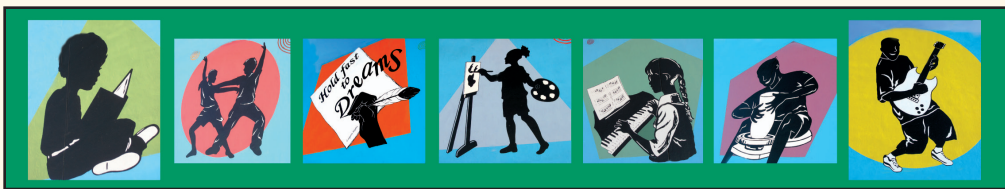


NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



JUNE
2015

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



Time to Celebrate

2015 marks the 20th year that the Neighborhood Art House has been reaching out to at-risk children through after-school and summer programming in the visual, performing and literary arts. During this time over 10,000 children have painted, written, danced and played their way to greater self-expression.

Now, it's time to celebrate!

WHO? You! all current and former students and teachers; all whose insight, encouragement, and hard work brought the Art House into being; all who have supported the Art House with their time, service, financial and material contributions; all our neighbors and friends.

WHAT? An old-fashioned ice-cream social featuring entertainment by Tennessee Back Porch, activities for the children and Art House tours.

WHEN? Sunday, July 12 anytime between Noon and 3:00 pm

RSVP? Not required, but appreciated

"Hopefully one day I can have an impact on kids like the Art House had on me and my sisters."

Dominique Anderson (Art House 1998 - 2000)

"It was such fun and I felt safe, like in a place I belonged. The Art House gave me a love for art and a peace within myself."

Janet Dembinski (Art House 1995-96)



"My creativity blossomed and I was able to experience the process of creating art with my own two hands which is something I still do today."

Maritza Alvarez (Art House 2001-2006)



Just over 20 years ago, the south east corner of 10th and Holland Street was an abandoned Good-year tire store with a weed-filled parking lot. Today its walls are filled with paintings and drawings by the children, its rooms vibrate with creative energy, and its grounds provide a lush green space that beautifies the neighborhood and provides lots of opportunity for outdoor learning.

From the Desk Of Sr. Annette



When the Benedictine Sisters arrived in Erie in 1856 their mission was to help the German immigrants settle into this, their new land. To this end, they established their home at 9th and Parade Streets and reached out as educators to the children living in this part of the city.

Now, more than 150 years later, the specifics have changed, but the Benedictine Sisters still reach out to the people "in the neighborhood."

What do children need to live and grow? Of course they need life's basics: food, shelter, clothing, loving families, good schools, safe neighborhoods. For some, the basics are a given; for others they are a dream. We applaud all who help to provide for those in need.

Are the basics enough? What do children need to break free and soar? The children of the inner city need to see possibilities. They need to awaken their inner core, to know beauty, to realize self-worth, to recognize talents, and to develop confidence in their own self-expression. Realizing that the human spirit turns to the arts to give expression to its deepest values, an idea, a dream, a vision was born. What does it take to create a place where the arts come alive for the children "in the neighborhood?"

- the vision of the **Benedictine Sisters**, especially **Sister Mary Lou Kownacki**, founder and first Executive Director, to ignite the spark;
- the foresight and commitment of people such as the **Women of Vision** to blow that spark to life and guide the flame's direction;
- the warmth and joy of the **SBA Alumnae** whose voices provided needed seed money;
- the untiring efforts of **Sister Anne Wambach**, founding Program Director, and a **dedicated faculty** to build a sustaining light of hope and joy;
- and the generous hearts of countless **volunteers and funders** who built a strong foundation and continue to provide the fuel for a bright and enduring future.

It is a privilege and a joy to be part of this ministry of love. I am grateful to all who birthed and sustained twenty years of service to our children. I challenge us all to renew our commitment to fostering love for the arts in the children "in the neighborhood."

Sister Annette

ART COMPETITIONS

The Neighborhood Art House was well represented this spring in local and state art shows. Forty pieces were submitted by twenty-two children to five art competitions: Presque Isle Women's Club; Dr. Robert Guelcher Art Show sponsored by the Barber National Institute; *All Things in the Water* at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center; *The Erie Peeps Show* at Villa Maria Elementary School; and the Carrie T. Watson Garden Club's Flower Show.



