

NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR



March
2013

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

“The Language of Friendship...”

NEIGHBORHOOD ART HOUSE FRIENDS

When Henry David Thoreau said that “the language of friendship is not words but meanings,” he was most likely speaking of personal friendships. Here at the Art House we know that it applies just as truly to our many friends. The activities undertaken to benefit our children not only bring financial support, they also clearly speak the language of friendship to all who participate. Here are some recent examples.

“WITH FRIENDS WE NEVER CAN FORGET” SBA School Song



Each year the St. Benedict Academy Alumnae renews friendships at the annual Christmas gathering. This, however, is not just a great time to socialize. Funds raised through the dinner’s activities are donated to one of the Benedictine ministries. This year, the Art House received \$6,000 to provide healthy snacks for the children and to replace program materials, primarily string instruments, that have simply “worn out” from years of use by young hands.

Lisa Manendo SBA '74 (center) and Kathy Anyz, SBA '69 (right) chairpersons for the 2012 SBA Alumnae dinner, join Sr. Annette Marshall, Executive Director, for a close-up look at one of the cellos used in the NAH strings program.

CELEBRATING 100

Just what does one hundred mean to a first grader? To bring the concept home, first graders at Our Lady of Peace School were each to do a project using 100 of something and bring it to school on the 100th school day of the year. Katie Denlinger’s parents saw this as an opportunity to help their daughter respond to the needs of others. After learning about the Art House through a tour of the website, Katie decided to collect 100 dimes by performing small chores at home for which the dimes were a reward. Once earned, the dimes were mounted for display and then presented to us. Congratulations to all parents and teachers who help children develop habits of giving.



Katie was happy to present her 100 dimes to Sr. Peg Pilewski, Program Director.

From the Desk of Sr. Annette

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same.

—Adlai E. Stevenson II

Such is the nature of true friends, they are in it for the “long haul.” A good friend sees us through the good times and through the hard times. A true friend reflects who we are back to us, celebrating our gifts and challenging us to grow into our best selves. In many ways, the Neighborhood Art



House is friend to our children and their families.

For the hundreds, no, thousands of at-risk children who have been Neighborhood Art House participants, their experiences here have left footprints on their hearts that will last a lifetime. The support and empowerment that they have known will continue to influence their growth toward self-actualization.

An inspired friend of Erie’s economically disadvantaged, **Sister Mary Lou Kownacki**, dreamed the Art House into reality. She was not only the visionary who dreamed the



Sister Mary Lou practices for Taste of the Arts with Jahir and Jabez.

dream, she worked with others to bring it to life. Serving as founder, executive director and teacher of poetry, Sister Mary Lou had a profound effect on all of us. As she leaves the Art House, we let her go knowing that she will be bringing other dreams to life.

Sister Annette

DANCING IN STYLE

Children love to dance, and they love to perform, but if you really want to get them excited, give them bright, colorful dance costumes. However, such costumes are expensive. What to do?

Costume Gallery, Inc. of Burlington, NJ responded to Sr. Peg’s request with an amazing donation of 241 brand new dance costumes for our children. Seven large cartons arrived in mid-February. It was “Christmas in February” for Larisa Melodinskaia and Jen Dennehy, NAH dance instructors. “I just can’t believe it,” said Miss Larisa. “The children will love wearing these beautiful costumes, and their parents will be so proud of them. I wish the wonderful people who gave them to us could see them perform!”



Lekayda, left, and Destiny, right, can’t wait to try on some of the new costumes that they unpacked with their instructor Larisa Melodinskaia.

SCHUSTER RE-GRANT

Matting and framing add the finishing touches in preparing photographs, paintings, and drawings for exhibition. Through a \$2,000 grant from Gannon University’s Schuster Re-grant Initiative, children like Sebastian have the materials to learn these new skills and photography students have new digital cameras.



BARBARA BEHAN SOUPER BOOK SWAP

It’s the middle of winter, the students are on break, the cafeteria is closed and the faculty and staff have the campus to themselves. Some years ago, seeing this situation to be a great opportunity, long-time NAH volunteer Dr. Barbara Behan, along with several colleagues at Mercyhurst University, organized the first Souper Book Swap. Combining



Karen Meyer (center) and Michele Wheaton (right) happily present the Souper Book Swap proceeds of \$1,002 to Sr. Annette.

a love for reading, the enjoyment of hot home-made soups, and financial support for the Neighborhood Art House, this event draws bigger crowds each year. Now, in Barb’s memory, Mercyhurst faculty members Karen Meyer, Michele Wheaton and Mary Hembrow Snyder are keeping the tradition alive. With the help of numerous Mercyhurst volunteers, the February 21st tables were spread with a huge assortment of home-made soups, breads and desserts. Food for the mind was also available in books of every variety that were sold at bargain prices.

