



County of Fairfax, Virginia

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Contact: Bebe Nguyen
Director of Communications
703-390-6145

RCC 27th ANNUAL VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

RESTON, VA — The Reston Community Center will celebrate its 27th Annual Very Special Arts Festival (VSAF) from 10:30 a.m. to Noon on Thursday and Friday, May 21 and 22 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. During the two-day event, RCC will host approximately 500 area students of all abilities to celebrate creativity and the arts. Attendance at the event is by registration only.

Both days will feature special performances by Unified Jazz Ensemble and Cantare' as well as hands-on workshops, demonstrations, and "quick-stops". Volunteers and staff will guide participants in creative drama, creative movement exercises, music and visual art projects.

"Children are naturally creative and possess a great desire to share with others," said Cheri Danaher, RCC Arts Education Director. "The Festival works to break down barriers and help them see that they share interests, desires, hopes and fears. It's been truly rewarding to watch new friendships develop as a result of the festival's performances and workshops."

"RCC is committed to enhance the quality of life for all people through the arts and VSAF gives us the perfect opportunity to embrace the value of arts in education," said Damian Sinclair, RCC Arts and Events Director. "We are proud to continue this community tradition and strive to make art accessible to all individuals."

The Reston Community Center has been a community partner of the *VSA arts- Virginia* network for 27 years. The Reston Community Center's annual Very Special Arts Festival was started in 1982 by a corps of volunteers headed by Madeline Flynn and became the first in Northern Virginia to establish a VSA program. Each year, the festival brings approximately 500 students from Fairfax County Public Schools' regular and special education classes together to celebrate the arts by participating in music, dance and visual arts workshops and theatre performances.

For more information on the festival, contact Cheri Danaher, RCC Arts Education Director at 703-390-6175 or cheri.danaher@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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To request this information in an alternate format, call BeBe Nguyen.

Reston Community Center
2310 Colts Neck Road
Reston, Virginia 20191
www.restoncommunitycenter.com



About VSA arts

VSA arts is an international nonprofit organization founded 35 years ago by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to create a society where people with disabilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. VSA arts provides educators, parents, and artists with resources and the tools to support arts programming in schools and communities. VSA arts showcases the accomplishments of artists with disabilities and promotes increased access to the arts for people with disabilities. Each year millions of people participate in VSA arts programs through a nationwide network of affiliates and in 54 countries around the world. VSA arts is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. For more information, please visit www.vsarts.org.

About the Reston Community Center

Each year RCC offers more than 1,800 positive, self-development experiences that enhance the quality of life for all people living and working in Reston. RCC provides a wide range of programs in arts, aquatics, enrichment and life-long learning. We also create and sustain community traditions through special events, outreach activities and facility rentals. To find the programs or events that are right for you, visit www.restoncommunitycenter.org or call 703-476-4500.

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Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For further information, contact the Reston Community Center at (703) 476-4500, Virginia Relay (800) 828-1120 (TTY) or visit the website at <http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com>. The Reston Community Center is located at 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191. The Reston Community Center is completely accessible to persons with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

So Close to You. So Much to Do.™

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