

Spotlight on Youth – An Inspiring Afternoon for Your Children - 4/7/13

By Radha (and Sita) Selvester , CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services

My daughter attended her first Spotlight on Youth teen talent show when she was in the fifth grade. Here is what she has to say about the experience:

Radha: What did you think about the Spotlight on Youth show when you first attended?

Sita: I loved it! It was so amazing to watch high school students sing and dance and play musical instruments. They were so good! I started thinking that if I keep going to dance classes I may someday get to perform like them.

Radha: Did you find the show inspiring?

Sita: Yes – it got me thinking about what sort of dance I might perform and that maybe I could try singing as well.

Radha: You've been attending Spotlight on Youth every year now – has that affected you in any way?

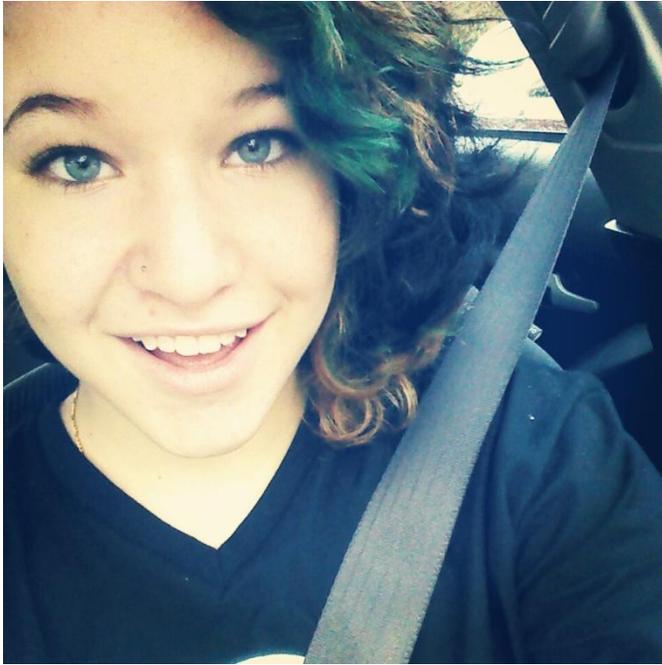
Sita: For sure – the whole idea behind Spotlight is that art is prevention. I know that by spending my spare time doing artistic things – dancing, singing, and painting – it helps me stay away from bad stuff like drugs and alcohol. The arts help me to express my feelings so I don't need to reach for an illegal substance when I'm feeling bad – I can write a poem or sing a song or draw or dance. It helps me relieve stress.

Radha: What would you say to parents about bringing their kids to Spotlight on Youth this year?

Sita: DEFINITELY bring them- I'd say any kid over the age of 6 would enjoy the show and become inspired by it. And besides, now that I'm in 9th grade I'm going to be performing in it so they really ought to come! The show is being held on a Sunday afternoon so it is perfect for a family outing.

Sita and I would like to invite EVERYONE to attend the 14th annual Spotlight on Youth on Sunday, April 7, 2 pm, at the Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall. Tickets are just \$10 for youth and \$15 for adults and include refreshments catered by the Gainesville Job Corps Culinary Arts students! Tickets can be ordered through a link on the CDS web site: www.cdsfl.org.

I am still accepting visual art created by high school students to display at the event as well as original poetry to include in the poetry booklet. Contact radha_selvester@cdsfl.org (352) 244-0628 x3865



Sita Selvester, ninth-grader, first time Spotlight on Youth performer

