



**United Neighborhood Centers  
of Northeastern Pennsylvania**  
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**United Neighborhood Youth Theater's First Performance a Sold-Out Success**

**Scranton, PA** – United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania's (UNC) recently launched Youth Theater Group performed "Breaking Down Barriers: A Musical Revue" to a sold-out audience at the Providence Playhouse, Scranton, on Friday, June 4, 2010. This night marked the first ever live staging for the cast of 18 local teens, representing such high schools as Lackawanna Trail, West Scranton and Holy Cross, and their mentors. Additional performances were also held on Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6.

The revue focused on not only popular musical numbers from hit shows such as "Spring Awakening", "West Side Story" and "Rent", but songs that struck on social issues, like diversity and interracial relationships, that the youth performing felt they face every day.

Katie Bower, Youth Special Initiatives Coordinator and co-founder of the group, reacted, "I'm thrilled to have had the opportunity to share what I love and to watch the students grow as performers and people and to develop friendships they might not have otherwise. The energy in the theater, especially opening night, was electric and positive and I truly hope this production will be the catalyst for a permanent Youth Theater Company in Scranton."

*(Continued on next page)*

Pictured below is a portion of the cast:



**Back row, standing, from L to R:** Vicky Hunsinger, Leyda Rivera, Brandon Foster, Maria Salerno

**Middle row, from L to R:** Leanna Grant, Tyree Myrkalo, Jadiel Hernandez, Galen Haggerty

**Front row, from L to R:** Victoria Kusy, Kristen Southard, Alex Rojek

### **About United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA**

*United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania is a private, not-for-profit, grass-roots United Way agency that offers direct and general advocacy services for youth, singles, families and senior citizens in combination with programs that foster independence and self-sufficiency. The agency's mission is to work together with neighbors to provide services and create opportunities which empower individuals and build strong interdependent communities.*

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