



# Hands On Productions

Enriching Communication Through Art & Entertainment



**The Handshake Connection**

*A newsletter for educators who make a difference*

**11.22.02**

*Here's what we have for you in this issue...*

- 1. Message from the Creator**
- 2. Funding Opportunities**
- 3. New Partners! Extended Programming!**
- 4. Spotlight on Educators Who Make a Difference**

## *Message from the Creator*

My vision is for people to connect. When you connect you accept. As you accept you open your heart.... connect, accept, open your heart. An open heart is where change occurs and leadership grows. It all starts with the touch of a handshake.

I have created the Handshake Casting Project™ as a fun and educational tool that brings this message to life. I have gotten feedback from many educators that they are interested in the project, but would love help coming up with ways to incorporate the project into their lesson planning and to identify funding sources to cover the expenses. I have started this periodic newsletter to share with you what I've learned from educators in the field, let you know about funding sources I have come across, and let you know about other projects that share the mission of:

***connect ... accept ... open your heart.***

## *Funding Opportunities*

**The Handshake Casting Project™ is a tool that addresses and assesses issues on diversity, substance abuse, community service, positive youth development and character education. It fits well with First Day, Step Up, Responsive Classroom and Positive School Climate programs.**

The Vermont Department of Ed. BEST Institute is giving grants to three (3) classrooms in our state to support a pilot program! Have your principal contact: Richard Boltax, Director, (802) 828-5125, rboltax@doe.state.vt.us

BEST Institute Act 230 funds are also available to support our program to address at-risk students and school climate. Contact: Richard Boltax, Director, (802) 828-5125, rboltax@doe.state.vt.us

VT Education Health Initiative (VEHI) grant monies can be applied for to fund our professional development program, Connect and Accept; A Hands On Approach to Character Education. The VEHI application is on line at their site [www.vehi.org](http://www.vehi.org)



**It's creative.**



**It's fun.**



**It builds respect.**



**It makes an impact.**

Under No Child Left Behind Act 2002, there are federal funds on the school level that have the flexibility to support programs such as The Handshake Casting Project™. As with any granting process the application criteria must be met. For example:

\* 21st Century Committee Learning Center - this is a competitive grant under Title IV-B

\* Innovative Programs - Title V

To answer questions and/or give guidance to the appropriate application contact your principal, your area team leader or the Vermont DOE website: [www.state.vt.us/educ/new/html/laws/nclba](http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/html/laws/nclba)

\* Safe and Drug Free Schools - Title IV - part of No Child Left Behind. Contact: Tish Johnson Smith, RN, Program Consultant, (802) 828-2196, [tjsmith@doe.state.vt.us](mailto:tjsmith@doe.state.vt.us)

**Call us for more information on how you can find the money to fund a Handshake Casting Project™ with your students!**

### *New Partners! Extended Programming!*

The Vermont Bar Association Center for Public Education and Hands On Productions have partnered to create a non-violence education arts and civics program that addresses bullying. We have received grants from the American Bar Association and the Vermont Bar Association to support our pilot program, making this FREE to interested teachers. For program information, visit [www.vtbar.org](http://www.vtbar.org). Contact: Deb Ormsbee, Director (802) 223-2020, [dormsbee@vtbar.org](mailto:dormsbee@vtbar.org).

We have created a patch support program for Girl Scouts and Cadets. Annapolis, MD First Night® is partnering with local Girl Scouts to offer the Handshake activity both as community outreach and as a value-based activity.

### *Spotlight on Educators Who Make a Difference*

Doris Eddy, Cavendish Town Elementary, used our program as a social skills reward party. "It was a great promoter of cooperation with lots of discussion especially around trusting that your partner was careful."

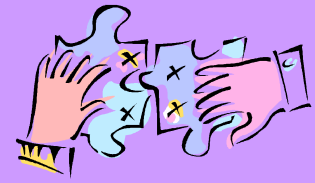
The Rhode Island Holocaust Museum, used our program with eight schools statewide for the museum-sponsored awareness day. The resulting sculptures were used as centerpieces for the Museum's annual meeting. Some students were invited to read their papers about their experience with our program.

Bekah Atkinson at The Gow School, South Wales, NY, said as they used our program, "it grew more into story time - stories that were shared about racism, or hatred, and what it means to the kids. How easy it is to get information on line, discussions about what their neighbors do, which large companies support the KKK, and how tolerant are the children."

Yvonne Leimsider, IS 126 Queens, Long Island City, NY, is using our program with their 6th grade inclusion class.

Emily Shaw, Education Director of The Dreams of Freedom Museum in Boston is using both our educational and Girl Scout badge support programs in the Museum's educational programming.

### Check out these links...



[www.vtbar.org](http://www.vtbar.org)

[www.vermontcommunityworks.org](http://www.vermontcommunityworks.org)

[www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

[www.dreamsoffreedom.com](http://www.dreamsoffreedom.com)