VME GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scouts at Villa Maria Elementary School were busily pursuing a badge that focused on the careful use of money. One of the requirements was to demonstrate their ability to shop wisely. JJ Ennis, their leader, saw this as an opportunity to help the girls to see beyond their own needs. She provided each girl with \$5 and the mission to shop carefully to put together a gift bag of art supplies for a child at the Art House. Once the shopping was complete each scout decorated a gift bag to hold the treasures they had found. Needless to say, these gifts were gratefully received.

DATES OF NOTE

Field trip to the Tom Ridge Environmental Center for all children – **March 20**
 Poetry Day – **May 1**
 Music Recital – **May 9, 7:00 pm**
 Notre Dame Band Concert
May 12, 2:30 pm
 Winter/Spring Open House
May 16, 7:00 pm
 6th Annual Art & Sole 5K Run/Walk
June 8, 9:00 am
 Summer Session Begins – **June 24**
 Taste of the Arts
September 10, 5:00 pm

Memorials

A special thank you to the families of **Barbara Doverspike** and **Edward Zelazny** for designating memorials to the Neighborhood Art House in their memory.

MOSAICS CLASS EMBRACES ERIE PHILHARMONIC'S PROJECT

As part of the Erie Philharmonic's 100th anniversary celebration they have invited local artists to turn old musical instruments into works of art. Their letter to Sr. Peg, Program Director, stated: "We would like to extend an invitation for the students at the Neighborhood Art House to participate in this most special event . . ." In response, Sharon Bannon's mosaic classes have created a mosaic of glass on an old violin. They have titled their project "I Listen to Pieces."



Mosaics instructor Sharon Bannon and two of her students, Abby and Raquel, proudly display the completed violin.

STUDENTS' ART DISPLAYED AT TREC



The glories of Presque Isle as captured by local artists will be on display at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center during March. The NAH will be well represented with entries in photography, instructor Lourdes Jasso; sculpture, class project directed by Susan Hunter; and painting, instructor, Mary Lubowicki.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME CONCERT BAND TO PROVIDE BENEFIT CONCERT



Alert to all Notre Dame alumnae, fans, and to all music lovers! The University of Notre Dame Concert Band is coming to Erie! Proceeds from their Mother's Day performance will be donated to the Neighborhood Art House. Join us for an enjoyable afternoon with this splendid band.

WHAT: Notre Dame Concert Band
WHERE: Holy Cross Parish, 7100 West Ridge Rd, Fairview, PA 16415
WHEN: May 12 (Mother's Day) 2:30 pm
COST: \$5.00/adults; \$3.00/students

WINTER PERFORMANCES

December's Open House and January's Music Recital, both well attended by proud parents, celebrated the children's mid-year accomplishments. Open House attendees were greeted with walls filled with children's art, each piece unique and an expression of the student's imagination and talent. Performing arts students presented instrumental music, dance and poetry for the audience's enjoyment. In addition to performing at the Open House, music students provided a recital of pieces ranging from simple melodies for beginners to classical pieces by the more accomplished students.

These events were partially funded through a \$3,233 grant from the **CLARENCE E. BEYERS MUSIC PERFORMANCE FUND OF ARTSERIE**. Additionally, **ARTSERIE** has awarded the Neighborhood Art House an Unrestricted Project Grant of \$4,773.



Vitaly Volchansky's string students fill the stage at the music recital to perform N. Cochurbina's *Bear and Doll* and W. Mozart's *Twinkle, Twinkle*.



✧ Krystal (left), one of our more advanced piano students, performs at the January Music Recital. ✧ Poetry students like Precious (top, middle) entertained the Open House audience with some amusing selections. ✧ Melanie, Shayla, and Joelys dance to the lively "Rockin' Robin." ✧ At right, Carlos performs in a hoop dance, a new offering at the Art House this year.

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

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6th Annual ART 5K & SOLE

benefit for the Neighborhood Art House

5K Run/Walk

Saturday, June 8, 2013

Race Time: 9:00 a.m.

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201 East 10th St., Erie, PA 16503
 814-455-5508

NAH@neighborhoodarthouse.org

REGISTER ONLINE AT
www.neighborhoodarthouse.org
 or at www.active.com

SEE THE ENCLOSED BROCHURE FOR DETAILS.

Something new

has been added to this year's event: a **TEAM CHALLENGE!** Teams must have a minimum of 5 team members. They can be runners or walkers, men and/or women; youth or adults. Anyone can form a team. Gather a group at your workplace, your neighborhood, your family, or organization; team prizes will be awarded. Teams and all of their members must be registered by May 28.



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Sister Annette Marshall, OSB, Editor; Judy Allison, Design

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