

OUR THERESA

Once upon a time there was a tiny girl in a pink wheelchair. She had curly brown hair, which looked especially charming in pig-tails and the cutest, sweetest smile on earth.

Her name was Theresa and she lived in a house by the sea with her parents, her two brothers, Dante and Robert, her sister, Elizabeth, and her four cats.

Every day her mommy would wake her up, and brush her teeth for her, and get her ready for school. The little yellow school bus would come to take her to school and off she would go to learn and grow with her friends.

Theresa and her friend's favorite time of the day was recess! On the playground they got to swing, and slide and spin. They laughed and grew and everything was right with the world. Next to home it was her favorite place to be.

Theresa was an inspiration to all that knew her. Our Theresa Foundation provides grants to support classes and recreation programs that focus on music, dance, art and drama for children with special needs, locally and around the country.

In 2004, the Theresa Foundation refurbished and updated the Playground and Park on the grounds of United Cerebral Palsy of Nassau County in Roosevelt, New York. More than 250 children with special needs now play at Theresa's Fun Place every day. In 2009, the Theresa Academy of Performing Arts (TAPA) opened its doors for children with special needs as a weekly afterschool program in the arts, along with Saturday respite, Sunday workshops and an interim camp during the summer.

We appreciate all the support you give to the Theresa's of our world.

*Vincent and Susan Russo,
Dante, Elizabeth and Robert*

VISION

Because children are our future, we believe in nurturing each child. An important aspect of every child is their artistic expression.

A society without art is a society without soul. Art enables us to express our inner thoughts, fears, joys and sadness. Art is a powerful form of communication, whether it be written, danced, painted or sculpted. Our artistic expression tells us who we are, what is important to us, and how we relate to the world around us.

The Theresa Foundation has a vision of the world where art and artistic expression are as important to adults as they are to children. We believe in a world where every child, regardless of ability or challenging conditions, is free to communicate through any art form available

MISSION

The Foundation honors the memory of Theresa Alessandra Russo by touching the lives of children with special needs and their families.

The Foundation fosters each child's unique abilities through direct support and programs focusing on art, music, dance and recreation



The Theresa Academy of Performing Arts TAPA believes that every child has strengths that can be used as a springboard to learn new skills which can enhance each child's personal sense of accomplishment.

At TAPA, the teachers use a wide variety of teaching methods to accommodate all styles of learning.

The primary goal of our classes is for the children to experience the joy of dance, drama, art, and music. There are many other benefits to the children who participate including improvement in coordination, overall fitness, focus, listening, balance, self-esteem, self-expression, rhythm, and musicality.



Visit our Website www.theresafoundation.org

for more information on the Theresa Foundation. Learn about our fundraising efforts. Read the latest *Theresa News*. Learn how you can help the Theresa Foundation

Contact us at 516.432.0200 or Info@theresafoundation.org

if you wish to volunteer, support and or participate in any of our programs.



THE THERESA AWARDS

The Theresa Awards is an annual event to recognize the outstanding efforts of those individuals who go above and beyond in helping and advocating for those with

special needs. The Awards are presented at the Annual Theresa Awards Dinner held on the Friday evening closest to Theresa's birthday (May 5th). This is the Foundation's main fundraiser of the year which enables the Foundation to fund programs locally and nationally in music, dance, art and recreation. Funds raised also support The Theresa Academy of Performing Arts and Theresa's Fun Place.



SWINGIN' FORE THERESA

The Swingin' Fore Theresa Golf Outing is an annual fundraising event to benefit the Theresa Academy of Performing Arts (TAPA).

The funds raised from our outing are also used to support dance, art, music, and recreation programs for children with special needs like Theresa locally and around the country. The event is typically held the last Thursday in June. Whether you are an avid golfer, a novice or not a golfer at all, we welcome you to join us by participating in the outing or attending the Gala Reception that evening.

ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISERS

The Theresa Foundation holds a number of additional fundraisers throughout the year. Please visit our website at www.theresafoundation.org for more information.



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*"In Memory of One...
...Dedicated to All"*

