

PRESS RELEASE

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Family Festival to celebrate Youth Art Month

GAINESVILLE, FL – On Saturday, March 27, Thornebrook Village will transform into the first annual “Where the Sidewalk Ends: Family Arts Festival” in celebration of Youth Art Month (YAM).

YAM is a national celebration whose 2010's theme is “Art Shapes the World!” Famous artworks by Picasso, Da Vinci, Renoir, Rockwell, and more will be brought to life by local actors, including the Eastside High School's Theater department, in dramatic reenactments. The festival also includes art vendors, food, and a multitude of free children’s activities, family-friendly organizations, and entertainment by local musicians including Shana Banana (<http://www.shanabanana.com/bio.html>). Admission to the public is free. The Art Festival is under the covered walkways, sidewalks, plaza and grassy areas of Thornebrook Village. Local artists will be chalking up the sidewalks and giving live painting demonstrations as they recreate famous artworks.

This event is sponsored by Yopp! Inc., a local non-profit- organization devoted to bringing family-friendly, educational events to the community. Event co-organizer and co-director of Yopp!, Heddy Vernon remarked, "We wanted to support Youth Art Month by creating a family-friendly atmosphere where our local artists could share their talents with youth in our community. Kids are so inspiring when they create; it's such a free way to express themselves. "

A Youth Art Section will allow young artists 4-14 years old to sell their creations (such as handmade paper purses, shrinky-dink jewelry, cartoon cards, etc). Event co-organizer Beth Hunter said, "We are sponsoring this event so that artists of all ages can come together and create awareness for YAM. We are passionate about creating opportunities in our community for expression through art. That is why Yopp! Inc. exists. I am especially excited about the kid’s art sale. I cannot wait to see all the original art work they are selling!”

The festival promises to be a day full of fun for everyone. For more information about the festival, please visit <http://yoppinc.com/thornebrook.html>.

Photos available upon request.

Organizers available for interviews.