Kaely Carlson was honored with several awards. Shown here is her Linoleum Block Print, *Eagle Soars* which took a **First Place** at the State Level of the Women's Club contest. Kaely's photograph, *Walking Down the Street* was awarded **Best of Show** in the Youth Photography division at the Dr. Robert Guelcher Art Show. Other students with First Place Awards are Abby Aguilar (Chalk Pastel), Delilah Heutsche (Photography), Sam Kakulu, (Watercolor), Christian Kakulu (Photography), Shaan Patel (Tempera), Rickaylaha Ransom (Photography), and Samuil Salamov (Linoleum Block Print). In all, twenty-three Neighborhood Art House children received awards at this spring's art competitions.

SAVE THE DATE!



Taste of the Arts is always such a good time and this year's event will be no exception as you take

A MAGIC CARPET RIDE THROUGH THE ARTS



We hope you will join us on Tuesday evening, September 15 to enjoy this special evening co-chaired by Mary Alice Doolin and Lynne Elia. Begin your evening at 5:00 with cocktails and a light buffet. While visiting with friends you'll tour the Art House to view the children's art and perhaps select the perfect pieces for your own use or to give as special gifts. You will surely want to place your bids for items donated

by area artists at the silent auction. Be sure to be seated in the tent by 6:00 for a lively performance by the Art House children, followed by the live auction of the chalk pastel prepared by our featured artist, Franco Harris. Put on your imagination and come ride with us!



Painting, drawing, mosaics, beach glass art, photography and even clay are media used by the children to prepare mini-canvases for you. Lynne Elia, one of the co-chairpersons for this year's event, can't decide which is her favorite!



The Art House children have been very busy preparing to take you for a magic carpet ride through the arts. In addition to the art work that will grace the walls for your purchase consideration, our young weavers like Kayla and Ella Work have been preparing "magic carpets" for the table centerpieces.



Franco Harris, this year's featured artist, is justifiably pleased with his still life done in chalk pastels. During his classes at the Art House Franco has been quite successful in various media including printmaking, mosaics, weaving and drawing. When he was approached to be this year's featured artist he suggested that he use chalk pastels even though he had just begun a class in that medium. His teacher, Mary Kay Geary, tells us that "Franco quickly took to working with pastels. He willingly spent many hours learning to first draw, then apply colors and blend them into a pleasing still life. I am very proud of him!"



Join Jahir Rodriguez on a lively magic carpet ride. You'll enjoy the combined dance, acting, and music "production number" the children have prepared.

8TH ANNUAL ART 5K & SOLE

benefit for the Neighborhood Art House



First place runners Men's Open Leif Schmidt (16 minutes, 38 seconds) and Women's Open Grace Trucilla (19 minutes, 40 seconds) chose their awards from a display of over 100 selections of art prepared by children attending the Neighborhood Art House. Art awards were also given to the top three runners and walkers in each of 12 age categories.



Fruit, juice, snacks and lots of water – just the thing for thirsty and tired runners and walkers. Seventy plus volunteers made it all work like clockwork as they prepared race bags, processed registrations, served as road marshals, prepared and served refreshments and, lent a hand at set-up and clean-up.



Cameron (5)and Casey(3)and their mother, Michelle Griffith-Aresco , especially enjoy this part of the route high above Presque Isle Bay .



Over 400 runners and walkers took off for their 5K run or walk through Erie's downtown. Some were serious competitors eager to improve their own race timing. Others enjoyed the experience of healthy exercise in a group or simply came to support a cause that touches their hearts.



Team Challenge winners from GE Transportation receive their Art & Sole towels from Jim Toohey, A&S Committee. This team, *GE Lean to Go Fast*, chose to donate their First Place winnings of Splash Lagoon passes back to the Art House for the children. Also placing in the Team Challenge: Lincoln Recycling, 2nd place; GE Grove City – Tier 4 Proud, 3rd Place; Tri-State Runners, 4th place; and Team Nash, 5th place.



Eight years ago, the Art House Development Committee decided to try a 5K Run/Walk as a way to generate financial support for the Art House. Sister Anne Wambach, OSB, then Executive Director and now Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie caught up with Matt Catrabone, one of the initiators of Art & Sole, now co-chairperson of the event to discuss how it has grown. Such an event cannot happen without an energetic and dedicated committee. Sincere thanks to: Christina Katen who co-chairs A&S with Matt, Jeff Shaw who coordinates the route logistics, and committee members Mike Agresti , Abby Lechtner, Trever Nash, Jim Toohey, Shannon Wiertel and Patti Eichen, Art House Development staff.

