

## Donors Making a Difference

### Remembering Our Founder

Sister Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB, died at Mount St. Benedict Monastery on January 6, 2023, after a three-year battle with uveal cancer. She was born in Erie on November 29, 1941, to Mary (Krzyzan) and Edward Kownacki and baptized at Holy Trinity Church. She attended St. Benedict Academy and entered the Benedictine Sisters of Erie shortly after graduation in 1959. She made her final monastic profession on August 18, 1965, and received the name Sister Mary Sebastian.



Sister Mary Lou taught at schools in Erie, Sharon, Oil City, and Fryburg, PA. In 1967 she took a year-long absence during which she worked as a reporter for the Erie Daily Times and then again from 1971-1972. In 1972, she founded and coordinated Pax Center and opened Emmaus Soup Kitchen in 1974.

Sister Mary Lou received both a B.A. (1977) and an M.A. (1979) in Peace Studies from Antioch University in Antioch, OH, and taught peace studies at the high school and collegiate level. Sister Mary Lou was a successful, published author. In 1992 she began Benetvision Publishing to promote the writing of Sister Joan Chittister, and in 2012, Monasteries of the Heart, an online monastery, both of which she directed until shortly before her death. She founded the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House in 1995 and served as executive director and taught poetry to inner-city youth there until 2005. She served on the Benedictine Sisters' Monastic Council from 1994-2002 and again from 2010-2020.

Many organizations honored Sister Mary Lou with awards and recognition for her work for peace, her efforts on behalf of children, and for her poetry and writing. We are grateful for Sister Mary Lou, who will always hold a special place at the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House!

### WISH LIST

- Gift cards to stores that sell art supplies, healthy snacks, personal care items or general office supplies
- Individually packaged healthy snacks
- 140lb watercolor paper
- Glue sticks
- Sketch books
- Kid size gardening gloves
- Potting soil
- Heat press vinyl
- Fiber fill

### MEMORIAL

A special thank you to the families of Adah Eakin, Sean Malmberg, and Sandra Phillips for designating a memorial to the Neighborhood Art House in their memory.

Many thanks to our 2022 Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) Contributors!

Dahlkemper Landscape Architects & Contractors  
Erie Insurance Group  
Knox Law  
MacDonald Illig  
Marquette Savings Bank  
MaxPro Technologies  
Plastikos, Inc.  
PNC Bank, N.A.  
Scott's Splash Lagoon, Inc



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 [asnedeker@neighborhoodarthouse.org](mailto:asnedeker@neighborhoodarthouse.org) with the name and address to be removed.

## What's New

Special thanks to all the new members for joining our committees!



### Art & Sole Committee

Maria Henry

### Taste of the Arts Committee

Sarah Howard

### Women's Core Committee

Regina Gaston  
Megan Henry  
Jessica Lopez  
Jackie Lupo  
Helen Tullio



### Executive Director

Kelly Stolar, CFRE

### Program Director

Lourdes Jasso

### Community Art Director

Sarah Everett, MFA

### Administrative Assistant

Alexis Snedeker

### DATES OF NOTE

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| May 5th                 | Last Day of Winter/Spring Classes                                     |
| May 9th                 | Winter/Spring Showcase 6pm  |
| May 13th                | Art & Sole 5K Run/Walk 9am, Youth 1K at 9:30am<br>Second Saturday 9am |
| June 20th-<br>July 21st | Summer Session  |
| September 12th          | Taste of the Arts   |



Spring 2023

## NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR



Saturday, May 13, 2023 @ 9am

We can't wait to see you at this year's Art & Sole 5k event! The 5k race kicks off at 9am, and the 1k Fun Run for kids starts at 9:30am. Register for this event at: [getmeregistered.com/ArtSole5k](https://getmeregistered.com/ArtSole5k) or by scanning the QR code below! Register by April 24th to receive a limited-edition



race shirt featuring artwork by an Art House student.

We are so excited to have C. Wolf join us on race day, as well as Otto from the Erie Otters, and other local mascots to make this event fun for all ages! There will be games and art activities for all ages taking place in our parking lot and music provided by DJ Mat K!

Our popular Team Challenge is back this year with many prizes!

As is tradition, the top 3 finishers in each age category will win fabulous student artwork as prizes.

Do you know a business that would like to sponsor this event? They can contact



the Art House by April 24th to learn more about becoming a sponsor and have their name included on our race shirt.

All proceeds from the Art & Sole 5k Run/Walk will benefit the after-school, summer, and community art programs held at the Art House.



201 East Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16503 • 814-455-5508 • [neighborhoodarthouse.org](https://neighborhoodarthouse.org)

A Ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie



# Afterschool Program

## New Classes

**Illustration:** Anthony Carson is teaching students how to self-express through fun illustrations. Students have enjoyed learning more about digital drawing, as well as learning new ways to doodle!



**Environmental Action:** The Art House was awarded a USDA Grant to expand our Environmental Education Program. We were able to hire Tess Frawley as a part-time Environmental Educator, obtain a Tower Garden which enables us to grow food year round and renovate the outside vertical garden.

**Graphic Design 101:** Dena Rupp, owner of Purrista Cat Café and Co-Founder of Flagship City Press is a volunteer instructor, teaching students the elements of Graphic Design.

