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YOUNG AUDIENCES EXPANDS ARTS RESIDENCY WITH HERITAGE CENTERS

BUFFALO, NY (11/15/10) – With support from The Children’s Guild Foundation, Young Audiences of Western New York has expanded its partnership with Heritage Centers After School Program to bring educational arts programming to the human services facility two times per week throughout the 2010-2011 school year.

The residency, titled *A Rhythm Runs Through It*, is a long-term arts integration program incorporating dance, music, and visual arts for young people with special needs that attend the Heritage Centers After School Program. Youth who participate in the program have moderate to severe development disabilities, many of which also face physical, mental, cognitive, or behavioral challenges.

The program leverages kinesthetic activities, literacy skills and creative expression to help participants develop comprehensive coordination and communication abilities.

“If Young Audiences did not provide these classes for us, our young people would never have such exposure to the arts and creative self-expression in their lifetime,” said Barbara Huebsch, Supervisor of Family and County Services for Heritage Centers After School Program. “Many children with learning disabilities are not ordinarily able to express themselves, yet, [when they come to our program] whether it is through dancing, drumming, or painting, they find that they are well capable of doing so.”

A Rhythm Runs Through It brings together some of the most inspiring and effective artists working with special needs populations in Buffalo. This year the program includes multi-session residencies with professional teaching artists Tom Holt, Sarah Hooper, John Lombardo, Miriam Minkoff, Robin Monique and Alassane Saar, Jen Russo, and Reynold Scott.

Created by Young Audiences WNY, *A Rhythm Runs Through It* and is funded by The Children’s Guild Foundation. Individuals interested in learning more about this residency can visit www.yawny.org or contact Young Audiences WNY directly at 716.881.0917

ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES: Young Audiences of Western New York’s mission is to make the arts a part of young people’s lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings. The organization offers assembly, workshop and long term residency programs with professional artists, committed to their craft, and using it as a tool for creative learning. Art forms include music, multi-media arts, theater, dance, and visual and literary arts.

ABOUT THE CHILDREN’S GUILD FOUNDATION: Incorporated in 1910, The Children’s Guild Foundation funds non-profit organizations within the eight counties of Western New York that provide programs and services for special needs children in the areas of healthcare, research, education and therapeutic recreation. The Foundation also seeks to effect change, provide opportunities, and promote inclusion & diversity for children with special needs and their families by advocating on their behalf. The research initiatives funded by The Foundation are concentrated in the area of pediatric developmental disabilities. For more information, visit www.thechildrensguild.org or call 716-362-9650.

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Photographs and interviews with artists and students participating in this program are available and can be scheduled by calling 716.881.0917.