Thank you to all of our sponsors (listed in the March edition of Neighbor to Neighbor). Your financial support of Art and Sole, which is ultimately support for our work with inner city children at the Art House, contributes to the overall effort to spark hope, joy and beauty, lifting young hearts and minds to a wide world of possibilities.



5th Annual Erie Gives Day August 11, 2015

Be part of this amazing community-wide effort sponsored by the Erie Community Foundation to support Erie's nonprofits. Whether you are a regular contributor or have never before made a gift to support our work with children, your donation of \$25 or more to the Neighborhood Art House will help provide a safe place for children during those crucial after-school hours.

This year the Erie Community Foundation, GE Transportation, Erie Insurance, Presque Isle Downs and Casino and others have increased the match pool to \$220,000! Help the Neighborhood Art House dip into that pool through your contributions.

Date: August 11, 2015
Time: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
Gift Amount: Minimum \$25
Credit Cards Accepted: Visa, MasterCard, Discover

Learn more about Erie Gives at www.eriegives.org. You can even sign up for a reminder email!

Remember: Only contributions made on the ErieGives website on August 11 will qualify for the matching funds. Every contribution – YOUR contribution – will help bring beauty and hope to an inner-city child.

During this event that runs for 12 hours between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. the match pool will be used to provide a pro-rated match for each donation made. The more donations made to a nonprofit, the greater the share from the matching fund..

WISH LIST

- Healthy snacks (pretzels, cheese crackers, breakfast bars, animal crackers, etc.)
- Health care products (shampoo, comb, brush, body wash/bar soap, deodorant, tooth brush, tooth paste, etc)
- Socks for children ages 7-14
- Gift cards (to stores carrying art or office supplies)
- Art supplies: quilt batting, acrylic paint (bright colors, small bottles), Tacky Glue, Modge Podge, drawing pads, polymer clay, heavy paper plates

DATES OF NOTE

July 12 NAH 20th Anniversary Community Celebration, Noon – 3:00 pm
 August 20 ARTfully yours 7:00 – 9:00 pm
 September 8 Fall Program Begins
 September 15 Taste of the Arts, 5:00 pm
 September 20 ARTfully yours

MEMORIALS

A special thank you to the family of Donald Charles Melerski for designating memorials to the Neighborhood Art House in his memory.

Inner-City Neighborhood Art House



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

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Spring Performances



There was electricity in the air for both the Spring Recital and Spring Open House as high energy children performed for their parents and siblings. These opportunities to shine are an integral part of the performing arts: instrumental and voice music, dance, poetry recitation and acting. For the children, performance helps to give purpose to the many hours of practice; for the parents, performances are a time to recognize their children and praise them for their good work. For both, there is warmth in the heart, and smiles on the faces. The art on display also received notable attention as the children pointed out their own pieces and explained just what they had done to create them. At the end of the Open House parents and children carefully removed their own pieces for further display at home.



DONOR CORNER

We are very grateful for the many in-kind donations that have come our way of late. Of particular note:



Betti Knox responded to our Wish List request and purchased a stacking washer/dryer for us! Such an unexpected and very welcome gift it is! With the wet spring we had, it was used often to dry clothing for the children. We also made good use of our new laundry facilities to wash and dry the dance costumes used at Open House. They look brand new!!



In addition to his generous support of Art & Sole by providing “extra special” event shirts, **Pete Zaphiris**, owner of **Great Lakes Insurance**, provided us with a huge donation of frames, matboard and other framing supplies. Thank you! to these donors and to all of the generous people who have supplied us with personal care items, art supplies, healthy snacks, and office supplies.



Many thanks to 10 year old **Samantha McIntyre** and her mother, **Trisha**. Samantha recently celebrated her 10th birthday. Instead of receiving gifts for herself, she asked her party guests to bring gifts for the Art House. Samantha and her mother brought several boxes of art supplies as well as gift cards and cash gifts and presented them to Sister Peg, Program Director. What a generous spirit! Both Samantha and her mother are to be congratulated!



The 20th Anniversary celebration continues with ARTfully yours. Have fun experimenting with different art forms while enjoying wine and snacks with friends.

August 20, 7:00 pm

**Drawing
 Printmaking**

Ehren Knapp, Murals & Signs
 Sarah Everett, NAH Instructor

September 20, 1:00 pm:

**Painting
 Mini-garden
 Terrarium**

Ehren Knapp, Murals & Signs
 Sue Hunter and
 Sr. Pat Lupo, NAH Instructors

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