

NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



October
2014

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

— A MINISTRY OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ERIE —
www.neighborhoodarthouse.org

TASTE of the ARTS 2014

"You can't beat that old time Rock and Roll"



Co-chairs Sue DiCara, Karen Clark



Sarah Everett and Christian Kakulu



THE AUDIENCE CLAPPED TO THE BEAT as the children's chorus proclaimed "We're gonna rock around the Art House tonight," and through music, song, dance and dramatic reading, that is just what they did. Mary Tobin, one of the very first children to attend the Art House, told the assembly just how significant her time at the Art House was in helping her form a strong foundation for life. Brady Louis, our own on-stage disc jockey, kept the beat going from the opening song until the final drawing.

Over 300 Art House friends and supporters joined in the celebration of the 17th annual Taste of the Arts. Child artists stood by their framed art to describe the techniques they had used to create the seventy-one pieces offered for sale. In keeping with the period theme, brightly colored clay plates individually crafted by students "in the manner" of Georgia O'Keeffe's large floral paintings, and centerpieces donated by Larese Floral Designs featuring student decorated records were popular souvenir purchases.

Lively bidding continued throughout the evening for art donated by regional artists Lainie Blair Addressi, Sarah Everett (NAH teacher), Bill Hess, Vitus Kaiser, Sr Margaret Ann Pilewski

(NAH Program Director), Dolores Sutula-Dray, Ruth Swaney and Anne Wirth. Themed pieces included a child's pedal car (a pink period convertible) filled with Pulako's chocolates donated by Martha Hilbert and a Rockin' Quilt created by MaryLouChimenti and Patty Marshall; a Colorado get-away contributed by Lynn and Dale McBrier completed the offerings in the Silent Auction.

Having enjoyed fifty's era food selections such as mini-hot dogs, a mac & cheese bar and root beer floats, the audience welcomed featured student artist Christian Kakulu and his teacher Sarah Everett to the stage for the live auction. Christian, a recent immigrant from the Congo whose only prior art experience had been using paper and pencil, had designed his painting on fabric to depict the potential harmony between humans and the natural world if we learn to care for the earth, the animals, the environment and our homes.

The Benedictine Sisters are very grateful to Sue DiCara and Karen Clark, the hard-working co-chairs of this event, and to the artists, students, volunteers, faculty, development staff and attendees for making this annual celebration so successful!



Mary Tobin, alumna



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Here from the Beginning

CATHY MILLER, a full-time teacher at the Art House since the pilot conducted in the summer of 1994, retired at the end of the summer session. A creative crafter, Cathy could look at any donated item and find a way to have the children use it



Students in the summer program pose with Cathy Miller whose burlap project gave them a creative way to learn some basic stitching.

to create an art piece. With particular love and attention to the youngest participants, Cathy's focus was always the child. She often visited the children's families at home so she would better understand them and their needs. Cathy will be sorely missed, but her great influence on the development of the visual arts program will remain for years to come. We wish Cathy well as she seeks the time and space to enjoy some of her own crafts, especially quilting.



Cathy's granddaughter and Neighborhood Art House volunteer Emilia joined the staff in honoring Cathy at a retirement luncheon in July. Cathy used this opportunity to remind the faculty that supporting the personal development of each child is far more important than their growth as artists or musicians.

Focus On Painting

"THERE IS A DELICATE BALANCE between creative expression and fundamental techniques in teaching children the fine art of painting," explained Mary Lubowicki. A 20-year veteran at the Neighborhood Art House, Mary's painting students range from seven-year olds just beginning to explore color to the more accomplished teens whose watercolors have won numerous awards for excellence.

Young children like to experiment with color. They learn through experience that all the colors can be produced from the primary colors of red, blue and yellow. They soon learn as well, that there is a "right way" to do this and that indiscriminate mixing may well result in "mud."

