



# ANNUAL REPORT



  
**astep**  
ARTISTS STRIVING TO END POVERTY



**Be the change you want to see in the world.**

**- Mahatma Gandhi**

## OUR MISSION

Artists Striving To End Poverty (ASTEP) uses multidisciplinary art as a tool to empower young people with creativity, knowledge, and a strong sense of self-esteem, factors which help them advance their lives and communities. At ASTEP, we provide artists with opportunities to connect with global youths, allowing them to use their gifts to create meaningful and effective change for young people in need.

## OUR VISION

ASTEP is dedicated to creating a worldwide, volunteer community of artists making a difference in the lives of children living in poverty.

ASTEP artists raise awareness and lead enriching and expressive programs through which artists and young people share their gifts and transform lives.

## CORE VALUES

**Children** – ASTEP empowers young people with the tools of self-expression and decision-making necessary to lead healthy lives and to contribute effectively in their communities.

**Artists** – ASTEP encourages artists to use their talents in innovative and inspiring ways, and to reconnect with the power of the arts to transform society.

**Communities** – ASTEP renews communities' dedication and relationship to all its members through a commitment to the arts strengthening the bonds between artists and their communities as well as those between children and adults.



## TO OUR SUPPORTERS

It is no secret that there exists a significant crisis in our educational system today. Conventional methods of teaching and learning are insufficient to the task of enlightening our global community towards peaceful co-existence, interdependence, and social balance. With such excessive information at a child's disposal every moment of each day, our new agenda as educators must be to develop empowered, compassionate choice-making.

The performing and visual arts have always been synonymous with self expression and catharsis. In conjunction with current academic topics, Arts Education can provide the visceral experience necessary to ignite a student's curiosity and generative spark. Arts Education can empower whole classrooms of students to believe in themselves which, in turn, uplifts exhausted families and beaten communities.

Arts Education is what we are about at ASTEP.

Through ASTEP, we have been able to connect artists who wish to share their talents and creative approaches to self-discovery with children who can benefit from artistic encounters. Due to the nature of show business, there is a dearth of opportunities for artists to perform or exhibit their work. ASTEP offers a variety of new opportunities for artists to use their gifts in ways that create meaningful change with children.



It thrills me that ASTEP has already touched the lives of many children and artists who volunteer with us. Every artist returning from an ASTEP experience exudes a passion brought to life by their encounters with these children.

As you may know, I too, am a performing artist. ASTEP is challenging me to continually redefine the possibilities for myself as an artist and as a citizen. Often I am approached by artists who say they feel conflicted and confused about whether to apply their talents in service to the community or the performing arts industry. It is not easy for an artist to make a living in either venue. I aim to forge a path that will open to artists new opportunities to build a fruitful professional career as well as a full life as an active and responsible contributor to society. These roles are mutually inherent in my artistry. I am seeing a powerful shift in people as I witness the effects of ASTEP activism in the communities we have reached. This work is changing the lives of countless students, parents, artists and me.

Our first few years at ASTEP have brought many challenges, from developing our core team infrastructure to managing our new programming, to scheduling events and concerts from New York City to Los Angeles, all the while, sending teams of artists to South Africa, India, and Florida.

2008 has brought another summer full of wonderful volunteers and passionate children in three continents, as well as exciting new partnerships that have helped ASTEP launch a solid program in our own backyard of Bronxville, NY.

The challenge, at this stage, is in choosing those opportunities which will lead to ASTEP's most productive and impactful future. The need for effective ways to mentor and guide today's youth cannot be overstated. Thanks to the support of many generous friends and donors, ASTEP continues to fulfill its artistic, community and civic mission. Together, we are ensuring that ASTEP continues to change the lives of children across the globe.

Thank you again for your continued generosity to ASTEP, and to the children we serve.

