

Community Service Association Newsletter

Published by the Community Service Association (CSA) of San Diego Unified School District
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Message from the CSA Board of Directors

CSA's annual membership drive continues through December 9. We encourage all CSA members to share information about CSA at your site or department. Also, please consider serving on our Board of Directors and help decide how grant money is distributed. If interested please contact Barbara Asaro, CSA Secretary/Treasurer, at csa@sandi.net.

Thank you, CSA members, for giving back to our San Diego community and supporting the services of organizations such as Arms Wide Open.

Profile of Arms Wide Open

In 2008, the owners of the organization Arts in Motion began offering a free class for children and adults with special needs to give them the opportunity to participate in dance and the performing arts. The popularity of the class was overwhelming and in the Fall of 2010, Arms Wide Open became a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide recreational and social activities and give a general joy of living for children, youth and adults with disabilities and special needs.

Their professional team of instructors is dedicated to enriching their lives by creating solutions, opening up doors, and providing success to everyone who enrolls in their programs. Arms Wide Open is open six days a week to serve over 300 special needs students enrolled into various classes that are specifically designed for their optimum enjoyment while providing them with many physiological, physical, and social benefits.

Current classes include: Hip Hop Health & Fitness, Swing, Triple Threat, Dance & Movement, Ballet, Voice Technique, Contemporary, Percussion, Tap, and Jazz.

Each year, members of Arms Wide Open have the opportunity to perform all around San Diego at events such as the Del Mar Fair, the Mother Goose Parade and the Chargers Blood Drive. In addition to adding new classes in music and fitness, Arms Wide Open has introduced a very successful theater program. Recent productions include The Wizard of Oz, Peter Pan Jr., and The Little Mermaid Jr.

In May 2017, Arms Wide Open will perform Disney's production, The Lion King, featuring a cast of more than 125 performers with special needs. The show will be professionally directed and performed at the Lyceum Theatre, with backdrops and costumes that rival those on Broadway.



Dance and Movement class on Wednesdays

For more information about Arms Wide Open or its Lion King production please see www.awosd.org or contact their office at (619) 579-6197.

“The Arms Wide Open Organization thanks The Community Service Association of San Diego Unified School District for their generosity in approving a grant that provided our students with equipment and services. We are grateful for our partnership with CSA and appreciate the difference they make to the children, youth and adults that are enrolled in our programs.”



CSA Mission Statement

The Community Service Association of San Diego Unified School District is a nonprofit association organized to solicit contributions from district employees for recognized charitable agencies in San Diego County which support the arts, education, health, and human services.