Students painted large flowers in Mrs. Bowler’s acrylic painting class. In the process, they mixed them before painting. These students are involved in all aspects of the program areas which included funding for Art House programs since 1999. The Schuster grant has allowed the Art House to begin new classes or support special initiatives within multiple program areas which included funding for a permanent outdoor mosaic project, the purchase of a poetry/art journal, expanding the reading library, and providing equipment for classes in printmaking, music, and digital photography. The 2019-20 grant provided a $21,370 unrestricted support of our Annual Appeal. Last year we collected $17,214 in unrestricted support of our programs. And you’re right! That is amazing. This year’s donations totaling $30,774 will knock your socks off! That is a 174% increase in the amount raised from just 83 donors. We can’t do what we do without the generosity of you, our loyal advocates. We’re keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to reach more donors and more students in 2021. You have our utmost gratitude.

The Annual Appeal for the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House Art & Sole Un-Run/Un-Walk The Neighborhood Art House 13th Annual Art & Sole 5k took a new turn this year. Instead of having runners and walkers downtown, we asked that they stay at home with their families and enjoy a run or walk in their neighborhood, or simply relax in their favorite chair.

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In the manner of Art & Sole, all donations were entered into random drawings for student artwork. Lourdes Jasso, Associate Program Director, puts it this way: “The struggles of being in school are hard during a regular school year; can you imagine how it is now? Our students are often [technologically challenged] and excluded from opportunities that can make a positive impact in the city of Erie, based solely on the neighborhoods where they live. We are sparking a creative interest into a new life skill that encourages our students to nurture the entrepreneur within.”

The Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) approved our NAP request for Breaking the Cycle. The project’s impact was already seen this summer. “Our students not only created amazing photographs,” said Ms. Jasso, “but they also learned about digital marketing, creating a brand and designing apparel. It was amazing to see their reaction once they had a physical product.”

The Art House purchased 10 Mac computers and software, 8 iPads, 10 digital cameras, batteries, chargers, and cases, digital photo prints, a DLP projector, Circuit cutters, and a heat press. This project will provide expanded WiFi access and printing, and a new server. To sweeten the project, Erie Insurance added 2 laptops with docks, monitors, and keypads for our dedicated student staff computer upgrades.

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Kid’s Corner

Creative Summer Hands

Music

What a pleasure it is to be surrounded by the color palette, machine sewing in Deb Sementelli’s machine sewing class. (For textures along 10th and 11th Streets, once it dried the students had a virtual recital. Diegò, age 10, performs in the virtual recital.

Diane, age 10, performs in the virtual recital.

Deb Sementelli’s Fabric

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