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NEARLY \$900 RAISED FOR ART SUPPLIES TO SUPPORT YSS OF MARSHALL COUNTY

During the month of June, in honor of their 16th anniversary, the Arts & Culture Alliance partnered with YSS of Marshall County to raise funds for art supplies to support art therapy through their foster care and therapy services. Since March, YSS has seen a 75% increase in therapy cases due to an increase in anxiety, stress and fear from COVID-19. The goal was to raise \$316 for art supplies during the month of June and the community's support far exceed our goal by raising nearly \$900.

"We were blown away by the incredible support of the community towards this amazing cause. It is an honor to partner with such an amazing local organization who has a significant impact on our youth in Marshall County. Since this was such a huge success, we are already thinking about making it an annual occurrence." said Alliance Executive Director, Amber Danielson.

YSS's Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP) program participants are excited to utilize a portion of the funds for an opportunity to shop for their own art supplies to be used during their activity time with YSS. This is an opportunity some of them normally don't have a chance to experience. Program Participant Josie says, "being artistic to me means that I can be creative and make a change."

Many of the youth in AMP, are experiencing new homes or school settings due to foster placement and having an artistic outlet can be a safe way to express their emotions. Due to YSS's rapid growth in behavioral health, they will be hiring an additional in-home counselor and anticipate the art supplies to be utilized in-home and in-office.

YSS of Marshall County Director, David Hicks, says, "art is an important contributor to the well-being of communities. It is a powerful tool to develop a person's sense of self, to be a creative learner, and to connect with others. YSS believes in positive youth development and to create opportunities where our young people are heard and respected. Art is a great medium to tell their story. YSS of Marshall County will use the art created by our youth to adorn the hallways and offices of our workspace for years to come."

The mission of YSS is to provide prevention, education, treatment and residential services to children, youth and families; to advocate on their behalf; and to help them solve problems, grow and be self-sufficient, responsible, contributing members of society.

The Arts & Culture Alliance, a non-profit organization, was created in 2004 to cultivate a community of arts and culture by supporting, promoting and enriching existing opportunities and by seeking new possibilities. Our mission allows us to focus on enhancing the quality of life in Marshalltown by making it a place in which arts and culture thrive and our community flourishes.

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For more information or questions, please us at:
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