



ArtsinStark
Kids. Jobs. Communities.

Immediate Release: Tuesday, February 23, 2010

More Info: Robb Hankins, President & CEO

robbhankins@artsinstark.com

330-453-1075, ext. 202

330-265-8730 (cell)

Annual Arts Campaign Kicks Off with First Friday Pep Rally

The goal is set. The players charged. The whistle is ready. The 2010 Annual Arts Campaign fields its kickoff on First Friday, March 5 (5:30 – 6:30 p.m.) at The Canton Palace Theatre. And everyone is invited to this free pep rally. “We’re focused on raising \$1,450,000 in just 12 weeks,” says Linda DeHoff, President of DeHoff Realtors and chair of this year’s “TEAM ARTS” campaign. From March 5 – May 26, Linda is committed to leading her team of 100 community and business volunteers through the rocky playing field of this uncertain economy to emerge victorious. “We know it’s going to be tough,” says Linda. “We’re going to succeed because people can touch, see, and feel the impact we’re having on making a brighter future for kids, jobs, and communities in Stark County.”

The non-profit County Arts Council has put its SmArts programs in 38 schools for 10,000 kids. “All the results have been impressive,” says ArtsinStark CEO Robb Hankins, “but in just one Stark County school 4th grade writing scores have skyrocketed up 23%.” In downtowns, ArtsinStark has helped transform 100,000 square feet of empty buildings that nobody wanted into new businesses --- those galleries, studios, apartments, stores, and the related jobs --- are bringing our downtowns back to life. Each year ArtsinStark awards over \$1 million in grants to more than 100 Stark County non-profits and artists whose projects reach 200,000 people in every single community.

“We’re going to succeed because people know that 99% of our budget comes from the private sector,” says ArtsinStark board chair Bob Timken, “and 91 cents of every single dollar we raise goes right out the door to support grants, public art projects, the Cultural Center for the Arts, and events like First Fridays and the ArtSplash family festival.”

The TEAM ARTS kickoff is free and open to the public. The Timken High School marching band and the GlenOak High School cheerleaders will perform – with a few added surprises. Free hot dogs, pop and popcorn will be served as part of the spirited one hour event – all part of a natural lead-in to March’s First Friday in the Canton Arts District. For more information call ArtsinStark at 330-453-1075.