



MEDIA ADVISORY
Wednesday, April 17, 2013

ART SHOW CELEBRATES CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

National organization selects children of Kennedy Krieger Institute as featured artists for special exhibit and fundraiser

A unique art concept comes to Baltimore on **Wednesday, April 17th**, with the ***The Art of Unlocking Potential***, the second annual exhibit featuring artwork created by the patients and students of Kennedy Krieger Institute and presented by Bear Givers, in association with the Living Classrooms Foundation. The opening reception is on April 17th in the Herbert Bearman Community Art Gallery at Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park. All artwork is for sale and funds raised will benefit Baltimore's Kennedy Krieger Institute, dedicated to improving the lives of children with special needs.

The Art of Unlocking Potential exhibit is a part of the EmpowerArt Program created by Bear Givers, a New York-based organization that provides children in need with opportunities to feel the pride and joy of engaging in acts of kindness and generosity. The EmpowerArt Program enables children with special needs to express their creativity in art shows that benefit their schools, hospitals, and programs.

During the event, guests will be able to peruse artwork while enjoying food and refreshments. Some of the artists will also be on hand to discuss their work with attendees.

"We are very proud to host this empowering event for Kennedy Krieger institute," says Joseph Sprung, founder of Bear Givers. "This exhibition will give the children an exceptional sense of accomplishment and confidence."

- WHAT:** The Art of Unlocking Potential – Opening Reception
- WHEN:** Wednesday, April 17, 2013
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park
1417 Thames Street, Baltimore, MD 21231
- MEDIA CONTACT:** Diane Lempert, diane@beargivers.org, 212.224.0140
- EVENT SPONSORS:** Nobel Laureate Dr. Edmund Phelps, and Mrs. Viviana Phelps

About Bear Givers

Bear Givers is dedicated to bringing joy to the lives of children in need. Through hospital visits and school programs, this innovative non-profit touches the lives of children and their families with a personal visit and the gift of a soft, cuddly teddy bear. Bear Givers also offers programs that enable special needs children to become givers and experience the thrill and pride of bringing happiness to others. Bear Givers programs include Empowerment, EmpowerArt, Hospital Visits, and Teddy Bear Clinics. For more information, visit beargivers.org.

About Kennedy Krieger

Internationally recognized for improving the lives of children and adolescents with disorders and injuries of the brain and spinal cord, the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, MD serves more than 19,000 individuals each year through inpatient and outpatient clinics, home and community services and school-based programs. Kennedy Krieger provides a wide range of services for children with developmental concerns mild to severe, and is home to a team of investigators who are contributing to the understanding of how disorders develop while pioneering new interventions and earlier diagnosis. For more information on the Kennedy Krieger Institute, visit www.kennedykrieger.org.