

Donors Making a Difference



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Special thanks to Ricardo's for raising funds for the neighborhood Art House through their delicious rib dinner benefit! It was another first for us and we could not be more thrilled. If you or someone you

know is looking to hold a fundraiser on behalf of the Neighborhood Art House programs, please contact Kelly Stolar, CFRE. We would be happy to entertain your ideas.

Hometown Hero

MaxPro Technologies Inc. was recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of NW PA as an Outstanding Philanthropic Organization on November 13th. Led by the late Paul Bowser, a dedicated supporter of the Art House for many years, Paul's vision was always rooted in creating more opportunities for Erie's inner-city youth, providing them with access to education, art, and new experiences.



Paul's commitment to our mission was unwavering. His dedication lives on in MaxPro's continued support. Under his leadership, MaxPro has contributed more than \$284,000 through the EITC Program to the Art House, enabling us to offer more classes each year, hire talented teachers, and invest in technology that empowers students. Paul's family and coworkers were present to accept this award.

*For more information on the EITC Program please contact Kelly Stolar.

MEMORIAL

Thank you to the Families of
Marian Bergamasco
Martin H. Buchman
Doug Davis
for Designating Donations in their memory

2024 Top-Rated Non Profit

- We are honored to be recognized by GreatNonProfits as one of their 2024 Top-Rated Nonprofits! We appreciate all your help to make this recognition a reality.



Taste of the Arts 2024: Starry Night Sponsors



Museum Level

Anonymous, Martha Hilbert, Humes Chrysler Jeep Dodge & Ram, Linda and Terry Irvin Charitable Trust, Reed Manufacturing

Stage Level

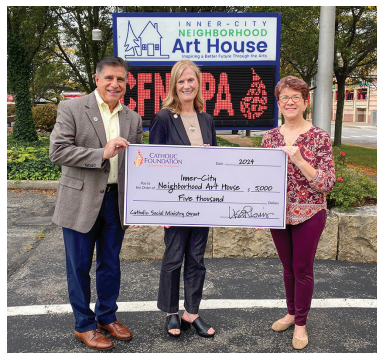
Becky & Bill Hilbert, Mary Lincoln, Marco & Betsy Monsalve, Barbara Pollock, PNC, Stephen & Lalida Raj

Gallery Level

Tom & Kathy Burik, Chinsky Family, Mary Ellen Dahlkemper in memory of Lois Hanlin Dahlkemper, Atty. Mark & Amy Denlinger, Mary Alice & Tom Doolin, John & Nancy Hilbert, Larese Floral Design, Thomas J. Loftus Family, Mercyhurst Preparatory School, Morris Coupling Company, Sharon & Shawn Rooney, Tim & Annalynn Shuttleworth

Studio Level

AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania, Birkmire Trucking/Big Box Rentals, Kathy & Jim Dammeyer, Little Caesars, Loesel-Schaaf Insurance Agency, Inc, WJET-TV



Grant Funding

Each year the Art House receives grant funding from various sources. We have received assistance for project needs, furnishings to meet ADA compliance, plus vital operational costs. Thanks to

all who supported us this year: 2024 Catholic Social Ministry Grant; Benedictine Ministry Fund; Catholic Campaign for Human Development; Charles I Blake Family Foundation; Erie Community Foundation - Hovis Fund; Find Your Light Foundation; Gannon University Schuster Arts Re-Grant Initiative; Huplits Grant (Sierra Club); John Nesbit Rees & Sarah Henne Rees Charitable Foundation; RBC-USA Regional Grant.



201 East Tenth Street
Erie, PA 16503

Address Service Requested



To change your mailing address or to be removed from our mailing list please give us a call at (814)455-5508, or an email at hfilbeck@neighborhoodarthouse.org with the name and address to be removed.

New Staff

Kiizira Lee Receptionist

Kiizera (Kizzy) Lee has joined the Art House team as a part-time staff member and couldn't be happier! She recently started teaching music and singing at local community centers and is the Intro to Piano teacher at the Art House. She is passionate about music and is grateful to share that enthusiasm with her students. Kiizera is involved in the theatre and was last seen as the lead in Alice by Heart, on the Drama Shop stage. She looks forward to future productions.



Thomas Hoffman Facilities Manager

Tom joined the Neighborhood Art House this summer as a part-time Maintenance Manager who is also sharing his expertise part time with Emmaus Ministries. Most of his working career was spent in Distribution at the Erie Times-News. When his newspaper career was ending, a former boss and friend, along with his aunt, introduced him to the Art House. "The name 'Art House' is an understatement; it's so much more. I find it a blessing and privilege to play a small role in keeping the facility going." Tom will surely be very busy as he is also a devoted son, husband, dad, and grandfather to a very dedicated and loving family.



