



SWOPE HEALTH SERVICESSM

Member Swope Community Enterprises

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Urban Youth Theater Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Rebuilding Community Through The Arts

Kansas City, MO...For nearly 20 years, Swope Health Services, and its affiliate, Swope Community Builders, have worked hand-in-hand to bring health and vibrancy to neglected urban core communities. Together, they provide a holistic solution that includes health care, housing and outreach programs designed to rebuild a sense of safety and community among neighbors.

One of these outreach programs is Urban Youth Theater. Launched in 1999, Urban Youth Theater is a performing arts program for youth ages 6 to 18. Participants are provided performing arts activities outside of school with the goals of enhancing their growth, development and self-esteem. Under the direction of professional instructors, participants learn drama, dance, vocal music, playwriting, production and stage management. Their theater experience culminates as cast and crew members in live performances.

“Year after year, it’s just amazing to see the growth in these kids,” said Kimberly W. Denton, program coordinator. “It’s the dedication of the instructors and especially the commitment of parents, who donate their time and effort to every aspect of the productions, that makes UYT a quality experience for the kids,” she added.

This year, UYT will perform *Enemies In Common*, a new play by local playwright Terry Godard, founder of TG2 Productions. “It’s a play about faith and courage and it’s resonating with the UYT players,” Terry explained. “I’m impressed with the level of focus they’ve brought to the rehearsal process and I believe the end result will be powerful,” he added.

***Enemies In Common* will be presented at the Folly Theater on Sunday, June 7th at 6:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased through Kimberly W. Denton at (816) 627-2146 or visit ticketmaster.com.**

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