women's Fund hosted their 10th Annual Luncheon, "Connecting Women, Creating Change" for over 1,000 guests.

ArtSpring was honored to have Deborah McEnteggart, a former *Inside Out* participant and current Artist Facilitator of the *Inside Out* program at Pinellas County Jail, highlighted as one of five speakers chosen to represent the 37 grantee partners of the Women's Fund. Deborah gave a moving presentation, sharing her involvement in the very first *Inside Out* program, in 1994, while serving a life sentence for first-degree murder.

She received Executive Clemency from the Governor in 1998. Since her release, Deborah earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services in addition to two Associate Degrees. She credited ArtSpring and *Inside Out* as contributing to her success and emphasized that the opportunity to bring the same tools she gained as a participant to other women walking a similar path is the most rewarding part of her ArtSpring experience.

Deborah concluded her speech with a tribute to Isabelle Sipes, an *Inside Out* participant who was released from prison in 1999 and represented ArtSpring as a speaker at the 6th annual Women's Fund luncheon in 2002. Isabelle passed away in October of 2005.

ArtSpring was well represented at the luncheon, with staff, community supporters, several board members and former *Inside Out* participants attending. (Featured in picture, from left to right: Leslie Neal, Janice Billie, Deborah McEnteggart, Jessica Robinson, Shirley Julien and Nicole Bible).



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Compound *Inside Out* -
Explorations Class
Presentation: Homestead
Correctional - April 8th

Community *Inside Out* -
Advanced Presentation:
Broward Correctional -
April 9th
(by invitation only)

ArtSpring Performance:
Vanessa Baez Memorial
Women's Brunch - April 30
(by invitation only)

Community Program
Presentation: Hands2Help
- May 5th

Community *Bridging the Gap*
Presentation: Broward
Correctional - May 20
(by invitation only)

Community Program
Presentation: Carrfour
Supportive Housing - May
31

For more information about any of these events, please contact us at 305-278-1601 or artspring@artspring.org.

Programming Initiative: ArtSpring Receives Grantee Partners Award Creating Community Partnerships through Women's Fund of Miami-Dade

At January's "Million Dollar Breakfast" at Parrot Jungle, the Women's Fund celebrated the power of giving and announced their 2006 Grantee Partners. ArtSpring, Inc. was the only organization to appear as a three-time grantee. Through a long-standing relationship with the Women's Fund, ArtSpring was referred as a best-practice organization to potential grantees looking to enhance their existing services by contracting ArtSpring to provide innovative arts-based programming. As a result of this matchmaking, two local organizations are working with ArtSpring this year to share their missions to enrich the lives of women and girls in our community.

With the generous support of Funding Partner Deborah Hoffman, **ArtSpring** received a \$7,500 grant to increase ArtSpring's organizational capacity. The grant monies are earmarked specifically toward salaries for Leslie Neal and Shirley Julien in their roles as Artistic Director and Youth Program Director, respectively.

Carrfour Supportive Housing received a grant to contract ArtSpring to provide arts-based workshops to formerly homeless women and girls residing at Carrfour's Del Prado Gardens. In partnership with Carrfour staff, ArtSpring designed a program consisting of 13 weekly workshops that will enable participants to find their creative voice and practice building trusting relationships. ArtSpring's Youth Program Director Shirley Julien along with Artist Facilitators Lela Lombardo and

Ketty Urbay are offering two simultaneous workshops, one with adult women and one with adolescent girls.

Hands 2 Help, Inc. received funding to support *Passage 2 Womanhood*, a program for at-risk teenage girls, many of whom are in the juvenile justice system, that teaches various life skills including nutrition, self-expression and creativity. As a component of this program, ArtSpring is contracted to offer a 7-week expressive arts program in conjunction with the *Passage 2 Womanhood* curriculum, which addresses root causes of the girls' problems and seeks to foster a positive, productive lifestyle and permanent change.

As a nationally recognized community arts organization in Florida, ArtSpring demonstrates the power of art to transform individuals and communities. ArtSpring offers specifically designed creative workshops that encourage participants to re-connect to their own creativity, explore their inner imagination and assist in self-discovery. This new programming initiative of partnering with other community-based organizations to contract services is an outgrowth of 12 years of successful, ongoing programming with incarcerated women and girls in detention and foster care. This initiative allows ArtSpring to reach many more women and girls in community settings outside the corrections and foster care systems and will move the organization toward greater long-term sustainability.

