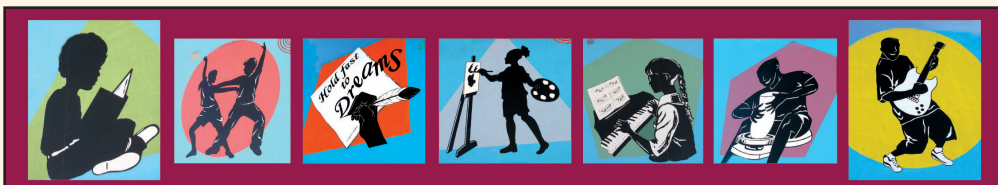
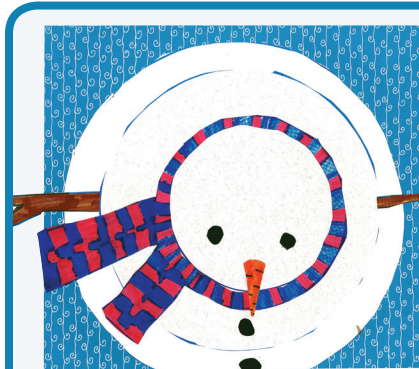


NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



**FEBRUARY
2018**

Inner-City Neighborhood Art House • 201 East Tenth Street • Erie, Pennsylvania 16503 • 814-455-5508
— A MINISTRY OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ERIE —
www.neighborhoodarthouse.org



*My wish is for summer to come early
(age 10)*

*“When you wish someone joy, you wish
them peace, love, prosperity, happiness...
all the good things.”*

—Maya Angelou

As 2018 began, the children were asked to share their wishes for the new year. Some spoke of wishes for the things they didn't get for Christmas or wishes to win the lottery or for an early end to the school day. Many, however, spoke of wishes for everyone to know joy, peace and love. Throughout this newsletter you will find some of their wishes, spoken spontaneously from the heart.

Focus on Performance

What makes performance such an essential part of the Neighborhood Art House program? Why provide a stage, sound system, and costumes so students in the Performing Arts can share what they have learned at Open House performances twice each year? Why do teachers take the extra time to prepare student musicians, accomplished to beginners, to put their nerves aside to perform on piano, violin and cello at term-end recitals?



Loving the Dance

Since its beginning in 1995, the Art House mission has been to “enable inner-city children to experience beauty, grow in positive self-expression and self-discipline, and develop into full and productive human beings.” Surely, striving to be ready to perform for others helps to develop self-discipline, and putting aside the associated fear of failure fosters positive self-expression. Jamey Mann of The Catoctin School of Music asserts that “without the goal of a performance, lessons can become banal and end with a student growing tired of practicing and quitting long before they reach their full potential.”

Anyone who has been with the children as they await their turn on stage at the annual Taste of the Arts will tell you how excited they are to perform for those whose support makes their Art House experience possible. Their developing personal responsibility, shown by their willingness to come together to practice on their own time, will serve them well as they become ‘full and productive human beings.’



Senior Hoopers



Dressed to Perform



Budding Drummers



Waiting to Dance



Strings Perform at Recital

Picture taken by student photographer Teajanae (age 11)

In *The Importance of Performance Opportunities for Young Children*, Jamie George explains that “in addition to improving creativity, learning and performing music cultivates many skills that will continue to be useful . . . throughout their lives . . . [including] self-confidence, appropriate behavior, goal setting, practice, concentration, coordination, recreation, patience and perseverance.”



Keeping Busy While We Wait

“Dance education helps students develop physical fitness, appreciation of the body, concern for sound health practices, and effective stress management approaches . . . Dance enhances an individual's lifelong quality of life.”

Judith Lynne Hanna
Partnering Dance and Education



Fall Term Art Displays



Lovely Ladies



Advanced Performers



Getting Ready



Proud Families

From the Desk of Sr. Annette



It's another snowy day in this white winter of 2017-18. It is really quite beautiful – except when driving or walking. As the children come into the Art House, they are glad to be able to warm up their freezing fingers, nose and toes.

We've broken seasonal snowfall records, made the national news with a December storm that dropped a 67" of snow, and seen the wind chill drop below zero threatening frost-bite in minutes. Enough, already! Surely, spring must be just around the corner!

