

Neighbor to Neighbor

December 2013



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

—A MINISTRY OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ERIE—

FOCUS ON HAND-SEWING

Sewing Pillows, taught by Cathy Miller, is often among the first classes that a child takes at the Art House. It won't be an ordinary pillow that these boys and girls make, but one with a quilt-patch top made by stitching all the pieces together, then stuffing it with polyester fiberfill. The stitching—it's all done BY HAND!

Cathy Miller has been an Art House teacher since the program began with a pilot in the summer of 1994. She developed the pillow project early on, and since then has guided the fingers of nearly 2,000 children to "keep the stitches small" and "match the edges carefully." Cathy is quick to tell visitors that she learned long ago that many of the Art House families cannot provide pillows for their children. "The children are very proud to make one of their very own, to take it home to show their parents and to use it as their very own bed pillow".

After this pillow project, the children are welcome to sign up for additional quilting classes where they not only expand the size of their quilted item, but develop ever more complex hand-sewing, measuring and design skills.

There is no better exercise for your heart than reaching down and helping to lift someone up. —Bernard Meltzer

NAH CHILDREN GIFTED WITH ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Through the generosity of benefactors and nonprofit organizations our children have explored many opportunities for enrichment. These have all been provided without cost to the families or to the Neighborhood Art House. We are all very grateful!

FRECKLEFACE STRAWBERRY: At the invitation of the **ERIE PLAYHOUSE**, the children attended a dress rehearsal for *Freckleface Strawberry* on November 7. After this production by the Youtheatre, Silvina, age 11, returned from this, her first theatrical experience, proclaiming "I love the costumes, and all the singing and dancing. I just loved everything!"



A field trip to the **TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER** on November 20 had the children exploring the ancient life of dinosaurs in *Flying Monsters* on the Big Green Screen. They also visited the Aquaponics Lab to learn about research on Lake Erie fish. We are grateful to the **Young Erie Professionals (YEP)** and the **Friends of the TREC** for this exciting enrichment experience.

The **ERIE DANCE CONSERVATORY** has invited our children to attend a performance of **THE GRINCH THAT STOLE CHRISTMAS**. This is a wonderful opportunity, especially for the children who participate in the NAH dance classes.



MARY POPPINS' umbrella has transported her to the **ERIE PLAYHOUSE** where she is singing and dancing her way into the hearts of adults and children alike. According to the Erie Playhouse website, this is "an irresistible story with unforgettable songs from one of the most popular Disney films ever. It's sure to be a 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious' time. . ." A very good friend of the Art House is purchasing tickets for our children and their families to attend the January 4 performance.



Burger King® to DECK THE HOUSE

Calling all burger lovers and Art House supporters! Burger King® Restaurants is conducting a fundraising event to benefit the Neighborhood Art House. Burger King® wanted to know what they could do to promote support for the Art House. The result is the **DECK THE HOUSE** campaign being held **December 12-14** at all Burger King® Restaurants in Erie County.

Look for this special display at Burger King®!

Deck the House
Make the holidays bright for a child.
Erie Area Burger King® Restaurants are proud to host the "Deck the House" Program December 12 - 14th to benefit the inner-city children at the Neighborhood Art House.

Donate Your Way!

Donate a FINANCIAL GIFT at any Burger King® Restaurant, and let our volunteers do the shopping.

or

Provide a WISH LIST ITEM and drop it off at your nearest Burger King®.

Wish List Items
Healthy After-school Snacks
Personal Care Items such as shampoo, combs, toothpaste, soap
Winter Gloves and Hats
Socks (Boys and Girls) 7-14 yrs.
Art Supplies such as drawing pads, tacky glue, pencils, erasers and markers

Every donation, no matter how big or small, will receive a FREE WHOPPER JR® sandwich, courtesy of Burger King® Restaurants of Erie.

Please pass the word to friends and neighbors and ask them to take advantage of this outstanding opportunity for holiday giving.

Wishing You
All the Joys of the Season
and Every Happiness
throughout
the Coming Year

Neighborhood Art House Children and Staff
Annette Marshall, OSB, Executive Director
Benedictine Sisters of Erie



From the Desk of Sr. Annette



"Even the smallest act of caring for another person is like a drop of water—it will make ripples throughout the entire pond. . . ." [Jessey and Bryan Matteo] This is how we make the world a better place. Each time we reach out to another, each time we stop to listen, each time we offer a hand to help or an arm to lean on we send out a ripple of compassion that has no boundaries. This is especially true of children who are forming their life values and practicing behaviors of personal interaction. The greatest gift that we can give is to love them—to take time for them, show them patience, respect their efforts and model right relationships. They will indeed send out ripples that affect others throughout their lives. What kind of ripples will they be? That largely depends on each of us.

This newsletter is full of examples of ripples being set in motion within our children. From teachers who inspire and respect the children, to individuals and organizations that provide them with enrichment, to donors who make the Art House possible, each "small act of caring" stirs the ripples forming in each child. You make a difference in so many lives—thank you.

Sister Annette



HOLIDAY WISH LIST

ART HOUSE FRIENDS have been incredibly generous in both their financial support and their in-kind gifts for the program, and for the individual needs of the children. This is especially true at holiday time. While funding for operations is always the greatest need, we'd like to offer some suggestions for those who prefer to do some special holiday shopping to benefit the Art House. Here is a partial listing.

PERSONAL SUPPLIES for the children: socks, winter gloves and hats, personal care products (shampoo, combs, brushes, bar soap, tooth brushes and paste, etc.)



