

PERCUSSION NEWS

The newsletter of the PERCUSSIVE ARTS SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2010

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Thousands Celebrate Global Health and Wellness Initiative

The Percussive Arts Society significantly brought awareness to the health benefits of recreational drumming by engaging thousands of people around the world in the second year of the program *Recreational Drumming: Celebrating Health and Wellness*. Last year's event evolved from the success of the pilot program launched in October 2008 and from additional support through a NAMM Foundation grant that allowed PAS to provide more educational resources, increase participation and create a meaningful program to engage its members. Additionally, facilitators were given resources to help them find ways to sustain their programs through grants and foundation assistance.

From October 4–18, 2009, the Percussive Arts Society invited recreational drumming facilitators and PAS chapters to create recreational drumming events in their own communities. From North America to South Africa and Europe, events were held in hospitals, community centers, schools and other community venues. Thousands of participants represented a variety of cultures, lifestyles and ages. Students and teachers at all educational levels, adults in recovery, multigenerational families, future music therapists, veterans and at-risk children are just a few of the populations that were served through this event.

Last fall's celebration marked a significant increase from the previous year's pilot program. In October 2009, over 3,600 people participated in 101 events around the world, as compared to 1,600 people who participated in 24 events world-wide in October 2008.