**Mary-Mitchell Campbell**

Chief Visionary Officer/Founder, Artists Striving To End Poverty

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CHAIR

**Susan Vargo**

Producer/Director, Paramount/Nickelodeon

### VICE CHAIR

**Michelle Miller**

Classical Opera/Jazz Singer, Kansas City Lyric Opera

### SECRETARY

**Jessica Walling Stokes**

Associate Director, Ernst & Young/Former Broadway Actress

**Mark Canavera** - International Development Consultant

**Pascale van Kipnis** - Former Soloist Dancer, New York City Ballet

**Deb Lapidus** - Master Vocal Coach, Juilliard/NYU

**Anne L Nathan** - Broadway Singer/Television Actress

**Timothy Thomas** - Senior Consultant/Former Executive Director, MTV AIDS Foundation

## HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

**Kristin Chenoweth** - Tony/Drama Desk Award-winning Broadway Star/TV & Movie Actress

**Gavin Creel** - Tony-nominated Broadway Star/Solo Musician

**John Doyle** - Tony/Drama Desk Award-winning Broadway Director

**Raul Esparza** - Tony-nominated Broadway Star/TV Actor

**Cyndi Lauper** - Grammy Award-winning Singer/Theater Actress

## STAFF

**Mary-Mitchell Campbell** - Founder/Chief Visionary Officer, Music Director/Orchestrator/Composer, Drama Desk Award Winner 2007

**Beth Konopka** - ASTEP Chief Operations Officer/Juilliard Alum/Professional Dancer

**Mauricio Salgado** - ASTEP Chief Project Officer/Juilliard Alum/Professional Actor

**Stephanie Martinez** - Program Development Associate (Homestead, Africa & NYC Programs)

**Rebecca Versaci** - Student Career Path Advisor & Volunteer Coordinator (India Program)

## AT A GLANCE

### HISTORY

#### 2001 (SEPT 11th)

First day of classes for Juilliard Freshmen. An overwhelming response to the attacks spurred many students to find active ways to aid the NYC community at large- for the Juilliard students the collective goal was to use their art to create change.

#### 2003

Juilliard student group ArtReach, mentored by Mary-Mitchell Campbell, decide to expand their community service to Homestead, Florida and create a 2 week summer arts camp for 25 children; laying the groundwork for what will one day become the ASTEP Art-in-Action Experience.

#### 2005

- 3rd official ASTEP camp in Homestead, Florida with 12 Volunteer artists servicing 50 children.
- 6 volunteer artists travel to Port Elizabeth, South Africa and work with 100 Ubuntu students for first international ASTEP Experience.
- Beth Konopka and Mauricio Salgado return to Ubuntu in December to work with 50 additional students and workshop the Ubuntu educators.
- ASTEP board of directors established and first steps to obtain 501c3 status taken.

### 2006

#### ASTEP receives official 501c3 status

##### HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

- 19 volunteers
- 100 students (switched order with line below)
- 1st year of High School Program
- 4 performances held for the community

##### PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA

- 9 volunteers
- 400 students
- 8 performances held for the community
- 1st year of Teacher's Assistant program
- Created an Arts Section for Ubuntu township library

##### BANGALORE, INDIA

- Initial contact made with the George Foundation
- First official ASTEP visit to Shanti Bhavan



## AT A GLANCE (Continued)

2007

### HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

- 23 volunteers
- 100 students
- 1st official Parents Support Group formed
- 1st exchange with Indonesian Students
- 5 short films created

### PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA

- 6 volunteers
- 250 students
- 1st year the children were exposed to Tap Dance
- Johannesburg Trip
- Yale Alumni Chorus collaboration
- 2nd ASTEP Experience in December

### BANGALORE, INDIA

- Tituss Burgess visits and performs solo concerts for the children of Shanti Bhavan
- 12 volunteers travel to Shanti Bhavan from June – December
- ASTEP arts curriculum officially implemented
- 10th Anniversary School Day Performance features several Broadway Stars



2008

### HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

- 1st year of separate Middle School and High School camps
- 31 volunteers
- 120 students
- Implementation of the Group Leadership Spirit Troop
- High School students attend performance of Slava's Snow Show at the Carnival Center
- Created a camp-wide movie musical about a day in the life of a Homestead High School Student

### JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

- New partnerships made with Global Camps Africa and Infinite Family
- 2 new ASTEP Experiences established
- 12 volunteers
- 250 students

### BANGALORE, INDIA

- 10 volunteers over the course of the year
- ASTEP volunteer Nick Dalton introduces the children to puppetry
- ASTEP hosts a fundraiser to help the George Foundation launch the "Sponsor a Shanti Bhavan Child" initiative

### NEW YORK CITY

- New partnership made with Young at Arts in Bronxville, NY
- 8 volunteers
- 30 students





## A STUDENT'S STORY - Michelle Ziadie (Homestead camper 2004-Present, High School Program participant, Teacher's Assistant)

My name is Michelle Ziadie. I am now a senior at South Miami Senior High. I am a daughter, a sister, a student, a friend, an artist. I was first exposed to the ASTEP experience four years ago, in the summer of 2004. As a camper, I immediately fell in love with the program. The teachers were welcoming and friendly with us, making us feel that we belong, the classes were high-energy and a joy to be apart of, friends were easy to make and friendships last forever, above all else I felt at home.

**I knew I was somewhere that was meant to be.** When I returned this past summer to be a teacher's assistant, I was very pleased to discover nothing had changed. The satisfaction of teaching an eager group of kids was only superseded by the satisfaction of transforming a not-so eager group of kids into confident, independent, and creative individuals. I went into the program with the knowledge and experience I had gained and was anxious to give back to the campers. I came out of the program realizing how much I learned from the kids, about life, about friendship, about myself. This year I felt especially lucky.

I was fortunate enough to be among the first to experience the ASTEP High School camp. With my main focus in Visual Art, the subject to which I have decided to devote my life, I learned and grew as an individual and an artist. Experiencing the program as both a giver and a receiver, I have nothing but praise for the program that has taught me more about what is just as important as any textbook. **I now feel more secure about every role that defines who I am. I am a daughter, a sister, a student, a friend. I am an artist.**



## A VOLUNTEER'S STORY

A Day in the Life of a Homestead Volunteer

By Alejandro Rodriguez (ASTEP Volunteer 2007-present/3rd-yr Juilliard Actor)

We start the day together. First thing in the morning, the entire community gathers in one space, students and volunteers alike, so that we can check in with each other and start the day on common ground. We shake off our sleepiness with some music and games, then we dive in. **It's an incredible thing to be around so many people creating in one place** -- a volunteer with a camera whizzes past you, filming a documentary. Upstairs, there's a music student practicing violin in the walkway. Another student is still, sketching a plant in the courtyard. At the end of the day, we come together again as a community to recap our days and record any new idea or interesting conversation we might have had, students maybe share some new creations with each other, and then **we close it all off in one triumphant voice** -- singing a song we all wrote together and one that, by the end of camp, everyone knows by heart.



## DAMIAN SANTA MARIA

2008 ASTEP Middle School Student

### Journal Entry

"...the last class we had today was pretty fun. I liked that we were able to talk about our situations and our opinions on issues in the world. What really hit me in the conversation was the speech Caity gave about why she choose [to do] dance. **And that got me to think, "why do I like art?"**...I don't really have an answer for that [yet]. It just is what it is. I just like doing art...any art; dance, drama, visual art or music."

"...[this summer] **I am going to dare myself to be different**, try to be a better me, I'm going to dare myself to not be shy...I might dare myself to play a song on the guitar and sing at sharing time."



## TROY MACKLIN

2008 ASTEP Volunteer

### Response to Damian's Journal Entry

"...That is awesome man...You really have opened up...**You bring so much to the camp** and it's great to have you here! I would love, love, love to have you share a song that you write on the guitar! That would make my day and I would totally stand by your side up there on stage if that is what you need. **I'm happy that you are happy.** You = Awesome."

## HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

ASTEP has been working hard to establish a venue for teaching art to today's youth and using it as a catalyst for education and awareness. The ASTEP arts camp in Homestead, Florida aims to do just that as we break down the barriers of racism, confront negative issues pertaining to our diverse populations, and to increase awareness and empower the feelings of individualism.