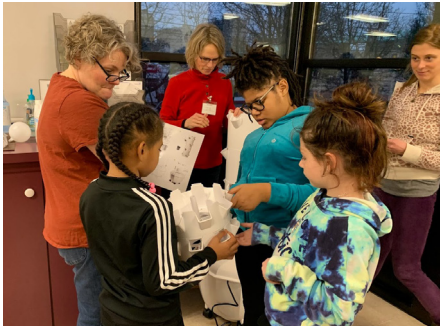


## THANK YOU for presenting to our Afterschool Program!

- Mercyhurst University, Deonte Cooley, "Keeping and Building Relationships With Our Peers"
- Gannon University, Nursing Students, "Health and Wellness"
- Journey to a Trauma Informed Life, Eric Reiche, "Art Therapy"
- AmeriHealth Caritas, Jaime McGuire, "Healthier Eating Habits"
- Murals by Antonio, Antonio Howard
- Erie Federal Credit Union, Kim Davis, "Financial Literacy"
- Erie County Department of Health, Amy Chevalier/ Zakaria Sharif, "Your Brain and Vaping Nicotine"
- Divinely CROWN'D, Davina Pacley, "Building Up Confidence"
- WQLN TV Production team, "The Creative Process of Using a Green Screen."

## Art Show Awards

Congratulations are in order for Neighborhood Art House student, Dashon Johnson, age 13, for winning the Chairman's Award in the 2023 Presque Isle State Park Student Art Competition, with his pastel piece, "Natural Balance."



# Community Art Program

## Adult Art Workshops

Opportunities for members of the community to take classes in the visual arts have expanded this spring, with the addition of a new evening workshop series.

Evening workshops to date have included Introduction to Wheel Throwing with Emily Gaudio and Spring Watercolor Painting with Christine Bowler. Beginning in April, Ed Grout will teach a six-week mosaic workshop.



Ongoing community events are going strong, with Open Studio on Tuesday mornings, homeschool art classes on Wednesday mornings, Feeling Fit exercise classes with Dana Borczon take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

## Upcoming Events

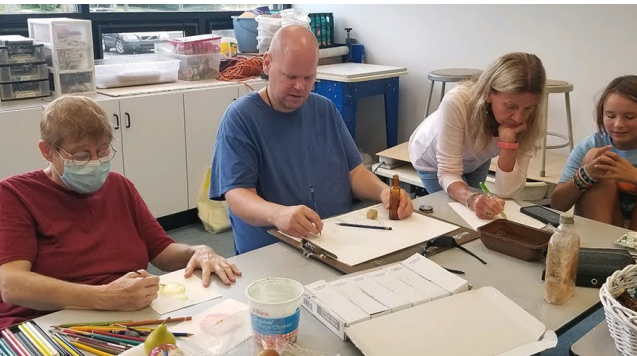
**Second Saturday:** On the Second Saturday of each month, artists of all ages are invited to participate in an art activity from 10 am - 12 pm. May's Second Saturday will be a community art celebration in conjunction with our Art & Sole 5k, with face painting, a collaborative chalk mural and a surprise art activity.



**Spring Watercolor Pencil Drawing:** April 20th begins a new series of fine art classes taught by Art House faculty members on Thursday mornings from 10 am - 12 pm. This first 3-week session will be taught by Jonilee Hlusko, and is free of charge to the community.



**Tell Your Story in Words & Pictures:** Organize, write, and illustrate your family or personal history artistically. Joe Krol will teach this multi-media class on Tuesday mornings during Open Studio, beginning April 11th, from 10 am - 12 pm.



Watch our website and social media for new evening and daytime classes to be added soon!

# Teachers and Volunteers

## Lucy Ventura

As a former student of the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House, Lucy was excited to return as a staff member when the opportunity presented itself. One of her favorite aspects as a student here was having the ability to express herself through art, specifically music. She loves working in the afterschool program because she says it's where she grew up, made a lot of memories and was able to be herself. Lucy is extremely grateful that she gets to work here and do her best so current students can have the same experience she did.



## Patricia Brunson

Better known as "Ms. Pat" by Art House students, she has quickly become a staple in our afterschool program. Ms. Pat started volunteering at the Art House during the 2022 Summer Program thanks to GECAC's Foster Grandparent Program! An ever faithful individual, she is here everyday, helping however she can. Ms. Pat said, "I have always loved working with kids, and helping to create a better future for them. I enjoy that the Art House is a positive experience for the kids and creates long-lasting memories." She says that not only does she love making a difference in their lives, but they are making a bigger difference in hers.



# Take a Moment With Kelly



"If you want something done, ask a busy person." ~proverb; anonymous

There isn't a day that goes by here at the Art House that is the same. It is exactly what makes the Art House special and what makes all those who do what they do priceless. No matter who you talk to, there isn't one person who isn't actively involved in a vast array of activities outside the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House. Yet, every one of us finds the time and the joy of coming here, actively participating, and discovering what it is the Art House offers each of us. We all reap the benefits of camaraderie, the arts, and learning something new.

However, there is and will always be room for you and your busy schedule to be involved in the Neighborhood Art House. So, "Don't sit idle on a lake of thoughts." ~ Anthony T Hincks. Come and join us in the multitude of opportunities to make a difference through the arts and find enjoyment for yourself right here alongside us!

Looking to get involved with the Art House? We are always looking for more volunteers! There are many volunteer opportunities including: assisting in classes, participating in our Hooked on Books for Kids Program, teaching a workshop or class, and many more opportunities. To learn more call 814-455-5508!