



The Treatment and
Learning Centers
TLC

a family of services where caring comes first

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TLC's Katherine Thomas School Awarded Honorable Mention for *USA Weekend's "Make a Difference Day"*

Rockville, Md. — TLC—The Treatment and Learning Centers, a local, private, non-profit agency that provides educational, therapeutic, and vocational services to children and adults with disabilities and typically developing children, announced today that students at the agency's [Katherine Thomas School \(KTS\)](#) were awarded Honorable Mention for their artistic presentation on [Make A Difference Day](#), the largest national day of helping others, sponsored by [USA WEEKEND](#) Magazine and its 600 carrier newspapers.

KTS is an independent day school for students from preschool through eleventh grade with language and learning disabilities and high-functioning autism. Second grade students in classes taught by Robin Handleman and Martha Lenarcic were saluted for "Children Helping Children: An Artistic Approach," presented on an October 26 2006 visit to [Shady Grove Hospital](#) in Rockville, Maryland. The students performed a puppet show called "PJ's Halloween," along with several Halloween songs and poems of friendship, for the hospital's Pediatric Ward. The students painted their own puppets and also decorated pumpkins to give to the patients as presents. KTS students received help from Speech Language Pathologist Ruby Miranda as well as their teachers and families. KTS Music Teacher Amy Gardiner provided musical accompaniment.

For many Katherine Thomas School students, Make A Difference Day was a highly positive introduction to community service. KTS Teacher of Children with Special Needs Robin Handleman says, "What a thrill for us to receive national recognition for our hard work! The students are already talking about what we will do next October for Make A Difference Day."

Participating students were David Bergman, John Paul Basso-Luca, Tatiana Burgdorf, Tommy Fois, Sam Fratantoni, Amanda McShane, Alessandro Spilimbergo, Turner Thackston, Ryan Tommer, and William Walde.

Local businesses whose generous support helped make the award-winning effort performance possible included the Rockville locations of Staples, Home Depot and Giant. Kiwanis of Olney funded the students' shirts, pins, and water bottles for their performance. Patients and staff at the hospital also enjoyed a special surprise cake donated by Sam's Club of Gaithersburg.

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About TLC

TLC—The Treatment and Learning Centers, located in Rockville, MD, enables children and adults to develop their full potential, communicate effectively with others, and achieve educational and vocational success. TLC provides services that strengthen their abilities and respond to their changing needs. With over 56 years of service to the community, TLC is committed to integrity and excellence in our care and will strive to assist all, regardless of their ability to pay. For more information, visit www.ttlc.org.

About Make A Difference Day

USA WEEKEND's Make A Difference Day is the nation's largest day of service, with more than 3 million volunteers taking action in their communities to help an estimated 20 million people in 2005. Make A Difference Day is held in partnership with the Points of Light Foundation, with actor-philanthropist Paul Newman awarding \$100,000 in charitable donations. *Good Morning America's* Kate Snow helped choose this year's honorees, which are evaluated by an independent panel of judges. For more information, visit www.usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html.

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