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A Fond Farewell and New Beginnings: Stephanie Walsh Bids Art-Reach Adieu

Over the past two years, Stephanie Walsh has served as a key Art-Reach team member as the organization's Program/Development Assistant. Her contributions streamlined the billing process, resulted in a successful silent auction at the 2008 Jazz Brunch and strengthened constituent relations. Being a graduate from Temple University's Opera Program, Walsh also taught Art-Reach members about opera in conjunction with the Opera Company of Philadelphia's Sounds of Learning Program before they attended performances.

"I will never forget attending the first performance OCP offered us," says Associate Director Stephanie Borton. "Stephanie (Walsh) stayed seated with the children explaining elements of the performance during intermissions. I was not certain how these young kids would react to an opera presented in Italian. I was pleasantly shocked at the end of the first aria when little voices boisterously rang out through the auditorium shouting, 'Bravo!' Stephanie had taught the children that if they liked the aria, this was the appropriate way to show respect and adoration. They took it very seriously and absorbed the entire experience with their teacher seated close by."

In addition to working with Art-Reach, Walsh maintained a teaching position once a week at St. Francis de Sales School. Her love of the classroom remains strong, and she has decided to pursue this passion full time. Walsh will continue her work with this school and this summer begin touring with Missoula Children's Theatre, where she will guide children of all ages through the creative process of live theatre production.

"Being part of the Art-Reach team has changed my life in more ways than I could have ever imagined!" Stephanie Walsh shares. "When I think about the past two years, I can only smile in amazement at having this opportunity to help make a difference in so many lives and to have my life changed in return. The future of Art-Reach is so bright, and I can't wait to see what is to

come. While it makes me sad to be leaving, I am extremely excited to use all that I've learned and to share the Art-Reach mission with everyone I meet. Thank you to everyone I've gotten to know and work with during my time here – I will miss you!"



(above right) Stephanie sits with her first groups of students attending an a performance at Opera Company of Phialdelphia.

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Art-Reach is pleased to announce that Stephanie Walsh's replacement, Rachel Robbins, will start as our new Program/Development Assistant on Monday, March 9. Art-Reach appreciates the enthusiasm Stephanie Walsh has demonstrated and wishes her well in her exciting future endeavors, and we hope you will join us in welcoming Rachel to the Art-Reach team.