Art-Reach is a connector, leader, and advocate for accessible cultural opportunities for people with disabilities and communities facing economic adversity. The organization leverages its position between the human service and cultural sectors to create social change and increase cultural opportunities for people who are typically under-considered by the cultural sector.

Woods is a member organization of Art-Reach which enables our recreation staff to purchase significantly reduced-price tickets to over 200 cultural venues in the Philadelphia region. Art-Reach’s arts partners include The Philadelphia Zoo, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Kimmel Center, Adventure Aquarium and Franklin Institute.

“We are so thankful an organization like this exists in our region and are grateful to the Art-Reach staff for meeting the needs of people who are often forgotten among the cultural arts community,” exclaimed Brandon Scott, Assistant Director of Woodlands Recreation. In the past two months, the Woodlands Recreation program has gone to the Philadelphia Zoo three times, Seaport Museum at Penn’s Landing, Mutter Museum and African American Museums and sent two groups to the Aquarium in Camden during the July break. They also sent a large group of 35 staff and residents to the Lulu Shriners’ Circus in May.

Residents in the Mollie Woods program have visited many museums (Philadelphia Art Museum, Mutter Museum, Academy of Natural Sciences, Franklin Institute, Barnes Foundation, Please Touch Museum, and Seaport Museum) and they have had the pleasure of going to Longwood Gardens, Morris Arboretum and the Camden Aquarium. They have seen plays at Theater Horizon, Prince Theater, Bristol Riverside Theater and the Ritz.

Art-Reach also provides artist-led in-facility workshops for organizations. Woods has an in-facility artist at least once a month. The in-house workshops offer residents amazing opportunities to learn about new art forms and develop new hobbies. We have had workshops that taught them how to make instruments from recycled materials for our drum circles, and workshops that showed them how to Bollywood dance! We have looked at slide shows of actual world travelers and heard their amazing stories. We have made spin art on old records, written poems and songs, created clay sculptures and ceramics, and even had Hip-Hop dance classes! The in-facility workshops bring the world to our doorstep and make art and culture more accessible for the individuals we serve.

“Art Reach has opened new doors for our residents,” expressed Beth O’Toole, Woods Assistant Director of Recreation and Aquatics for the Mollie Woods program. “We have been provided the opportunity to visit new places that would have otherwise been out of our reach. Experiencing new art forms opens our hearts and minds and allows us to grow socially and emotionally in a positive way! We have attended new places and made new friends and we are extremely grateful to the staff and volunteers at Art Reach!”