

# THE ART EFFECT

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Dutchess Arts Camps Nurture Creativity and Friendship



**POUGHKEEPSIE, NY** - Nine years ago, two six year old best friends attended Dutchess Arts Camp in Red Hook, NY for the very first time. Sadly, on January 11, 2017 one of the friends passed away from brain cancer at the age of 11. Owen Stier and Theo Alves truly embody the spirit and joy that Dutchess Arts Camp strives to provide children throughout the Hudson Valley for almost 40 years .

Owen and Theo had been best friends and inseparable since they were babies. Together the boys attended camp every summer for five years, enjoying each other's company and creating fantastical flights of artistic fancy.

The summer after Theo's passing, Owen could not bear to attend camp without his good friend, but in 2018 he returned with a plan to honor his friend and raise money for brain cancer research in Theo's name. While living without Theo continued to be difficult for Owen, he wanted to create ways to celebrate Theo's memory and their friendship. In addition to raising funds for cancer research, he began raising funds for a scholarship to give other children the opportunity to experience the place he and Theo both loved: Dutchess Arts Camp.

Owen raised \$570 dollars that summer and continued to raise money for the scholarship fund for the rest of the year, raising a total of \$2,000. Each day of camp Owen collected money at the front door and at the final

