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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation partners with Emerald Coast Autism Center

Destin, Florida, March 24, 2014 - The Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (MKAF) recently launched its inaugural cultural outreach program at the Emerald Coast Autism Center in Niceville. MKAF CEO, Marcia Hull stated, "We are delighted to form this art alliance partnership with the Emerald Coast Autism Center. The arts are a creative resource to unlock the development of children with special needs and to witness these precious children clapping and responding is a very rewarding experience in fulfilling our education mission for all children."

In March, MKAF's All Kinds of Art outreach program hosted the Emerald Coast Theatre Company before 40 students and faculty at the Emerald Coast Autism Center. The presentation of "The Pirate Who Learns to Say Please" provided interaction and the importance of saying "please" and "thank you" in a 30-minute play. Heidi Blalock, CEO, Emerald Coast Autism Center commented, "We really appreciate all you do to help expand the horizons of children in our community and we are thrilled to be able to partner with Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation to culturally enrich our students." This program was funded through the Foundation's AKA Friends and annual fundraising projects.

Since 1995, All Kinds of Art, the Foundation's educational outreach program, raises outreach funds to support touring performances and other valuable cultural presentations inspiring over 265,000 students in Okaloosa and Walton counties. Visit www.MattieKellyArtsFoundation.org or call 850-650-2226 to learn more on how to join and become an AKA Friend in support of arts education.

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