

# NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



August  
2011

Inner-City Neighborhood Art House • 201 East Tenth Street • Erie, Pennsylvania 16503 • 814-455-5508  
— A MINISTRY OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ERIE —  
[www.eriebenedictines.org](http://www.eriebenedictines.org)



## Seeing the Beautiful

Summer Session 2011 offered a number of experiences to the children who participated in the program. At the heart of every class was the goal to help the children see and encounter "more than meets the eye." Whether it was painting or drawing, working with beads or recycling materials, dancing or playing a musical instrument, knitting or crocheting, reading or writing, every day brought the opportunity to see and be exposed to beauty.

Never lose an opportunity  
of seeing anything that is beautiful;  
for beauty is God's handwriting—  
a wayside sacrament.

Welcome it in every fair face,  
in every fair sky, in every fair flower,  
and thank God for it as a cup of blessing.  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Seasons to Celebrate Taste of the Arts 2011



WE ARE HURRYING TO LET YOU KNOW...

There is an error on your invitation.  
TASTE OF THE ARTS IS REALLY  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13.

Please hurry and accept our apology  
and join us for the fun on Tuesday, September 13.

**IF**

You want to help break the crippling cycle of poverty that plagues Erie's inner-city children . . .

You value creativity, self-expression, confidence, working together, developing talents, positive influence . . .

You enjoy an evening of terrific entertainment, great food, beautiful art, delightful children, hope and joy . . .

Your heart recognizes the joy of giving . . .

**THEN**

Taste of the Arts is for you!



Vitus Kaiser, watercolor artist, and Taste of the Arts co-chairpersons, Lisa Chinsky (center) and Bobbi Pollock display the watercolor painting Vitus will donate to the silent auction.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011**

"Under the Tent" at the  
Neighborhood Art House

**5:00 p.m.** • Cocktails & Light Buffet

**5:45 p.m.** • Performance by  
Neighborhood Art House Children

**Committee**

Bobbi Pollock (Co-chairperson &  
Women's Core Committee)

Lisa Chinsky (Co-chairperson)

Patti Eichen

Rita Scrimenti

Sr. Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB

Sr. Annette Marshall, OSB

**Emcee**

Brady Louis

**Silent Auction Donating Artists**

Art Becker, Karen Dodson,

Evan Everhart, Bill Hess and

Brian Millspaw, Vitus Kaiser,

RELISH, Dolores Sutula-Dray,

Tom Vicary, Anne Wirth

**Live Auction**

"Day and Night"

by student artist, Sierra Heidelberg

**Call 455-5508  
for tickets  
and  
information**

## The Program Director

Sister Peg has been at the Neighborhood Art House for 16 years. This was her initial year as Program Director. It was a year of learning and of relating to the children in a different way—no longer teacher, yet always teaching. Sister Peg organized the class offerings, welcomed teachers, students and parents, those with long time relationships to NAH and those who were



entering into that relationship for the first time. She worked with faculty, staff members and volunteers to continue the excellence for which NAH is known. Everything she did contributed to making each individual's experience of NAH as rich and memorable as possible. The fruit of her effort is best captured in a letter from an NAH parent. It is a true reflection of who and what NAH is and continues to be. Your help makes it possible and that, too, is a reason why we think this letter is important to share. May it touch you as it touched us.

*Dear Sister Peg,  
Me and my husband want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for what you and the Art House has done for our daughter. You brang out her artistic side that we knew she had but didn't have the means to do it ourself! You have truly made her shine! I just know that when she grows up she will be someone special. And it is all because of your program. I want to thank you for opening up such a wonderful, fantastic building that lets children shine when their parents can't afford to send them to other places that only do it for money. When you have open house I can see it in all there faces. I see love, confidence, respect and joy. . . . Sister Peg, thank you very much for all you do and please thank everybody that's there taking time out for my daughter. You are very special people and you deserve an award for all you do! You have touched my daughters heart as well as mine. The things she makes are so special you can't put a price on them. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!*  
[from an NAH parent]

And thank you, our readers, friends, and benefactors, for all you do to help us continue the mission of NAH to help children "to experience beauty, grow in positive self-expression and self-discipline, and develop into full and productive human beings."



