Christmas–A Magical Time

Christmas is a magical time. Stars shine brightly and anticipation fills the air. Joy and excitement bubble up; generosity and goodwill abound. Many gifts are given and many gifts are received. Top among them are the gifts of time and love. Special moments that make memories are cherished and the heart is warmed by simple acts of kindness. If this is what Christmas is, if this is what Christmas does, then Christmas comes to the Neighborhood Art House every day in many ways.

Joy and Excitement Bubble Up

On Sunday, October 19th, the Erie Civic Music Association’s 80th Concert Series presented “Students Play the Warner.” This is a program made possible by a grant from the Erie Community Foundation. Students from the Neighborhood Art House were the invited performers and shared their talents through music and dance.

It was a thrilling moment for all the students who had the opportunity to perform on the stage of the Warner Theater and they made Sister Anne and their teachers proud. Congratulations to all the student performers!

“Come and See”—Magic in the Air

Magic was in the air on Tuesday, September 16th. Under a full and glowing moon the annual Taste of the Arts event unfolded with elegant simplicity. Having been invited to “Come and See,” guests filled the Neighborhood Art House to enjoy each other’s company, to view the astounding art work of budding NAH artists, and to witness a wonderful display of music, dance and poetry performances under the tent. Thanks to sponsors, partners, auction artists, volunteers, teachers and staff, this annual fundraiser proved to be a huge success.

Memory-Making Moments

Celebrate Erie 2008 featured an art exhibit entitled “The Love of Color from the Children of the Neighborhood Art House.” Students and their families were invited to a special opening on Tuesday, August 12th. Joe Wiecezorek and Laurel Taft, using art work produced by the children under the direction of NAH teachers and organized by Sister Margaret Ann Pilewski, CSB created a lovely display in the lobby of City Hall for all to enjoy.

Mayor Joseph Sinnott, Laura Schaaf, Sister Margaret Ann Pilewski, CSB, Joe Wiecezorek and students Shane McClelland and Shania Heim
Sister Anne Says

“...the joy of brightening other lives, bearing each other’s burdens, easing other’s loads and supplanting empty hearts with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas,” wrote W.C. Jones. This is why every day can be and is Christmas here at the Neighborhood Art House. Our daily work is to brighten lives and ease burdens that no child should have to bear. By working together to fill hearts with love and peace through a kind word or a loving gesture, the magic of Christmas becomes real.

On December 18th at 7:00 PM, we will have our annual December Open House. This is an opportunity to experience first hand the accomplishments of NAH students. The evening is like a Christmas stocking filled with goodies. Let our display of art work and entertainment be our treat to you this holiday season. Do join with us in celebrating the magic of Christmas through a kind word or a loving gesture, let us celebrate giving, and let us give thanks to God for our gifts given and gifts received as a sign of our gratitude for your care and support.

Emily Griffith selects a book for her Hooked On Books! program. Volunteering is about giving and the NAH volunteers make a meaningful contribution to the mission of NAH to help students grow into full and productive human beings. This is why every day can be and is Christmas here at the Neighborhood Art House. Our daily work is to brighten lives and ease burdens that no child should have to bear. By working together to fill hearts with love and peace through a kind word or a loving gesture, the magic of Christmas becomes real.

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