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Chattanooga, TN (February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014) - - SpringHill Suites Chattanooga Downtown/Cameron Harbor's latest fundraising efforts will impact in a major way a local school's artistic future.

With a limited budget of only \$100.00 for the year, stretching that amount to suit 650 students over a 9 month time span is nearly impossible. Red Bank Elementary's Art Program was dealing with such a problem, until SpringHill Suites Chattanooga Downtown approached the school about a special fundraiser driven by the arts.

The *Save Art!* initiative is a brand-wide program designed to provide under-resourced schools with much needed art supplies. The hotel's first annual *Save Art!* night event was a huge success, raising \$1,000.00 to go towards Red Bank Elementary's Art Program. The fundraiser featured live entertainment, raffle drawings, and showcased the student's most favored art projects.

The \$1,000.00 raised was used to purchase art kits containing paint, construction paper, scissors, and Crayola materials. "The children always ask if we can paint," Visual Arts teach Sandra Lehn said. "We are never able to as much as the children would like; so all of this is just amazing. We are so grateful!"

Research has shown that art education has a tremendous impact on the developmental growth and academic success of children. The introduction of the arts in early education teaches valuable life-skills such as creative problem-solving, decision-making and articulating a vision, and helps to build self-esteem and self-confidence. In spite of this, many schools are facing severe budget cuts that minimize or eliminate their art programs.

"Art classes have been cut so much over the past several years due to the focus on testing and lack of funds," Red Bank Elementary Principal, Haley Brown, said. "Words can't express our gratitude."



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