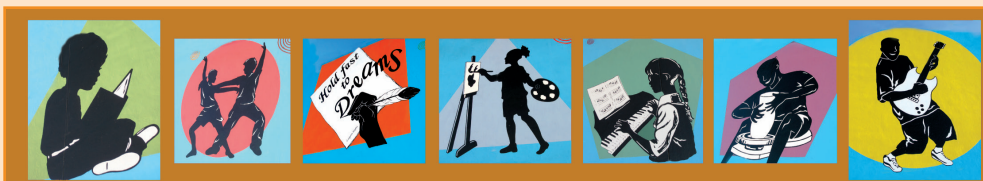


NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



OCTOBER
2016

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



... enjoying the experience – Tania, student choir



... preparing terrarium centerpieces – Ana and Annette Slater, volunteer



... exploring the Silent Auction – Martha Hilbert and Sister Diane Rabe, volunteer



... enjoying the show – Mary Ann and Jim Toohey



... admiring the beautiful Silent Auction contributions – Jane Causgrove and Sister Karen Kosin



... striking a pose – student dancers

Taste of the Arts Celebrates Nature's Treasures

From the buffet of treasures from land, sea and air . . . to the scarves, switch plates and clay ornaments decorated with impressions from the natural world. . . to the turned wood and natural stone of the silent auction. . . to the centerpiece terrariums prepared by the children. . . to the entertainment that was *Over the Rainbow*, the 19th annual Taste of the Arts celebrated the beauty and diversity of *Nature's Treasures*. New this year were the Treasure Board with 100 gifts to be won, and terrarium centerpiece that lucky door prize winners took home. As always, the highlight of the evening was the very well received performance by the children. Under the direction of co-chairpersons Karen Clark and Lynne Elia and the Taste of the Arts Committee, students, teachers and volunteers combined their talents to create a spectacular evening to remember. The Core Committee and the Benedictine Sisters are very grateful to everyone who brought this very important annual event to life. Hopefully, the accompanying photos will provide a tiny taste of Taste of the Arts 2016.



... artwork created by art house students highlighted the event



... taking a moment to enjoy the evening they made happen – Patti Eichen, NAH Development, and Karen Clark and Lynne Elia, Co-Chairpersons



... getting a close look at the Silent Auction piece, a mosaic-decorated table – Jahir, Featured Artist, and Mary Alice Doolin



... dancing the hoop – Franco, student dancer



... engaging the audience during the Children's Performance – Captain Dan Geary, Emcee



... catching up with friends – Msgr. Henry Kriegel and Denise Robison Mullen



... performing a Minuet by Hyden - string ensemble members Nadia, Yekaterina, and Laura



... waiting to share their art with guests – student artists



... dancing with gusto – beginning student dancers



... enjoying a "natural" small pond with live goldfish while selecting buffet delicacies – Bill Hess and Bill Reiser

**Thank you for supporting the Neighborhood Art House at
Taste of the Arts 2016.**
**Your participation helps to bring beauty through the arts to
hundreds of Erie's inner-city children.**

Michelangelo Sponsor (\$5,000)

Humes (Matt & Karen Clark)
Reed Manufacturing (Scott Wright)

Vincent Van Gogh Sponsor (\$2,500)

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Bill & Martha Hilbert
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Lalida & Stephen Raj
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Sharon & Shawn Rooney
Maggie Stolley
Jim & Mary Ann Toohey

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FOCUS ON EARTH ACTION

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.” Rachel Carson, *Author of Silent Spring* “Teaching children about the natural world should be seen as one of the most important events in their lives.” Thomas Berry, *Author of The Dream of the Earth*

“To encourage children to enter the quiet of a sunken garden, to sit beside a rushing waterfall, to search for creatures in stream, forest, field and lake, is to enable them to develop a ‘sense of place,’ ” says Sister Pat, Environmental Educator at the Neighborhood Art House. As they experience a personal connection to the natural world, the children are awakened to “a respect for all life and a realization that their personal actions matter.”