As with so many of life's challenges, we can choose to simply endure the winter, or we can choose to embrace it. It all depends on the attitude we bring. We can concentrate on the daily hassle of gloves and boots and fear of falling, or we can wonder at the contrast of dark trees on a white landscape. We can relish the deep silence of winter, take special note of the sunny, blue-sky days, and encourage the children to build snow forts populated with snow people or we can grumble about the cold as we envy the snowbirds.

Let's help the children to realize the beauty that surrounds them by recognizing it ourselves. Let's foster attitudes of wonder and appreciation even as we make the best of the cold. Let's turn the hope for spring into a hope for all that is good. Where can we look? It's deep inside ourselves and in every heart that longs for a world that enfolds everyone in the warmth of acceptance and peace.

Sister Annette



*My wish is for everyone
to be kind (age 9)*

You won't want to miss the



benefit for the Neighborhood Art House



Saturday, June 9, 2018

Watch for registration information in the April Newsletter.

The Art & Sole committee is actively seeking both business and individual sponsors for this major Art House event. Sponsorship information and Team Challenge registration information is available at (814) 455-5508 or nah@neighborhoodarthouse.org.

Save The Date!



*I'm wishing that we
move to a new house
(age 10)*

The Dr. Barbara Behan

Souper Book Swap

**Tuesday, March 6, 2018
11:30 am—1:30 pm**

**Mercyhurst University -
Student Union**

Donation \$5.00

Enjoy delicious
homemade soups and
rolls, topped off
with mouth-watering
desserts!
and then



**Buy as many books as you can carry!
(hard cover \$1.00 and paperback \$.50)**

All proceeds benefit the Neighborhood Art House, located at 10th and Holland Street. This facility offers literacy programs, classes and events in the fine arts for inner-city children.

Discover Your Inner Artist



The *Discover Your Inner Artist* series returns with Acrylic Painting on **Friday, March 2, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**. Tap into that “inner artist” under the direction of artist and Neighborhood Art House teacher, Mary Kay Geary. New to painting? – this is for you! You’ve attended before? – expand your skills with a new painting. This class for adults will not exceed 15 participants, so register early: 455-5508 or nah@neighborhoodarthouse.org. Your registration fee of \$35 includes all materials, snacks and soft drinks.



My wish is that my Dad will come home from jail (age 10)

WISH LIST

- Thank you to everyone who has provided items on the wish list. Your donations are key to our programming and definitely help us curb expenses.
- Healthy snacks (pretzels, cheese crackers, animal crackers, etc.)
- Boxes of tissues
- Blu-ray/DVD player
- Gift cards to stores carrying art or office supplies or to grocery stores where snacks can be purchased
- Bird seed and suet
- Art supplies: Quick Dry Tacky Glue, poly-fill, polymer clay, masking tape (1" wide), scotch tape, Crayola Model Magic Clay, Air Dry Clay, zip closure plastic bags (sandwich, quart and gallon), markers (wide and narrow)
- Bus passes for Art House students attending schools at a distance. Many do not qualify for District-provided transportation
- Colored rubber stamp pads

DATES OF NOTE

March 2	7:00 pm	Discover Your Inner Artist: Acrylic Painting Classes for Adults
March 6	11:30 am	Souper Book Swap
March 26 – April 2		Spring Break, NAH Office closed
May 3	7:00 pm	Spring Music Recital
May 10	7:00 pm	Spring Open House
June 9	9:00 am	Art & Sole 5k Run/Walk
September 11	5:00 pm	Taste of the Arts

MEMORIALS

A special thank you to the families of
Gertrude Petersen
and
Howard Conrad Lincoln
for designating memorials to the Neighborhood Art House in their memory.

Holiday Cookie Decorating



You're never too young or too old for the annual holiday cookie decorating.



Virtual Presence

Are you one of the nearly 1,000 Facebook users to “like” our page? If you are, you know that Art House news and pictures are posted several times each week. Are you a fan of Instagram? You'll find new postings on a daily basis.



Sarah Everett
Facebook

Something new has been added to the Webpage, **www.neighborhoodarthouse.org**, as well. A new video, located just under the masthead, provides a brief statement of who we are and what we do. Additionally, a new donation page has been added that simplifies the on-line donation process and encourages recurring donations. If you haven't visited the webpage recently, now might be a good time to see what is new, and to visit regular features such as performance videos, student art gallery, upcoming events, news articles and an archive of Neighbor to Neighbor issues.



