

Children of Katrina

Then and Now An Exhibition on the Power of the Arts to Heal



INTERNATIONAL
CHILD ART
FOUNDATION

Children of Katrina

Then and Now

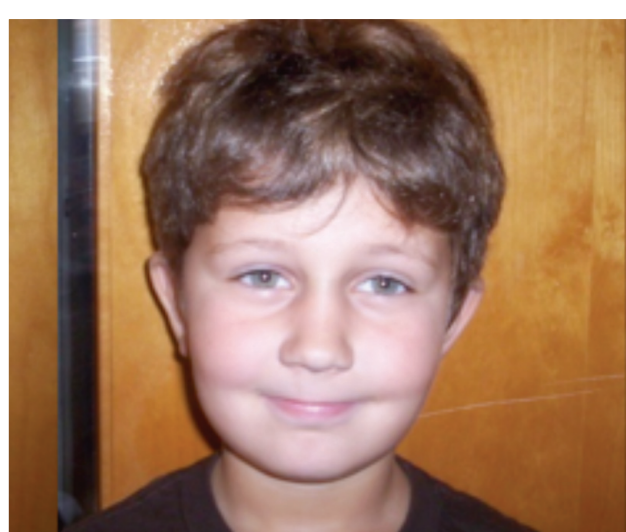
INTERNATIONAL
CHILD ART
FOUNDATION

Part I

We are the
Katrina Survivors



Jordan Cole, age 12



Adam Cooper, age 10



Rhiannon Davidson, age 10



Michael Dixon, age 10



Allyson Ladner, age 11



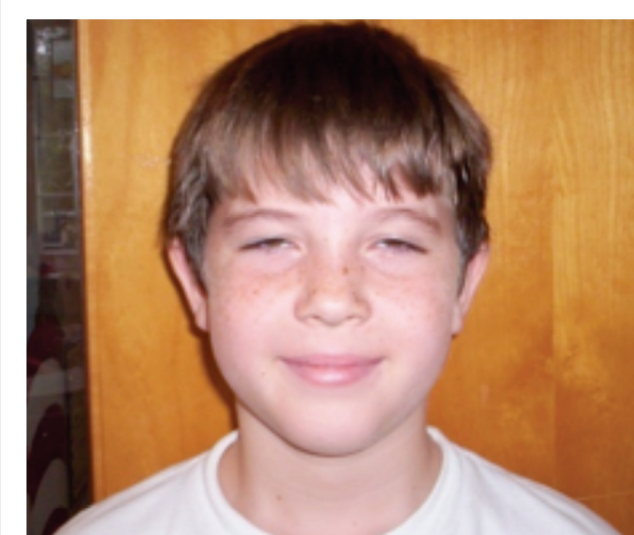
Rachel Levy, age 10



Cayson Miles, age 10



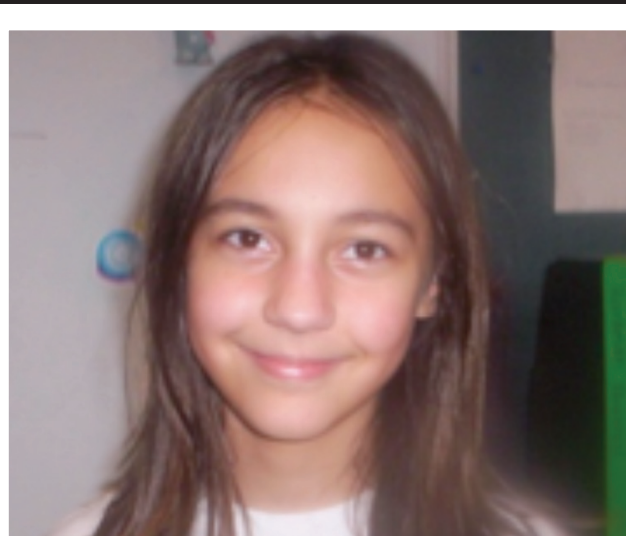
Destin Parker, age 11



Joseph Spires, age 12



Allison Starks, age 10



Brooke Trichesset, age 12

Children of Katrina

Then and Now

INTERNATIONAL
CHILD ART
FOUNDATION

Part II

See what Katrina
did to us

Programmatic experience of the International Child Art Foundation as well as scientific studies and research attest to the immense psychological impact on children by natural disasters and war. Children who experience death and devastation are at high risk for a variety of mental health problems including anxiety disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and childhood traumatic grief (CTG), a condition affecting those who experience a death under traumatic circumstances. Preventing and treating the distress experienced by children as soon as possible is crucial for optimal long-term health and recovery.

Eleven year old Katrina survivor, Chad McDowell, says:

“When one experiences a sudden dramatic event, your brain may have a hard time dealing with it. It is kind of too much for your brain to grasp all in one moment. Sometimes it feels like it might have been a dream, even though you know it was real.”



Children of Katrina

Then and Now

INTERNATIONAL
CHILD ART
FOUNDATION

Part III

Katrina made us
upset and angry

Hurricane Katrina, the deadliest hurricane in the United States since 1928, struck the Gulf Coast on August 29–30, 2005, killing 1,836 people and causing more than \$80 billion in damage.

In the week following the hurricane, the children painted these depictions of the storm and its destruction. They experience a range of emotions, from fear and confusion to sadness and anger. They were upset because their mothers were crying and their fathers were yelling. Angry because their houses, neighborhoods, and schools had been destroyed or because they had to share a home with strangers.

The art activities of the International Child Art Foundation offered the children an opportunity to express their feelings, perceptions, and memories in ways that words cannot.

Children of Katrina

Then and Now

INTERNATIONAL
CHILD ART
FOUNDATION

Part IV

Today, thanks to
you, we feel better

The United Arab Emirates donated **\$100 million** to the Katrina recovery effort, with most of the funds spent on rebuilding schools.

Apart from the kindness and generosity of governments and individuals around the world, Katrina turned out to be a positive experience for several children. One child used to live in a trailer, but now he has a brick home. Another has a new dad as her mother married one of the volunteers. Schools received books and toys and art supplies. Revisiting the Katrina survivors after three years revealed the resiliency that children have which adults often do not appreciate.