Nine to eleven year-olds want to actually depict something realistically. They begin by reproducing a two-dimensional painting. More difficult is transferring a three-dimensional still life into two-dimensions. As they mature, "they begin to see like an artist sees—shapes, shadows, light . . . really seeing what is there." They learn the basics of composition so that the painting actually becomes their own. "They need direction, but also need to make a lot of their own choices. I let them experiment and learn through trial and error."

PAINTING CLASSES ARE DESIGNED FOR ALL OF THE CHILDREN.

Regardless of their innate talent, all can experience success because each child's work is honored and displayed on the Art House walls. Growth in self-esteem is a desired outcome in all of the Art House classes. Mrs. L, as the children call her, says "I feel good inside when the child can say, 'I like my painting'."

One of Mary's favorite ways to teach proper techniques is to challenge the students to produce their own painting "in the manner of" a famous artist. She especially likes to use paintings by Van Gogh and Picasso because they are so creative with color and form. The children who struggle with realism can be very successful. Both realism and abstraction help the children to develop their own imagination and to express themselves in the way they are most comfortable.

Mary also provides "fun experiments" for the children, using salt, plastic wrap, blowing through straws and sun-sensitive dyes. There is a freedom in these methods that the children really enjoy.

"Process is more important than product," says Mrs. L. Paying attention to the beauty around us, experimenting with color and enjoying the various painting media are all part of "painting class."



From the Desk of Sr. Annette

*There are two ways to live your life.
One, as though nothing is a miracle.
The other, as though everything is.*
Albert Einstein

A newborn's fingers, a birdsong at dawn, a family reconciliation—we know these as miracles. Just thinking of them brings a smile and warms the heart.



Some miracles, though, are harder to recognize. A crying infant who just will not stop, a cherished project whose funding is cut, a sullen teen who refuses to communicate—are these miracles as well? They can be if they become agents of growth. A parent's love for the crying infant or the incorrigible teen must grow stronger to be able to carry through; isn't selfless, unconditional love a miracle? Growing beyond disappointment to see new possibilities, is this, too, not a miracle?

Each of us who is privileged to see the wonder in a child's eye or to recognize a growing self-confidence in a youngster who masters a dance step or blends the perfect color, knows deep down that simply being where we are is a miracle. It is an awesome responsibility to help nurture a child. It is a miracle that we can.

Sister Annette

*The most incredible thing
about miracles
is that they happen.*
GK Chesterton

**DATES OF NOTE
2014**

Sept. 2 - Dec. 9 - Fall Session
December 11 - Open House, 7:00 pm

2015

Jan. 5 - May 12 - Winter/Spring Session
May 14 - Open House, 7:00 pm
June 6, 2015 - Art & Sole 5K Run/Walk

DONOR CORNER

We are grateful to everyone who 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.

OF PARTICULAR NOTE:

ERIE GIVES: August 12, 2014 was an important date for the Neighborhood Art House and 320 of Erie's non-profit organizations. During a 12-hour period on this date, the Erie Community Foundation received over \$2.25 million to distribute to the non-profits designated by the donors. With a match fund of \$200,000 created with donations from the Erie Community Foundation (\$100,000), GE Transportation (\$50,000), Erie Insurance (\$25,000) and Presque Isle Downs and Casino (\$25,000), credit card fees were covered and each non-profit received a pro-rated cash match.

The Neighborhood Art House received \$14,405 from 116 donors along with a match of \$934.41. Since that time we have also received several matching gifts from employer matches.

Our thanks to all who donated, to all who created the matching fund, and to the Erie Community Foundation for initiating and organizing this annual benefit.

Mark your calendars - next year's date is August 11, 2015.

ORGANIZATION SUPPORT: We are very grateful to the many organizations that support our work with inner city children. Among these is the Mechanical Contractors Association of NWPA.



