## TAI CHI YOUTH PROMO

EIN: 87-0554261

One Sentence Description: (25 words or less)

Tai Chi Youth is a nonprofit education organization that utilizes Tai Chi and Zen wisdoms to balance the minds and bodies of youths at risk.

Tai Chi Youth is a nonprofit education organization that utilizes Tai Chi and Shaolin Zen wisdoms to balance and improve the bodies and minds of youths at risk.

### What We Do:

Tai Chi Youth was founded in 1991 by Master Zhen Shen-Lang, a world renowned Kung Fu, Tai Chi, and Zen master. Our programs have been proven in maximum security prisons and rehabilitation centers to improve learning skills, improve health, and cure drug addiction. Tai Chi Youth provides a variety of programs utilizing Tai Chi and Yoga to enhance the health and well-being of each student as well as after school programs that keep teenagers out of trouble and provide them worthwhile activities and exercises to practice at home.

Operating Programs: (major operating programs, size, beneficiaries)
Tai Chi Youth programs are especially beneficial to families where both parents work and cannot provide parental supervision. We provide traditional manners, etiquette, and leadership skills as students learn to work in supportive teams and independently. Our after school programs normally operate on a 4-month semester system with 12 to 20 students per class. Classes range from daily to weekly. T.C.Y. can also design programs to suit the needs and time constraints of youth prisons, and rehabilitation centers through seminars and monthly "Spiritual Bootcamp" workshops. Tai Chi Youth also promotes annual tournaments, has been funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, N.E.A., and sanctioned by the Amateur Athletic Union.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Year Ending 2005:

- 1. Tai Chi Kids program launched at YMCA, Tujunga, California. Combining, stretching, exercise (including situps and pushups), Kung Fu kicking and punching, with Chinese Qigong breathing exercises, the kids have all shown amazing development in their initial few months of enrollment. Ages 6 11 comprise the Tai Chi Kids membership as they learn the Yang Style Tai Chi (taijiquan) Form exercise.
- 2. http://www.taichiKIDS.com launched thanks to http://www.shaolinCOMMUNICATIONS.com and webmaster Richard Del Connor. Some historical legends combined with modern youth interests have proven educational and enjoyable as the students also practice their Tai Chi to get a picture on the website.

Tai Chi Youth Performance Team performs at Utah Annual Asian Festival. Due to demands from various organizations, 2 more unscheduled performances are included during the same day.

- 2. Tai Chi Youth sponsors and promotes the only all-Chinese martial arts, dance, and music tournament for the the third consecutive year.
- 3. Tai Chi Youth Patriarch, Master Zhen Shen-Lang is nominated as the Chairman of Chinese Martial Arts for the Utah Amateur Athletic Association.

The Tai Chi Youth Performance Team has been supported and hired by various Utah Government Department, Asian Councils, and schools to perform our traditional and original music and dances for thousands of audiences and received accolades from the Utah Governor.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

Funding for office, secretary, TCY Program Director, TCY Membership Director, TCY Patriarch, TCY Fundraising Agent, and building online studio classes.

## **KEYWORDS:** 100 characters maximum

youth at risk, rehabilitation, kung fu, yoga, exercise, physical fitness, China, cultural arts, ethnic, awareness, youth, youth at risk, rehabilitation, delinquency prevention, education, tai chi, kung fu, gongfu, yoga, exercise, rehabilitation, rehab, drugs, gangs, prevention, crime, Zen, health, mental health, taijiquan, qigong, China, Chinese, meditation, stretching, education, arts, culture, cultural arts, dance, ethnic, traditional, performing, awareness, humanities, boys, girls

youth, youth at risk, rehabilitation, education, tai chi, kung fu, yoga, exercise, rehabilitation, rehab, drugs, gangs, prevention, crime, Zen, health, well-being, self-empowerment, contentment, mental health, taiji, taijiquan, gongfu, qi, qigong, chi gong, China, Chinese, meditation, stretching, education, arts, culture, cultural arts, dance, Chinese Opera, lion dance, ethnic, traditional

#### NTEE CODES:

A20 Arts, Cultural Organizations - Multipurpose

E99 Health - General & Rehabilitative N.E.C.

F20 Alcohol, Drug, and Substance Abuse, Dependency, Prevention & Treatment

O50 Youth Development Programs

O51 Community Service Clubs, Youth Development

O55 Religious Leadership, Youth Development

A60 Performing Arts

A70 Humanities Organizations

A80 Historical Societies and Related Activities

A99 Other Art, Culture, Humanities Organizations/Services N.E.C.

W70 Leadership Development

W99 Public, Society Benefit - Multipurpose & Other N.E.C. X50 Buddhist X99 Religious Related, Spiritual Development N.E.C.

