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For immediate release

Center Players Announces 2011/2012 Michelle Catania Children's Program Scholarship Winners

Freehold, New Jersey, August 16, 2011—The Michelle Catania Children's Theater Program and Center Players Inc. today announced the winners of the 2011/2012 Michelle Catania Children's Theater Program Scholarship. The scholarship was established to honor the legacy of Michelle Catania, who lost her battle with breast cancer in 2010 after a valiant 10-year fight. In an effort to preserve her memory and true spirit, many loving family members and friends established the Michelle Catania Children's Theater Program, in partnership with the Center Players, her local community theater in Freehold, NJ. The program provides children's theater programming in addition to awarding one \$500 scholarship each year in each of the states she called home, Florida and New Jersey. To qualify for the scholarship, a member of the applicant's immediate family must have had a serious bout with cancer. This year's scholarships were awarded to Kamaria Baysmore, who will be attending Kean University in Union, NJ, and Katie Grey Coleman, who will be attending the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

"We commend the dedication, achievement and contributions of these young, talented women in both academics and community service," said Maggie Gunther, Administrator of the Michelle Catania Children's Theater Program. "These scholarships pay tribute to Michelle's enduring legacy. The scholarship recipients are fine students who excelled in school and community service while dealing with cancer in their family life."

"We are thrilled to award these scholarships to Kamaria and Katie," said Bernice Garfield-Szita, President of Center Players. "By supporting the next generation of academically successful students involved in theater and community service, we pay tribute to Michelle and her vision of young adults involved in the arts."

For the 2011-2012 academic year, the program received numerous applications from students planning to attend many different colleges and universities in both Florida and New Jersey. Selection criteria includes academic performance, letters of recommendation, an essay about how cancer affected the student's life, and qualifying letters from the student's parent or guardian. More information about the Michelle Catania Children's Theater Program Scholarship can be found at <http://michellecatania.wordpress.com/scholarship-Program/>.

About the Michelle Catania Children's Theater Program

Michelle Catania enriched so many lives. A group of family and friends created a legacy befitting her name: The Michelle Catania Children's Theater Program, a theater arts program for children and teens in partnership with Center Players, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit resident community theater company in Freehold, NJ, whose stage has become a second home to Michelle. The mission of the Michelle Catania Children's Theater Program is to provide opportunities for children and adults to become involved in the community through theater arts that entertain, educate and provide opportunities for scholarships for higher education. For more information, visit <http://michellecatania.wordpress.com/>.

About Center Players, Inc.

Center Players, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The mission of Center Players, Inc. shall be to bring enrichment through the performing arts to the diverse community it serves. To achieve this goal, the organization will conduct activities and programs to educate and entertain its patrons, and provide actors, directors and other creative people the opportunity to pursue their craft. For more information on Center Players, Inc, visit www.centerplayers.org and their blog at <http://centerplayers.wordpress.com/>.

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