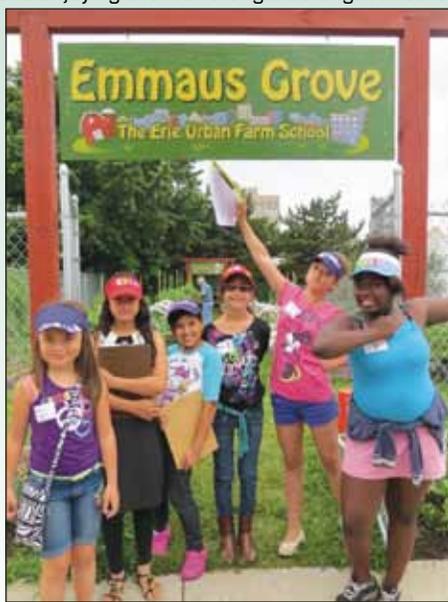
Pictured with Patti Eichen, NAH Development Office, is Doug Armstrong, the Association's Executive Director. Supporters since 2008, this year the organization has contributed a total of \$2,000. Other organizations that have supported the Art House in 2014 include the **Slovak National Club, Edison Elementary School, Benny Belles, and the Whole Foods Coop.**

TUTORS NEEDED!

Please call Sr. Peg Pilewski
455-5508 or email
program@neighborhoodarthouse.org
to learn how you can help a child
through tutoring.

GIRLS GROWING with GARDENING

GIRLS GROWING WITH GARDENING, July 7-18, at the Neighborhood Art House and designed and moderated by Fran Rosiak (American Association of University Women), Ellen DiPlacido (Emmaus Grove) and Sr. Pat Lupo (Neighborhood Art House) had girls 10-14 planting, harvesting, tasting, and enjoying the world of gardening. Whether at the Art House, Emmaus Grove Urban Farm or on one of many field trips, the girls had the opportunity to interact with 25 members of AAUW and 25 Master Gardeners—a total of 50 adult volunteers. "What an incredible experience this was for city girls. We cannot thank Fran, the AAUW, the Master Gardeners, or our Field Trip hosts enough!" said Sr. Pat Lupo, Art House Environmental Educator.



Emmaus Grove Urban Farm, located in a lot right behind the Art House, was the site of numerous activities from planting to harvesting.

I learned to try many new things at Garden Camp, like eating peas, blueberries, pesto.... Thank you AAUW and Master Gardeners. Julissa



Gardening Program participants visited Stans Garden Center where they each created an herb garden to take home.



Summer Program

The 2014 Summer Program was full—full of students (120 each week), full of activity (in class and on field trips), full of fun!

Here is a brief photo-story showing a piece of the action



Inner-City Neighborhood Art House



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

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Vision
Hope**

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Students Participate in NOAA'S Great Lakes Stewards Project

MEMBERS OF THE ART HOUSE WATERSHED AND GREEN TEAM classes were part of a NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) funded project, "Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences," operated by PA Sea Grant. In addition to learning about storm water management practices, they painted stencils on storm drains and made door hangers to be placed on the front doors of neighborhood homes alerting residents to the dangers of allowing trash to make its way



into the storm drains. They also wrote articles published in the Erie Times NIE (Newspapers in Education) pages and presented their experiences to hundreds of area students at the Earth Action Youth Summit in the spring.



Pictured above, students shared their watershed map/game with the general public at Penn State Behrend. Doreen Petri, NWPA Collegiate Academy teacher (pictured left) coordinated the production of the huge floor map that the children designed to show the effects, both good and bad, of human interaction with our watersheds.

WISH LIST

- Stacking washer/dryer • Personal hygiene supplies • Healthy snacks • Socks, sweatpants; winter gloves, scarves, hats • Art supplies • Hand-held garden tools • Buttons, small beads/tiles (for mosaic classes) • Crayola air dry white clay • Gift cards to art supply, big box or grocery stores • Copy paper (white or colors) • Office supplies.

We're searching...

Are you a Neighborhood Art House Alumnus? Do you know anyone who is? We are hoping to locate our former students in preparation for our 20th Anniversary.



Please email information to nah@neighborhoodarthouse.org or call us at 814-455-5508.



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