



Newsletter

Winter 2009

Dear Friends,

I often think of Maya Angelou's advice on what she believes are the two most important words in the world we can teach our children. They are: *Thank you.*

I am here to say to you: *Thank you!*

It is hard to believe that the WBCA has come so very far in the past 12 months. If we know one thing, we know this: we have not done it alone. Our thanks are to you! Last fall when we faced a possible year-end deficit we communicated our concerns to the community. Your support came flooding in and we closed 2009 with a surplus! *Thank you.* Last spring we needed dozens of new volunteers to help with our fundraising event. You readily came forward, the room was packed and we exceeded our goal! Thank you. This fall we were asked to demonstrate the financial feasibility of gaining community support for a new WBCA facility. In less than 5 weeks we generated \$378,000 in pledges! *Thank you.*

We feel your support and say Thank you! However, our words are only as good as the action which follows; the stewardship we demonstrate with your gifts. Our goal this year was to ensure financial stability and excellence in all our classes and programs. By putting some of our special events on hold, we focused our resources on bringing you the best-of-the-best in all our classes, but especially on our children's services such as Art in Elementary and Imagine Arts summer camp which served nearly 4,300 children combined. With a lot of hard work and tremendous support, the WBCA not only survived 2009, but thrived. Just look inside this beautiful catalog.

A recent proposal submitted to the city of White Bear Lake suggests that the Art Center be included in the development of the Marina Triangle. While it's not quite time for a capital campaign... it may be soon. There is much work to be done before decisions will be made, but the door has been cautiously opened. Let your city council members know how you feel about the consideration of the WBCA building a state-of-the-arts center at the Marina Triangle. What a jewel for this community, don't you think? Attend your City Council meetings. Write a letter to the editor. Continue your generous financial support of the WBCA with a year end gift. Together we do amazing things!

So, once again... a very heartfelt Thank you! Oh, and two of my other favorite words?

... *All Aboard!*

Peace,

Suzi Hudson
Executive Director