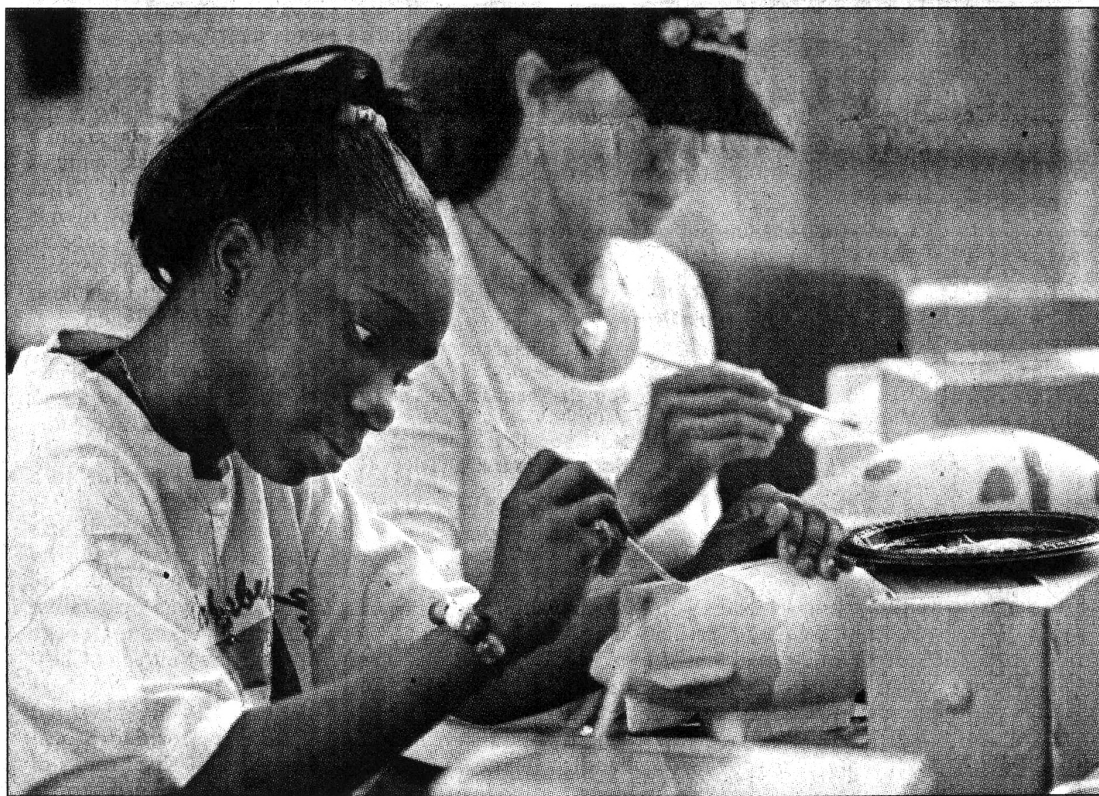
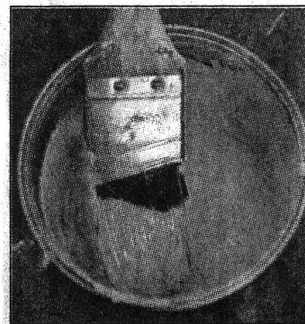


SOARING DREAMS

AERIAL ARTISTRY



STAR-TELEGRAM/PAUL MOSELEY

Keonna Davis and her "big sister," Billie Monroe, paint blimp banks as part of the Soaring Dreams project.

Group paints panels for display on blimp

By **SHIRLEY JINKINS**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

ARLINGTON — Adults and children worked on their hands and knees on the floor of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Arlington office Monday to paint pink panels that will touch the sky.

The work of about 6,000 children in after-school programs, youth organizations and pediatric hospitals in 20 cities in the Southwest will be displayed on the Ameriquest Soaring Dreams

airship, which will begin touring the country in the spring.

The blimp will be covered with 40,000 square feet of painted panels in 150 shapes, said Susan Nassberg, a spokeswoman for Portraits of Hope, an art-therapy program.

"Every shape has a different color and size, so they'll be able to look at the airship and they'll know which panel is theirs," Nassberg said.

The ship will be decorated

after the football season at a facility in Tustin, Calif.

Billie Monroe of Arlington and her "little sister," Keonna Davis, 12, enjoyed painting miniature blimp banks before tackling the big panels.

"Actually, mostly we like to shop and we like to eat," Monroe said of their usual outings.

The Soaring Dreams program kicked off in Arlington and has visited major cities in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.