The environmental offerings have become well established since they became part of the Art House program in 2012. By experiencing the beauty of nature and developing the commitment and skills to act in concert with nature, the children form the basis for living their lives as enlightened citizens of Earth.



Green Space

NAH students have adopted the vacant lot at 10th and Parade Streets, the seven street-side trees on 10th St. between Holland and French, and two in front of the 11th St. Emmaus Soup Kitchen.

The appearance of the vacant lot has been greatly improved with the addition of 3 trees, shrubs and flowers and the construction of a walk-through path. Erie’s arborist, Sarah Galloway, worked with the students to prune the adopted street-side trees to foster healthy growth. By planting flowers under the trees, then hauling the water to keep them fresh, the children know they have helped beautify the neighborhood.



In the Field Experiences

Whether it is learning to fish with the *S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie*, exploring various habitats such as wetlands, forest, creek and lake, or attending the Environment Erie Youth Summit, students enrolled in the various environment classes have multiple off-campus opportunities. For some, these experiences are the first time they have seen Presque Isle, or a wetlands area, or waded in a creek. We are tremendously grateful to all the volunteers who assist on these excursions so that the children will be able to expand their horizons.

DATES OF NOTE

- Dec. 8 Open House
- Dec. 9 Registration Forms available for Winter/Spring Term
- Jan. 3 Winter/Spring Term Begins

Community Involvement

It is a wonderful thing to have the opportunity to “give back.” It is even better when it is great fun as well! NAH children had a wonderful time carving pumpkins for the annual Pumpkin D’Lights Night Walk. This event, a fundraiser for the Master Gardeners of Erie County, is an opportunity for the Art House to “give back” in a small way to an important partner organization.



Other projects done recently include a mosaic paver prepared by NAH teachers Sharon Bannon and Sue Hunter for the Erie Playhouse’s 100th Anniversary Gala, and a set of ceramic garden bed markers for the Emmaus Grove Urban Farm School designed and prepared by Sister Peg. Soon the children will begin preparing holiday gift bags for the residents of Benetwood Apartments.

WISH LIST

- Healthy snacks (pretzels, cheese crackers, break-fast bars, animal crackers, etc.) No peanuts added
- Health care products (shampoo, comb, brush, body wash/bar soap, deodorant, tooth brush, tooth paste)
- Warm Socks for children ages 7-14
- Sweat pants and sweatshirts - youth and regular sizes
- Gift cards (to stores carrying art or office supplies)
- Art supplies: fiber fill, acrylic paint (bright colors, small bottles), Tacky Glue, Modge Podge, drawing pads, polymer clay, heavy paper plates, transparencies, glass flat-bottom gems (many colors), markers – both thick and thin, scotch tape, masking tape (1” - 3” wide), large manilla envelopes (to store child artwork)

Students sign up for *Green Team* so that they can really put the action into Earth Action. Each group first does an inventory in the building or in the neighborhood, then decides on an action that will improve the environment. Some recent projects included creating a video to show the terrible effects of micro-beads in personal care products on the environment, evaluating the recycling efforts in the Art House and encouraging greater compliance, maintaining the work done in the adopted vacant lot and with the trees, and spearheading the ICC (Intercoastal Cleanup) done by NAH students.



Green Team



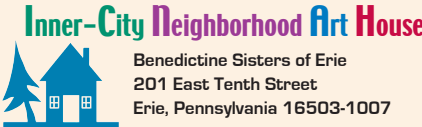
Animals and Their Habitats

Taking advantage of the beautiful Art House grounds, the students learn to look closely to find evidence of animals and their habitats. Over the winter these students created miniature greenhouses which stayed outside all season. In the spring they were able to plant the milkweed they had started, and at the end of summer, the monarch butterflies laid their eggs on the mature plants. When the new monarchs emerged from their chrysalises, several of the teachers tagged them and set them free to begin their trip to Mexico. Soon the children will release the Painted Lady Butterflies that are nearly ready to fly off on their own.

