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**Young Audiences of Massachusetts: HEALING ARTS FOR KIDS PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD**

BOSTON, MA, MARCH 18, 2010--- Young Audiences of Massachusetts is pleased to announce that our *Healing Arts for Kids* program is one of ten recipients nationally to receive an “Arts Connect All” grant for it’s project *Together We Can Fly*, from Very Special Arts (VSA) and MetLife Foundation.

*Healing Arts for Kids*, currently in its seventh year, provides assembly programs, small presentations, and residencies for acutely and chronically ill children, physically and emotionally challenged children, and other special education populations in schools, hospital schools, hospitals, and homeless shelters. The “Arts Connect All” grant in addition to support from The John W. Alden Trust, will support an innovative residency project, *Together We Can Fly*, which brings together students from the Massachusetts Hospital School and Luce Elementary School in Canton, to explore the concepts of self, hope, dreams, and flight through visual arts, music and dance. The grant enables students with disabilities to experience social, cognitive, and cultural development through arts learning alongside their peers without disabilities.

*Healing Arts for Kids* expands Young Audiences of Massachusetts’ mission to make the arts a part of EVERY child’s education. We connect our roster of professional artists with children in schools, libraries, community organizations, and hospitals to provide artistically excellent programs that further develop Creative Learning and Life Skills. The *Healing Arts for Kids* program has been supported by the Rowland Foundation and the Ludcke Foundation.

More information about Young Audiences of Massachusetts and the *Healing Arts for Kids* program can be found at [www.yamass.org](http://www.yamass.org).