The ASTEP Art-in-Action Experience is designed to offer its participants artistic alternatives for channeling their emotions as opposed to drug abuse, violence or crime. It serves as a safe environment where the arts are used as a vehicle of self-exploration and expression, and where young people are taught motivational skills to care for and love themselves.

ASTEP works in collaboration with EnFamilia Inc., a local NPO that has been dedicated to serving the communities of South Dade. The ASTEP Experience (Homestead) provides dance, drama, music, poetry, playwriting literature and visual art workshops for the children of Homestead during summer break (June and July).

Since the program's inception in 2003, EnFamilia & ASTEP have partnered with over 8 local nonprofit organizations. In the past five years, 60 ASTEP volunteers, alongside 45 local high school volunteers, have together contributed over 30,000 hours to the children of this community.

For the past 4 years over 50 percent of our students and volunteers return to the program every summer. Our year-round Youth Leadership program has mentored 20 students, and many of our graduating seniors have moved into secondary schooling and are pursuing the arts on a meaningful level.

Volunteers have introduced students to the worlds of Shakespeare and Martha Graham, The Beatles, Chopin, Augusto Boal, Martin Luther King, and many more, as well as improvisation and mural-making, film-making and photography.

Students of the program have been a part of seven performances serving an average audience of 250. Increasingly, these audiences have included supportive parents, as well as other community members and government officials.

Our students have created six murals, thirteen dances, fourteen theatrical sketches, seven camp anthems, and nine films. The program has received accolades from the City of Homestead and Florida City. It has received special coverage by the Miami Herald and local NBC affiliates.





“...I can feel my confidence growing here. The group dynamic is so supportive and nurturing. I feel like I have found a family of 18 here that really love me as I am and it feels amazing. For the first time in a year I am really truly happy. I’m overwhelmed and so grateful for the love that’s been given to me here.”

- Navarra Novy Williams, ASTEP Volunteer 2003-2006/Dancer, Les Grande Ballet Canadian

“In order to create art, community, a classroom, or anything else, you need a situation that is saturated with love and support beyond question. That is what ASTEP has to offer.”

- Seth Numrich, ASTEP Volunteer 2007-present/Juilliard Graduate/Professional Actor



“...a place like this and an artist culture like this transcends [race]. For the first time, I feel that we are all on the same level-playing field. I suddenly feel like I have a family and a lineage. Maybe I don’t have actual grandparents, but they can be Martha Graham and Kandinsky and Lauryn Hill. This week is the first time that I’ve actually felt like I was part of a culture that I can be proud of.”

- Caitlin Gwin, ASTEP Volunteer 2007-present/2nd-year Juilliard Dancer

## SOUTH AFRICA

For the past three years ASTEP has been using art as a vehicle for effective HIV/AIDS education and raising awareness among today's youth. ASTEP began in 2005 by partnering with Ubuntu Education Fund ([www.ubuntufund.org](http://www.ubuntufund.org)), a South African organization dedicated to working with the people of Port Elizabeth to develop quality education and healthy communities in the new South Africa. As part of their comprehensive Health and Empowerment Initiatives, Ubuntu has developed camps to care for orphans and vulnerable children when they are most susceptible to abuse, during school holidays.

ASTEP became a rare component of these camps helping to break down the barriers of racism, and confronting negative issues pertaining to diverse populations, all the while learning from Ubuntu how to create self-sustaining solutions to assist this community's serious needs.

ASTEP has been using material from plays and musicals that correspond to the issues surrounding these particular children. For example, because of the HIV/AIDS pandemic that is crippling South Africa, ASTEP often references the musical RENT and uses the song 'Seasons of Love' as a teaching tool to convey messages of love, value of human life and the struggle to endure, cope and fight the HIV/AIDS virus.

Since 2005, ASTEP has sent 23 volunteers to work with over 800 students in Port Elizabeth. Over 14 public performances for the community have been produced. As a result of the impressive quality of the shows our volunteers were invited to the Grahamstown Festival as the special guests of a local poet laureate group.

