

The Foundation Center

'Spotlight On...'

March 4, 2002

Organization Name: Nicu's Spoon, Inc.

Year Founded: 2001

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Mission: At Nicu's Spoon we are dedicated to producing socially relevant theatrical works that present new ideas, challenge definitions, and touch the heart in an unexpected way. We celebrate the collaborative spirit in developing productions that are pertinent for today's 'global' and rapidly changing world. New York City is full of people from vastly different backgrounds, on the move and unheard. We give voice to those who are very much a part of our world, but whose stories often go untold. We seek to involve these diverse voices in our play selection, in our artistic, production and volunteer staffs, and in our audience. This culminates in our core values.

Background: We outreach to any and all of the boroughs of New York and pay no attention to economic status (we are a member of the high5 tickets program for Urban Youth to get \$5 tickets) age (we work with RSVP in order to access seniors and the elderly) or language (we advertised for 'Displaced' in 5 languages and 6 languages were spoken in the play) or physical disability. Our intent is to serve the entire city and all who live in it. Active audience development is a constant goal and will continue to involve the refugee community, the UN community, women's groups, children's rights groups, various cultural institutions and embassies, the theater community, the relief organization community, the tourist community, various ethnic communities long neglected by theatre production, youth groups, church groups, and others. Our artists and interns come from all over the city. 'Displaced' involved the collaborative efforts of a team ranging in age from 12 (our youngest lobby artist) to 76 (one of our dramaturges) and from a total of 14 different countries.

We work with RSVP-Retired Senior Volunteer Program, ArtforChange, Theater Development Fund, High5 Tickets and others not to duplicate services but to serve the people they serve. They provide social and advocacy services and we join them in providing educational theater they can not only relate to but come and be a part of. Our roster of volunteers is enormous and varied in every way. In our diversity is our strength. We work with service providing organizations in order to provide art which is created in order to change lives.

Current Programs: Our programs include: Urban Interns and Urban Artists (working with marginalized youth in arts and theater), our Playwrights Development program (with minority, immigrant and women playwrights) and our multi-media projects involving new music, film and art forms, including childrens art. Every two years we develop an original theater piece, our first - 'Displaced' ran for 3 weeks off-broadway this year and was submitted for the Pulitzer Prize.

Funding Needs: Funds to support our ongoing programs are needed, as well as funds for our new media projects. These will produce new films by women and minorities about subjects important to them. Nicu's Spoon is also beginning a capital campaign this holiday season - we are looking for funds to purchase a creative center of our own.

Every month, the "Spotlight On" highlights the activities of a different 501(c)3 nonprofit organization located in the tri-state region (NY, NJ, or CT). The selection of organizations for the "Spotlight On" is based on criteria such as programmatic interests, geographic focus, and size, to ensure the broadest possible representation of the region's nonprofit sector.