Lourdes Jasso
Instagram



Environmental Action

Environmental Action does not only mean carrying out a meaningful project on behalf of the environment; it also includes sharing what was done with others so that they, too, might be inspired to do their own project and keep the momentum going. The students in Sr. Pat's Environmental Action classes have recently shared their activities with the general public in two very different ways.



The children pictured here, Elvira (age 7), Garang (age 9), Olga (age 8), and Anastasia (age 9) were assisted by several volunteers from Mercyhurst University who helped them log the litter that they gathered.

Sister Pat served as the Keynote Speaker at the fifth annual Resilient Erie Stewardship Summit held November 15, 2017 at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. As part of her presentation her students shared projects that had been done by Neighborhood Art House students during the past five years. These were represented on a poster that was displayed during the rest of the summit. The students, Michael (age 10), Ryanah (age 13), Ana (age 10), Alexis (age 11) and Tevionne (age 11), were amazed by the attention that the large group of adults paid to their presentation. One commented, “I feel so important.”

Giving Back



Throughout the year, the NAH faculty seeks opportunities for the students to contribute their talents for the good of others, to give back a bit for all that has been given to them. Elizabeth Merski, Gannon University Off-Campus Community Service worker, works with children such as Raniyah (age 10) to decorate holiday gift bags for the residents of Benetwood Apartments.

These excerpts from a student-written article carried in the *Erie Times News* demonstrates that participation in the ICC may have lasting effects on their littering habits:

In September the kids and teachers at the Neighborhood Art House and volunteers from Mercyhurst University participated in the International Coastal Clean-up. We cleaned up garbage and litter in the neighborhood around 10th and Holland.

We picked up 24.5 pounds of trash including 1824 cigarette butts, 497 food and candy wrappers, 172 small pieces of plastic, 43 beverage bottles and lots of other stuff.

“It was hot and tiring work but it all paid off. However, there is still so much more trash and it makes me sad. I'll keep trying to make the world better instead of letting it become ugly. The tiny pieces of balloons can hurt birds who think it is food; and turtles trying to eat plastic bags or getting caught in six pack plastic holders can also get hurt or even die. Will you help us keep our neighborhoods clean?”

Ana 10

“I feel angry that I have to pick up other people's trash but we need to do clean-ups to keep our neighborhoods clean and to make the world a better place. I do clean-ups because I don't like to see trash in my neighborhood and to keep younger children safe. I also pick up trash at the beach because I don't want the fish to get hurt or the water to get polluted.”

Michael 10



Canisius College Volunteers



Canisius College Students spent a week of their winter break as service volunteers with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. The Neighborhood Art House was one of the Benedictine ministries that benefited from their services.



My wish is that I get better grades – I hope to get all C's. (age 10)

Inner-City Neighborhood Art House



Benedictine Sisters of Erie
201 East Tenth Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503-1007

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Are you receiving multiple copies of Neighbor to Neighbor? Is the addressee no longer residing at this address? Would you prefer not to receive Art House mailings? To be removed from our mailing list, please send us the mailing panel marked *remove from mailing list* or email nah@neighborhoodarthouse.org with the name and address to be removed.

How Blessed We Are!

The generosity of the people of Erie never ceases to amaze. This holiday season was no exception as shown by workplace groups that arranged for donations to benefit the Art House. The doctors and nurses of UPMC Hamot Anesthesia Department included the Art House as a recipient of their holiday



Staff at **Interim HealthCare** decorated two huge boxes to collect wish list items for the Art House. Marybel Abbott (l) and Mary Beth Lombardi (r), presented these and a \$1,000 check to Sisters Annette and Peg.

giving with a presentation of \$1,350. They join employees of Lord Corporation who collected \$ 1,029 for the Art House and the Lawrence Park Athletic Club that donated \$1,000.



The **Kahkwa Club** designated their Giving Tree for the Art House. On it they displayed tags indicating gifts that would be particularly beneficial to the children and to the arts program. Shown above, Kathy McCarthy, Postulant with the Benedictine Sisters and NAH volunteer, and Sister Peg inventory the clothing, personal care products, and art supplies that Club members donated.



My wish for 2018 is that nothing terrible happens, that only good things happen. (age 13)