In 2006, ASTEP established the first ever Art Section in one of Ubuntu's township school libraries. ASTEP donated over 150 books, CD's and DVD's that covered a wide array of novels, plays, biographies, poetry, artwork catalogs, dance concerts and music recordings of South African artists and African-American artists. The impetus behind this project was to expose the children and provide them with inspirational material about people who are either from their area or who come from or grew up in similar backgrounds, families and/or situations. The aim was to motivate children, and inspire them by example, to pursue their creative abilities and wildest dreams.

2007 was a wonderful year for dance in our Africa program. It was the first year ASTEP exposed any of our students to the art of tap dancing which was made possible by several tap shoe drives held by local dance studios and the donation of 100 pairs of tap shoes supplied by the Capezio Dance Factory Outlet in New Jersey. Also, two of our long term students received full scholarships to attend a local ballet academy during the following school year.

ASTEP collaborated with the Yale Alumni Chorus on their Power of Song Tour for a wonderful benefit presentation in honor of Ubuntu. Another special accomplishment in 2007: ASTEP, in collaboration with Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and Ubuntu Education Fund shared a once-in-a-lifetime experience with children from our collaborative South Africa initiative. The ASTEP 2007 team traveled with 47 children (hand-selected by Ubuntu from townships in Port Elizabeth) on a 3-day bus tour to visit Johannesburg for an exciting arts-awareness trip.





## From Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg, ASTEP Creating Memories (Press Release)

JOHANNESBURG, S. Africa - This past July (2007), ASTEP, in collaboration with Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS ([www.broadwaycares.org](http://www.broadwaycares.org)) and Ubuntu Education Fund ([www.ubuntufund.org](http://www.ubuntufund.org)), shared an amazing once-in-a-lifetime experience with children from our collaborative South Africa initiative. The ASTEP 2007 team: Abby Gerdtz, Kristen Knuston, Faylotte Crayton, Frankie Alvarez, Mary Ellen Beaudreau, Phillip McAdoo and Stefani Rae traveled with 47 children who Ubuntu hand-selected from the townships in Port Elizabeth on a 3-day bus tour to visit Johannesburg for an exciting arts-awareness trip.

This special group of students was chosen because they are some of the most vulnerable children living in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Many have been orphaned by AIDS and/or have been diagnosed with HIV. Most had never before been outside their small, neighboring villages.

While in Johannesburg, the children participated in activities that significantly broadened their horizons and elevated their understanding of art and the history of their culture and heritage. ASTEP and BC/EFA arranged for them to attend a performance of *The Lion King* at the recently renovated Montecasino Theater and then meet some of the performers for an intimate dinner at a cast member's home.

The children were also able to see a showing of the latest Athol Fugard play *Victory*, a drama about the plight of the dispossessed, the responsibilities of the privileged, and the humanity of both, at the renowned Market Theater.

The ASTEP team collaborated with Anthony Rapp (original cast of *RENT*) and also arranged for the children to sit in on a rehearsal of the show *RENT* in preparation for the opening of the musical in Johannesburg. After these theater experiences the children then toured the Apartheid Museum to see its exhibitions dedicated to the saga of the nation's resistance, courage, and fortitude during its years of oppression.

The staff, volunteers and performing artists of ASTEP and Ubuntu also benefited from this experience by participating in this rare cross-cultural exchange of conversation, craft, and performance. It is with this model in mind that ASTEP would like to broaden its reach and bring this experience to other communities of South Africa, and Africa at large. ASTEP aims to offer many more children a nurturing space to learn, create and play through our dynamic performance art programming.

*"We are educated, and we are free; To explore the potential of what we can be! If we practice, what we preach; There's no limit that we can reach! The moon will have prints of our feet; When our courage and determination meet! Dancing boldly, to the harmony; In the inspired sound of our destiny!" – Camp Chant (Winter, 2007)*

## SHANTI BHAVAN, INDIA

Shanti Bhavan is, in simple terms, a boarding school for children of deprived backgrounds. It is an original project of The George Foundation that targets children from the "untouchable" caste. "Untouchables," also known as "outcasts even among outcasts," are the lowest level of the caste system in India and are victims of social segregation and discrimination. They are not allowed to worship at temples with people outside of their caste or even drink the same water.

