



National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day - May 9, 2012



Participate! [Click here](#) to list your CMHAD event

[Click here](#) to search for community programs nationwide

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is May 9, 2012! The American Art Therapy Association is a national sponsor of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. Art Therapy Association Chapters across the country are encouraged to design an event and on-going programs to draw attention to children's mental health and the importance of art therapy in resilience.

In announcing the launch of the 2012 National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day event SAMHSA reports, "National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is a key strategy of the Caring for Every Child's Mental Health Campaign, which is part of the Public Awareness and Support Strategic Initiative by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services."



The American Art Therapy Association continues its active participation through its sponsorship and organization of the national art exhibit that includes drawings from young people across the nation as they depict their "heroes of hope" that have enabled them to overcome issues and focus on a positive future.

NATIONAL EVENT

Members and Chapters of the American Art Therapy Association conduct local events and on-going programs that support the goals of the national program in May and year round.

The CMHAD initiative seeks to "raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development from birth." Partners and Chapters of the American Art Therapy Association will be working together on the national art exhibit.

FIND A QUALIFIED ART THERAPIST

[Find An Art Therapist](#) [Art Therapy Locator](#)
[Chapters of the Art Therapy Association](#)

CHILDREN & ART THERAPY

[K-12 Schools & Art Therapy Toolkit](#)
[2011 Short Report: Helping Children and Youth Who Have Experienced Traumatic Events](#)

LEARN ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF COLLABORATING ON AWARENESS DAY YEAR-ROUND

[Connect and Collaborate](#)
[Collaborating Organizations](#)
[SAMHSA Grantees](#)
[Conferences and Meetings](#)

[Materials and Resources](#)
[Early Childhood and Trauma Data](#)
[Best Practices/ECCO](#)
[Technical Assistance Tips](#)

[Preparing for Awareness Day](#)
[Event Materials](#)
[State and Local Ideas](#)
[Media and Social Media](#)
[National Event](#)
[Past & Future Events](#)

[SAMHSA Children Home](#)



RESEARCH & STUDIES

[Art Therapy Outcomes Bibliography](#)
[Resources](#)
[Multicultural Committee](#)
[Bibliography/Resource List](#)
[Art Therapy Journal: Journal of the American Art Therapy Association](#)

RESOURCES TO HELP SUPPORT YOUR PROGRAM

One of the benefits of the Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Event, May 9th, is that it can help your Chapter develop new alliances that we strengthen your work year round in public policy, communications and community engagement. Here are some outstanding partners to reach out to and involve in CMHAD and year round:

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA):

State and Regional Arts organizations: http://www.arts.gov/partner/state/SAA_RAO_list.html

NEA's Arts Education partners: <http://www.arts.gov/partner/artsed/index.html>

Arts and Human Development Interagency Task Force Webinars: <http://www.arts.gov/research/TaskForce/2012-webinars.html>

Local Arts Agencies

Local arts agency database lookup: <http://ww2.americansforthearts.org/vanqo/custom/directory.aspx>

Local arts agency resources: http://www.artsusa.org/networks/laa/local_arts_agencies.asp

Very Special Arts

VSA: <http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/vsa/>

Betty Siegel: brsiegel@kennedy-center.org

Visit SAMHSA's website throughout the year to learn how you can participate – <http://www.samhsa.gov/children/> [Click here to learn about the Benefits of Collaborating on Awareness Day Year-Round](#). Last year, the national theme focused on building resilience in young children dealing with trauma. Communities around the country participated by holding their own Awareness Day events, focusing either on the national theme, or adapting the theme to the populations they serve. [Click here to open the "2011 Short Report: Helping Children and Youth Who Have Experienced Traumatic Events"](#). **Save the date for Awareness Day 2012 – Wednesday, May 9, 2012!**

