



For Immediate Release

Contact: Kristen DiChiaro, [kristen@beargivers.org](mailto:kristen@beargivers.org), 212.224.0140

### **Art Show Celebrates Creative Achievements of Children with Special Needs**

**Special Exhibit Features Artwork by Children and Raises Funds for The South Florida Jewish Academy,  
a School that Celebrates and Educates Children with Special Needs**

December 6, 2012

On December 11, Picture People Gallery at the Promenade at Coconut Creek will host an opening reception and auction for *The Second Annual Student Art Exhibition - A Show to Benefit The South Florida Jewish Academy*. The event is sponsored by Bear Givers and will feature over 100 pieces of original artwork created by the children who benefit from the exceptional services of The South Florida Jewish Academy. All artwork will be for sale and 100% of funds raised will benefit The South Florida Jewish Academy, a very unique school which understands that all children with special needs and typical children alike deserve special care and attention to help them gain confidence and realize their full potential.

The art exhibit is a part of the EmpowerArt Program created by Bear Givers, a New York-based nonprofit organization. The primary objective of the EmpowerArt Program is to give children who have special needs, or are hospitalized, an opportunity to showcase their artwork in a professional gallery setting. The children are the stars at their art show opening reception and are able to see their creative pieces framed and on display. They are always excited to see their work being shown and purchased. This experience is very empowering, as is the knowledge that they are enriching their organization, since all proceeds from the art sales directly benefit their school or facility. "This exhibit will give so many people an opportunity to see what these talented students are capable of and how they are encouraged and nurtured by The South Florida Jewish Academy," explains Joseph Sprung, Chairman of Bear Givers. "We are happy to support an event that will allow these students to showcase their creativity."

During the event, guests can view the artwork while enjoying food and refreshments. Some of the young artists will also be on hand to interact with attendees and enjoy the celebration in their honor.

**What:** Opening reception and auction for *The Second Annual Student Art Exhibition* - A Show to Benefit the South Florida Jewish Academy. 100% of the proceeds will benefit SFJA.

**When:** Tuesday December 11, 2012 - 6:00-9:00 pm

**Where:** Picture People Gallery at the Promenade at Coconut Creek, 4419 Lyons Rd, Space #C-7 ( next door to Justice)

**Contact:** Kristen DiChiaro, [kristen@beargivers.org](mailto:kristen@beargivers.org), 212.224.0140  
Baila Gansburg, [Baila@FloridaJewishAcademy.org](mailto:Baila@FloridaJewishAcademy.org), 954.427.7788

### **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](http://beargivers.org).

### **About The South Florida Jewish Academy**

South Florida Jewish Academy knows that children with special needs deserve special care and attention to help them gain confidence and realize their full potential. SFJA works closely with parents to address their children's different levels of learning in a happy and nurturing environment while placing an emphasis on strengthening their Jewish identities. Children will be taught to be creative, imaginative thinkers, actively involved in academic and social activities that will build self-confidence, self-esteem, self motivation, and pride in their heritage. For more information, visit [floridajewishacademy.org](http://floridajewishacademy.org)

###