It is ASTEP's belief that only through a high level of commitment to the children that the conditions of poverty and social deprivation can be overcome for the "untouchables" of India.

**ASTEP and Shanti Bhavan have three main objectives:**

1. **SELF-DEVELOPMENT.** To provide the children a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, and educational needs, build character and self-esteem, and strengthen their ability, through skills and mental discipline, to succeed in life.
2. **CITIZENS OF THE WORLD.** To prepare the children to succeed not just in their immediate community but in the global social scene.
3. **COMMUNITY IMPACT.** To provide training, assistance and performances for the parents of the children so that they can play a positive role in the growth and development of their children.

Shanti Bhavan aspires to be a symbol of hope to children from socially and economically deprived backgrounds, and a means to attain their dreams. The programs at Shanti Bhavan address the development of every aspect of a child's personality: his or her emotional development, mental and physical fitness, and cognitive growth with a curriculum that is well-planned and executed, with an emphasis placed on individualized attention. It is ASTEP's belief that only through this level of commitment to children can the conditions of poverty and social deprivation can be overcome for the "untouchables" of India.

**August 2007** - The Shanti Bhavan 10th Anniversary School Day Performance featured ASTEP artists and ASTEP Broadway Stars accompanied by equally talented foreign artists who also performed solo musical pieces. This was an extraordinary event uniting children with underprivileged backgrounds and some of New York City's top talent. In rare and touching display ASTEP artists donated their time and money to train the children of Shanti Bhavan for several weeks for this important event. Broadway took Baliganapalli by storm!

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This event was a very special occasion for the children of Shanti Bhavan because, after months of hard work and preparation, it is the one day of the year where the children can perform for their community and their parents showing off their talents to those they love.

The children performed traditional dances as well as classical piano solos, musical medleys and poetry. They were joined on-stage by several ASTEP artists who also performed musical selections from some of Broadway's most popular shows.

2007 was ASTEP's first official summer working in India. We sent 10 volunteers over the course of 3 months and elevated the ASTEP experience to new heights. Through our volunteers, the children were exposed to a diverse array of Western philosophies, traditions and art, helping to build on the development of a hybrid [Eastern/Western] cross cultural exchange.

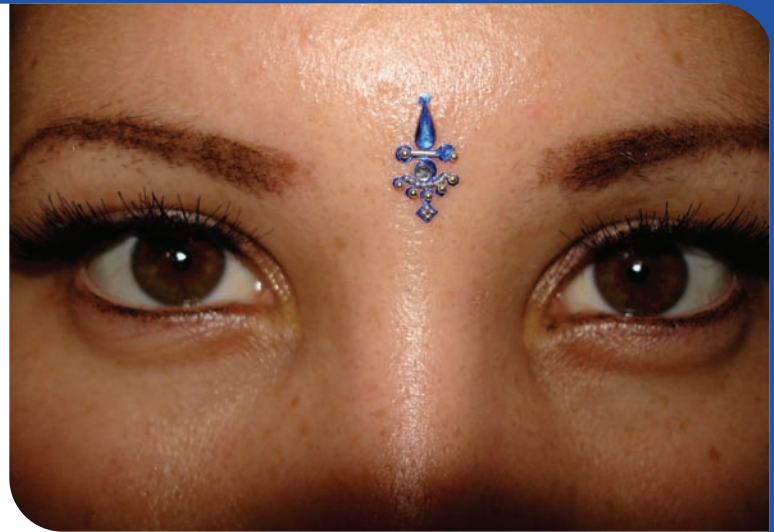
There was a major focus on using the arts to teach HIV prevention and awareness -- something that is in dire need throughout the country.

