



*Joining the Arts and Special Audiences*

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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December 8, 2005

**HOMELESS FAMILIES JOIN PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS TO  
PERFORM HOLIDAY CONCERT WITH CLAY INSTRUMENTS**  
**Art-Reach supports initiative to deepen the arts for underserved families in  
North Philadelphia**

PHILADELPHIA, PA—Five homeless families in North Philadelphia will perform the holiday concert *Winter Sleigh Ride* with the Barnett String Quartet of Philadelphia on musical instruments that the children individually sculpted from clay and everyday materials. Through a unique Art-Reach sponsored project, mothers, their children, and 10 people from the surrounding neighborhood participated in a series of 18 weekly workshops aimed at connecting underserved families with the arts. They will present a culminating holiday concert and art exhibit on Wednesday, December 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Drueding Childcare Center.

Families residing at The Drueding Center/Project Rainbow, a transitional housing facility for homeless mothers and their children, created musical instruments such as maracas, bongo drums and tambourines, which they will play during the performance. Musicians from the Barnett String Quartet and artists from The Clay Studio instructed -

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children to make and play various instruments out of everyday materials that duplicate sound production of the different families of instruments. Participating families also made holiday ornaments and gifts for display at the accompanying art exhibit.

“We have helped infuse the arts into the heart of this community, nurturing an atmosphere of home,” said Michael Norris, Executive Director, Art-Reach. “As the children witnessed the clay in their hands transforming into musical instruments, into art, you could really see their earnest desire to create, their pride in those creations, and the joy rooted in that creativity.”

Thanks to a generous grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation’s Community Partners in Arts Access Program, Art-Reach collaborated with The Clay Studio, Strings for Schools, and The Drueding Center to provide a deeply enriching arts experience in one of the city’s most culturally underserved neighborhoods.

Children and adults from neighboring communities are invited to attend the concert and exhibit. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, 2005. The Drueding Childcare Center is located at 1325 N. Lawrence Street, Philadelphia, PA.

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**Art-Reach** ([www.art-reach.org](http://www.art-reach.org)) is a Delaware Valley nonprofit cultural service organization that helps underserved audiences to experience arts and cultural programming and that serves as a community resource by increasing accessibility to cultural venues and events. Through our programs, each year over 15,000 people of all ages, economic backgrounds and abilities are able to experience the richness of the arts.