Mary Alice and Tom Doolin Honored

The Erie Community Foundation presented the 2016 Edward C. Doll Community Service Award to Mary Alice and Tom Doolin. The Doolins have been long-time supporters of the Neighborhood Art House. What is more, Mary Alice was one of the original women of Vision (later the Women’s Core Committee) who brought the dream of a neighborhood art house to life for the children of Erie’s inner city. Sister Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB, founder of the Neighborhood Art House stated that “Without Mary Alice and Tom, there might not be a Neighborhood Art House. She is a model of loyalty, compassion, and self-giving.”

Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors, Lincoln Recycling and Great Lakes Insurance, and our Gold Sponsors, Interim Health Care and GE Volunteers, and to all our event sponsors. Your financial support of Art & Sole, which is ultimately support for the inner city children at the Neighborhood Art House, contributes to the overall effort to lift young hearts and minds to a wide world of possibilities.

Mark your calendar for this year’s Taste of the Arts!

Tuesday, September 13, 2016
201 East Tenth Street, Erie, PA
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Nature’s Treasures

Dedicated instructors train teachers such as Linda Malekowsky [oil and acrylic], and concentrated effort from the students enable them to develop their techniques and stretch their expectations. “Taste of the Arts is an important opportunity for students to experience what the artists in our community can do,” explained Sr. Peg, Program Director, and through their performance, to give back to those who have made it all possible.”

For over 20 years, the early summer classes have been challenging, exciting and full of fun. Children who choose “Art in the Classroom” offerings in photography, chalk pastel or pastel drawing or Green Places (environmental) with Mary Alice and Tom have made over 40 terrariums, centerpiece planters, and canvas drawings for movement therapy and art therapy. When they’re done, they display the finished pieces as part of the silent auction at this year’s Taste of the Arts. The students choose the art media offered and have been featured in various newspapers, at NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR and as Kentuck Knob of the Arms is an important community asset. “It’s never been done before,” remarked Jahir Rodriguez to his mosaics instructor, Sharon Kreemer, who inspired him with her beautiful mosaic-decorated console table for the park’s Silent Auction. "Art is not for the rich. It’s for everyone. We are a student of the Arts House since 2012. We have to hand out most of the art in our school and it has been featured in various magazines. I am glad to have a chance to learn so much.”

For over 15 years, students have been drawing and painting, sculpting, weaving and knitting, and performing. Their finished works are displayed throughout the art house and sold at the Silent Auction.

Thank you to our amazing Art & Sole Committee, Mary Alice and Tom, and to all our event sponsors. Your financial support of Art & Sole, which is ultimately support for the inner city children at the Neighborhood Art House, contributes to the overall effort to lift young hearts and minds to a wide world of possibilities.

Volunteers make all the difference!

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From the Desk Of Sr. Annette

I think I got a glimpse of the answer during the Colloids, the parents' concert that Calgary based Kim Philipson and Julia Haeger so generously provided for our children on July 7. Seventy or more children and their teachers were seated in the “gathering space” as they were each morning at the beginning of their summer program day. As the evocative vibrations of cello and piano washed over the audience within, from the melodic melody of Tchaikovsky’s Swan Lake to the serene sounds of Chopin’s Manuel de Falla, the children heard for themselves how diverse and expressive an instrument can be under the hands of a true musician.

For nearly an hour, the children, many of whom were less than ten years old, sat still and silent except as applying the performer’s or performer’s question. Did the children “experience” beauty that morning? Did they love the beauty of what they heard? Probably not, but I know that their inner spirits were touched. They knew that there was something special in this experience, whether consciously or unconsciously, will be part of the person that they become.

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