In the fall, the 9th and 10th grade class worked with ASTEP Program director and Juilliard graduate Mauricio Salgado to create their own full length adaptation of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Below is the forward from the script they created:

*"This book is dedicated to first graduating class of Shanti Bhavan. In the fall of 2007 we set out to understand the complex humanity of William Shakespeare's Tragedy: Julius Caesar. During the 5-week workshop we rediscovered the play, ourselves, and what we are capable of. Never forget that as we proved in our performance: Fate favors the bold, who discover the undiscovered!"*

In line with ASTEP's mission, the collaborative project with The George Foundation is grounded in the belief that the deleterious consequences of extreme poverty can be overcome if the problems are tackled in the early stages of a child's development. It is further believed that children of poverty are no different than more fortunate children. All children deserve to dream and to aspire. All children will benefit from support through education and constant encouragement to realize their full potential. ASTEP will continue to send volunteers to Shanti Bhavan year-round and we are very excited to see the partnership with The George Foundation grow and succeed in creating leaders for a new India.





### SHANTI BHAVAN VOLUNTEER REPORT - Lauren Moon, ASTEP Volunteer 2007



I have always loved kids. However, the children here at Shanti Bhavan are unlike any that I have ever met. They have an unmatched drive and determination and a genuine appreciation for the wonderful opportunity they have been given. While at Shanti Bhavan, I taught 3rd grade creative writing, language, & literature, 8th, 9th & 10th grades public speaking, 9th & 10th grade basketball, and various piano & choral lessons. I found teaching the children to be the most rewarding experience of my life. They are incredibly fast learners and really have a zest for knowledge. It was easy to connect with such polite, well-mannered, and hardworking students. They dream big, and I only hope that I can continue to be a part of helping them achieve their goals.

As far as my day to day living went, I was perfectly comfortable here and came to consider it as a second home. My room was clean and comfortable and the staff could not have been nicer. However, I really appreciated the support of all the teachers. They were so welcoming and kind that it truly eased my fears and culture shock. They constantly gave me advice and befriended me and I owe as much to them for their warmth.

I honestly feel that Shanti Bhavan is the most beautiful place on earth, both physically and spiritually. It exudes love and learning, and I am very sad to be leaving. I am looking forward to my return to this newfound family as soon as possible. Thank you so much Miss Beena, Mrs Law and Shanti for all of your love and support. This has been the greatest experience of my life.

### Shanti Bhavan Student Letter, December 2007

To Dear \*Beth, It has been a long time since we have seen each other. I feel sad that you are not here. I enjoyed the days you were with us. This year was the best year of my life because I've got to meet many WONDERFUL people from Broadway. Also \*Mauricio and \*Cindy had been here recently. They are the best couple I've ever seen. We enjoyed a lot when they were here.

I miss your beautiful dances. Also Cindy was an amazing dancer. Say 'HI' to the other ASTEP members if they didn't receive their letters from me. I see the book in which you wrote for me. I feel better when I see your work for me in that book.

P.S. Please come back. Also, keep in touch. Yours Truly,  
Prashanth (Grade 6 student, Shanti Bhavan)

\* Beth Konopka, Mauricio and Cindy Salgado, ASTEP Volunteers



## NEW YORK AREA PROGRAMS

As of January 2008, ASTEP is collaborating with Sing For Hope and Young at Arts to provide the talented youth of Bronxville and Mount Vernon with an exciting after-school arts program.

With its need-blind admissions policy, Young at Arts is enriched and enlivened by the great variety of cultural, economic, racial, and religious backgrounds of the students.

Each semester, these young people come together under the guidance of professional arts instructors to share ideas and to create first-rate theatrical performances in a safe, supportive, passionate environment. In so doing, our young artists find that creativity and discipline are not mutually exclusive; their development onstage is mirrored by the offstage development of improved work habits, increased problem-solving abilities, and powerful dedication to team work.

Young at Arts benefits from weekly volunteer teaching artists and performances by Sing for Hope and ASTEP's roster of professional performing artists. Starting spring 2008, this young ensemble will be preparing a performance of *Once On This Island*. [*Once on This Island* is a one-act musical with a book and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens and music by Stephen Flaherty. Based on the novel *My Love, My Love* by Rosa Guy, the musical is a re-telling of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid* set in the French Antilles in the Caribbean Sea.]

