



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kids Who Care Musical Theatre 2009-2010 Resident Company Selected

72 Youth from Metroplex to Tour “District XI – Believe in Me!” and “Deep in the Heart”

FORT WORTH, TX – August 31, 2009 – Kids Who Care, a non-profit international musical theatre company based in Fort Worth since 1989, today announced that it has selected its 2009-2010 Resident Company and will tour work from two original musicals this season. The audition company of youth performers will train and tour together now through May, 2010, presenting its newest original musical, *District XI-Believe in Me!*, and its popular Texas history show, *Deep in the Heart*.

District XI - Believe in Me! is an original musical inspired by the popular YouTube video of 10-year old Dalton Sherman’s acclaimed convocation speech to 20,000+ Dallas ISD teachers and staff last year, imploring them to believe in themselves and their students (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAMLONSNwzA>). Set in the halls and classrooms of elementary, middle and high schools, *District XI - Believe in Me!*, is a fun, timeless look at school. It also tackles timely issues such as test-taking, labeling, recess reduction, bureaucracy and fitting in with others.

Touring for its sixth season, *Deep in the Heart* is an original musical production in that celebrates Texas and its multi-cultural history. Legend, fact, truth and tall tale come to life as five children, guided through their history book by an authentic cowboy and cowgirl, discover Texas and what it means to be a Texan (whether native-born or the got-here-as-quick-as-they-could variety). Texas heroes such as Barbara Jordan, Amon G. Carter, Sid Richardson, Quannah Parker, Cynthia Ann Parker, Davy Crockett and William Travis are featured in the show. Fort Worth favorites, such as the Cowgirl Hall of Fame, the Modern Art Museum, Will Rogers, the Kimbell and the Amon Carter Museum also receive special mention.

This season’s Resident Company is made up of 71 youth performers and 1 student sound engineer. The Kids Who Care Resident Company is an audition company of children, ranging in age from six to 18. The kids and teens in the 2009-2010 Resident Company come from all over Fort Worth and its surrounding areas, including: Aledo, Arlington, Azle, Benbrook, Burleson, Granbury, Grapevine, Haslet, Hurst, Saginaw, Southlake, Weatherford and White Settlement.

In a recent review, Theatre Jones critic Cathy O'Neal said of Kids Who Care, "Whatever you might think about children's theater or children performing, watching a Kids Who Care production puts all those preconceived notions aside."

"Being a member of a resident company allows an artist to develop a creative family," said Deborah Jung, founding and executive director of Kids Who Care. "It is a luxury to live within a cast dedicated to performing and studying together year-round. With Kids Who Care, some actors are with us for a full year and some throughout their childhood. Either way, as a resident company, our work reflects the dedication of something larger than the individuals who choose to perform with us."

Kids Who Care's Resident Company trains year-round with a professional theatre staff and performs locally, nationally and internationally, September through May. Last year's Resident Company performed over 70 times, through a combination of full stage productions and half-hour touring shows. Past performance venues include Off-Broadway at the Lamb's Theatre, both Disney's, The Kennedy Center, the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, at 30,000 feet aboard an airplane for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and at many regional stages in Texas.

Each year, the youth Resident Company also travels in March for a spring tour that includes performances, community outreach, cultural exchange and arts education. Past tours have included New York City, Los Angeles, Italy, Germany, Washington D.C., Chicago, Orlando and Nashville.

About Kids Who Care

Founded in 1989, Kids Who Care is a non-profit international theatre company based in Fort Worth, Texas that seeks to produce confident and creative kids through leadership, musical theatre education and performance. Kids Who Care offers professional musical theatre classes, leadership training, summer musical theatre camps, international cultural exchanges, a touring Resident Company, public performances and more. The Kids Who Care Resident Company has performed Off-Broadway at the Lamb's Theatre, at both Disney's, at The Kennedy Center, at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, at 30,000 feet aboard an airplane for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and at many other locations across the U.S. and overseas. The core values of the organization include: excellence in artistic development, artistic integrity of kids, leadership roles for kids, financial and cultural diversity and ensemble production. For more information, please visit www.kidswhocare.org.

Media Contact:

Kelly Kirkendoll Shafer
Shafer Communications for Kids Who Care
817.236.6075
kelly@shafercommunications.com