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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Jim Moran Foundation Funds Critical Youth Program Visual Arts Continues to Help At-Risk Children Heal

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Aug. 22, 2018 – In what is being called one of the worst funding years for arts and culture by the state of Florida, the Youth Crisis Center (YCC) and Cathedral Arts Project (CAP) say funding from The Jim Moran Foundation has been more critical than ever for the youth both agencies serve. A partnership with CAP has provided visual arts classes for youth in the Residential Crisis Care Center at YCC to help with therapeutic self-expression. It is a vital part of the counseling and support services YCC offers to youth who have been exposed to traumatic situations such as divorce, homelessness, relocation, loss of life, bullying, abuse and sex trafficking.

The Jim Moran Foundation has sponsored 28 weeks of classes in 2018 at YCC that teach art forms such as 3D and clay sculpture, word art and collage, among others. “We are thankful for the leadership that The Jim Moran Foundation has shown in funding education and the arts in our community. Through this grant, YCC’s partnership with the Cathedral Arts Project has restored visual arts classes for the children and teens YCC serves in our Residential Crisis Care program,” said Kim Sirdevan, president and CEO of YCC. “Although our youth are receiving these classes while in Residential Crisis Care, there are many others in our community who are not because of a lack of funding. We want our community to know that a lack of funding truly impacts so many young people, who for some, use the arts to help in their healing.”

Earlier this year Florida lawmakers approved state funding for arts organizations at less than a quarter of what it approved the previous year. Some cultural organizations saw their projects vetoed by Governor Rick Scott. Although CAP was eligible for \$150,000, the organization will receive less than \$10,000 toward its overall \$2 million budget.

“Young people often feel safer expressing traumatic experiences and uncomfortable feelings through the arts than through traditional therapies,” said CAP President & CEO Rev. Kimberly L. Hyatt. “When kids aren’t sure of what they are feeling, the arts provide a vehicle for them to explore, process and express a whole range of emotions. We are deeply grateful for the forward-thinking leadership of both The Jim Moran Foundation and YCC for understanding that it’s more important than ever that kids be equipped to utilize the arts as a means of self-expression and perseverance.”

Without the funds from The Jim Moran Foundation, the vital art therapy program provided by CAP for the youth at YCC would be in jeopardy.

“We are grateful to Youth Crisis Center and Cathedral Arts Program for their commitment to enriching the lives of at-risk youth through creative arts education in a caring and supportive environment,” said Jan Moran, chairman and president of The Jim Moran Foundation.

To learn more about the Youth Crisis Center, please visit www.ycc.org. Tours of YCC are open to the public, please call 904-725-6662 to schedule.

About Youth Crisis Center

Founded in 1974 as Florida’s first runaway program, Youth Crisis Center has grown to one of the largest and best-known providers of services for youth and families. Our emphasis on care is for those who have been exposed to traumatic situations such as divorce, homelessness, relocation, loss of life, and abuse. YCC provides a variety of services such as short-term residential crisis care, outpatient therapy, skills-based groups for children and their parents, and transitional living programming for young adults.

About Cathedral Arts Project

The Cathedral Arts Project is the leading nonprofit provider of quality, comprehensive and ongoing instruction in the visual and performing arts for elementary and middle school students in Duval County. The driving force behind all CAP programs is the belief that the arts matter – they provide essential skills, like creative thinking, perseverance, teamwork and self-discipline, that benefit all people in all areas of their lives. Learn more at capkids.org or call Elise Johnson at ejohnson@capkids.org or 904-281-5599 ext. 14.

The Jim Moran Foundation

Founded by automotive pioneer Jim Moran, the mission of The Jim Moran Foundation is to improve the quality of life for the youth and families of Florida through the support of innovative programs and opportunities that meet the ever-changing needs of the community. The Foundation has invested more than \$100 million in education, elder care, family strengthening, after school and youth transitional living initiatives since its inception in 2000 – with efforts currently focused in Broward, Palm Beach and Duval counties. Through a long-term Grant Agreement, The Foundation’s significant funders are JM Family Enterprises, Inc., and its subsidiaries, including Southeast Toyota Distributors, LLC. It is located at 100 Jim Moran Blvd., Deerfield Beach, Fla. 33442. To learn more, visit www.jimmoranfoundation.org or call (954) 429-2122.