Executive Director
Kelly Stolar, CFRE

Program Director
Lourdes Jasso

Community Art Director
Sarah Everett, MFA

Environmental Director
Pat Lupo, OSB

DATES OF NOTE

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| December 3 | #iGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday |
| December 12 | Afterschool Program Showcase |
| January 13 | Start of Winter/Spring Session |

Winter 2024

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR



Gianna- Age 10

Wishing you a **harvest** of **blessings**,
a **joyous holiday season** and a
healthful, Happy New Year.

Kids Corner



Dynamic Duos

Have you ever encountered five sets of twins in one program? We're excited to share that we currently have this unique experience! These wonderful pairs continue to inspire each other and enrich our community with their projects!



The Creative World of String Art

String art students have been crafting a variety of fun projects that showcase their artistic talents with intricate patterns and different colors to create unique pieces that reflect their individual styles.



Bake A Way Today: A Recipe for Empowerment

In Bake A Way offered by Tiffany Melendez, not only do students create delicious treats, they also craft sweet memories and meaningful connections. Each whisk and sprinkle becomes a step toward inner strength, self-love, and resilience. Thanks in part to the Schuster grant, we were able to invest in larger appliances and other goods.

Green Team

We are the Green Team, and we want to protect the Earth, its water, and its people. Polluted and dirty water can make humans and animals on Earth sick and ill. Oil and gas are two things that pollute water. Everyday items such as candy wrappers, plastic wrappers, cigarette butts, and single-use plastics also pollute our water.

Written by students Anthony Diaz and Anthony Mollise



Community Art



Community Art Classes

Alex Strasser has made a great first impression with her Pen & Ink workshop. Adult students are learning about drawing as well as creating visual effects with a variety of line techniques and values. In October, Lynn Marie Fizel led an evening macrame workshop, with participants knotting their way to a hand-crafted plant hanger. Check our website for more upcoming class opportunities.

Homeschool

Homeschool classes are back with the largest enrollment to date! The students are learning about art history, wire sculpture, digital photography, drawing, felting, macrame, and sculpture.



Honoring Sr. Mary and Sr. Mary Lou

We are very proud to honor the memories of Art House founders, Sisters Mary Miller and Mary Lou Kownacki, with the installation of two murals in our Clay Space.

Students from our Homeschool Program worked with artist Cathy Ferraro. Sr. Mary loved ginkgo trees, and students highlighted the symbolism and beauty of this ancient tree in their artwork. Summer Day Camp at Glinodo students worked with artist Lorena Alvarez Toca. Sr. Mary Lou's love of poetry, blue herons, and sports are highlighted in the colorful, peace-sign centered canvas. Sr. Mary's and Sr. Mary Lou's spirit will remain with us for many years.



Teachers and Volunteers: **Andy Tellers**

Meet Andy Tellers, a jack of all trades, and master of tutoring! He is a dedicated volunteer who tutors countless students, jumps into projects in Upcycle class, and assists with our fundraisers.



Since starting in 2023, Andy has consistently prioritized tutoring every Tuesday, understanding his role extends far beyond academics. For him, it's about building confidence, sparking curiosity, and celebrating the potential of each youth he meets.

When asked what inspires him to volunteer at the Art House, his response was simple. "A few years ago my granddaughter was taking classes 4-5 days a week and really enjoyed it. I wanted to help. It was easy since I was already a substitute teacher in the Erie School District. For the past two years, I have been reading to students and helping them with their studies. It is a wonderful place to volunteer and also to see my granddaughter thrive."

If interested in volunteering, please contact Jill Bucceri at jbucceri@neighborhoodarthouse.org or give us a call at (814)455-5508!

From Kelly's Desk: **GROWING PAINS....**



Growing pains are something many of us have experienced in life. Growth can lead to both challenges and opportunities. For the Neighborhood Art House, the growing pains stem from the intentional expansion of our programs and the increased number of people we have reached, which is due to both our great staff and your support. The staff has led us with a wide variety of classes that make the Neighborhood Art House a highly respected and sought-after community resource in the arts. Also, your generosity and funding has enabled us to broaden our mission and commitment to the community. Over the past two years, we have increased our impact in the community by more than 202%! We have introduced

new programming including Afterschool Workshops which added an additional hour to our schedule, Second Saturdays allowing youth and adults to be creative together, and Homeschool Classes providing resources throughout the county and further.

As our student population continues to grow, so will the demand for materials & supplies as well as teachers, putting pressure on our available funds. So, as we head into our year's end, I am gratefully acknowledging each of you for your wonderful support of the Neighborhood Art House over the past 29 years and I ask that you consider contributing during this holiday season. Any additional funding will directly help the expanded reach of our programs for the students we serve, giving us a great head start in 2025. You can use the enclosed envelope or donate on our website at neighborhoodarthouse.org/donate.

The legacy set forth by our founders was to provide for those less fortunate and to leave our world a better place, and I'm grateful that we can continue this mission. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. On behalf of everyone at the Neighborhood Art House, we wish you a blessed holiday season!