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The Confidence of Children

By FOR THE SUN TIMES
Posted 2 days ago

Confidence in children, I believe it is something that is missing in many of today's youth. It is why I believe so strongly in finding that one thing that allows children to experience success. Those moments can be loud or quiet, but the result is the same. When a child can say, I am somebody, I CAN, I'm special or I believe in me. They then stand a little taller, a little straighter and see themselves and the world around them a little more clearly.

Music and the arts have been an avenue of success for my children and many others. Where the ultimate rule of hard work pays off. This past summer I had the privilege of being there when The Georgian Bay Children's Choir competed and experienced the Summa Cum Laude Music Festival in Vienna. As can be imagined the experience was indescribable in many ways, but I remember one moment above all others. Our group had the opportunity to go to Kapuvar, Hungary. A small town with a warm and hospitable heart. They welcomed us with dance show featuring traditional Hungarian Dancers. Language is never a barrier when it comes to art!

We performed with 2 other choirs for a local community in an old church. The first was a local Hungarian Choir, then an Australian Choir. Both of these choirs were much larger than ours and I know the kids and those of us from Canada felt a bit intimidated with our age group being 10-17. The Australian Choir was a university Choir, with members ranging age of 18-24 and the Hungarian Choir comprised of mostly young women. When our choir sang that day the outcome was incredible. After each piece the crowd applauded with such zeal, the effect were blatantly visible on our small younger group. Throughout our performance, the kids began looking at this Australian and Hungarian Choirs for support and were never disappointed. They received standing ovations, and loud boisterous cheering that young people so often express. Everyone in that room could see and feel the effects that this experience was having on our kids. By the end they were beaming.

As a parent, I was brought to tears at seeing such an obvious transformation. An experience that could never have been contrived or duplicated. I know that the effects of that day moved each of our kids in a way that will last a lifetime, bringing about an anchoring of self that can only have happened by chance. Confidence and self worth passes on like wildfire. Once its started, it is easily passed on and multiplied. Leslie Hallman -GBCC Choir Parent

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- An Exhibit: Owen Sound's Harbour Jewel
- Ang Li in Concert
- Beyond the Garage Door
- Classes- Taoist Tai Chi
- Evening Beginner Classes Taoist Tai Chi