

## 2014 CCAP Partners Award:

The Chester County Youth Center would like to nominate Mrs. Nancy Thompson for the CCAP Partners Award. Nancy Thompson is the wife of the late State Senator and former County Commissioner, Mr. Robert Thompson. Nancy is an active community member, local artist and dedicated advocate for The Chester County Youth Center. Nancy planned a mural project for our shelter and detention youth. Mrs. Thompson recruited Sara Bleemers, a local artist, and our Center's Art Teacher, Chris Chadwick, to assist with this extensive project. The significance of such an amazing piece of art created by our youth is invaluable for all who see it. The mural is now and will continue to be a positive talking piece for our youth and staff during meal times and program times, as it is on display in our multi-purpose room. This mural is one of three that Mrs. Thompson has designed and created with the themes: Earth, Water, and Sky.

Nancy and Sara had the goal of opening the kids to the "art world" and their own hidden talents; to help the youth express their hopes through creative expression on canvas. This amazing project not only connected our youth with caring community members who volunteered their time but the youth were able to achieve a sense of accomplishment. Creating these murals has been a true collaborative effort with local community partners and a wonderful pro-social activity for our youth. We feel that our youth developed socially, emotionally, and cognitively through this experience. Many of our youth discovered talents that they never thought that they possessed as well as learning a sense of teamwork, determination, and a gaining a boost in their self-esteem. This accomplishment is now a permanent fixture in The Chester County Youth Center. In using Nancy's words for the mural, she hoped to "adorn the walls of the Center with uplifting artwork." Nancy's hope came true at our Center.

Please see the attached photos of this amazing piece of art. It is comprised of 30 separate canvases and a separate canvas describing the piece of art. Each canvas was painted by either our shelter or detention youth and then each youth had the choice on what they wanted to add to the sky, solar system, and/or heavens. Many of our youth collaborated on canvases which again showed solidarity. As you can see from the pictures, the youth were very creative in their colors and shapes; drawing anything from aliens, planets, stars, boats/submarines, planes, and even a "Hope" blimp. The youth displayed through art what "Hope" meant to them. The last addition to the mural was based on the heavens and a guardian angel. Nancy reminded our youth on a daily basis during the project to always, "keep looking up!" The Chester County Youth Center could not be more delighted in being able to nominate the "Hope" mural for the CCAP Partners Award for 2014.

### **"Hope"**

Never give up hope~  
Those who hope in the  
Lord will renew their  
Strength; they will soar on  
Wings like Eagles.  
Keep Looking Up!



