



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Phil Cardone x33
Sharon Knight x12
718-931-9500

Phil@bronxarts.org
Sharon@bronxarts.org
www.bronxarts.org

**Bronx Council on the Arts and NYC Office of Emergency Management's Partners in Preparedness
present *The Color of Heroes – Marionettes with a Message: Learning Life Skills through the Arts*
Thursday, October 20 and Saturday, October 22**

(October 7, 2011) The Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) and the NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Partners in Preparedness program present ***The Color of Heroes -- Marionettes with a Message: Learning Life Skills through the Arts***. The workshop takes place on Thursday, October 20th at the Huntington Free Library and again on Saturday, October 22nd at the Bronx Writers Center at Westchester Square Library. It is free and all are welcome.

The Color of Heroes is a fun and informative way for children ages 4-8 and their families to learn important tips on what to do when natural disasters strike through a wonderful marionette show prepared by the Bronx's very own puppet master Nilda Garcés. Find out if characters Billy and Dee are prepared for an emergency while finding out if you, yourself, are prepared.

The program includes a review of *Let's Get Ready, New York!* by the NYC Office of Emergency Management with three basic steps to prepare for all types of emergencies: Make a plan, pack a 'go bag' and create an emergency supply kit.

Two *The Color of Heroes* workshops will be held. Seats are limited and YOU MUST RSVP!

- **Thursday, October 20, 2011** at 4:00pm at the **Huntington Free Library** (718-829-7770) located at 9 Westchester Square (next to Apple Bank) Bronx, NY 10461 in the Westchester Square section of the Bronx. **You must RSVP at <http://colorofheroes.eventbrite.com>** for Thursday's workshop.
- **Saturday, October 22, 2011** at 11:00am at **BCA's Bronx Writers Center** located in the Westchester Square Library (718-863-0436) at 2521 Glebe Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461 in the Westchester Square section of the Bronx. **You must RSVP at <http://colorofheroesat.eventbrite.com>** for Saturday's workshop.

Everyone can find a little hero within themselves. Come make sure your little ones are no exception! For more information regarding this presentation, please contact The Bronx Council on the Arts Sharon Knight, Administrator & Program/Partnership Associate, at 718-931-9500 x12 or Sharon@bronxarts.org.

Nilda Garcés is a self-taught artist in puppetry and mask-making. Her lifelong hobby of puppetry arts became her passion when she became a mother of three sons. Through her marionettes, she tells stories and folk tales in English and Spanish. She started performing for Head Start and neighborhood libraries and formed a family marionette troupe when her sons were old enough. They were sponsored by many schools, libraries and cultural institutions, including the Bronx Council on the Arts. Over the years she has designed fourteen productions, which include all aspects such as scripting, making puppets, scenery, props, voices, etc. As a volunteer for Montefiore Medical Center's Child Life Program, she brought puppetry/art activities of her own design to children at their bedside or playroom. In 2002, she was named Montefiore's Volunteer of the Year, was awarded a Puppeteers of America grant and a BCA BRIO award. Since then she's done more than 35 residencies with grants for schools, libraries, museums and family centers.

The Partners in Preparedness program unites Bronx Council on the Arts with other partners through a common goal: emergency preparedness and volunteerism. Membership highlights Bronx Council on the Arts commitment and dedication to the safety and engagement of its employees, volunteers, and their families.

This program is supported by: NYC Department of Emergency Management, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYC Department of Small Business Services - Avenue NYC, NYS Council on the Arts, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Lambert Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, the Scherman Foundation, Council Member James Vacca.

###