Featured Artwork

We chose our ArtSpring logo as the featured artwork for this issue. While not a product of our workshops, it was designed and created by a former *Inside Out* participant. Once in the "free world," Isabelle Sipes began taking graphic design classes and developed this logo when the organization changed its legal name from Leslie Neal Dance, Inc. to ArtSpring, Inc. in the summer of 2000.



While some see the design emerging from the "A" as flowing hair, Isabelle designed it as a wing, for she saw those affiliated with ArtSpring as angels who give women and girls who participate in our programs wings to creatively fly. Isabelle passed away on October 1, 2005 at the age of 48, almost exactly 6 years after her release from prison. We believe she is now truly free and that she herself is among the angels. We miss her greatly.

Thank You for Making ArtSpring Programs Possible

Would you like to sponsor an ArtSpring program?
Or perhaps a portion of one? Consider the following:

- ◆ \$15,000 covers an entire year of programming (3 sessions) for one level at one facility (each session serves approximately 20 participants)
- ◆ \$5,000 covers one 13-week session for one level at one facility (each session serves approximately 20 participants)
- ◆ \$250 covers one participant for one 13-week session
- ◆ \$100 covers supplies for one 13-week session

In addition to cash donations, we need art supplies, office supplies, volunteer time and other non-cash and in-kind donations and services. Please contact us at 305-278-1601 or artspring@artspring.org if you would like to help!



ArtSpring, Inc.
 P.O. Box 343432
 Florida City, FL 33034
 Office: 305-278-1601
 Fax: 305-278-1602
 www.artspring.org

Leslie Neal
 Founder & Artistic Director
 leslieneal@artspring.org

Nicole K. Bible
 Executive Director
 nicolebible@artspring.org

Shirley Julien
 Youth Program Director
 shirleyjulien@artspring.org

ArtSpring's mission is to support self-growth and effective life skills through art-making. ArtSpring serves women and girls representing a diverse ethnic, age and racial demographic who have an overwhelming number of unmet needs. Since 1994, ArtSpring has offered two principal on-going programs: *Inside Out- Expressive Arts Workshops for Incarcerated Women* and *Breaking Free- Expressive Arts for Girls*. These interdisciplinary arts programs incorporate movement, theatre games, writing, drawing, music, story telling, meditation, guided imagery and performance as transformational tools for self-reflection and personal change.

ArtSpring's programs promote creativity, personal growth, effective life skill development and confident self-expression. As a nationally recognized Community Arts provider based in South Florida, ArtSpring believes in the power of art to transform individuals and communities. ArtSpring offers specifically designed creative workshops that encourage personal reflection, self-awareness, acceptance, commitment, tolerance and individual choice-making that provide participants with better tools for survival while confined in institutionalized settings and upon their release.

Thank you! 2005-2006 contributors:

Dade Community Foundation
 Dunspaugh Dalton Foundation
 Global Equity Holdings LLC
 Rob & Nancy Hector / The Hector Family Foundation
 Kalliopeia Foundation

Vicki Lopez Lukis
 Potamkin Family Foundation
 Joseph H. and Florence A. Roblee Foundation
 Smith Barney Charitable Trust
 Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County

ArtSpring is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. ArtSpring also receives support from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.

ARTSPRING, INC. IS A 501(c)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY.

ARTSPRING, INC. IS REGISTERED TO SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA, REGISTRATION NUMBER SC-01795.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING 800-435-7352 FROM WITHIN THE STATE, OR 850-488-2221 FROM OUTSIDE FLORIDA.

REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

100% OF EACH CONTRIBUTION IS RECEIVED BY ARTSPRING AND NO PORTION IS RETAINED BY ANY PROFESSIONAL SOLICITOR.



P.O. Box 343432
 Florida City, FL 33034
 Office: 305-278-1601
 Fax: 305-278-1602
 www.artspring.org

*The US has the largest
 incarceration level in the world
 with 701 inmates per every
 hundred thousand people.*