NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR

March 2010

Inner-City Neighborhood Art House • 201 East Tenth Street • Erie, Pennsylvania 16503 • 814-455-5508
www.eriebenedicines.org

MARCH
Mastering Art, Respect, Care and Hope

Helping children learn to master visual, performing and literary arts is one of the basic goals of the ministry of the Neighborhood Art House. All kinds of skills are developed in painting, drawing, writing, dancing and playing an instrument. However, what makes the Neighborhood Art House special is the effort that is made to help the children become practiced in respect, care and hope. Every day opens with a mantra written by Sister Mary Lou Kowmacki, OSB:

May my mind think no harm.
May my lips speak no harm.
May my hands do no harm.
May the children of tomorrow bless the work I offer.

This is followed by a rousing rendition of a simple song that assures the children they are part of a circle that welcomes everyone in, a circle bound forever in love. Reminded of these important values, the children go to their classes inspired and grounded. Hope blossoms and the belief that good things do come to those who live with respect and care for themselves, for others, and their world, starts to become a reality.

RECEIVING FROM THE COMMUNITY

Sister Anne Says

There is something special about receiving from the Erie community. The Neighborhood Art House has benefited from a variety of functions. The beauty of it is simply this: thoughtfulness and largesse never grow old. Each event on our behalf glimmers with originality and manages to overwhelm us yet again as a result of good intentions, big hearts, and generous giving.

Through the efforts of various organizations, we have been gif ted with donations with originality and manages to overwhelm us yet again as a result of good intentions, big hearts, and generous giving. Personal gifts, tax credits, memorials and fundraisers remind us every day not to take blessings for granted. Our gratitude. This newsletter is our way of sharing with you the things we are thankful for. May the children of tomorrow bless the work I offer.

GOING TO THE COMMUNITY

At the Neighborhood Art House, students and staff alike have come to understand and value the importance of finding ways to reach out to the community. Most recently, under the direction of various teachers, the students have engaged in special projects to benefit the Erie community. Supervised by Sister Margaret Ann Pleweski, OSB, placemat was made by the children for the Sisters of St. Joseph annual Thanksgiving Dinner held at Gannon University for those who were too old, sick, or otherwise unable to celebrate the holiday.

GIVING TO THE COMMUNITY

Sister Anne accepts a donation from Tim Malesiewski from Waste Management.

Special Events

Taste of the Arts

May 6 • 7:00 PM
Spring Music Recital

May 20 • 7:00 PM
Spring Open House

May 22 • 8:30 AM
2010 Art & Sole 5K Run/Walk

September 14 • 5:00 PM

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NAH Makes A Difference

It is always a memorable day when the Neighborhood Art House hears from former students. Sometimes they stop in for a visit; sometimes they send an e-mail. Here is one such e-mail that serves as a reminder that what is done at NAH can and does make a difference.

You might not remember me but I was a student at the Art House in the late 1990s. Recently, my college speech professor asked us to write an inspirational speech. I was stuck until I came across an issue of a magazine the Art House had published. I couldn’t believe I had it after all those years! I decided to write about the Art House and the difference it made in my life and how it was the one thing I could always count on to be steady. It may have been a long time ago but I realize even more now what a huge difference the Art House made in my life. I don’t think I would be where I am today without all the love and care that was shown me through my years there. Thanks for all your dedication! —A former student
In every community there is work to be done.  In every heart there is the power to do it.  
–Marianne Williamson

IN MEMORY
Founding Women’s Core Committee member, Ann Teed, died on January 8, 2010. At her request, her family and friends, in particular to her son, Dan, who presently serves on the NAH Development Committee, will not be able to participate in the Neighborhood Art House where she found time to not only serve on committees but to give of her time as a mentor. Her passing is mourned, her life is celebrated. Ann was known for her love of children. As a former teacher she brought a special presence to the Neighborhood Art House. The birthday child is celebrated in a memorable evening of entertainment. Everyone knows that birthdays are extra-special at the Neighborhood Art House. The birthday child is celebrated in song and given the coveted “Birthday Bag.”

NEW TEACHERS
The Neighborhood Art House is pleased to announce that four new teachers have joined the staff. While teaching in Summer Session 2009, Nicole Reedy stayed on and teaches Painting with Watercolors. She is joined by Laura Czano-Hirsh and Dottie Glover. Children are enjoying classes in 2D & 3D Art and Arts and Crafts from these teachers.

In January, 47 children shared their progress at the annual DECEMBER OPEN HOUSE. Students and guests alike enjoyed a memorable evening of entertainment. Everyone knows that birthdays are extra-special at the Neighborhood Art House. The birthday child is celebrated in song and given the coveted “Birthday Bag.”

STUDENTS’ TALENTS SHOWCASED
• The DECEMBER OPEN HOUSE showcasing performances in music, dance, and poetry and featuring a display of a variety of visual arts was held at the end of the Fall Session. Students and guests alike enjoyed a memorable evening of entertainment.
• In January, 47 children shared their progress at the annual WINTER MUSIC RECITAL. Students of all ages and levels offered a gift of music using piano, stringed instruments, flute, guitar and voice.

KUDOS
• to Women’s Core Committee member, Mary Ann Toohey, who is being remembered by Mercy Center as one of this year’s Dynamic Dozen. Mary Ann has served on the Community House board of directors and given of her time as a mentor through Family Services of Erie’s Mother-to-Mother program.
• to Erie piano tuner, Norman Plumb, who is being recognized by Mercy Center as one of this year’s Dynamic Dozen. Women who are making history. In addition to the Core Committee, Mary Ann has served on the Community House board of directors and given of her time as a mentor through Family Services of Erie’s Mother-to-Mother program.

TAX CREDITS
Thank you to the following businesses for their generous donations to the Neighborhood Art House through the EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credit) Program: Patterson-Erie • Eriez Magnetics • PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. • Waste Management • Baywide Development Corporation

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
Inner-City Neighborhood Art House
301 East Twelfth Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503-1007

In every community there is work to be done. In every heart there is the power to do it.

Seven-Year-Old Siblings
Everyone knows that birthdays are extra-special at the Neighborhood Art House. The birthday child is celebrated in song and given the coveted “Birthday Bag.”

But perhaps best of all is the day a child turns seven. On that very day they can begin to attend NAH classes. He or she is welcomed with a special music recital and dance is opened for everyone. Everyone knows that birthdays are extra-special at the Neighborhood Art House. The birthday child is celebrated in song and given the coveted “Birthday Bag.”

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