



The New Jersey State Council on the Arts Awards \$19,000 Grant to TEDI

The Children's Home Society of New Jersey has been awarded \$19,000 from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to support the popular Trenton Education Dance Institute. Known widely as TEDI, this unique program is entering its 25th year of enriching the lives of Trenton's children through dance.

"This generous grant," said Donna Pressma, President and CEO of The Children's Home Society of New Jersey, "reinforces the positive impact of TEDI on our Trenton youth and the vital need for creative and expressive programs that build confidence in our youth and help them develop critical skills that will lead to success in school and in life."

TEDI, under the leadership of Artistic Director Dufftin Garcia, is incorporated with the curriculum for all of the fifth grade students at two Trenton public schools, Hedgepeth/Williams School and Mott School. Weekly dance classes introduce a vocabulary of dance and the movements, phrases and sequences which become fully-formed dances by the end of the academic year. For 5th grade participants who show special interest and ability, the TEDI SWAT (Scholarship for the Willing, Achieving and Talented) Team offers thirty students a more challenging series of after school classes, and the TEDI Celebration Team consists of 30 dedicated dancers from grades 6 through 10 who learn advanced choreography and perform at community events and other venues through the school year.

Richard Bilotti, president of the TEDI Board of Directors and a member of The Children's Home Society of New Jersey's Board, commented, "This important funding from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts helps to ensure TEDI will remain in the Trenton public schools as a successful collaboration with the Trenton Board of Education. It is with great pride that we mark 25 years of inspiring Trenton youth through the arts to reach their full potential as successful adults."

This spring, TEDI dancers will participate in the milestone 25th End of Year Event, performing the dances they have learned on stage in five shows for audiences of Trenton students, teachers, parents and other community members. Dates and times will be announced on the CHS of NJ website (www.chsofnj.org).