



Promoting artistic expression
in people with disabilities



PRESS RELEASE

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ArtVan Receives Grant from Target for After School Programs

BATH, ME –*ArtVan*, the mobile art therapy program of *VSA arts of Maine*, received \$3,000 in charitable support from a 2009 Target store grant. These funds help fuel ArtVan's efforts in York, Sagadahoc, Cumberland and Androscoggin counties, providing the arts to youth as a healthy alternative to anti-social behavior. Through ArtVan's afterschool programming, children have the opportunity to express underlying feelings through their artwork. "The ArtVan brings vibrant, supportive art to children in their neighborhood, unleashing creativity, joy and a strong sense of the inner self. We are proud of our relationship (with ArtVan), and support the good work that this organization provides to the children in this area" commented William Shuttleworth, Bath RSU1 School Superintendent. Learn more about ArtVan at www.artvanprogram.org.

Photo by Allison Baird, ArtVan Program Coordinator

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VSA arts of Maine is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing innovative and inclusive arts, educational and cultural opportunities for children and adults with

disabilities in Maine. Programs include artist residencies in schools, workshops for teachers and artists, apprenticeships for and exhibitions by adult artists with disabilities, and partnerships with cultural venues throughout the state to improve accessibility. For more information, see www.vsartsmaine.org. **VSA arts of Maine** is currently in the process of merging with **ArtVan**. The **ArtVan** program centers around an actual, brightly colored van which brings artists, art therapists, volunteers and equipment to public housing developments, day care and Head Start centers, schools and group homes in Bath/Brunswick, Biddeford/Saco and Lewiston/Auburn.