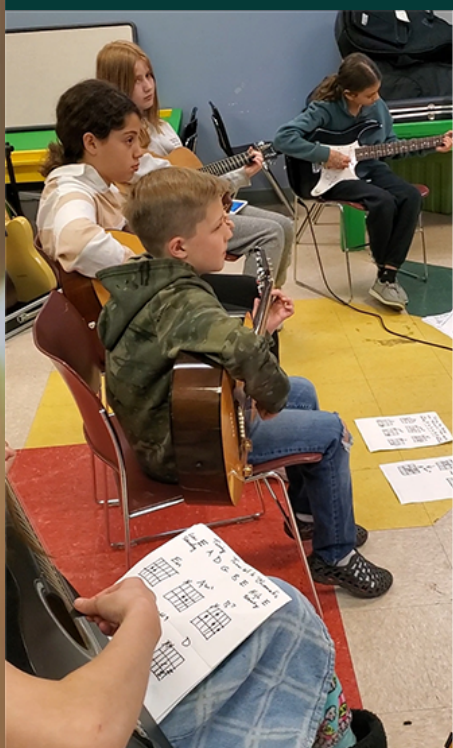


# ACCESS THE ARTS

Create. Connect. Inspire.



## ART AND MUSIC AT LODI FAMILY CENTER

AtA has been providing free weekly art and music classes to the children at the Lodi Family Center. Cassie Jirous, an art teacher at Granger Elementary, has offered classes ranging from papier mache to watercolor, to zentangle art to the 16 kids who attend after school. Michael Grady, a professional musician and instructor, teaches group ukulele and guitar lessons at Lodi as well. His instruction includes songwriting and chord progressions in contemporary and traditional songs. Access the Arts owns 12 i-Pads that have been put to good use with the middle school students who attend the Lodi after school program. They are continuing to work on the basics of Procreate, a software purchased and managed by AtA. Rebecca Rak, founder of the Lodi Family Center, has been instrumental in working with AtA to bring these important opportunities to the underserved youth there.

---





## A PARTNERSHIP CREATING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

For the last year, Access the Arts has partnered with another non-profit called Hearts for Music to bring orchestra music to children and adults with developmental differences in Medina County. Kitrael Chin, the President and Artistic Director of Hearts for Music, is also the conductor of his ensemble that features 20 to 25 children and/or adults with a variety of special needs, such as Down's syndrome or autism. By manipulating and playing a combination of acoustic instruments, digital instruments, and adaptive instruments, the Hearts for Music Special Needs Orchestra will tackle a broad range of musical works ranging from classical symphonies to modern pop and rock. Access the Arts hosts and funds this opportunity for several groups in our county, at the Medina County Home, AC Passage Day Center in Wadsworth, and Integrated Community Solutions at the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

---



## YOGA AT BLUE HERON

On April 13 at Blue Heron Event Center, Roots Yoga and Barre will host another yoga session to benefit Access the Arts. This is a donation-based event that is for all yoga levels held in the

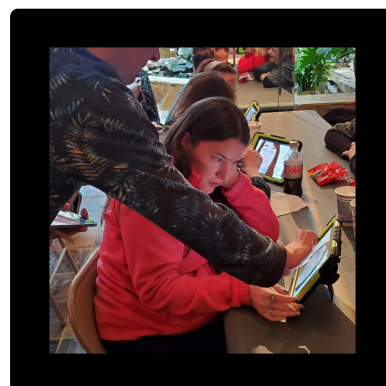


ballroom at 11 am with a free mimosa in the brew pub after the session.

---

## DIGITAL ART WITH INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Those same i-Pads brought a new spark of creativity to the folks from Integrated Community Solutions. In November, AtA partnered with Cliffside Artist Collaborative in Hinckley to offer a free digital art session to the 25 young adults from ICS. Alex Hitch was the artist instructor, and his knowledge and patience, along with the inspiring environment at Cliffside, provided everyone with a unique and unforgettable experience. AtA is grateful to Lisa Morrison from ICS, Alex, and Sarah Zona for their willingness to collaborate on this project.



## AC PASSAGE PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

In December at AC Passage, we made Christmas bulbs with paint, ink and plastic bulbs. They turned out beautifully. We always end our two hours together with an hour of music. Jo, a retired music teacher, brought her percussion instruments and taught us about Native American drum circles.

## NEW FREE ART CLASSES AT CLOVERLEAF HIGH SCHOOL

The digital art program has been expanded to include free classes for any Medina County teens and will be held at Cloverleaf High School. Painting classes will also be offered twice a month after school. Free art classes will continue through the spring. To register your 7th – 12th grade child, visit [www.AccessTheArts.net](http://www.AccessTheArts.net) or contact [janeback@accessthearts.net](mailto:janeback@accessthearts.net) for more information



## OUR MISSION

Access the Arts provides opportunities for underserved people in Northeast Ohio to engage in and be inspired by the arts. By their nature, the arts embrace people of all income levels and cultural backgrounds. We provide free arts programs to at-risk youth, older adults, and those with special needs. We celebrate the fine and performing arts in communities and connect artists with groups for education and inspiration.



**ACCESS THE ARTS**  
create • connect • inspire

## Get Involved

### Thank you to our Sponsors & Supporters:

The Sharon Trustees · Sharon Community Trusts · Sharon Township Fire Association · The Sonja Halstead Team at Howard Hannah · Brush Tips Studio · Roots Yoga and Barre · Blue Heron Brewery · Ruhlin Company · Marigold Wellness Collective · BKO Distillery · PITT Ohio · Electrisound



*100+ Women Who Care*



**Jane Back**

Jane is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