## **NTEE CODES USED:**

A23

F22

A6E

## TCY HISTORY:

Richard O'Connor, was a Journeyman Carpenter and independent contractor for 18 years. During those years he entertained hundreds of people by practicing his Tai Chi high atop scaffolds during his coffee and lunch breaks. He also trained his fellow employees and realized the potential of Tai Chi when he helped a fellow carpenter overcome an addiction to heroin with daily Tai Chi lessons in 1985. In 1991 Richard volunteered to teach Tai Chi at a Utah maximum security prison. In less than 2 months his 15 students had improved so dramatically that the prison officials petitioned the Governor to hire him. Since then Richard has worked tirelessly to create our nonprofit status and organize our curriculums for elementary schools, jr. highs, and even a senior's program taught at YMCA and YWCA.

Shifu Richard Connor, was a Journeyman Carpenter and independent contractor for 18 years. During those years he entertained hundreds of people by practicing his Tai Chi high atop scaffolds during his coffee and lunch breaks. He also trained his fellow employees and realized the potential of Tai Chi when he helped a fellow carpenter overcome an addiction to heroin with daily Tai Chi lessons. In 1991, Richard volunteered to teach Tai Chi at a Utah maximum security prison. In less than 2 months his 15 students had improved so dramatically that the prison officials petitioned the Governor to hire him. Richard worked for several years to create our nonprofit status and organize our curriculums for elementary schools, jr. highs, and senior programs.

Since relocating the California, Shifu Richard has led the students in parades and public performances for audiences in Los Angeles. In 2008, Richard launched the Buddha Kung Fu schools, www.BuddhaKungFu.com

## **Operating Programs**

Tai Chi Youth programs are especially beneficial to families where both parents work and cannot provide parental supervision. We provide traditional manners, etiquette, weight loss exercises that eliminate obesity, and TCY teaches leadership skills as students learn to work in supportive teams and independently. Our after school programs normally operate on a 4-month semester system with 12 to 20 students per class. Classes range from daily to weekly. T.C.Y. can also design programs to suit the needs and time constraints of youth prisons, and rehabilitation centers through seminars and monthly "Zen Bootcamp" workshops.

In 2008 the Tai Chi Youth curricuums were taught in two YMCAs, and at public parks contracted by the Los Angeles Parks & Recreation Department. With more three classes per week, and classes taught in three locations, over 200 students were enrolled.

The beneficiaries of the Tai Chi Youth curriculums include the family and associates of each TCY student. As each student improves in their Tai Chi skills, many other social skills, job functions, and school learning abilities improve also. Since each student is in contact with 100 persons or more per year it can be estimated that each Tai Chi Youth student improves his/her community, without even trying to.

Tai Chi Youth also promotes annual tournaments, has been funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, N.E.A., Utah Arts Council, many small businesses, donors, grocery stores, restaurants, and sanctioned by the Amateur Athletic Union, AAU.

The Tai Chi Youth Performance Team has been supported and hired by various Utah Government Department, Asian Councils, and schools to perform our traditional and original music and dances for thousands of audiences and received accolades from the Utah Governor.

## Additional comments:

The Tai Chi Youth Performance Team has been supported and hired by various Utah Government Department, Asian Councils, and schools to perform our traditional and original music and dances for thousands of audiences and received recommendations from the Utah Governor.

## **Self-Assessment:**

Our curriculums include testing, certificates, and graduation ceremonies. Students are evaluated each class, then solo perform monthly, and utilize the TCY BELT TEST APPROVAL FORM for monitoring their progress and listing their current requirements for advancement.

Each TCY Belt Rank also requires specific oral readings and homework by the student which must be approved before attaining their next Belt Rank advancement.

#### Goals:

Increase donations through online website: http://www.taichiYOUTH.org/donate.html

Support and promote two Push Hands Tournaments to promote Tai Chi and demonstrate nonviolent competition.

Support and promote one Tai Chi and Kung Fu tournament in November 2009 to promote the art and benefits of Tai Chi to the public and other martial arts styles.

## **Keywords:**

youth, youth at risk, rehabilitation, education, tai chi, kung fu, yoga, exercise,

rehabilitation, rehab, drugs, gangs, prevention, crime, Zen, health, well-being, self-empowerment, contentment, mental health, taiji, taijiquan, gongfu, qi, qigong, chi gong, China, Chinese, meditation, stretching, education, arts, culture, cultural arts, dance, leadership, skills, obesity, ethnic, traditional

# **Accomplishments:**

As of 12/30/2000:

- 1. Tai Chi Youth Performance Team performs at Utah Annual Asian Festival. Due to demands from various organizations, 2 more unscheduled performances are included during the same day.
- 2. Tai Chi Youth sponsors and promotes the only all-Chinese martial arts, dance, and music tournament for the the third consecutive year.
- 3. Tai Chi Youth Patriarch, Master Zhen Shen-Lang is nominated as the Chairman of Chinese Martial Arts for the Utah Amateur Athletic Association.

#### **SELF-ASSESSMENT:**

Tai Chi Youth is seeking a University to conduct a year by year study of how our students achieve more, live healthier, and stay out of trouble better than non enrolled students.

Our curriculums include testing, certificates, graduation ceremonies...