

Neighbor to Neighbor

December 2008



Inner-City Neighborhood Art House
201 East Tenth Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503-1007
(814)455-5508
www.eriebenedictines.org

Christmas is forever,
not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving,
are not to put away
like bells and lights and tinsel,
in some box upon a shelf.
The good you do for others
is good you do yourself...

Norman Wesley Brooks,
"Let Every Day Be Christmas," 1976

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.



Cellist Esmeraldaliz Torres

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!

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 Wieczorek and Laurel Taft, using art work produced by the children under the direction of NAH teachers and organized by Sister Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB created a lovely display in the lobby of City Hall for all to enjoy.



Mayor Joseph Sinnott, Laura Schaaf, Sister Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB, Joe Wieczorek and students Shane McClelland and Shania Heim

"Come and See"—Magic in the Air



Sister Anne Wambach, OSB, with guests Joanna and Roger Zurn at Taste of the Arts 2008

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.

Neighborhood Art House Gallery

The purpose of Art
is to create enthusiasm.

Picasso



Leaf prints



Acrylic mask, mixed media



Stained glass



Mixed media—"Bad Hair Day"



Above, Sister Marilyn Schauble, OSB, accompanies Peter and Jacob Samusenko. At left, Keyana Ware recites a poem she memorized for Taste of the Arts..

Sister Anne Says



"The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others' burdens, easing other's loads and supplanting empty hearts with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas," wrote W.C. Jones. This

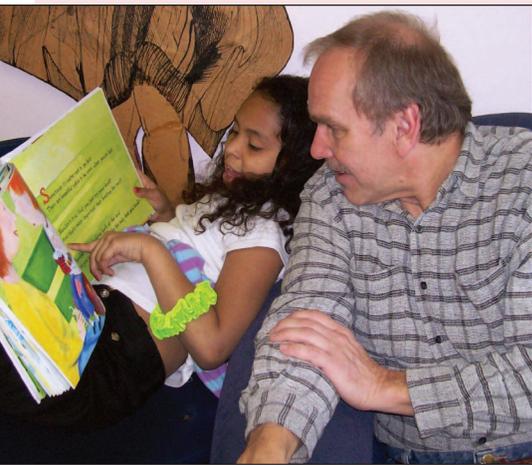
is why every day can be and is Christmas here at the Neighborhood Art House. Our daily work is to brighten lives and ease burdens that no child should have to bear. By working together to fill hearts with love and peace through a kind word or a loving gesture, the magic of Christmas becomes real.

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 gifts given and gifts received as a sign of our gratitude for your care and support.

Sister Anne

Gifts of Time and Love

Hardly a day goes by that the Neighborhood Art House is not the recipient of special acts of kindness. Volunteers "run" everywhere. They take care of student snacks, offer assistance in classes, tutor and read in the Hooked On Books! program.



Destynie Thomas and Chuck Murawski are both Hooked On Books!



Volunteers Alysia Tucker and Sony Issac with Art House student Nathan Hansen



Emily Griffith selects a book for her Hooked On Books! partner.

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.

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

Beauty
 Vision
 Hope
 Inner-City
 Neighborhood Art House

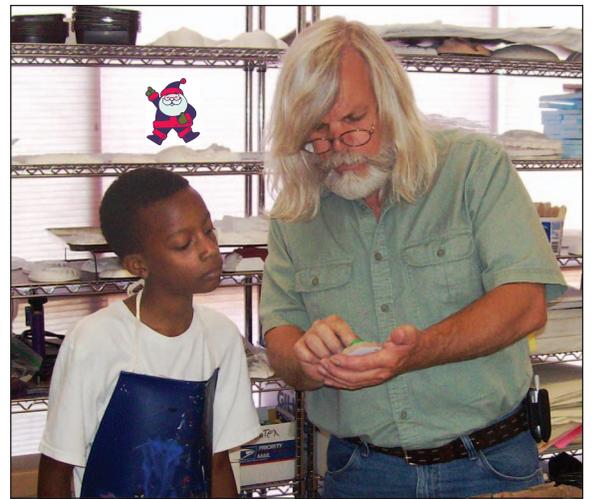
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The Teacher Feature Starring Chuck Dill

Ummm—white hair, white beard. Could it be? Gentle spirit, generous heart. It must be! Who would have guessed that the Neighborhood Art House has its very own Santa Claus day in and day out? Chuck Dill doesn't wear the traditional red suit but he does indeed share some of the basic qualities that make a good Santa Claus, not least among them being a consistent effort to provide the best for the children in his care.

Dill is an Erie native and a graduate of McDowell High School. He began his life as an artist while a teenager when he worked as a designer for a local contractor. Throughout the years Dill has enjoyed every aspect of being an artist, from creating whimsical fiberglass characters to restoring damaged church statuary. His work has been featured at public arts projects in Erie (*Leap Frog and Go Fish*), Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as well as in Cleveland and Youngstown, Ohio. Most recently his carved slate sculpture, entitled "Spoken," was on display at Gannon University in connection with the 2008 Festival of the Arts.

A teacher at the Neighborhood Art House for more than six years, Dill has taught a variety of courses including free-



Chuck Dill with student Malcolm NeSmith

form sculpture, air brushing, computer imaging, and digital photography and recently introduced new courses in screen printing and wood burning. He readily admits that this is his favorite job: "A friend recommended it to me so I volunteered," said Dill. "I knew from that first day I wanted to be here, to teach here. I love seeing creativity develop in young people."

—Based on an interview by Ron Wasielewski

Art is our memory of love. The most an artist can do through their work is say, let me show you what I have seen, what I have loved, and perhaps you will see it and love it too. —Annie Bevan

Generosity and Goodwill Abound

TAX CREDITS

A special thank you to all Neighborhood Art House donors, particularly for the recent Tax Credit gifts received from the following:

- \$ 5,000 Hamot
- \$ 5,000 Waste Management
- \$ 5,000 Patterson-Erie
- \$ 8,231 First National Bank
- \$10,000 PNC Bank



Carmine Camillo from Waste Management presents a check to Sister Anne and Art House Children.



Thomas Wedzik and David Slomski from FNB Bank with Neighborhood Art House children

This financial support goes a long way to help NAH maintain a balanced budget. If you are interested in learning about how your Pennsylvania-based company might support NAH through this program, call 814-455-5508 for details.

GRANTS

Gifts come to the Neighborhood Art House in many shapes and sizes. Grants are one form that gifts take. NAH has been fortunate to be the recipient of the following grants:

- \$2,602 Arts Council of Erie—Unrestricted McCain Fund
- \$3,156 Arts Council of Erie—Clarence E. Beyers Music Performance Fund
- \$1,584 PA Partners in the Arts
- \$5,000 Department of Community & Economic Development



NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR Sister Charlotte Anne Zalot, OSB, Editor; Judy Allison, Design