



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Embracing Our Differences Receives Grant from Manatee Community Foundation

Monday, April 2, 2012 – Sarasota, FL – Embracing Our Differences has been awarded a grant from the Manatee Community Foundation in the amount of \$2,500. Using this grant, Embracing Our Differences will continue to provide free transportation for Manatee County students to attend its annual exhibit and participate in its education initiatives. With these funds, Embracing Our Differences will be able to increase the number of Manatee County students participating in 2012 by 850 or a 38% increase over 2011 levels.

The mission of Embracing Our Differences is to use the arts as a catalyst for creating awareness and promoting, throughout the community, the value of diversity, the benefits of inclusion and the significance of the active rejection of hatred and prejudice. "One of the most important aspects of Embracing Our Differences is the educational programs we provide to Manatee County," says Executive Director Michael Shelton. "The students take away a deeper understanding of diversity and how it enriches their lives." Embracing Our Differences is deeply appreciative for the generosity of the Manatee Community Foundation in facilitating this expansion of its programming in Manatee County.

Embracing Our Differences routinely partners with nonprofit arts organizations in the area to maximize resources and extend free transportation to any teachers who request it for their classes. In the face of numerous budget cuts, schools have difficulty funding field trips. The Embracing Our Differences partnerships allow students to experience two field trips for the cost of one. The partnerships make it possible for students to develop an appreciation for the arts while gaining an understanding of the value of diversity.

For details on the exhibit, or how teachers can request transportation for their students, please visit www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org.

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About Embracing Our Differences

Embracing Our Differences is a project of Coexistence, Inc. Started in 2004; the project showcases a community-based outdoor exhibit promoting positive, inspirational artistic and verbal expressions of inclusion, tolerance, acceptance and respect. The 2012 exhibit runs through May 28. www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org

About the Manatee Community Foundation

The Manatee Community Foundation was established in 1998 and has grown to \$23 million in assets. Last year MCF distributed \$1.2 million in grants to non profit organizations and scholarships to worthy students. Manatee Community Foundation *“connects the charitable interest of donors with the on-going needs in our community.”* For Good. For Ever. To learn more please see the web site www.ManateeCF.org or call (941)747-7765.