



**STAGES OF LIFE** — Dylan Flye of New Salem, creator of the Stages of Life Summer Theatre Program, poses with a group of participants at a recent workshop at the Pinecrest Apartments in Orange.

## Summer Theatre Program At Pinecrest

ORANGE—The “Stages Of Life,” a free summer theatre enrichment program, is being held at the Pinecrest Apartments on East River Street, daily, through Friday, July 10, from noon to 4 p.m., in the Pinecrest Community Room. It is open to children ages 6 to 16.

Created by Dylan Flye of New Salem in 2007, Stages of Life’s core mission is “to promote the values of confidence, respect, trust, teamwork, and communication through acting.”

“Growing up in New Salem,” said Flye, “I was exposed to and have been involved in theatre since age 4. I recognize theatre’s ability to provide a medium for self-expression and the therapeutic nature of the acting process. That is why I am so grateful to share my vision and create a program

where I can provide these opportunities for children less fortunate.”

Funded by virtue of a David Workman Grant from Deerfield Academy, where Flye recently graduated, the Charles Piper Cost Award for Community Service, independent donors, and fundraising endeavors, Stages of Life took strides in becoming incorporated as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization last year.

“It is my vision” added Flye, “that this program will continue to grow and continue to provide these opportunities to other towns beyond Franklin County. It is in the experience of every involved student that the success of the program is evident. The goal then becomes to engage as many students as possible.”

When Flye attends Duke

University next year, he hopes to bring Stages of Life with him.

A glance inside the Community Room at Pinecrest revealed students hard at work writing their own skits or waiting, usually with little patience, to engage in an exercise.

“Sometimes I will write out different emotions on notecards and have the students act them out one at a time. Then, I’ll have the group try and guess which emotion the actor conveyed. We repeat the process with specific actions or nuances” said Flye. “I am particularly proud of the work that kids create themselves. It’s personal. I ask them to talk about things important to themselves and share their passions with the group. I see progress in every single stu-

dent.”

“Again, I’m not trying to make them professional actors,” Flye said, “I’m giving them tools for the rest of their lives. I have seen participants too shy to introduce themselves on the first day, write and perform a monologue after a week. It takes tremendous courage for these kids, but I feel we are building a concrete foundation one case at a time.”

“This program is something in short supply,” commented Lyndale Spencer of Federal Management Co., Inc. and Property Manager of Pinecrest Apartments. “We are so grateful to welcome Stages of Life, for the visible impact it has on bringing our community together to share in this supportive environment.”

For more information on Stages of Life, or see the schedule of upcoming programs visit the Web site at [stages-of-life.org](http://stages-of-life.org).

## Chinese And Muslims Hold Protests In Restive West

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