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# Press Release

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## **Wichita Arts Council presents \$3,000 to Heartspring for art projects**

Wichita, Kan. – Children with special needs now have more resources to express themselves through art thanks to a \$3,000 gift from the Wichita Arts Council.

As a result of the Plane Crazy 2006 fundraiser August 24, the Arts Council selected Heartspring and volunteer art instructor Ruthie Spriggs, a public educator at City Arts, to receive \$3,000 to purchase supplies enhancing the variety of art projects implemented at Heartspring by Spriggs.

“We know this program and we know Ruthie,” said Arts Council Chair Joan Cole, “It wasn’t terribly hard to select her to receive this gift.”

Spriggs volunteers every Thursday at Heartspring, helping children with disabilities including autism, Down syndrome, communication deficits and challenging behaviors use their creativity. “I’m overwhelmed,” said Spriggs, “I’m here to help kids communicate to the world through art materials and tell their stories in a different way.”

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Spriggs has been volunteering at Heartspring for 12 years.

Sharon Mallory and Joan Cole from the Arts Council presented a check Wednesday, October 4 at Heartspring.

*It has been over 70 years since Dr. Martin Palmer first began his mission of helping children with disabilities achieve their full potential. Since 1934 Heartspring has been one of the nation's top facilities serving children with special needs. Our charge originated in Wichita and has grown to help children across the nation in over 15 states and around the world. Heartspring experts have traveled to Europe and Asia, providing training to organizations that need our help. Teachers from other countries have looked to Heartspring and Wichita for education as they strive to better the lives of children in all corners of the globe – truly making Heartspring a worldwide center for children with special needs. Heartspring provides greater independence for children with disabilities through the Heartspring School, Heartspring Pediatric Services, the Heartspring Hearing Center, consultation services and Heartspring World Reach. For more information please call Katie Bishop at 316-634-8821 or email at [kbishop@heartspring.org](mailto:kbishop@heartspring.org)*

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Photo attached:

Presenting the check from the Wichita Arts Council are Sharon Mallory and Joan Cole. Accepting are Ruthie Spriggs, volunteer art instructor at Heartspring, and Cheryl Carr Johnson and Leigh Horsley from Heartspring.

L-R – Sharon Mallory, Joan Cole, Ruthie Spriggs, Cheryl Carr Johnson, Leigh Horsley