By using the underlying themes and material in this play, the students will be engaging in broader conversations about social themes relevant to their circumstances. Dance, Drama and Music Volunteers from ASTEP and Sing For Hope will be offering their time and professional and life experience to enhance the world of the play.



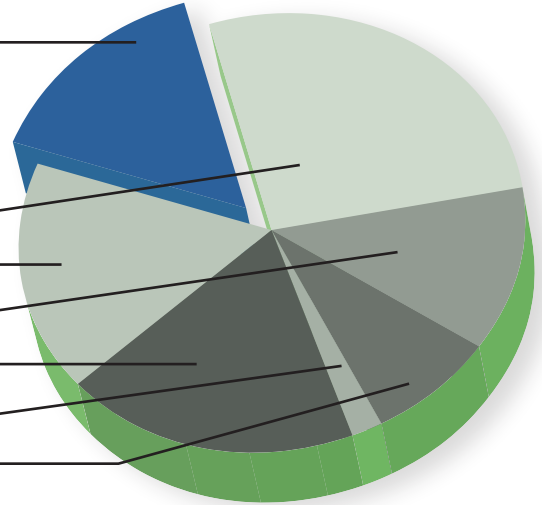
# FINANCIALS (CONDENSED)

## 2006

<b>OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 9,920</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>	<b>\$ 55,737</b>	<b>85%</b>
TRAVEL	18,150	27%
STAFF	11,187	17%
MEALS	7,710	12%
SUPPLIES, MATERIALS	12,440	19%
HOUSING	1,200	2%
OTHER	5,050	8%

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 65,657**

**TOTAL REVENUE \$ 92,296 (Gifts: \$72,296 | Events: \$20,000)**

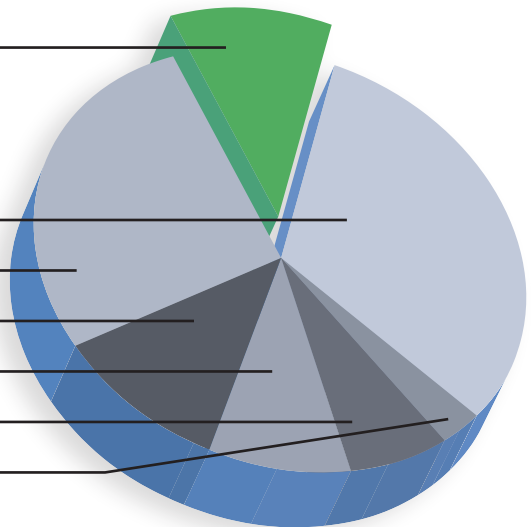


## 2007 (Estimate)

<b>OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 16,290</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>	<b>\$ 131,936</b>	<b>89%</b>
TRAVEL	48,268	32%
STAFF	40,708	27%
MEALS	15,780	11%
SUPPLIES, MATERIALS	12,610	9%
HOUSING	10,050	7%
OTHER	4,520	3%

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 148,226**

**TOTAL REVENUE \$ 171,178 (Gifts: \$67,678 | Grants: \$83,500 | Events: \$20,000)**



## PARTNERS

The George Foundation



The Juilliard School of Performing Arts



EnFamilia



Santa Clara University



Sing For Hope



Ubuntu Education Fund



Young at Arts



## MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

### \$10,000 - \$100,000

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS  
Newman's Own Foundation  
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors  
The Mai Family Foundation

### \$1,000 - \$5,000

Allen, Julie  
Brest, Arthur and Terriz  
Creel, Gavin  
Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School  
Joe's Public Theatre  
Nworisara-Quinn, Queen C.  
Schwab Charitable Fund  
The Clarence & Anne Dillon Dunwalke Trust  
Welik, George and Peggy  
West End Collegiate Church

### \$500 - \$1,000

American School of Dance, LLC  
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