## From the Desk of Sister Annette

At a recent family gathering, while we were playing songs from our youth and sharing memories, I was asked which Beatles' song was my favorite. Without a pause, I answered *Hey, Jude*. Why so?



*Hey Jude, don't make it bad . . . Take a sad song and make it better. . .* reminds us that while we all face sorrow or difficulty, a positive attitude and our own effort go a long way to "make things better."

*And anytime you feel the pain, hey Jude, refrain; don't carry the world upon your shoulders. For well you know that it's a fool who plays it cool; by making his world a little colder.*

Did you ever notice that children will often take a family's pain and try to carry it on their own small shoulders? As families feel the pinch of parents without work, of a sibling's serious illness, of divorce or of violence, it is the children who often "play it cool" by shutting others out and taking on the responsibility for whatever is wrong.

Let us all, in our families, our neighborhoods, our city, and here at the Art House, help children to take sadness and "make it better." Let us all lighten our attitudes about our own burdens so that they do not seem to be the "world upon our shoulders." There really is much more joy to be shared than sorrow to be endured. Let's help our NAH children experience that joy through the joy in our own hearts and the hand extended to guide them.

*Sister Annette*

## Memorials

A special thank you to the family of Marianne Pantano Texter for designating memorials to the Neighborhood Art House in her memory.

### NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Sister Charlotte Anne Zalot, OSB, Editor  
Judy Allison, Design

Printed on Recycled Paper



## Inner-City Neighborhood Art House



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

Beauty  
Vision  
Hope  
Inner-City  
Neighborhood Art House

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Erie, PA  
Permit No. 247

## What's New at NAH?

### NEW LOOK

There are some projects underway that are giving the Neighborhood Art House a new look. Landscaping by Dahlkemper's Landscape Architects and Contractors and a new mural developed and painted by NAH students under the direction of teacher, Ehren Knapp, are adding to the outdoor beauty and NAH presence. While some would say the east perimeter of the property is the recipient of this "facelift," here at NAH we believe our neighbors and all who drive or walk by can benefit from this panorama of charming creativity.



Achille Damndo works on his part of the new mural.

### NEW ADDITION

Congratulations to Art House teacher, Lourdes Jasso. She and her husband, Armando, recently welcomed a son into their family. Ms. Jasso, computer and digital photography teacher, also works on the organization of class schedules. Here Diego joins her to be sure the summer schedules and room assignments are in good order for teachers and students alike.

### NEW VOLUNTEERS



Former Neighborhood Art House students, Victoria Coleman and Chris Schneider returned to NAH this summer—this time as volunteers. Chris, currently a sophomore at Edinboro University, and Victoria, a sophomore at Northwest PA Collegiate Academy, were happy to offer their smiling presence at the place that introduced them to the world of creative and performing arts.



Alex Damndo, student, works on his weaving project with Victoria, volunteer.

### NEW VISITOR

On June 10, First Lady of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Susan Corbett, visited the Neighborhood Art House and received a grand tour from Sister Annette, Executive Director. As Chair of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Mrs. Corbett enjoyed the opportunity to learn the many ways in which NAH engages youth in teaching an appreciation for the arts. She was impressed with the place, the staff, and the children's work and said, "I am confident that your efforts will continue to have a tremendous impact in your community in the years to come."

**THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ART AND SOLE**, planned and hosted by the Development Committee, saw over 260 participants registered to run or walk the 5K route "in the neighborhood." In addition to a good time shared by avid runners, fitness enthusiasts, and many Art House families, this year's event generated nearly \$15,000 to support Art House programs.

*We are grateful to all who helped with the event.*

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The Belay family—Saron, 2nd from left, and Jabez, 2nd from right, attend Art House classes.

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