



Hands On Productions



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The Handshake Connection

A newsletter for educators who make a difference

Fall 2003

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

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Message from the Creator

Last month, I was at Delray Beach Florida for the dedication of their new teen center.

For the past three years, at numerous Delray Beach community gatherings, folks have been making sculptures of other folks shaking hands, in an awareness-building campaign for the teen center. This Handshake Project™ captured 1800 people in the act of shaking hands. Now these sculptures have been placed around the new Teen Center as a symbol of the support the community has for this project.

At the dedication, instead of a ribbon cutting, we did a "handshaking" ceremony, as a symbol of the community that came together to make the center possible.

As we participated in the festivities, we were surrounded by hundreds of handshake sculptures which had been created by community members. The community had truly shown its open-hearted support for this new center.

I'd love to hear your stories about how you see people connect, accept and open their hearts!

Sincerely,
Maggie Sherman, Community Artist

Funding Opportunities

1. The Vermont Department of Education BEST Institute
Richard Boltax, Director, (802) 828-5125, rboltax@doe.state.vt.us
2. VT Education Health Initiative (VEHI) grant monies can be applied for to fund our professional development program. The VEHI application is on line at www.vehi.org
3. No Child Left Behind Act 2002 (Title IV, Title IVB, Title V)
As with any granting process the application criteria must be met.
 - * 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
 - * 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
4. Early Prevention Screening Diagnostic Training (EPSDT) – contact your school nurse who will be able to access this information. Funds must be applied for one year in advance.



It's creative.



It's fun.



It builds respect.



It makes an impact.

Extended Programming!

If you are looking for an extra special experience, call us about our custom workshops. Our hands on educational workshops use a variety of modalities - faces, hands & feet. These workshops can be used to enhance your lessons and we take care of the experiential part. All of our programs are standards-based.

Spotlight on Educators Who Make a Difference

Vermont Out-Of-School Time Network (VOOST) sponsored a professional development workshop for educators who lead after school programs. The sessions in Rutland and Colchester introduced participants to hands-on modalities for learning, which use creative fun as avenues for social and emotional learning.

The Vermont Bar Association provided support for several handshake activities around the state. The teachers and schools who participated include:

Lee Forte, Family Consumer Science Teacher at Stratford Tech, Rutland organized a professional development workshop for educators. This gave educators the opportunity to build collegiality in a school where layout of the school and differing schedules made it difficult for teachers to connect.

Sherry Star, Family Consumer Science Teacher at St. Albans Town, who used the activity to talk about social development with her 7th and 8th grade Social/Life Skills class

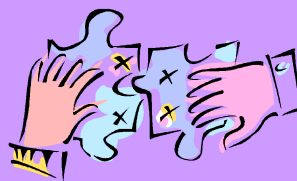
Donna McAllister, the Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, Gene Ziske, the Technology Education teacher and Kathie Ball, the Health teacher of Barre Middle School lead their 6th grade class in this project. What impressed me from my initial meeting with the three teachers was the tremendous team support the three created and provided for the students. The project was used to open communication about anger management, manners and trust. It was the involvement of this three member team that made the experience a success.

Pam Voss at Montgomery Elementary had an all-school activity focused on character development and cooperation, with funding from Title V.

Milton Education Staff Support Association in conjunction with **The BEST Institute** supported the program led by **Julie Tally, Milton Middle School**, with her 6th grade Amity program. Over 90 students and teachers participated in this teambuilding and friendship-building activity.

Kay Mehaffy and Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) supported **Enosburg Falls High School** in an all-school event honoring each student's commitment to not drink and drive. The sculptures are being incorporated into the decorative design of the new art room being built at the school.

Check out these links...



<http://www.bestfriendsfoundation.org>

http://www.lesley.edu/academic_centers/peace/institute.html

<http://www.teachingtochangelives.com>

www.openingoftheheart.com

www.vtbar.org

www.vermontcommunityworks.org

www.tolerance.org

www.dreamsoffreedom.com