

# Access the Arts

CREATE. CONNECT. INSPIRE

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ACCESS THE ARTS! SEE WHAT WE WERE UP TO THIS FALL...

Thanks to generous grants from The Hillier Family Foundation and GPD Group Employees Foundation, and many private donations from our friends, Access the Arts has spread some joy to the residents of The Medina County Home. Our volunteers decorated the pavilion and brought the music, costumes and crafts to create some crazy fun for Halloween. Pumpkin painting, cookie decorating, and hotdogs on the bonfire made for a memorable afternoon. Thanks to Joan Zacharias for her donation of 50 pumpkins from her farm and Gail Hickey for her cackling Brunhilda the Witch impersonation! Janet George, Kelley Welch, Julie Spaite and Jane Back also helped host the festivities with Becky and Greg from the County Home. We love the time we spent with the residents and their friendly staff!

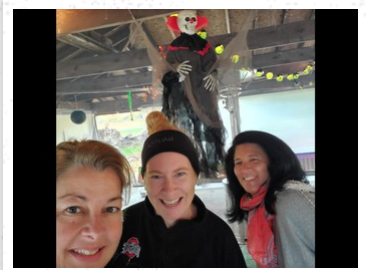




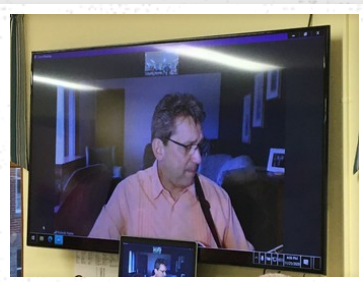
TRICKS AND TREATS



WITH OUR FRIENDS AT



THE MEDINA COUNTY  
HOME!



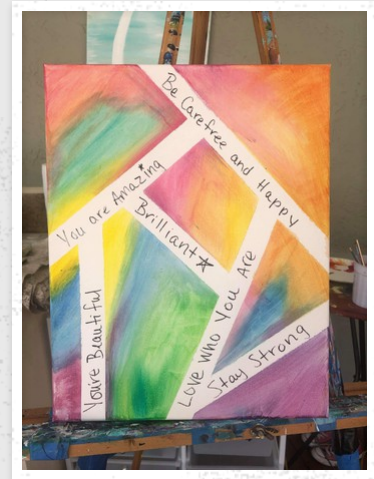
## GIVING THANKS FOR MUSIC

Rolando has Zoomed in for some Thanksgiving spirit at the County Home. He performed a virtual concert during their holiday gathering. We are so glad they purchased a large smart monitor so we can still stay connected. Rolando keeps the mood light and cheery and loves joking with the residents. We are grateful for his larger than life personality!



# ART THERAPY CONTINUES AT THE MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

Cheri Smith, from Brush Tips Studio in Wadsworth, has never stopped giving her time each week to teach the youth at the detention center. She has spent countless hours with them as a volunteer to lead them through art projects and guide them toward a more positive outlook on life. Access the Arts simply provides some supplies and watches her shine her light.



Janet and Kelley Zoomed in to direct a rag wreath Christmas craft as well. The kids took their wreaths home with them to keep or give as a gift. The arts and crafts that they have prepared for the kids bring emotional wellness and Christmas cheer. All three of these ladies have a big heart!



ALBUM PAINTING AT THE JDC



CHRISTMAS RAG WREATH



CHERI TEACHES ON ZOOM

## BOOK CLUB - DISCUSSING LIFE'S LESSONS

The teens at the Medina County Detention Center enjoyed reading and discussing the latest novel, *Life as We Knew It*, by Susan Pfeffer. Kelley Welch and Jane Back held their attention for the 5 week session with this Science Fiction Thriller. It was fun to see them so engaged and willing to share their insights with us. One of the themes is the importance of family and sacrificing for those you love. It is clear that they understood how this is reflected in their own lives. At the end of our time, we played a Jeopardy Game and gave them a Christmas gift of the sequel to this novel. Thanks for the hours of work you put into the preparation for this club Kelley!

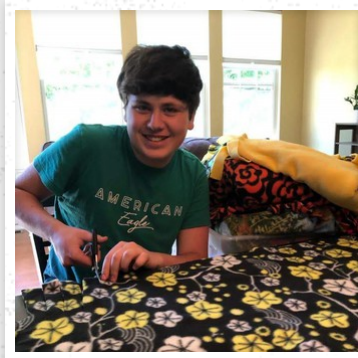






## CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT MCH

Since Covid has them isolated in their rooms, we have not been able to hold our virtual events. But AtA volunteers showed up to carol outside from room to room instead. We lost our voices singing at the County Home and Coal Ridge Assisted Living Center that day. But it was worth it. We were not sure who benefitted more from this holiday event – we all needed some Christmas cheer!



## FLEECE TIE BLANKETS NEEDED AT MEDINA COUNTY HOSPITAL

AtA and the NHS students at Highland High School are collaborating to help bring peace to Covid victims and their families (pictured are Alayna and Baily Tessena and Drew Tecco). Our volunteers prepare the fleece by cutting it and the JDC youth tie them to make the blankets. Then they are donated to the hospital. According to Jaclyn Balliet from the JDC, "Medina General Hospital has not been able to get blankets since Covid started. They put the blankets on patients who are near the end of life and then their loved ones get to keep it after they pass. The director of nursing told me that it's very impactful for the families and they are always grateful for the gesture. I can't imagine a more needed group right now to give some comfort to." We are in need of more fleece material. If you can donate some, please email [JaneBack@AccessTheArts.net](mailto:JaneBack@AccessTheArts.net).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mark your calendars for the next Sharon Showcase! June 12th, 2021 is set for this fun music and art festival in the Sharon Center Circle.
- Access the Arts is working to provide guitars and ukuleles to the residents at the Juvenile Detention Center. We hope to offer instrumental lessons to the children there. We know that playing music is a calming and creative outlet for these troubled youth.
- AtA will be bringing arts and crafts, as well as music sessions to the Medina County Home residents this winter. Through their recently installed smart TV, AtA artists and

musicians will be able to enrich their lives with the arts!

- Our Sister School Program is in the planning stage. After the first of the year, we will bring Medina County and Akron Public School children together to experience programs in the arts. The third graders will be able to learn about music, painting, sculpting, and dancing, among other disciplines. The best part is, they will build lasting friendships with children of other cultures and backgrounds while celebrating the arts!

## BEND AND BREATHE AT BLUE HERON - YOGA FOR A CAUSE

### WHEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH, 10AM-12PM

### WHERE

3227 BLUE HERON TRACE, MEDINA, OHIO

### MORE INFORMATION

**Roots Yoga and Barre** is offering a donation-based class to benefit Access the Arts (suggested min. donation \$15). Grab your mat, a friend, and some clothing you can easily move in for this yoga event for a great cause. No experience needed. **FREE Mimosa**, and **door prizes** from area businesses. Afterward, lunch is available to purchase at Blue Heron Brew Pub.

**All proceeds will help Access the Arts bring free arts programs to The Medina County Juvenile Detention Center and to The Medina County Home.** Safety protocols apply: Everyone will remain 6' apart. Please wear a mask until you are on your mat. Register ahead by RSVPing here or send an email to [JaneBack@AccessTheArts.net](mailto:JaneBack@AccessTheArts.net). Space is limited. Door prizes will be drawn from names of those who register ahead.



### Sharon Center Community - Arts...

[accessthearts.net](http://accessthearts.net)

We are a non-profit organization bringing education, arts and entertainment to communities in Northeast Ohio via music concerts, festivals and teaching events.



