

Spotlight on Youth – Dreams Coming True!

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North Florida School Days 4-15

“Follow your dreams and believe in yourself. Don’t let anyone tell you otherwise. Just keep dreaming!” said Alex Martin last year before she graduated from Buchholz High School. She was one of the performers in the 2014 Spotlight on Youth teen talent show, dancing in the Cameron Dancenter troupe. Her statement sums up the essence of Spotlight on Youth.

It all started in 1998 when board members of Corner Drugstore*, along with staff and volunteers, decided to show off the good things that the majority of teens were doing, instead of focusing on the smaller percentage of adolescents who were involved in drugs and other self-destructive behaviors. Spotlight on Youth was created to literally “spotlight” teens that were using their free time to pursue their dreams in music, art, dance, drama, and poetry. April 19, 2015 will be the 16th annual teen talent show and everyone is invited to attend.

Spotlight on Youth exemplifies “Art is Prevention.” Studies have shown that youth busy practicing and perfecting their “arts,” tend to stay away from drugs, alcohol, and smoking. They do better in school. They utilize healthy ways to express their feelings. And the experience of getting up on a stage and showing off their talents is the kind of “high” that inspires students to do more and more of this type of wholesome recreation!

High school students apply to audition each year in December. Auditions are held in Gainesville, Live Oak, and other towns within the CDS 14 county service area at the end of January. By March 1, the performers are chosen. Typically only about 1/3 of those who audition get into the show, due mostly to time constrictions as almost everyone who auditions does a great job.

So please attend Spotlight on Youth 2015 on Sunday, April 19, at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at www.cdsfl.org for \$15 (adults) and \$10 (students) or at the box office. The event is held at the Fine Arts Hall at Santa Fe College (NW campus, Gainesville). Support teens pursuing their dreams!

(Sponsors and Silent Auction Donors Needed!)

If your children’s behavior and attitude are not something you feel happy about “spotlighting,” please contact CDS Family & Behavioral Health Service (*formerly known as Corner Drugstore) to see if Family Action counseling can help. 352 244 0628 x3822. www.cdsfl.org



