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Cathedral Arts Project raises record-breaking funds at 13th annual Spring for the Arts

The Cathedral Arts Project hosted the 13th annual *Spring for the Arts*, presented by Marisa and Frank Martire, on Friday, April 28, at Deerwood Country Club. This signature fundraiser, has generated nearly \$5 million for arts education in Northeast Florida since its inception, and raised record-breaking funds this year.

The evening was a celebration of the arts as Carol Johnson Foley was honored with the Guardian of the Arts Award for her efforts to safeguard and advance the arts along the First Coast. Carol moved to Jacksonville 14 years ago and was drawn to CAP, which was then a fledgling nonprofit operating in a small office in St. John's Episcopal Cathedral.

"Carol saw the promise in the mission of the Cathedral Arts Project when few people were even aware of the organization or the needs it served," said CAP President & CEO Kimberly Hyatt. "She saw that just as her work helped to bring to light a charity that had been very much hidden from view, so CAP would help children discover the creativity, beauty and potential that lay hidden within and all around them."

As one of her first gifts to the organization, Carol underwrote CAP's famous purple t-shirts, which in some cases was the first brand-new item of clothing students had ever worn. It was also Carol who had the vision for *Spring for the Arts* and the Guardian of the Arts Award, understanding the importance of championing arts education for all children and recognizing those who share that vision.

William Bell, a CAP violin alumnus from Central Riverside Elementary School, presented Carol with her award. "If it wasn't for Mrs. Foley, there may not have been a Cathedral Arts Project by the time I was in school," said William, who now attends Kirby-Smith Middle School. "If it had not been for the Cathedral Arts Project, I may not have learned to play the violin, and learning how to play this illustrious instrument has changed my life forever."

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*Now in its third decade of service, the mission of the **Cathedral Arts Project** is to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Florida through unleashing the creative spirit of young people. Our vision is for every child to benefit from a well-rounded education that includes dance, media arts, music, theatre and the visual arts. By providing direct instruction to students and teachers, facilitating partnerships and advocating for expanded access to arts education, the Cathedral Arts Project empowers children and youth to succeed in all areas of their lives. Learn more at capkids.org.*