GENERAL PROGRAM SUPPLIES: healthy snacks (pretzels, animal crackers, crackers, breakfast bars, etc.), boxes of tissues, copy paper, desk supplies, gift cards for grocery stores

GENERAL ART SUPPLIES: gift cards to arts and crafts stores or other supply stores; acrylic paint (bright or metallic colors) in small bottles, Tacky Glue, Modge Podge, #2 pencils, drawing pads, polymer clay (assorted colors)



ENVIRONMENT: sun sensitive paper, small pots for plants, hand-held garden tools

DANCE AND YOGA CLASSES: sweat pants and/or leggings, shorts (child sizes), Tea Tree Essential Oil, Clorox wipes

SPECIFIC ART CLASSES: *Mosaics*—white, black or kidney beans, buttons (no shanks), cabochons,



scraps of stained glass, small sea shells, small tiles, medium size beads, small pieces of wood, beach glass, old jewelry, heavy

duty paper plates, Mardi Gras beads *Clay*—Crayola air dry white clay *Digital Photography*—semi-gloss, satin or matte finish photo paper (8.5x 11) *Fabrics and Quilting*—Tulip brand soft fabric paint (matte—basic colors); polyester, unbleached muslin, fusible web (heavy duty), tie dye kits, Seta color dyes or Jacquard fabric dyes



Knitting—needles size 5 and up *Jewelry*—waxed linen, fancy beads with large holes, embroidery needles *Sculpture, Airbrush, Crafts*—modeling clay, "Incredible" ink pads, "Stamp and Press" ink pads, "Sculpey" clay—basic colors, one-yard pieces of children's print cotton cloth



Wellsville to Feature Neighborhood Art House

The Art House will be featured as an **Inspiration Hero** during an upcoming segment of Wellsville, a syndicated program for children originating from FOX 66 here in Erie. Sr. Peg, Program Director, will be featured in this segment of



the program which is set to air in the spring. Sr. Peg explains: "Dr. Snow inquired about our program and its benefits to our inner-city children. We know that art and music have a profound effect on children and research shows that children who attend a program like ours are able to make better choices for themselves as they grow. Our Art House is a place where children learn, interact and work towards making the world a better place."

Kathy Iorio, Executive Director, and Dr. Tony Snow, President, of **WellFit, Inc.** along with a crew of lighting technicians, videographers and even a makeup artist, visited the Art House in November to film the children in



their classes and to interview Sr. Peg. Recipient of the Excellence in Broadcasting Award in the category of "Outstanding Television Program Designed For Children" from the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters, Wellsville "provides children and families with the knowledge to lead healthy and active lives by learning the value of healthy eating, the importance of regular physical activity and how to develop healthy lifestyle choices." (Wellsville Website: www.wellsville.tv)

DONOR CORNER

We are grateful to everyone whose generosity contributes to the Neighborhood Art House. May you have the satisfaction of knowing that your gift benefits many inner-city children in their pursuit of beauty.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT RECEIVES MEMORIAL GIFT

Three new guitars and a beautifully refurbished violin have been donated to the Art House music program in memory of Helen Silay by her husband, Stephen. Helen was 90 years old when she died last March. She was a violinist and very committed to bringing music into the lives of others. "What better memorial than to help children fall in love with music," Stephen declared as he presented Sister Margaret Ann Pilewski (Sister Peg), Program Director, with his wife's refurbished violin and three new youth-sized guitars.



Stephen Silay with Sister Peg

SERVICE CLUB SUPPORT

The **Slovak National Club** and the **Polish Falcons** have chosen the Neighborhood Art House as a recipient of charitable giving generated by their games of chance. We are grateful to these service clubs and to all of the nonprofit organizations that support our work with inner-city children.

BUSINESS SUPPORT THROUGH EITC

Educational Improvement Tax Credits, a program of the PA Department of Economic Development, enables businesses to contribute to nonprofits recognized by the local school districts as innovative programs that improve the education of children attending the public schools. Businesses that have recently provided funding through this program include:

- Bayside Development Corporation (Hamot)
- C.A. Curtze Co. • Erie Insurance Group
- ERIEZ Manufacturing Co. • MacDonald Illig Attorneys • Marquette Savings Bank • PNC
- Reed Manufacturing • Scott Enterprises
- Waste Management, Inc.

Thanksgiving Placemats



Ariah, Samuel and Moustafa enjoyed lending their creativity to preparing placemats for Thanksgiving Dinners that both the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the Emmaus Soup Kitchen provide for those living in poverty. All of the children participated in this project that gave them an opportunity to reach out to those in need.

Holiday Cookie Decorating



Every year volunteers provide an opportunity for every NAH child to decorate holiday cookies and take them home to share. Renie Louis, coordinator of the project, is shown assisting Kiyonn and Hy during the 2013 event. This year, decorating is scheduled for December 4.

Memorial

A special thank you to the family of
Carl Coates, Erie, PA
Francis Burger, Talihina, OK
for designating memorials to the Neighborhood Art House their memory.

Dates of Note

December 12	Fall Term Open House
December	Burger King
12-14	"Help the House"
January 2	Winter Term Begins
January 4	Mary Poppins—Erie Playhouse (NAH guests of a benefactor)
May 13	Winter/Spring Term Ends
May 15	Winter/Spring Term Open House
June 7	Art & Sole—5K Run/Walk

Winter/Spring Term

Registration Forms and Schedules are available for the Winter/Spring Term. Call the Art House • 455-5508 for registration information.

Inner-City Neighborhood Art House



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