

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **WhyArts Named 2025 Sheltering Tree Volunteer Group of the Year**

*Omaha, NE — September 5, 2025* — WhyArts, Inc. has been selected as the **2025 Sheltering Tree Volunteer Group of the Year**. This award recognizes a collective effort by an organization whose service has made a lasting impact on Sheltering Tree tenants and communities.

WhyArts has partnered with Sheltering Tree to provide monthly arts programming that brings creativity, connection, and joy to residents. Through hands-on workshops led by professional teaching artists, WhyArts has fostered inclusive spaces for self-expression and community building.

“We are honored to receive the Volunteer Group of the Year Award from Sheltering Tree,” said Mary Gibilisco, Executive Director of WhyArts. “Our teaching artists show up with open hearts and creative energy because we believe that everyone deserves access to the arts. It’s been incredible to see the residents’ confidence, creativity, and sense of belonging grow through these experiences.”

Lucia Milone, President of the WhyArts Board of Directors, added: “This recognition is truly a celebration of the entire WhyArts community — our teaching artists, staff, and partners who share a belief in the power of creativity to bring people together. We are proud to stand alongside Sheltering Tree and honored to support their tenants through meaningful, joyful arts programming.”

The award will be presented at the **Sheltering Tree Gala on Friday, September 12, 2025**. As part of the celebration, WhyArts will be featured in a video presentation highlighting the impact of its work with Sheltering Tree residents.

### **About WhyArts, Inc.**

WhyArts provides access to inclusive arts education and experiences for historically marginalized and underserved communities by creating strategic partnerships that connect professional teaching artists with community organizations.

### **About Sheltering Tree**

Sheltering Tree is a nonprofit organization providing affordable housing communities where adults with developmental disabilities can live independently with support, dignity, and purpose.

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