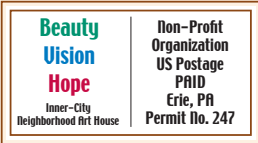


John E. Horan Garden Apartments

One day each week, Sister Pat conducts the NAH Earth Action program for the children living in the John E. Horan Garden Apartments on East Lake Road. In addition to several large community gardening areas, these children have worked over the years to restore a wetlands area and, last year, they assisted in the planting of 1,000 trees on property of the Erie Housing Authority.



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



Sister Annette

DONOR CORNER



Once again, the Erie Community came through in a big way for Erie area non-profit organizations, raising \$3.5 million during the Erie Community Foundation sponsored **ERIE GIVES**. The Neighborhood Art House saw an increase of 70% in donations and 34% in the number of donors, receiving a total of \$ 26,364. In addition, we have received several donations from employer matching gifts programs. Our thanks to all who participated! Mark your calendars – next year’s date is **August 8, 2017**.

Our Lady’s Christian School – The children and faculty of Our Lady’s Christian awarded the proceeds for the first “dress down day” of the 2016-17 school year to the Art House. It is always wonderful to see children supporting other children – thank you!

Keep PA Beautiful – The Green Teams at the Neighborhood Art House and the John E. Horan Garden Apartment will utilize the \$1,000 awarded by Keep PA Beautiful to provide greenspace in the City of Erie through enhancement or enlargement of current urban lot and tree scape projects and the new construction and installation of a vertical green wall.



The Arts – A Universal Language



This fall term we are happy to welcome many new students including 14 children who have recently immigrated to the United States. They represent the Congo, Puerto Rico, Egypt, and Russia. In the photo above Hadija (age 12), from the Congo, and Anastasia (age 7), from Russia, use a world atlas to show Susan Leri, Art House volunteer tutor, where their home countries

are. These children bring the uniqueness of their ethnic backgrounds to a student group that is already richly diverse. One of the most significant challenges facing immigrant children, and their teachers as well, is language. While classes in school are often very difficult in a second language, art and music experiences foster success since the children can watch and imitate even though they may not fully understand the directions. Hopefully, the relaxed atmosphere and individual attention that the children have at the Art House will help them “catch” their new language and develop the self-confidence they will need to be successful in their new community. In the meantime, they can enjoy “speaking” to each other through painting, stitching, sculpting and making music.



Gardening

Having decided that they wanted to grow vegetables like squash, pumpkins, corn and lettuce as well as herbs, flowers and watermelons, the students gave their plants an advantage by starting them early in small pots that they kept under grow-lights. To expand the growing space available to them, the students turned to *hugelkultur*. They created a mound of soil over a pile of branches, then did their planting last spring. Their harvest is now in full swing! Additionally, the gardening classes assist in the Emmaus Grove Community Garden and, from time to time, get to take home tomatoes, beans, radishes or other organically grown produce.

From the Desk Of Sr. Annette

It’s the time of squash and pumpkins, apples and chestnuts and the smell of concord grapes. There are even a few tomatoes and beans still to be harvested. It is a time to realize how blessed we are.



In “the old days” we used to can peaches, cherries, corn, beets and tomatoes. We’d even pickle cucumbers. We knew the colors, smells and textures of food and were “in touch” with the growing cycle of local foods. We knew the joys, and work, of the harvest. We were grateful to know that there was good food in the pantry to enjoy over the winter.

Most of today’s children have less of a connection to the earth that feeds them; that is why gardening for inner city children is so important. Our gardening students will soon be harvesting the squash and pumpkins that were planted in the spring. They have already picked beans, tomatoes and several types of herbs in the Emmaus Grove. Our drawing and painting students have been busy with still life drawings of vegetables; some, like eggplant, are completely new to them.

Hopefully, these experiences will help them to get “in touch” with the earth so that they, too, can realize their blessings.