



THE ARTS PART OF THE SOLUTION

CLEVELAND PUBLIC THEATRE *Self-Esteem Rising from Accomplishment*

Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT) education programs focus on groups of people who are often excluded from art-making. The Y-Haven Theatre Project, supported through the Ohio Arts Council's Arts Partnership program, is just one example of how the theater is committed to its community, believes that the arts can change lives, and works to ensure that all voices are heard and that the artist within is celebrated.



Homeless people are among the most disenfranchised, marginalized and underserved members of society, neither arts consumers nor participants. They have a profound need for productive work and to restore their sense of humanity.



"When I was 9, my brother died. When I was 16, I got high and drunk. When I was 17, I was homeless. When I was 20, I came to recovery."

"All my life I have been digging for self understanding as well as self awareness. Because there have been times in my life when I've been unable to identify what I am feeling as well as why I am feeling a certain way, sad, angry, frustrated, etc."



The Y-Haven Theatre Project partners CPT Teaching Artists with residents of Y-Haven, the Cleveland YMCA's transitional home and comprehensive treatment center for formerly homeless men in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. Y-Haven Participant Carl P. reflects "The [Y-Haven Theatre] program has taught me how to help other people through helping myself. I have been given confidence to tackle anything. I feel with hard work and determination I can do anything."

Since 1998, CPT and Y-Haven have annually collaborated to create an original theater production, performed by the 20 to 25 residents, and based on their personal experiences. Every year, the original work is presented to enthusiastic full houses at CPT, and is toured to Cleveland area homeless shelters, recovery centers and college campuses. The Y-Haven Theatre Project supports newly learned skills for sober and independent living, and honors the unique and important perspective men in recovery bring to the Cleveland community.

Bringing
Unity to
Communities

Cultural
Participation
and Building
Audiences

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Cleveland Public Theatre
Cleveland, Ohio



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Carl P., Y-Haven participant